



South Wellington School

? Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Is the District contemplating the demolition of South Wellington Elementary School?

A. *Yes, in Spring of 2019 the determination was made publicly to apply for funding to demolish the building.*

Q. Is the District contemplating selling the South Wellington Elementary School land?

A. *No, the District is not actively contemplating the disposition of the land.*

Q. Why does the District want to demolish the building?

A. *The District does not foresee the school building being used for school purposes. The District does not have the funding to maintain the facility. Each year the facility is without active investment the facility will continue to degrade. Over time the facility will become a significant liability to the District and may ultimately be a health and safety issue.*

Q. What is the timeline for the potential demolition?

A. *The District is required to provide a business case to the Ministry of Education to get final approval for the demolition by June 1, 2020. Failure to meet this date may result in the District losing the funding for demolition.*

Q. What if the District needs a school in the area?

A. *While we do not anticipate a need in the foreseeable future based on enrolment trends, the facility does not meet the requirements for a school, including from a health and safety perspective including significant seismic risks.*

Q. Can the building be used for another purpose?

A. *It is possible with investment that the building could be used for another purpose. However, the District does not have funding to support investment in the facility for a non-school use. For instance, the roof likely requires an immediate investment to preserve the asset.*

Q. Where can the public access information about the facility?

A. Information can be found [here](#).

Q. Will the public have an opportunity for input?

A. *Yes, District staff will have a meeting via Microsoft Teams on **Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 4 p.m.** Access to the meeting can be found [here](#). This meeting will give an opportunity for community members to ask questions. In addition, staff will report the feedback of the community in a report to the Board at a future date.*



Frequently Asked Questions (Continued)

Q. Can the District put off a decision to demolish the facility?

A. *The District could postpone a decision, however, it would put funding for the project at risk.*

Q. What is the cost to the District if demolition does not proceed.

A. *The District is required to create a final business case by June 1, 2020 which means that the District will have to invest up to \$30,000 to create such a case. If demolition does not proceed, this money will be lost to the District. If demolition does proceed, the District will receive this money back as part of the project.*

Q. The lands were donated to the District many years ago. Why is the District not providing them back to the community and let the community maintain the building?

A. *The District's primary mandate is the provision of public education. Our sites were acquired in a variety of ways, including donations. The facility itself, however, was built and maintained by the District over the years. The District is often required to contribute funds to various projects and our only access to funds is our assets.*

Q. What is the B.C. assessment value of the building and land?

A. [Click here for the 2020 assessment.](#)

Q. How do I register as a speaker at a Board or Committee meeting?

A. *Requests to present to the Board of Education must be forwarded to Karen Matthews at kmatthews@sd68.bc.ca, at least two weeks before the scheduled Board/Committee meeting. Requests will be discussed at an Agenda Setting meeting where a decision will be made. Should your request be approved, you will be notified via email and you must provide Karen Matthews with your presentation by noon on the Friday prior to the Board Meeting. Please note that your name will be included in the public record verbatim (i.e. made available online). As per Board policy, Regular Board meetings are typically held on the fourth Wednesday of every month, from September to June.*

Q. Did the District receive a small schools supplement for South Wellington prior to closure?

A. *Yes, the District did receive a small supplement. Staff are unable to break down the funds specifically allocated to South Wellington as it received an overall supplement for three small schools. Since the school's anticipated closure, the District has maintained the facility, including upgrading the water system to address arsenic issues. Staff does not have a full break down of total expenses spent on South Wellington from June 2013 to present.*