

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

556 BOLESKINE ROAD, VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA V8Z 1E8
PHONE (250) 475-4108 FAX (250) 475-4112

TO: The Board of Education

FROM: Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer

DATE: May 16, 2016

RE: **Seismic Program Update**

Background:

The provincial Seismic Program, intended to make schools safer in the event of an earthquake by minimizing the probability of structural collapse, has been conducted in 2 distinct phases:

1. Phase One. Phase one began with district assessments of schools – to determine seismic risk and the scope of upgrading work that would be required as part of this process. This phase of the projects calculated the seismic risk for every school in the province using a standardized rating system,
2. Phase Two. Phase two includes the retrofits and upgrading of the schools that were identified as "High Risk" during Phase One.

Over the past decade, the government has upgraded, replace or committed to address 214 high-risk schools. The remainder, approximately 128 high-risk schools in the province, are still to be addressed and are in various stages of planning to be upgraded. As the program has progressed, the upgrades of the schools have included the seismic elements and have slowly considered essential upgrades to other building components related to life-safety components of the school that could be affected by a seismic event.

Risk Ratings

During Phase One, Engineers calculated the seismic risk ratings based on the risk of damage from an earthquake to a building. This calculation is the foundation for the decisions what schools will be selected for consideration by the province, about how to mitigate risk and then on specific work needed to make specific locations safer.

Table 1 below provides an overview of the risk ratings used for B.C. schools:

Table 1 - B.C. Seismic Rating Definitions

| Rating | Definition |
|-----------|---|
| High (H1) | 1 Most vulnerable structure; at highest risk of widespread damage or structural failure; not repairable after event. Structural and non-structural seismic upgrades required. |
| High (H2) | 2 Vulnerable structure; at high risk of widespread damage or structural failure; likely not repairable after event. Structural and non-structural seismic upgrades required. |
| High (H3) | 3 Isolated failure to building elements such as walls are expected; building likely not repairable after event. Structural and non-structural seismic upgrades required. |

| | |
|------------|---|
| Medium (M) | Isolated damage to building elements is expected; non-structural elements (such as bookshelves, lighting) are at risk of failure. Non-structural upgrades required. Building to be upgraded or replaced within the Capital Plan when it has reached the end of its useful life. |
| Low (L) | Least vulnerable structure. Would experience isolated damage and would probably be repairable after an event. Non-structural upgrades may be required. |

The government is only approving projects to structurally upgrade schools that have a “**High**” risk rating (High 1, High 2 or High 3). The structural upgrade work will also correct any non-structural deficiencies at these high-risk locations. At the District level, 27 schools were identified as being high risk (See Table 2 below). Please note, that the District has only become aware of one section of Campus View being added to this list recently and will need to be added to the Capital Plan. We are confident that the nature of its particular requirements, however, suggest a modest summer project rather than a full move.

Table 2 - SD#61 - High Risk Seismic Schools

| School | Ministry Rating Assigned | Status |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Shoreline | H1 | Supported. PDR complete |
| Vic High Ph 2 | H1 | Supported. PDR underway |
| Cedar Hill | H1 | Supported. PIR underway |
| Craigflower | H1 | SPIR underway |
| Braefoot | H1 | SPIR complete |
| Campus View | H1 | SPIR complete |
| Arbutus | H1 | SPIR complete |
| Reynolds | H2 | SPIR underway |
| Lambrick Park | H1 | SPIR complete |
| Macaulay | H3 | SPIR complete |
| Cloverdale | H1 | Construction underway |
| Monterey | | Completed |
| Margaret Jenkins | | Completed |
| Mount Doug | | Completed |
| Doncaster | | Completed (pre 2007) |
| Willows | | Completed |
| Central | | Completed |
| Vic High Ph 1 | | Completed |
| Quadra | | Completed |

However, it is important to note that we do have facilities in the District that currently meet the new requirements as determined by the Ministry.

Facilities staff has prepared a summary of the current District Utilization rates for every school and specifically for those schools in our Seismic Upgrade Program using data taken from the Baragar system, Table 3 below shows that a number of our seismic schools do not meet the new target of 95% utilization now or in the next five years. This will have to be addressed as we move into the District Facilities Strategic Plan process.

Given our intention to being a Facilities Plan, we are confident that we will be able to ensure that Shoreline is upgraded in the near term.

Table 3 - Current and Projected School Utilization - May 2016 (Source: Baragar)

| School | Operating Capacity | Current Headcount (Enrolment) | Percentage Utilization | 5 Year Projected Attendance | Percentage Utilization - 5 Year Projected | Comment |
|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----------------|
| Shoreline | 424 | 250 | 59% | 276 | 65% | |
| Vic High | 800 | 775 | 97% | 761 | 95% | |
| Campus View | 360 | 458 | 127% | 437 | 121% | Portables |
| Braefoot | 317 | 257 | 81% | 289 | 91% | |
| Arbutus | 499 | 454 | 91% | 466 | 93% | |
| Cedar Hill | 575 | 496 | 86% | 546 | 95% | |
| Reynolds | 900 | 1124 | 125% | 1136 | 126% | Portables |
| Lambrick Park | 725 | 511 | 70% | 489 | 67% | |
| Craigflower | 226 | 113 | 50% | 96 | 42% | |

Recommended Motion

The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct staff to prepare an interim capital plan for approval by the Board to submit to the Ministry of Education while the long-term facilities plan is created.

| | | |
|-------------|--|----------------------|
| Glanford | | Completed (pre 2007) |
| Gordon Head | | Completed (pre 2007) |
| Lansdowne | | Completed |
| James Bay | | Completed |
| McKenzie | | Completed |
| South Park | | Completed (pre 2007) |
| Tillicum | | Completed |
| Vic West | | Completed |

Discussion:

At SD #61, we are one of the leaders across the province in getting Seismic Projects approved and completed. Over the past years, we have undertaken various levels of Seismic Upgrades on 16 schools and have an additional 11 schools either being planned, ongoing or yet to be started. To date, the major criteria used by the Province in the selection and approval of the schools to be funded for Seismic Upgrades has been primarily based upon the “**Risk Rating**” assigned to the school and upon the District’s preparedness to implement the project in a timely manner. The timelines have been tight with typical approvals received in the April timeframe and contracting and construction to be completed by the end of the following fiscal year.

This year, the District submitted Shoreline Middle School as our next school to receive a seismic upgrade. The required studies were completed and submitted to the Ministry of Education by our staff and consultants, tender documents for a Construction Manager were prepared, and tendering activity had commenced in anticipation of Ministry approval in April 2016.

On 5 May 2016, the Ministry advised us that the Shoreline Seismic Upgrade Project had not been approved at this time due to concerns over the low utilization at that school (63%) and across the district as a whole (80%). The Ministry indicated that they understood that the district was in the early stages of the long range facilities planning process and that this document would be beneficial as a cornerstone document for the district’s seismic upgrade program moving forward. When asked about the Ministry’s expected utilization rates for a seismic school to be approved for funding, it was suggested that a **95%** utilization rate for the school now and into the future (5 year utilization rate) was a reasonable target for us to look at. Specifically, the Ministry stated:

Thank you for taking my call today to discuss Shoreline Community Middle School. As per our conversation the seismic upgrade project has not been approved at this time due to the concerns over the low utilization at that school (63%) and across the district as a whole (80%).

I understand the district is in the early stages of the long range facilities planning process and I think it would be beneficial for district and ministry staff to meet in the coming weeks to discuss the districts seismic upgrade program and how it relates to your planning.

Thank you for your work, and the work of the team, on this project to date and for your dedication to the students of the Greater Victoria School District.

During conversations, the Ministry also expressed concerns about Vic High’s utilization rate. At this point in time, there appears to be a disconnect between the Ministry data on District utilization and what the District has available for each school. The issue of Shoreline not meeting the new target of 95% is not in dispute, but Vic High and the overall Board Utilization are not in agreement. Staff is working with the Ministry now to clarify the source and currency of the data being used by both of us.

TO: Operations Policy and Planning Committee

FROM: Mark Walsh, Manager, Labour Relations and Legal Services

DATE : January 11, 2016

RE: **Seismic Upgrading Program**

Background

Due to recent seismic activity there has been an increased interest in the preparedness of the District related to the seismic upgrading of school buildings.

Given such interest it is an appropriate time to provide the Board with an update on the status of the District's seismic upgrading program.

Seismic Upgrading Program

Over the last decade the District in partnership with the Ministry of Education has pursued a seismic upgrading program (the "Program"). The Program is intended to upgrade operating school facilities considered "high risk". This designation is based on a Ministry Standard and is determined by Structural Engineers with an understanding of this Standard.

Since 2007 the District has upgraded the following schools utilizing Richmond Elementary School as swing space:

- Margaret Jenkins 2009
- Willows 2010
- Central 2011
- Quadra 2014
- George Jay 2015
- Cloverdale Current

In addition, the District seismically upgraded the following high risk schools without utilizing Richmond Elementary for swing space:

- Monterey 2007
- Mount Doug 2009
- James Bay 2010
- McKenzie 2011

- Victoria High 2011 Phase 1
- Lansdowne 2012
- Victoria West 2013
- Tillicum 2015

The District is currently in the planning stages for the following facilities (which are all still subject to Ministry of Education approval):

- Shoreline (2016)
- Victoria High (2017) Phase 2
- Cedar Hill TBD
- Craigflower TBD
- Braefoot TBD Partial
- Lambrick Park TBD
- Reynolds TBD
- Arbutus TBD

The District anticipates that, assuming Ministry support (which has been consistent to date), our Program will be completed in 5 to 7 years which puts the District on track to be completed nearly a decade ahead of the Ministry schedule for seismic upgrading of all high risk schools in the Province.

It is important to recognize the efforts of the Facilities Department and the Ministry of Education in achieving the success that the Program has had.



OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY-TREASURER

556 BOLESKINE ROAD, VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA V8Z 1E8
PHONE (250) 475-4108 FAX (250) 475-4112

TO: The Board of Education and the Shoreline Community
FROM: Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer
DATE: May 13, 2016
RE: **Seismic Update**

Background:

As you are aware, the Ministry of Education has not approved the seismic upgrade proposed for Shoreline Middle slated for the 2016-17 school year.

This memo is intended as background on the decision and future seismic intentions at Shoreline.

Q: Was Shoreline's seismic upgrading cancelled?

A: The Ministry has not cancelled the seismic upgrade. At this time the Ministry has not approved the project moving forward. The Ministry will review the project in future when the District has a long-term facilities plan in place.

Q: Why did the Ministry not approve the project?

A: The Ministry reviewed the utilization numbers of the facility (63% according to the numbers) and felt that without a long-term District facilities plan in place that the utilization rate did not support upgrading at this time.

Q: Does this mean that the school is at risk of closure?

A: No, Shoreline is part of the long-term plans of the District. It is an important part of the Esquimalt Family of Schools and is uniquely placed geographically to serve the local community. Further, given the continued growth of French Immersion in the District we also believe that Shoreline's future utilization rates will rise.

Q: When will we get upgraded?

A: The District is about to start its consultation on its long-term facilities plan. Part of that discussion will include Shoreline and how we will ensure that it will get its seismic upgrade.

Q: Are our children safe?

A: Shoreline does have a seismic safety rating that needs improvement. The District has a number of facilities with a similar rating. We are optimistic that given our track record of seismic upgrading that, working with the Ministry, our upgrade program, including Shoreline, will be complete well in advance of the Ministry's timelines.