



update |

Flood mitigation planning at Rideau Park School

The following email was sent to the Rideau Park School Council on June 26, 2015 to provide an update on flood mitigation planning for the school

I was pleased with the meeting yesterday. I met with the Gibbs-Gage Design Team (the same group working on Elbow Park School) as well as the Director of Design and Property Development, Eugene Heeger. For a first meeting, I think it was very productive. As Calvin [Davies, Area IV director] had explained last week, they outlined the two separate phases of the Flood Mitigation plan – the mechanical and electrical internal mitigation plan as well as the external site mitigation possibilities. I was glad to see that my expectations for the meeting's agenda were congruous with Cal's information.

Phase 1 – what Cal called internal remediation: I saw the proposed plan sketches from the architects and they look really sharp. They think they can put all of the mechanical and electrical on top of the band room and integrate the change nicely into the existing structure. It's pretty slick in the drawing. There is still the matter of whether this plan is feasible cost-wise for the CBE, but I was encouraged by the discussion around this solution.

Phase 2 – what Cal called external site remediation: For the potential work around the school, the engineering group is still at the earliest stages of planning, with no single solution arising as a solution. While they talked about some possibilities, no solution is set. They did explain the surveyors' presence a couple of weeks ago. The explanation was that these measurements needed to be taken for information gathering purposes. It is the same initial work they did at Elbow Park. Sounds to me like they needed to discover the 1 in 500 year flood event "line" – an important measure before any planning could be done. Two comforting points were made in my opinion about the external site mitigation. First, there will be consultation in the community to share the possibilities once they have something more specific. Secondly, any design plans have to be submitted to the City of Calgary for development and building permit approval. To me, this is valuable because this step will ensure that whatever larger flood mitigation strategy that is being planned between the city and the province will become a filter for any work that is approved on site at Rideau.

Sport court – It is evident that the CBE is looking out for our best interests when they postponed our Sport Court. As Cal had mentioned, they really didn't want to have to destroy a newly-built court in order to do the flood mitigation work. I mentioned the sensitivity about the timely construction of the sport court to get it built before the donators' kids leave Rideau. They are aware of this now. One idea they mentioned was that perhaps the groundwork to prepare for the Sport Court could be integrated into Phase 1 of the project. It would be a nice perk to have them do that on the CBE dime rather than ours. We'll have to wait and see if that can happen, but it makes sense logically if all of the big trucks / equipment are coming in anyway.

Overall, I was pleased to see the CBE and contracted consultants aggressively pursuing this project at this point. We will be meeting again before the end of July with more specific information and timelines to be shared after that. Bradey [Thompson, incoming principal] will also be in the mix from this point on.

Doug Swift
Principal, Rideau Park School