

Additional information on point #5 of the FAQ

What about the costs?

In the Feasibility Study presented by the VSB in May, the cost of building a 3200 SM replacement school was estimated at \$12.5 M; the cost of a full seismic upgrade of the 4900 SM existing building was estimated at \$16.2 M (including the seismic upgrading of the existing gym). The Feasibility Study recommended proceeding with the "replacement" school as the least-cost option, and this has been the basis of discussions between the VSB and the Ministry of Education, which would fund construction. The "replacement" school would be built to MoE standards, which do not provide allowances for many features present in General Gordon today, including area for child care and music. An analysis of the Feasibility Report suggests that we could build a case that the costs of building a more *adequate* new school would be roughly equal to the costs of a renovation.

Replacement school basic cost:	\$12.5 M
Lunchroom upgrade (to keep JKC space)	\$.6 M (after p. 17 in July 2007 Feasibility Study report)
"Green" Upgrades/Parking/Covered Play	\$ 1.2 M (based on additional funds provided to Dickens Elementary)
Replace Music Room	<u>\$.3 M</u> (scaling new construction cost to add 80SM)
Total	\$14.7 M

Page 16 of the July 2007 Feasibility Study points out that upgrading the old gym would be extremely expensive and that a low-cost option would be to upgrade the main classroom building but replace the gym. The report also identifies other upgrades (to windows, lighting, etc.) for which funding would have to be obtained from outside the Seismic Program.

Main Building Upgrades with New Gym	\$13.1M (funding from Seismic Mitigation Program)
Other Upgrades	<u>\$ 1.7M</u> (funding from Annual Facilities Grant)
Total	\$14.8 M

This figure does not include the cost of portables to house all the students during the seismic upgrading process which would result in less disruption and a faster construction schedule but somewhat higher costs.

Therefore, it appears that a renovation of the main existing building combined with a replacement gym rather than a renovation of the old gym would actually be roughly equivalent to the cost of an adequate replacement school.

Since July, the discussions between the VSB and the MoE have been on the details of a new building built to Ministry minimum standards. Pursuing either an adequate new school or a renovated school would require them to re-run Stage 2 of the Feasibility Study with these configurations and multiple funding sources. This process took about 2 months the first time through.