

Lord Tennyson Elementary School Survey Results
September 26, 2017

The survey was created on September 21st, 2017, as of September 25th 2017 the responses were as followed.

The survey asked two questions: 28 parents responded

1. What features or elements would you like retained from the current Lord Tennyson building? For example: the exterior wall mural and red brick are currently being considered for use in the new design.
2. Please review the presentation on the architectural design on the Lord Tennyson website. Are there any space or design requests based on the architectural design you would like changed?
26 parents answered, 2 parents skipped this question.

Question 1 Response Summary: 22 parents answered, 6 skipped

Most parents would like to see the mural saved. One third of the respondents liked the idea of saving the red brick.

Responses other than the mural and red brick included:

- Beautiful framed pictures of the current school in the new building
- Salvaging the Tennyson frontage sign and tile from front entrance
- The front archway and red brickwork is attractive and dignified, and provides context for the building on the street. It could be preserved or recreated in the new building.
- Beautiful framed pictures of the current school in the new building
- Outdoor covered spaces, since there appears to be no covered space in the new design
- At least one of the old trees
- The front of the building semi-circle window
- Front entrance brickwork
- The current school has lovely curbside appeal. I like the idea of recycling the bricks but I find they rarely look nice in modern design. I would rather see more windows, more neutral stone and cedar beams (like the Lord Kitchener School)
- Having a stage for performance; having at least enough space for 105 kids I out of school care, preferably more
- The garden
- Commentary plaques to retain the memento of the school's history
- Would be great to reuse as much of the red brick work as possible, and some of the stonework at the front of the school into the new design
- None
- Nothing much
- Not important to me
- I'd be ok if nothing was saved, but some nod to the red bricks would be beautiful

- No strong view but keeping mural wall would be nice
- Not a priority in my view

Question 2 Response Summary: 26 parents answered, 2 skipped

The majority of responses were concerns over the onsite parking and how too much outdoor play space would be lost to parking, the need for outdoor covered spaces, the need for more before and after school care, that the classrooms are too small and that there is not enough storage for PAC nor for teachers and students in the classrooms. Driving congestion around the school is an issue. The ability to open large windows for ventilation (unlike the new school built for General Gordon) was also mentioned. Security around the school was also a concern.

Responses include:

- 1. Covered outdoor space is necessary for kids to play under, to stand under waiting for bells to ring in am and at breaks, to hold events such as sports days etc. for tables. Please consider adding covered outdoor space.
 - 2. Staff parking currently takes up approx. 1/5th of the property. Can there be underground parking considered?
 - 3. Staff parking located in middle of property. If this cannot be underground can it be moved to the SE corner so as not to divide the play area and flow of the school in half.
 - 4. Daycare - please find a way to have a separate entrance for the daycare full stop. This school is not a business and given the ages and different needs of the daycare community, they should not be entering through the same doors. If City of V can pay for the roof daycare they can also provide an entrance.
 - 5. If there is a way to get these kids out of the school and into the swing school, this should happen. This building keeps parents up at night worrying about an earthquake. Kids should not be in this building and there should be no debate on this. It is not a safe space for them.
 - 6. Swing school - having kids onsite during construction will be disruptive to learning and they will not have adequate play space or sports fields. Please consider a swing school for them.
- I would like to see a storage area allocated specifically for PAC storage. There should be space allocated for the kid's jackets, boots/shoes and day bags inside or outside the classrooms. The classrooms do not appear to have any built in storage space for teachers within the classroom. Are the teachers going to have to go to the common storage room outside the classroom to collect their teaching materials? Parking should be underground instead of above ground where it takes up play space for the kids. Lord Tennyson is on a very small lot compared to most schools and the kids have very few play areas to play in. How are so many 0-5 year old parents with their strollers going to enter the school along with all the other Lord Tennyson kids? There will be a line up at the elevator causing congestion in the middle of the school's entrance. I can see this jamming up the front entrance. Only so many parents will be able to fit into the elevator at one time there will probably be a line up out the door.
- There should be significant expansion of the out of school care spaces available. Several years wait list is an indication of massive demand.

- We need more before and after school care. This is not a desire, or "something that would be nice". It is a "NEED". Raising a family in Vancouver is a greater financial challenge than ever before, and there are no jobs that allow for a work schedule of 9:30 to 14:30 - and this is what would be need to accommodate the drop off and pick up of a regular school day. How is a parent meant to sustain a child's education if they cannot sustain their own employment? At this risk of not being able to bring the child to school in order to not lose one's job? It took me 2 years to get my son into TOSS by juggling a large number of favours from numerous friends and taking every possible sick day and days without pay that I could. And in 2 years, once my child is too old for TOSS, I will be back in the same boat with trying to find suitable care for him. If the mandate of the government is to provide more daycare, it can't be at the detriment of existing daycare (reducing before and after school care positions but allowing for 0-5 childcare - that is not a win).
- I'm appalled the design takes away critical play space for 26! Parking spots. Why does there need to be such a large parking area?? 2-3 spots for handicap/emergency vehicles and a loading zone is all that is needed for an urban school. The kids need play space more than a parking lot!
- The parking lot is bizarrely and disproportionately large; this makes no sense. It should be eliminated entirely.
- I am concerned that the plans seem to make no space for expansion of the student population. In an area of the city that will be seeing its population increase due to much increased density in the coming years it would seem to be common sense to build a school to accommodate more students rather than the same or fewer students. I know that there is a dearth of childcare spaces in the city but I think that the school space should be built for ALL school-aged children in the catchment who wish to attend their neighbourhood school. Giving space away to a relatively small group of families who would benefit from the childcare spaces is a choice that goes against the grain for me. The need for more before and after school care spaces ought to be addressed with this new build as should the obvious need for a larger general school population to accommodate present and future school aged children. Also in an area of Vancouver that is becoming more and more heavily populated the use of prime possible green space as a parking lot is very upsetting. The parking ought to be underground or remain off-site.
- Space: I have heard that the new building has fewer classrooms than the old. The old building is full and portable additions are in use. Classes are full. Why is the new school smaller? This seems like a terrible mistake. Parking: it appears that school grounds space is being sacrificed for a very large expansion of parking space. This is a throwback to 1970s planning, and disappointing.
- Please add some covered outdoor space! This is crucial in our climate and likely wouldn't be terribly pricey.
- Put parking under the field- & great larger or second field
- Outdoor space for a school vegetable/flower garden, a more practical, efficient and contained drop off/pick up area for students arriving by car. More space for playground equipment, rather than open field covered play area.

- The parking lot is ridiculously big, disruptive of the kids' play space, and takes away from limited open/green space. It should either be 1) eliminated; 2) placed underground; or 3) dramatically reduced, to 6 spots for special situations.
- I want to be sure that there is security around the school, I personally don't like the wire fence but we need something even if that is more shrubbery or a wooden fence
- From a practical perspective the classroom cubbies are teensy! These kids need room for boots, jackets, backpacks, lunch kits, and spare clothes. The site overall doesn't look cohesive with an above ground parking lot, chopped up playgrounds and old portables. It seems incredibly ridiculous to maintain portables in a modern design. Their purpose is of portables to be brought in when a building cannot support a schools needs. Build their space into the main building so nobody feels excluded from the school and give the kids more play space. The children also need an outdoor area that is undercover. Protection from too much sun on the nice days and reprieve from the rain on the many crappy days.
- The design includes 32 parking spaces for vehicles. This is a massive waste of space, which should be better used for recreational area for the kids. There is no need to have parking on site because the neighbourhood is well served by bicycle routes, transit (B-line), and car sharing programs. The design does not have enough outdoor play areas and green space for the kids, and the solution should be to eliminate the parking lot.
- Will there be covered areas so kids can play outside on rainy days?
- Please make sure windows are large enough to provide adequate ventilation, unlike those in the recently constructed General Gordon School. Also, will the multipurpose room be large enough for all 19 divisions to eat lunch at the same time?
- There is like 1/8th of the space devoted to the creation of new parking spots!?! This is not progressive and comes at the cost of already limited play area, please don't tell me this is serious.
- More design play/greenscapes, not just patches of grass with trees. Prohibiting dogs on school grounds to preserve the field and green areas. Plenty of non-restricted parking so parents can stop, enter the school for volunteering, dropping off goods and for face-time with teachers.
- The main entrance is proposed on Maple St, the narrow side of the block, I see potential big parking issue. Right now even being on the wider side, on West 10th, it is a challenge for pick up drop off with cars lining up on both sides of the street. I would suggest creating a more obvious and direct access to the site on west 10th right in line with the playground area behind the school. The visual contact is important between students playing in the rear field while parents waiting in the car to pick them up on west 10th. Consider road widening for west 10th. Not enough playground area at front on west side. Playground at the back is in the east, in the shadow of building in the afternoon especially in fall and winter.
- More space for parent parking and drop off areas as having a daycare in the school will just make the already congested parking and driving routes even more crazy and stressful. I have been caught numerous times stuck waiting for traffic congestions to ease off as parents do drop

off and there is just no way around it. Please account for this. It is currently not acceptable and the current design does not show much more of a sustainable ease in parking and driving congestion. This school has a very, very large catchment area, which means many students and more traffic as not everyone in the catchment has the luxury of walking to school. Especially after school when parents are rushing to pick up their kids and have to drive off to after school activities across town.

- From the architectural drawings, the size of the lobby appears to be bigger than necessary, possibly wasted space.