

**UNIVERSITY NEIGHBOURHOODS ASSOCIATION**

*Serving the University Town Residents of UBC*

The Old Barn Community Centre

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Vancouver School Board  
Att: Mr. Clarence Hansen, Chair  
1580 West Broadway,  
Vancouver, B.C. V6J 5K8

February 14, 2008

Dear Trustees:

The University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA) strongly supports the Vancouver School Board's proposal to provide new schools at UBC.

The UNA is the elected body that represents over 5,000 residents in five neighbourhoods in the newly-developed areas of UBC. Since the public consultation process began in January, the UNA Board of Directors has heard from many UNA residents who are deeply concerned about the inadequate and overcrowded school facilities in our community. On February 5, the UNA's Schools Committee held a public meeting and an overwhelming majority of those attending voiced strong support for the VSB's Phase-1 proposal.

The area west of Blanca has been part of the Vancouver School District since 1971. Since 2001, this area has experienced rapid growth, as new housing has been constructed that follows an ecodensity model and provides affordable housing for families. Along with the growth in housing, there has been a tremendous growth in the number of households with young children. Unfortunately, school facilities have not kept pace with this growth.

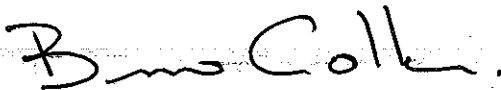
Here are some facts to consider:

- 1, 545 school-aged children live west of Blanca
- 1,097 children attend U Hill elementary and secondary schools
- 64 children attend French Immersion schools
- 338 children *are forced to* attend out-of-catchment schools

Residents west of Blanca pay school taxes and are as deserving of access to schools as all other residents of the Vancouver School District. The VSB affirms this principle of equity on its website, stating that "it is our collective responsibility as a school district to ensure the highest quality of learning experiences for all children." The UNA Board of Directors urges the Trustees to uphold this policy of equity.

We understand the difficult decision that you face in March and appreciate your thorough and even-handed public consultation process. However, we must respond to the immediate needs of our own residents; children in our community are in urgent need of new schools. If the Trustees wait any longer to address these needs, the UNA community will be facing an educational crisis of significant proportions. For that reason, we strongly support the VSB Phase-1 proposal and urge the Trustees to approve this proposal.

Sincerely,



Brian Collins,  
Chair, Board of Directors  
University Neighbourhoods Association

- c. The Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier
- The Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Education
- Mr. Brad Bennett, Chair of UBC Board of Governors
- Prof. Stephen Toope, President UBC
- Mr. Stephen Owen, Vice - President UBC
- Mr. Gary Gibson, Director Electoral Area A, Metro Vancouver
- Mr. Bob Kastings, President of UEL Advisory Council
- Mr. Greg Yeomans, Manager, UEL