



1020 Denman St., PO Box 47036 Denman Place, Vancouver, BC V6G 3E1

September 16, 2013

Board of Education Chair Patti Bacchus and School Trustees
1580 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC, V6J 5K8

Chair Patti Bacchus and School Board Trustees:

Re: The Little Yellow School House at General Gordon School

Heritage Vancouver is writing to request that the Vancouver Board of Education commission a qualified consultant to prepare a Statement of Significance for the Little Yellow School House, on the grounds of General Gordon School, before making a final decision on the future of this important heritage building. Although the main school was slated for demolition, the plan all along has been to retain the little Yellow School House. We have learned that this plan has changed and the building is slated for demolition. We are unclear as to why this change was made and whether any public consultation was carried out to discuss the new direction. It is our understanding that the Board has decided to demolish this building to make way for a parking lot.

Heritage Vancouver's research indicates that the schoolhouse was built in 1913-1914 and served as a Manual Training School. Although there was a Statement of Significance written for General Gordon School in August 2006, not much reference was made to the Little Yellow School House. It is however mentioned in the Description of Historic Place as a character-defining element.

Given the new information about the history of the building, we urge you to commission a Statement of Significance and to hold off on any plans for demolition until this has been completed and reviewed by the City of Vancouver's Heritage Commission. The City of Vancouver obligates private sector owners to prepare a Statement of Significance in all cases where a building of historic significance may be demolished. We urge the Vancouver Board of Education, as a public institution, to follow the same protocol.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding this matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Leduc".

Janet Leduc
Executive Director
Heritage Vancouver Society
www.heritagevancouver.org

Cc. Mayor Gregor Robertson and members of council
Penny Ballem, City Manager
Marco D'Agostini, Senior Planner, Heritage Group
Brian Jackson, General Manager, Planning and Development
Members of the Heritage Commission