



Heritage Vancouver

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September 15, 2020

Vancouver Board of Education
Attention: Janet Fraser, Board Chair

Re: Yellow wooden school house at Hudson Elementary School

We are writing to propose that staff be asked to investigate the feasibility of retaining the historic yellow school house (1912) that is now used for Out of School Care and leasing it to a private operator. This would be instead of demolishing the building as is described on Presentation Board No.3 that was included in the Virtual Open House on July 8, 2020.

There are at least two highly successful precedents for retaining the small historic wooden buildings that are found on some school sites. At General Gordon Elementary School the heritage yellow school house was retained, updated and leased to the privately operated Mosaic Montessori Preschool.

In the Collingwood neighbourhood, Carleton Elementary School includes Carleton Hall, built in 1896 and Vancouver's oldest surviving school building. Following a fire, the Vancouver School Board announced that they were going to demolish the building. Instead, in 2010 the Green Thumb Theatre Company came forward and offered to restore Carleton Hall as well as an adjacent wood frame outbuilding into creative and administrative spaces. The restored historic facility has allowed Green Thumb Theatre to create an active arts engagement with both the local and wider community.

Given its prime location in Kitsilano, it should be possible to find a positive use for the restored yellow school house at Hudson Elementary School. For example, it could be retained for public use, in order to provide much-needed meeting space for local community organizations.

Respectfully submitted,
Heritage Vancouver Society

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cc Suzanne Hoffman, Superintendent
J. David Green, Secretary Treasurer
Jim Meschino, Director of Facilities
Vancouver Heritage Commission
Zlatan Jankovic, Heritage Planner, City of Vancouver

Appendices

Henry Hudson School property Yellow wooden school building, north-west corner

- Constructed in 1912 as a Manual Training School
- The restored and repurposed wooden school building at General Gordon Elementary is a twin in design to Henry Hudson's wooden structure, which was constructed in early 1913 (now restored and repurposed)



Front; Henry Hudson wooden school building (1912)



Side/rear; Henry Hudson wooden school building (1912)

Appendices

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- Tender call, Province, April 24, 1912

