

**Engagement session:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018

Group: Current Victoria High students

# of attendees: 250

Location: Vic High Andrews Gymnasium

<p><b>What elements of the current Victoria High School building do you VALUE THE MOST?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The beautiful and unique history of our beautiful building and the community we have preserved</li><li>• The history and plaques honouring the past</li><li>• Pictures and artifacts hanging around the hallways</li><li>• The Historic feel of the exterior and interior</li><li>• Spacious bathrooms and hallways!! Other schools I've been to are so cramped!</li><li>• Wide halls</li><li>• The history</li><li>• The whole building</li><li>• Big hallways! Multiple staircases!</li><li>• The beautiful exterior</li><li>• The history, the community</li><li>• Mr. Bradley</li><li>• The history!!</li><li>• I find it ironic that we go to Europe and Asia to see the history while tearing our own down</li><li>• Dance studio</li><li>• The Auditorium, plaques on the seats</li><li>• Stairs</li><li>• The history</li><li>• Heritage hallways, nice looking</li><li>• Fourth floor</li><li>• The wide hallways and history</li><li>• The history</li><li>• The signatures in the attic</li><li>• The history. We have grads autographs in the attic dating back to WW1 and I think it's important to preserve that</li><li>• Stairwells! Attic! The history the building (community) all of it.</li><li>• The community</li><li>• Better field and equipment</li><li>• Girls change rooms &lt;:( &gt;</li><li>• The attic</li><li>• Not the bathrooms :(</li><li>• The history and the feel of the building</li><li>• The Attic</li><li>• The brick walls</li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everything</li> <li>• The gym</li> <li>• Exterior, large classrooms and hallways, attic, layout, library, everything</li> <li>• Big windows, wide hallways</li> <li>• The attic, the gym, the auditorium. The school and its history!</li> <li>• The auditorium and art supplies</li> <li>• Big hallways</li> <li>• Little congestion in hallways and stairs</li> <li>• Mr. Young</li> <li>• The outside of the original building and the history!</li> <li>• The school and its history</li> <li>• Community, history, everything...basically</li> <li>• Auditorium please :)</li> <li>• The old design and hallways</li> <li>• The attic</li> <li>• The windows</li> <li>• The auditorium and the attic</li> <li>• All the hallways show how big it feels. "Hidden areas"</li> <li>• The gym</li> <li>• The attic</li> <li>• The Tech wing</li> <li>• The attic</li> <li>• The big doors!</li> <li>• The heritage</li> <li>• Exterior</li> <li>• The location</li> </ul>
<p><b>What elements of the current Victoria High School building are the most challenging?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stairs</li> <li>• The asbestos (LMAO)</li> <li>• Not working locks on the bathroom doors</li> <li>• Bathrooms, stairs, water, heating, asbestos</li> <li>• Why does Oak Bay get so much more funding?</li> <li>• Water fountains</li> <li>• Fixing problems</li> <li>• Our problems with pipes, aging interior asbestos and our instability in relation to earthquakes</li> <li>• Not enough kids exercising</li> <li>• The stairs. How far the bathrooms are</li> <li>• Water fountains and pipes</li> <li>• The gyms, the broken bathroom doors and the change rooms</li> <li>• Stairs</li> <li>• Almost no performing arts</li> <li>• Cold air during winter, bathrooms, water</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creepy bathrooms and they're almost all broken (the stall doors)</li> <li>• Can't use the taps without running them first</li> <li>• Washroom doors don't lock</li> <li>• Few bathroom doors lock</li> <li>• The bathrooms are broken</li> <li>• New weight room</li> <li>• The bathroom stalls don't lock</li> <li>• Really cold inside</li> <li>• No washrooms in change rooms</li> <li>• Pipes, heating system, bathrooms, asbestos</li> <li>• 10,000 stairs</li> <li>• The change rooms</li> <li>• Water fountains, heating, bathroom doors, scary asbestos</li> <li>• So many stairs</li> <li>• Stairs</li> <li>• Water</li> <li>• Rugby pitch!</li> <li>• Inconsistent temperature</li> <li>• Asbestos</li> <li>• Fountains, feels gloomy, no big open areas</li> <li>• Water, stairs</li> <li>• The current state of the washrooms</li> <li>• Washroom, cafeteria, fountain</li> <li>• I want a strings program</li> <li>• Heating system</li> <li>• New weight room, higher ceiling in weight room</li> <li>• Cold air coming in through closed windows</li> <li>• New weight room, change rooms need to be improved</li> <li>• New building but build on new land, keep building</li> <li>• Water = Death :(</li> <li>• The stairs are fine</li> <li>• Washrooms are horrible</li> <li>• Not enough stairs!!!</li> <li>• Lack of equipment, lighting in auditorium etc and the water fountains</li> <li>• Too many stairs</li> <li>• Bathroom, cafeteria</li> <li>• Stairs</li> </ul>
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<p><b>When considering options and planning for the future of Victoria High School, which THREE or these items do YOU value most?</b></p>	<p>School amenities 54  Heritage protection 53  Environmental considerations 40  Flexibility of learning spaces 31  Increased capacity for catchment students 14  Operating costs 12  Capital costs 4  Community access or amenities 3</p>
<p><b>Tell us WHY you feel this way</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catchment student above International students</li> <li>• I think it is important to protect our heritage and history, and that we should respect the past because it got us where we are today. The attic is full of grad signatures from as far back as WW1 and it would be sad to see that go. We go to other continents like Europe and Asia and marvel at the historic buildings but tear down our own without a second thought. At what age is something valued? What happens if we destroy it before it can reach that age?</li> <li>• The school is a heritage building. I think it would be best to keep the place and the outside of the school, just make a few changes on the inside!</li> <li>• I feel like we should build a new school but not tear this school down and just keep it hollow. This building should stay as is and use it for something else, like a small museum with Vic High artifacts. Keep the heritage.</li> <li>• I think that it is important that we protect our heritage and history because, our school is so old and so rich in heritage and history. I also believe that protecting our school amenities is very important since our school has such a large fine arts program and our school sports are improving.</li> <li>• I think school amenities is super important because that is a huge part of Vic High and without that we are not the same.</li> <li>• I think Vic High is important to the history of this city and should remain intact. School amenities are also important we need a cafeteria. More capacity will become more important.</li> <li>• I believe it is the safety and interest of students that mean more than the history. Why pay a sh*t ton more for keep the meaningless outer structure instead of making a new, functional, safe and environment for learning.</li> <li>• Our current building is a tribute to a century's worth of VHS students. In my opinion, it is the most beautiful high school in Victoria. It is a perfect representation of Vic High's accepting student body. I have LOVED attending school here; performing in the same auditorium my grandpa sat in. I do not want future generations to miss out on my Vic High.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part of what makes Vic High, Vic High, is the building, everything that has happened here, its feel, its history. If this building has completely changed this school would be just like any other. Although, it does need an upgrade. I don't think this tearing it down would be a solution at all.</li> <li>• I think that the capacity of this building is important. As it says on another sign, the capacity of this school is already at maximum. I think that if we can't fit the students in this school, then we should build a new one. It is for the students not the memory of others.</li> <li>• I think community access is very important because I think Learning Centers are very important because some people can't afford extra help so they could just go to a learning center.</li> <li>• I feel it is an insult to the past and the founders of the current building to tear it down. I feel the unique history and building should be protected EVEN if it is difficult. In the end, we do things because they are difficult. Think of it as a restoration challenge.</li> <li>• Victoria High is something very special. The history of this school and especially this building is unique. It makes you feel special to become a part of this history and the building makes it authentic and exciting to go to school.</li> <li>• If the government is spending over 100 mil on a bridge why is it they couldn't/won't fund about half that amount to protect a heritage school?</li> <li>• Vic High is the school with the most heritage (as far as I know and I feel that it is so important to keep that). A lot of other schools say that Vic High doesn't have good amenities which makes people not want to go to this school, but if we work to make them better more people will want to come to our school and we need to make sure it is environmentally safe because Fernwood is very all about environment and I think we should keep that up.</li> <li>• I think Vic High is very good with having a lot of options and I think we need to keep that way.</li> <li>• I believe that as students of Vic High we have the right to functional amenities and convenience in our education. I also believe that historical pieces of the school should be incorporated in the new school if there is a new building.</li> <li>• Schools main purpose should be: SAFETY and EDUCATION not an old brick building. We need upgrades and there are so many better things to spend money on than keeping the outer façade of the school. Tear it down.</li> <li>• History – Shapes the character of the school, community, and the city (My mom went to Vic High) Old Architecture – Beautiful, worth preserving. We don't want to modernize</li> </ul>
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	<p>the entire city. Community – Vic High it is an important part of Fernwood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vic High has such a wonderful beautiful history. We would be fools not to recognize that, and within our beautiful building is a beautiful community. There are so many things we have access to that we value very greatly and we should be working to retain as much flexibility and openness as we can.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What other ideas should be considered when planning for the future of Victoria High School?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep outside, keep foyer, gut the rest and upgrade inside</li> <li>• JNW – New school in back property, invite private interest to occupy and upgrade original building to keep heritage quality.</li> <li>• The teachers, because not only do the students learn in this school, but the teachers also teach and I think you should ask the teachers what would make a better space for them to teach, because when they teach great students learn great.</li> <li>• FUND THE ARTS and give us clean bathrooms</li> <li>• Design of the new building and the iconic look and feel of Vic High</li> <li>• That there is an astronomy course and club at Vic High and infrastructure that would give us a protected observing area, allows us to do science and astrology without worrying about harassment from drunkards.</li> <li>• I would love if the people whose not going to our school envy me, because our performing area and learning area is clean and great.</li> <li>• I hope that the Vic High building can be saved but if we have to make a new school maybe keep the attic meaningful pieces.</li> <li>• Keep auditorium and refurbish and have covered outdoor sitting area. Fix all the electronic parts example: (gym, auditorium, lights)</li> <li>• Water fountains!!!! Bathrooms! Auditorium seats and lack of darkness in auditorium, change rooms, TINY STAGE – We need a bigger one.</li> <li>• Cafeteria, outside sitting areas, a big cozy library, windows, a good view, more trees and flowers.</li> <li>• Water is so bad only one in the Fairy Tech.</li> <li>• Bigger support to the rugby team.</li> <li>• If there isn't enough space for new students (classrooms) perhaps building Annex on the outside?? Or even add a new section to the school.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I think it should be taken down. The school is a public health hazard (asbestos, lead) Secondly, when the school is being built students will still be able to study in the old building. Sir James Douglas elementary was an old building like Vic High when they decided to Earthquake proof it then realized it was impossible, so they took it down. They still managed to keep the front door. We can do the same with Vic High. Build something new while keeping the heritage.</li> <li>• Need better athletic facilities, renovate the field, gym and weight room. Keep the structure of the building have traditional attachment.</li> <li>• We shouldn't have to pay for own dance costumes. (Some people can't afford it).</li> <li>• Making sure that we keep the heritage of this building but we also keep it safe. I.e. if an Earthquake occurs will we be protected?</li> <li>• Consider the community surroundings of Vic High, Keep the most valuable heritage pieces and change the dysfunctional parts to make it overall more functional.</li> </ul> <p>Goals: 1. Preserve sentimental attachment 2. Better School 3. Expanding building</p> <p>First of all, I have to make my statement clear that I would like a <u>New Building</u> I would like to suggest an architectural plan. It would be replicating the exterior of the old building to the new one. I am not trying to say keeping the original exterior but taking down all of the old exterior and build it new. It doesn't need to be made of solid brick like this original one, it could even be? on a concrete wall. As long as, the outer shell looks similar, it would preserve the graduated student's feelings. The building to extend for example, if there was originally six windows on one side of the building, the new building could extend it to seven or eight [REDACTED]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New School Bay that can accommodate our athlete teams.</li> <li>• New school bus for the sports team</li> <li>• I really like the idea of keeping the outside of the school the same and fixing the inside. (Earthquake proofing, getting rid of the asbestos, water fountains like the one in Fairey Tech, etc) Also, fixing the cafeteria and the change rooms. Better bathrooms, the roper gym.</li> <li>• Keeping history, bathrooms, water fountains, room for dance change, heating and cooling, windows that work, not slippery stairs, cafeteria, lunch program, kitchen, tech.</li> <li>• One of my greatest fears is the displacement of our student body and staff. Anyway we do this there will of course be a great change, but I believe that it should really be important to preserve our community that we have</li> </ul>
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	<p>fostered here. I know men and many others don't want to graduate from SJ. As well, many teachers don't want to deal with the move, people we value greatly. Students will resist great disturbances, keeping us in one place is, I think important.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More spaces for students to meet, make connections and work together. Increase school community, decrease cliques.</li> <li>• Make sure that hallways/stairwells are wide enough and lockers are FULL SIZE or half sized but twice as wide.</li> <li>• Water, arts, catchment students above international students, better counselling, heating taxes, money food</li> </ul>