



## SCOPE OF WORK

Sunnyside Elementary (Sunnyside) is a new school designed for 375 students, with the capacity to expand to 500. Sunnyside is located at 28th Avenue and 160th Street in Surrey, BC, and replaces the original elementary school that had been a community landmark since 1949. The replacement school is located on a beautiful green setting a short distance from the old school.

Built on a sloping site, the landscape allowed for stacked classrooms on the north side, maximizing natural light into spaces throughout the facility. The central area and heart of the school is the gymnasium which was designed to be a public gathering place with clear storey glazing to allow natural light from all points of the compass, as well as stack effect ventilation. The project includes 19 classrooms, a library, two multi-purpose rooms, a Montessori program, a full day Kindergarten program and a variety of spaces to be

shared with the community which are funded by the Ministry of Education's Neighbourhood Learning Centre (NLC) program. The NLC spaces include two Early Learning Education classrooms, a Before and After School Care classroom and a community room that can support a variety of functions by both the community and school.

The new schools design features extensive use of natural light and ventilation, the use of local materials, and materials with recycled content, energy-efficient heating and recycling stations.



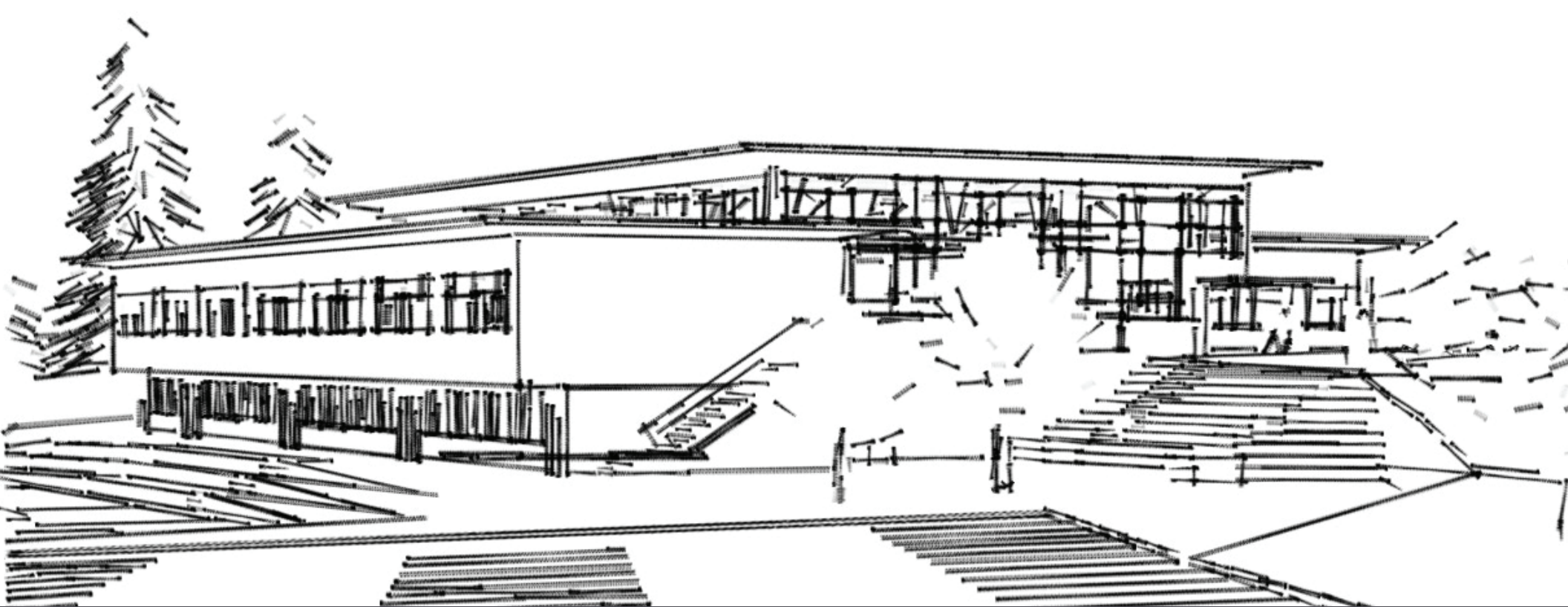


“With some of Surrey’s neighbourhoods growing at such a fast rate, everyone has had to work together to bring these schools on-stream as quickly as possible and I want to thank all those who have helped to bring the new Sunnyside Elementary to life.”

— SHAWN WILSON, SURREY SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR







## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Stakeholders for Sunnyside include School District No.36's (SD36) Program and Design Committee, the school Principal, Parent Advisory Committee, and various community, cultural and sport user groups. These groups were consulted frequently during the design process. Traffic, site access and safety were objectives identified early in the process and this school delivered on all counts.

There were remarkably few challenges with respect to community acceptance of the new school. Surrey is the fastest growing school district in the Lower

Mainland of BC and, by the time Sunnyside opened, it was surrounded by many multi-family residential projects.

Existing conditions included a generous sloping site, growing student population in a rapidly developing community, and a forward looking Client who was prepared to try something different.

The public process was orchestrated through SD36 and was publicly presented through the Board of Trustees.



Upper Floor Plan





## EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

One of the challenges of designing Sunnyside was how to incorporate a Montessori program within a traditional curriculum. Montessori classrooms are required to be larger than the Ministry of Education's Area Standards mandate for elementary schools. As a result, the Montessori classrooms were placed on the upper level, benefiting from the classroom stacking concept and natural sloping topography. This created a nice overhang for the lower level classrooms which lead directly to the outdoors. To encourage student interaction from both curriculums, the library, gymnasium and multi-purpose components were built in the centre of the school.

This school boasts a large preschool, pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten component as well as a large Montessori component. The central transparent gymnasium concept surfaced in response to the stated need to provide a heart

for the many educational streams and the anticipated public use opportunities. The sloping site afforded the team to design a community gathering space in the centre of the facility that is naturally lit, and visually connected to all components of the building. The design set out to invite user participation through transparency and ease of access. Each of these spaces results in a broader cross section of activities available to all users.

The gymnasium was designed to accommodate all sports and performing arts activities. To achieve this objective the design team put a lot of effort to ensure that the acoustical performance worked for each. To that end, we were successful. The library is located close to the entrance of the school attracting community use.

“The new Sunnyside Elementary is a state-of-the-art facility that will support families in the rapidly growing Grandview Heights community for years to come and along with Goldstone Park and Katzie Elementary schools will help alleviate projected enrollment growth.”

—PETER FASSBENDER, MINISTER OF EDUCATION







## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The school was designed to be flooded with natural light. All the classrooms face north and have oversized windows which maximize the natural light. The central gathering space features a clerestory on all four sides which not only floods the space with light but gives the occupants uninterrupted views to the tree tops. Surrounding the gymnasium with a galleria provides tons of light to the corridors which feature a playful floor pattern. Wood paneling finish in the corridors provides warm tones to the school, as well as a feature wall where it is finished with a contrasting colour.

The sloping site required that the entrance of the school be lower than the fronting street. We took advantage of the southern exposure to develop a stramp consisting of sitting terraces intercepted by a gentle access ramp with affords the opportunity for outdoor use, impromptu performances and waiting space.

The sloping site also afforded the team to design a community gathering space in the centre of the facility that is naturally lit, and visually connected to all components of the building. The finished facility has proven to be very popular for use by community arts, cultural, and sports groups. It has already been earmarked as a community gathering space in a large developing family neighbourhood.

The light-filled transparent, well ventilated core of the project brings a smile to everybody's face. You always know where you are and almost all destinations are connected by line of sight. Students and staff alike want to be there. The sense of welcome is inspiring.





“Schools are where we achieve, compete and excel in the early stages of life. Sunnyside Elementary is a beautiful, new school that utilizes daylight to provide a natural environment for many of our community’s youngest learners.”

—STEPHANIE CADIEUX, SURREY-CLOVERDALE MLA





## RESULTS OF THE PROCESS AND PROJECT

The juxtaposition of program elements around the multi-purpose/gymnasium is comparable to a marketplace which encourages a mixing of age groups and activities and promotes a 21st century holistic educational experience.

Sunnyside allows for a multitude of future educational options and is planned for a minimal interruptive expansion, an inevitable plan given the population growth in SD36.

This project achieves community goals by allowing the largest volume of space (the gymnasium) to be used as a public gathering area for a broad spectrum of activities.



# DESIGN AID SHEET FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

(2003/2004 Capital Plan)

School District # 0 (Surrey)  
 LOCATION: 36  
 FACILITY NUMBER: 0  
 PROJECT NUMBER:  
 SCHOOL NAME:  
 DATED: 10-Mar-14

Existing Nom. Capacity	Nominal Capacity	Proposed	Operating Capacity
0	200	Kgn	180
0	350	Gr 1 - 7	308

This sheet is for use in the design procedures described in Section 2.5 of the Ministry of Education Area Standards (03/99)

PART 1 - BASIC AREAS					PART 2 - TOTAL AREAS		
SPACE FUNCTION	A - EXIST.	B - ALLOWABLE	C - DEFICIT	D - NEW		A - EXISTING	D - NEW
ADMIN/HEALTH		100.00	100.00	100.00	TOTAL BASIC AREAS	Ai	Di
GEN. INSTRUCTION		1,120.00	1120.00	1,120.00		0.00	3,330
GEN STORAGE		60.00	60.00	60.00	TOTAL GROSS ALLOWABLE AREA:		Ei
GYM ACTIVITY		380.00	380.00	380.00			0
GYM ANCILLARY		65.00	65.00	65.00			Fi
MEDIA/TECH CENTRE		180.00	180.00	180.00			3,330
MULTI-PURPOSE		100.00	100.00	100.00			
SPECIAL EDUCATION		180.00	180.00	180.00			
MECHANICAL		80.00		80.00			
KINDERGARTEN		450.00	450.00	450.00			
DESIGN SPACE		615.00		615.00			
* OTHER		0.00	0.00	0.00			
SUB-TOTAL	Ai 0.00	Bi 3,330.00	3330.00	Di 3,330.00			
					* SURPLUS CLASSROOM AREA INCLUDED IN DESIGN SPACE		

## EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS OR PROGRAM OF REQUIREMENTS DOCUMENT

Our planning and design direction was guided by the Ministry of Education's Provincial Design Aid Sheet (see above).

Recently there has been more freedom to incorporate additional and different programs through the Neighbourhood Learning Centre program.

