

## Opp Questions

### 1. Next Steps – BC Hydro Response Letter

SD61 Capital Staff were able to ask the following questions to BC Hydro

- Is there a precedent for a load displacement study?
- What would the costs be for both study and resulting infrastructure upgrades?

The initial answer was yes the costs would be very high, but BC Hydro could not give any specific number. When asked for a ballpark figure, BC Hydro indicated the costs could vary substantially depending on location and surrounding electrical grid.

There are also some older legislation and tariffs from 15 years ago that are partly responsible for the 100kW cap on net metering. This legislation is likely going to be reviewed soon, but is another obstacle right now.

There is an understand where BC Hydro is coming from when they are concerned about implications of dumping excessive amounts of power into their grid outside of their control. We are also not the only school district asking these questions.

### 2. Childcare Consultation Question

Q. Can we please verify that the drawing on the Feb 14 Vic high report showing childcare and playground is similar to the site drawing on the letter to the neighbourhood for consultation?

The school district staff meet with the community and school district garden committee prior to the community consultation. The drawings below in the community involvement brochure were presented in the February Vic High Board Report. The information and drawings below were distributed to surrounding homes and businesses, in alignment with Policy 7122. In addition, the information was sent to Victoria High School families via email the second week of February 2022. The current floor plan below in Appendix A and B is what is being proposed for the new childcare site and which was in the community consultation document. The drawing in Appendix C has been added to this document to show the secured play area for the childcare units.

Appendix A shows a conceptual design layout with two dry units and one wet unit containing all the washrooms and kitchen area. Appendix B indicates the placement of the units and shows a further nap room that is required for licensing purposes and the proposed mechanical rooms that will house the heating units. The approved funding is for 12 spaces for children under 36 months and a further 24 spaces for children 30 months to school age.

#### Childcare Studio Community Consultation

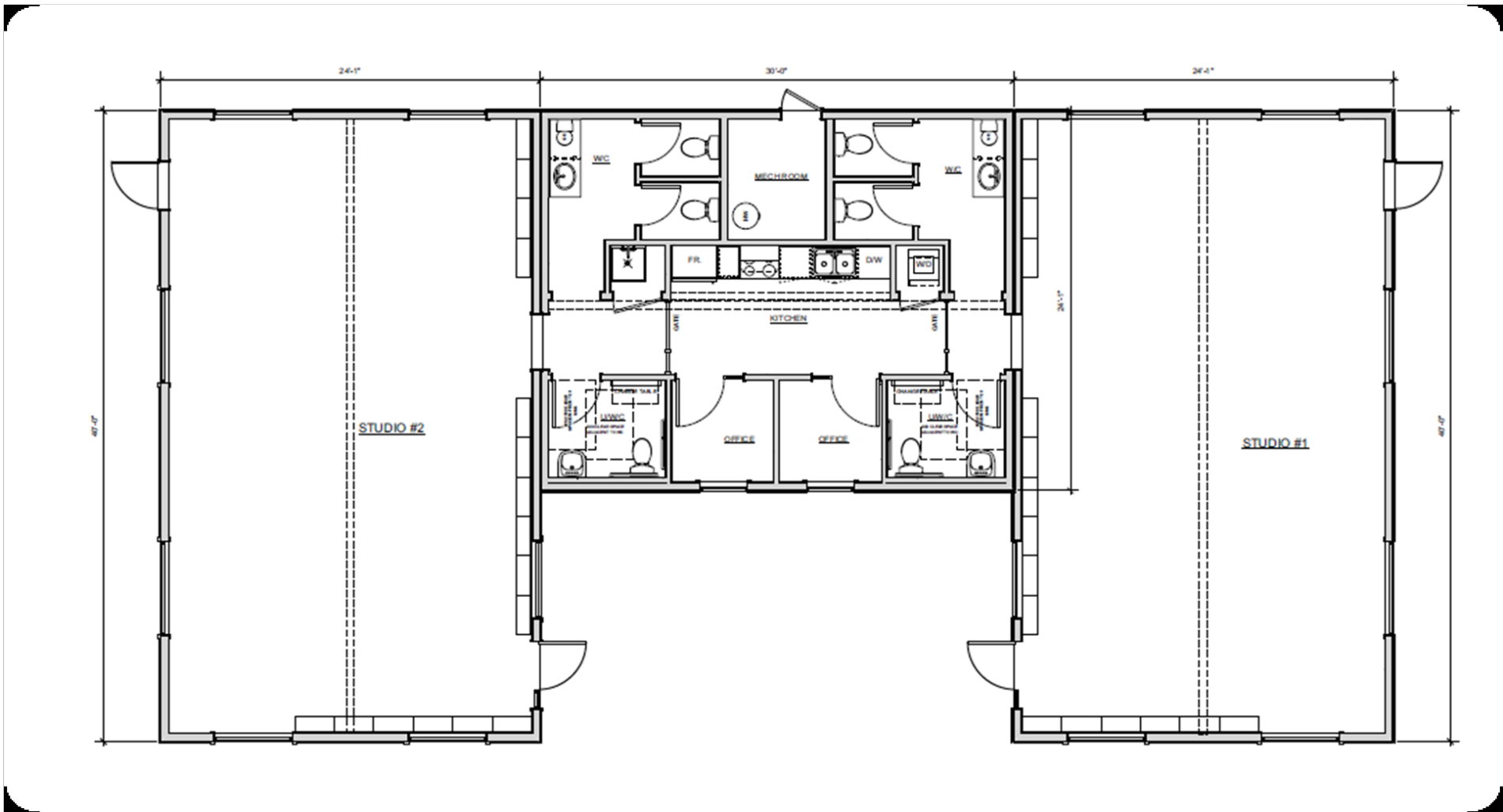
##### Proposed Childcare Buildings and Parking Location—Victoria High School

In the latter part of 2018, the Greater Victoria School District (GVSD) applied to the Ministry of Children and Families Development to create new childcare spaces on several Greater Victoria School District properties. The District was successful in all of their applications and received funding for a number of elementary school locations: Frank Hobbs, Doncaster, Macaulay, Victoria West, and Tillicum. In 2020, the District applied for the second round of childcare funding and was approved funding for two exclusive childcare units at the Victoria High School site.

The childcare units are built by GVSD employees, with two dry units attached to one wet unit that includes six bathrooms, storage, and a full kitchen as per licensing requirements. The childcare units will be licensed with one unit being full-time infant/toddler care and the other unit licensed for full time care for children ages 3-5 years old in consultation with Fernwood Neighbourhood Group (NRG). The childcare area will have a dedicated fenced area for participants with parking spots for childcare staff and a dedicated drop off / pick up parking for childcare families.

All childcare spots will be open to the Victoria High School population first and the community second. The District is still in the process of finalizing childcare providers for the approved sites and will not be taking waitlist applications. Visit the following website for more information on childcare providers and build information: [www.sd61.bc.ca/childcare-studios](http://www.sd61.bc.ca/childcare-studios).

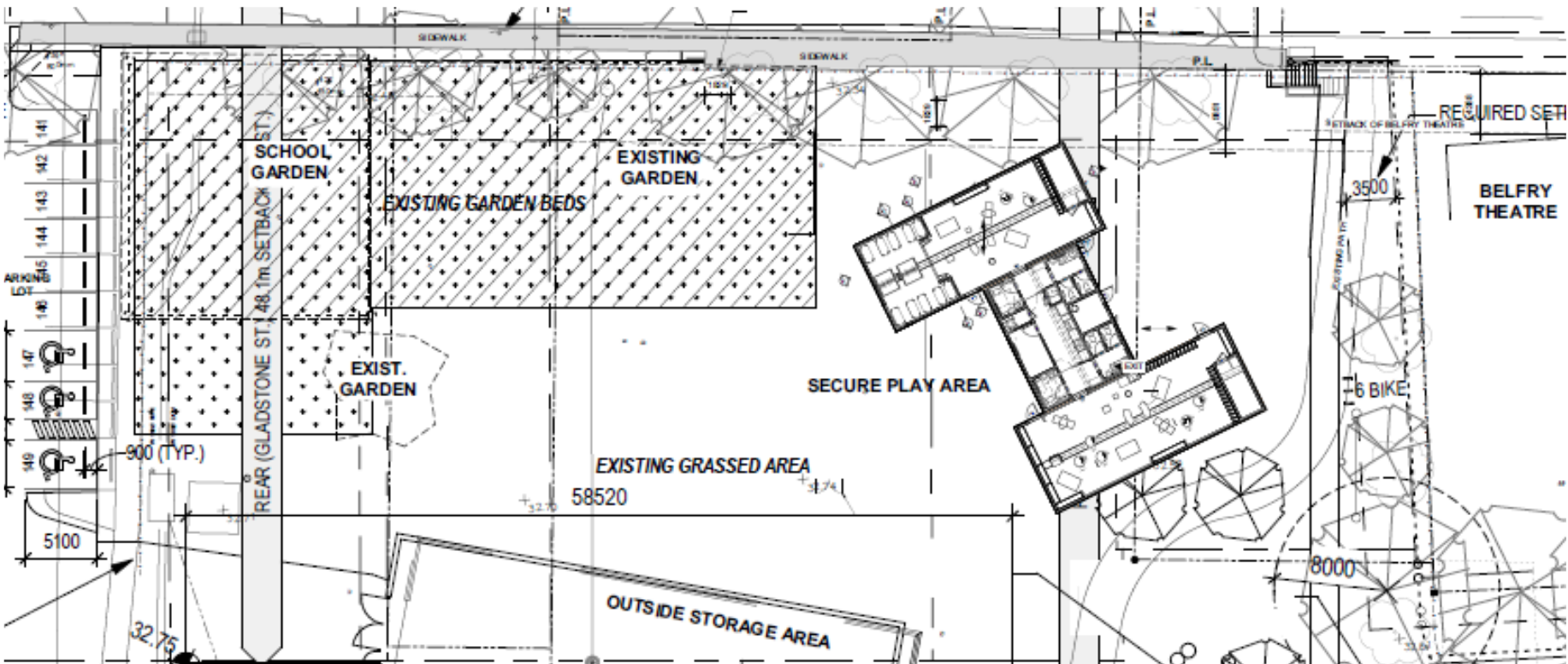
The District has started to consult the community on the proposed location for the childcare units by meeting with school and community garden committees. The proposed location is chosen with the least impact on the current gardens. The District wants to further our consultation within the surrounding community. We welcome your feedback if you are interested. Please send feedback via email to [community@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:community@sd61.bc.ca). The feedback period will close on Friday March 11, 2022.



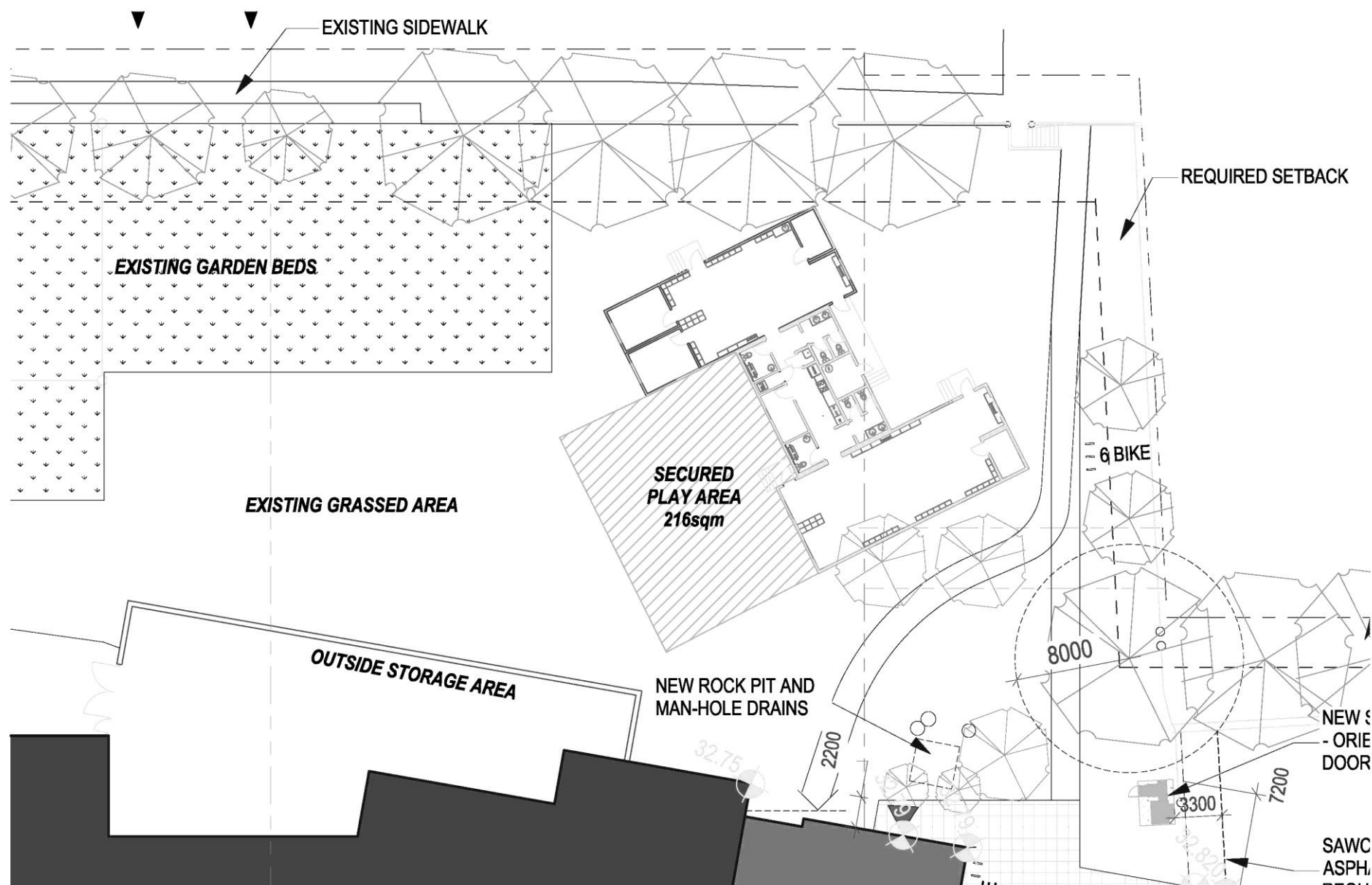
**Appendix B – Proposed Location for Childcare Units and Parking off Gladstone Ave**

Two dedicated drop off and pick up spaces for childcare will be allocated in the parking area off Gladstone. There will be another four parking spaces dedicated for the childcare staff on the Vic High site.

Three existing garden beds will need to be relocated for the current placement of the childcare units in consultation with school and garden committees.



**Appendix C – Proposed Childcare location showing secured playing area**



The following is the communities feedback received by the March 11, 2022 deadline for the child care consultation

**Email 1**

Hi there,

I received your notification letter to engage the community in the proposed childcare buildings and parking lot. I wanted to share some research with you from other countries and how they've integrated environmental education into early education and see if there was a possibility to partner with the community gardens to create as little impact on the existing gardens as possible and bring the kids in to learn more about the natural environment.

- [This Swedish study](#) (I've requested the full PDF and can attach to this email when received) on "forest gardens" in urban settings. "Four reported ideas were to give children opportunities to: feel a sense of belonging to a whole; experience self-regulation and systemic dependence; experience that they can co-create with non-human organisms; and imagine possible transformation of places."
- [A Japanese school](#) that created a "Growing Place... Creating Ecological Spaces at Schools that Educate and Engage Everyone"

I know that Vic High already has a community garden but I think expanding this project to include the younger children and community garden members (engaging those who are interested with background checks of course) would be a great way to prepare our children for climate change (see [BC Farms & Food article](#)). I also understand that there is a pretty rigorous curriculum that teachers must follow but I think the integration of the gardens and the knowledge the garden-tenders hold would be a radical change in the right direction to protect our environment for future generations. This is an opportunity for Victoria's public education system to be a leader in the global sustainability movement.

Also, to the parking piece:

I've been a part of committees and boards discussing the topic of the development of urban spaces of parking before. It seems to be the number one thing that people are interested in but I wanted to voice my opinion that parking will continue to be an issue as our population grows and if we don't move away from a car-based society. We have a finite amount of land and resources and I think it would encourage people to consider other modes of transportation if there is limited parking. See "[What bicycle-friendly Copenhagen can teach us about commuting](#)" article.

Not to mention the ecological impact that pavement causes. I worked with a cool organization in Portland called [Depave](#), on their site they say:

"The problem is concrete. Paved surfaces contribute to stormwater pollution, whereby rainwater carries toxic urban pollutants to local streams and rivers, greatly degrading water quality and riparian habitats. Pavement also disconnects us from our natural world. Dark impervious surfaces greatly contribute to the heat island effect which can affect communities by increasing summertime peak energy demand, air conditioning costs, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, heat related illness and mortality, and water quality (EPA)."

Lastly, I wanted to offer [SUPPLY Victoria](#)'s services as an environmental educator through reusable art materials with youth. We have introduced our creative reuse education model to over 500 students since our inception in 2018. We are currently running a tiny, free thrift store for art supplies [POP-UP](#) at the Vancouver Street Plaza. If there is room to partner with the school district, I would love to offer tours of POP-UP and offer creative reuse education workshops to the students of the GVSD.

I'm happy to do some more research on the topics listed above and present my findings if that is helpful or interesting.

Thank you for your time!

#### Email 2

To Whom it May

The letter sent regarding the Childcare studio does not have enough information for to make an informed decision.

For example the land used for the agricultural program is presented on the plans as it exists now with the Childcare Studio adjacent to it, yet the letter states the at least part of the dedicated agricultural land will have to be moved somewhere.

I know the proposed location is well used by the students and community.

My concern is where are your 1000 plus students going to hang out?

Does the school board not think that students need time to relax on school grounds?

Where is what seems to be a very successful agricultural program to be relocated?

Please feel free to call me [REDACTED] or email the necessary details and answers to my questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration, [REDACTED]

#### Letter 1

Dear SD61 School Trustees,

The [REDACTED] met on March 3, 2022. The SD 61 proposal for a daycare on site at Victoria High School was discussed and this letter summarizes concerns expressed by members of the community. It also serves as a follow-up to the letter sent by the [REDACTED] on February 9, 2022.

#### Lack of Public Consultation

The most pressing concern identified by the [REDACTED] in February was the lack of public consultation on the proposal. At that time the Board requested that SD61 engage with Fernwood residents **by holding a public meeting** to present site plans and take feedback from the community as a whole. SD61 did not fulfill this request, but instead delivered written notices to neighbours, including the [REDACTED], providing an outline of the proposal and a method of submitting feedback via email.

It is the opinion of the [REDACTED] that this is inadequate consultation, especially as we have received feedback that not all residents living near to Victoria High School received an invitation to participate and given that the turnaround time was short.

#### Lack of Detailed Information

A second concern identified by community members who participated in the [REDACTED] meeting is a lack of information about the proposed amenity. Specifically, neighbours noted that:

- The parking area to accommodate the building on the north end of the Victoria High School lot has not been delineated
- There have been no specific parameters provided related to the daycare playground and how it may impinge on existing garden areas
- The number of day care spots has not been provided

#### Concerns about School Policy Implementation

Two concerns about how school policies are being implemented were raised by the community. First, community members noted that questions about an agriculture program at Vic High and the potential for expanding the school's garden area have not been answered despite the fact that School Board Policy 1163<sup>1</sup> requires that land use decisions be student-focused. Second, residents expressed concern about the process by which potential contracts for operating the proposed daycare will be awarded noting that such details must be provided to the public as "background information that is timely and comprehensive" per School Board Regulation 1163<sup>2</sup>.

#### Lack of Consideration for Alternatives

Community members are concerned that the proposed location of the daycare will impact daily use by high school students and noted that existing green space at Vic High is decreasing while the student population is expected to increase. Participants in the [REDACTED] meeting pointed out that there are alternatives, such as relocating the daycare onto the site of Spring Ridge Commons or reallocating funds to the [REDACTED] to build or renovate its facilities to increase existing day care capacity.

This is the second request from the [REDACTED] asking that this proposal be addressed through consultation with Vic High students and parents/caregivers — **as well as the general public** — as per School Board Regulation 7122.<sup>3</sup> It is our sincere hope that SD61 will respond by giving the public the opportunity to provide input into this important proposal that affects our Fernwood Community.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/our-district/documents/name/policy-1163-consultation/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/our-district/documents/name/regulation-1163-consultation/>

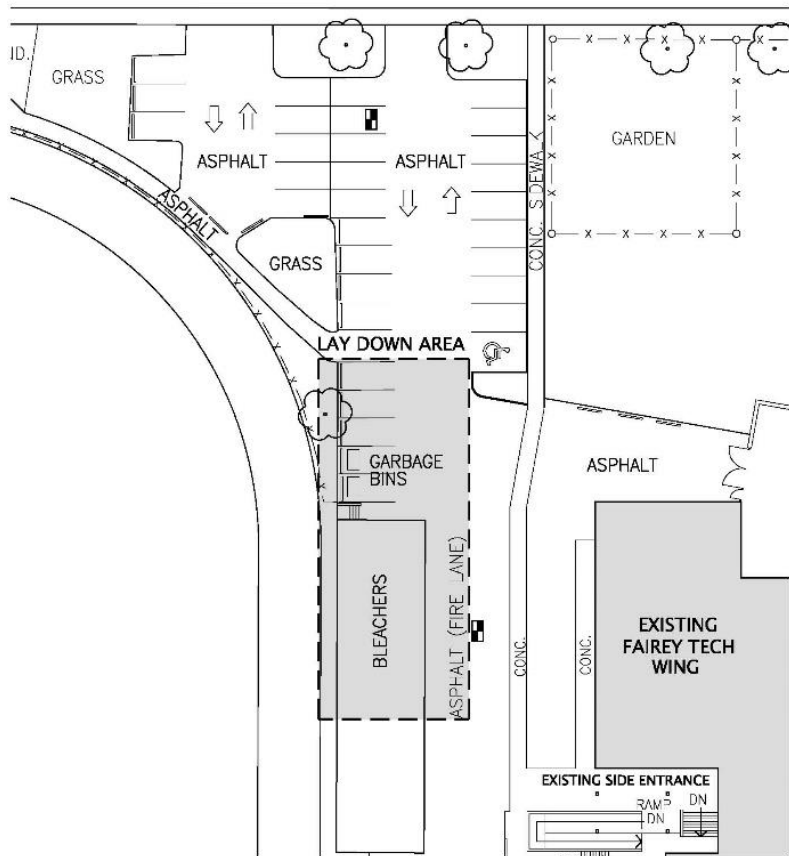
<sup>3</sup> School Board Regulation 7122 says, "The Greater Victoria School Board recognizes the right of the community, both those with children who attend the school and those without children, to be involved in the process of building and site development": <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/our-district/documents/name/regulation-7122-community-involvement-in-the-process-of-building-and-site-development-2/>

3. **Q. Does the Parking at Vic High include the laydown area? And for my own interest, even if the parking lot includes the lay down area, the lay down area disappears after the project is over correct? Or am I mistaken about what a laydown area is? Or is the laydown area she's asking about is the Caledonia laydown area but that wouldn't make sense to me.**

Prior to the start of construction there were 31 parking spots off Gladstone Avenue closest to the fairy tec building. Of these 31 parking spots 22 will remain off Gladstone Avenue within the new proposed site plan, with 3 being accessible. Of the new 22 parking spots five will move to the south, and are located within the current construction lay down area. Also in the laydown area will be the creation of a walking path and bike parking. Of the current 31 spots off Gladstone Ave, 9 will be eliminated in this area allowing for further green space to the east of the new volleyball courts. The proposed Vic High site plan will have a total of 149 parking spaces with a total of 5 accessible parking spots and two spots having electric charging stations.

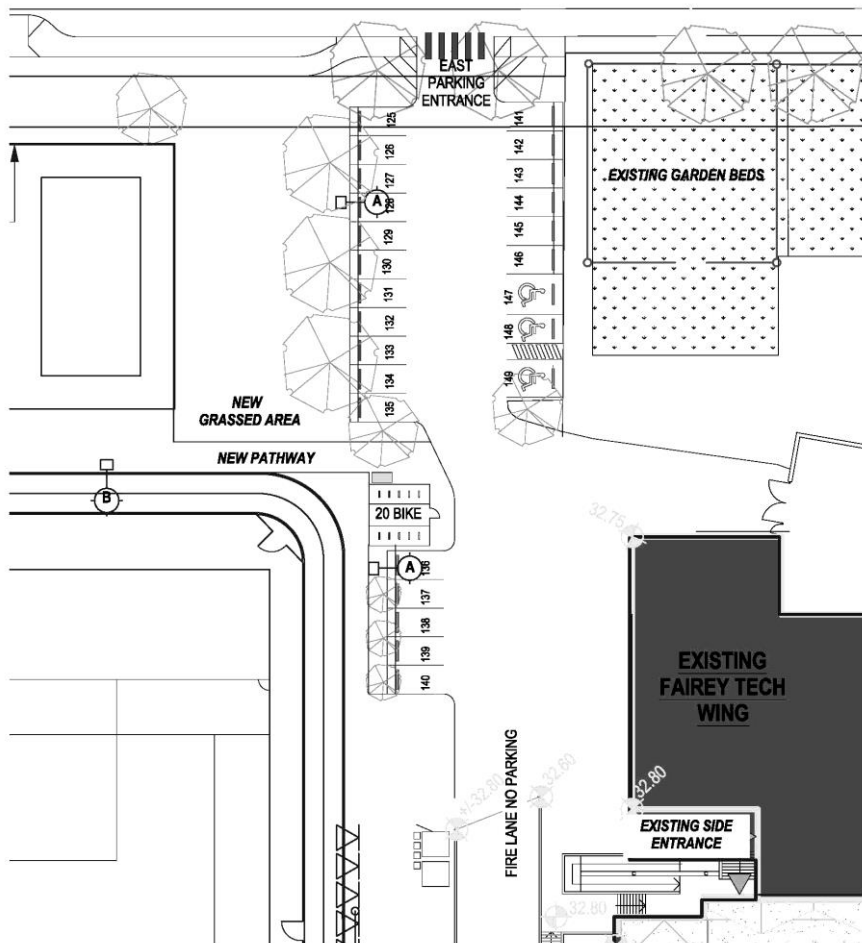
G L A D S T O N E A V E .

**Current Parking off Gladstone closest to Fairy Tec indicating current laydown area for construction**



**Proposed Parking off Gladstone**

G L A D S T O N E S T R E E T



**4. Q. How do Sand Volleyball Courts work in terms of Animals?**

The School District has spoken to Volleyball BC regarding the Sand Volleyball Court. There is no concern with animal feces with a fenced in court area. The volleyball courts at the Vic High site will be fully fenced with gates. Maintenance for the courts is daily racking and seasonal tilling with a larger machine.

**5. Q. Agriculture Program – Is there an Agriculture Program? If yes, is it expanding?**

There is currently no agricultural program at Vic High and no future program is planned

**6. Shop Related Question**

At Ops in February 2022, under the Facilities Department monthly reporting I sought clarity from Mr. Morris, the Director of Facilities about whether shops remediation previously referred to as being school funded, (and I gave a few examples), were included in the 76% completion rate. I also asked who is responsible for overseeing the remediation of school funded "consumables". In terms of tracking whether the "consumables" are available in all school shops Deputy Superintendent Roberts indicated that the first line of responsibility rests with the shop teacher. Further that the primary or next level of responsibility rests with the school principal and vice principal supported by the Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee that is responsible for receiving the monthly shop inspection reports and for reviewing any concerns raised. Mr. Roberts also offered that the reporting is collated and made available to the Facilities Department and through an unspecified District reporting structure.

Last night at Ops I sought further clarity regarding which of the following items listed below, and not already identified as in need of remediation and funded by either the District or individual schools are considered "consumables", and therefore funded by individual schools (see highlighted items for ease of reference): equipment guards (District), equipment spacing (District), delineation lines around equipment/safety lines and non-skid areas (District), eye wash stations (District), storage and isolation of hazardous materials, emergency response materials, eye protection (school funded), ear protection (school funded), protective clothing and equipment instructions and conflation zone signage (District). Please do correct my list above if I've got anything wrong.

The schools are responsible to purchase the following shop related items:

- Ear Protection
- Eye Protection
- Protective Clothing
- Small Hand tools and small power tools (i.e palm sanders, drill bits)
- Shop supplies

For the yellow above:

- Storage and isolation of hazardous materials: School
- Removal and disposal of hazardous materials: District
- Emergency response materials: School
- Protective clothing: School
- Equipment instructions: School

There is no current funding to replace shop equipment and this will reside as either a school funded request or a district cost. The cost to upgrade the dust collectors resides as a district cost and currently there is a submission for one dust collector replacement in the 5 year capital plan under the school enhancement projects. The current costs to replace all the dust collectors in the school district is around \$8.7M .

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