

Meeting October 10, 2017 Minutes

1. Welcome and Review of September 12 Minutes

Co-chair Trustee Bob Patterson welcomed Advisory Committee members. All members had an opportunity to introduce themselves and their respective groups. No questions were raised about the minutes of the September 12, 2017 Committee Meeting.

2. Boundary Review/Feeder Schools

Assistant Superintendent Rohan Arul-pragasam reviewed three DRAFT Options regarding redefined Boundaries and Feeder Schools and Co-Chair Patterson invited feedback from Committee members. Committee members shared the following questions and comments:

Student Safety

- Should attempt to minimize distance, especially for elementary school students.
- Should attempt to avoid having young students cross or walk on busy streets such as Vedder.

Proximity of Middle and Secondary Schools

- While it is important to try to balance enrolment at the two middle and two secondary schools south of the highway, the proximity of students' homes to the different schools should also be taken into consideration (e.g., if a student would be walking by a school, if students are a short distance away from a school).
- May want to try to balance First Nations on-reserve students at both secondary schools.
- Need to try and keep siblings together in the same feeder stream.
- One member of the Committee suggested considering switching Watson and Promontory in Option 3. Watson is closer to Mount Slesse Middle School.

Late French Immersion

- French Immersion students may want to stay at Sardis Secondary because of the other programs/courses offered at the school (e.g., automotive, honours courses). Would those programs/courses be available at G.W. Graham?
- Some French Immersion students at Sardis Secondary are worried that they will not graduate with their cohorts.
- It was suggested by a Committee member that the French Immersion Program would be a positive additional program for G.W. Graham. Perhaps a succession plan for moving French Immersion to G.W. Graham could be considered for the future.

Transportation

- Logistics regarding bussing need to be taken into consideration.
- If additional bussing is needed, it needs to be planned for well in advance.

Communication

- It is important to communicate as clearly as possible with students, parents, staff and the community as the District works on planning for and implementing Reconfiguration. It would have been more clear if DRAFT had been on the first option, in order to communicate that there was an opportunity for feedback.
- It is important that the Reconfiguration Advisory Committee have more time to reflect on the pros and cons of the proposed options and for the Superintendent to continue accepting and responding to questions regarding the options.
- Board Policy 531 – School Admission and Choice needs to be communicated.
- Parents have been appreciative of the responses they have received to their questions and concerns.
- The District is always appreciative of feedback.
- The District needs to communicate that funding for new play structures at Middle Schools is under consideration.

Programs, Staffing, Facilities

- Need to ensure adequate number of teachers, education assistants, and clerical and custodial staff at all school levels.
- What will happen to specialty programs such as the Outdoor Education program being offered at Vedder Middle School for grade nines? Would these programs continue at the grade eight level?
- It is important to think about how secondary physical education courses will be accommodated with more students at the secondary schools (e.g., PE outside in addition to the gym). There will be other options for non-compulsory courses such as woodworking.
- Primary and Intermediate at the elementary level are under discussion.
- What will happen with grade eight students currently at G.W. Graham?

3. Staffing for Reconfiguration

Co-Chair Superintendent Evelyn Novak noted that the District is meeting with the Chilliwack Teachers Association to discuss the process for staffing in preparation for fall 2018 reconfiguration of schools.

4. Elementary School Implementation Working Committee

Director of Instruction Janet Hall and Principal Chuck Bloch highlighted the work to date of the Elementary Schools in preparation for Reconfiguration.

Actions

- Schools are looking at honoring the grade 5 students and the grade 6 students.
- Discussion around joint celebrations, versus separate grade 5 from grade 6. Size constraints, facility restrictions and scheduling concerns all impact the decision.
- All schools are working through similar concerns in a manner that is best for the unique size, composition, traditions etc. of their building.

- Common themes: include grade 5 students in awards, celebrations, sports teams, assembly seating. Each school may have a different approach.
- Parents need to hear that we are looking at options to honor/include grade 5 students and that their concerns are being heard.
- Discussion around the transition to middle school i.e. gym blasts, activity options. Our suggestions and questions:
 - Ensure that students are able to participate in their “home school” transition activities.
 - Keep in mind and consider that the grade 5 students are younger and may need more structure to the transition activities.
 - Public knowledge sharing about the changes in the framework and structure (timetable, rotation) of middle school. Parents need to have the information that the structure is changing.
 - Incorporating opportunities for playground activities at middle school.
 - Socio-emotional learning is going to be key.
 - Articulation meetings: is there a possibility to see the students in the elementary setting before transitioning (if staffing was complete). What framework could work to allow teachers at both schools the opportunity to observe?
 - What is the best time frame for articulation meetings? Meetings need to be done earlier this year (April perhaps).
 - What will the assessment/intervention structures look like at the middle school level? i.e., guided reading, small group instruction.
 - Visits to middle schools for elementary administrators.
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 - Visits to existing K-5 schools by our committee.

5. Middle School Implementation Working Committee

Director of Instruction Kirk Savage and Principal Paula Gosal highlighted the work to date of the Middle Schools in preparation for Reconfiguration.

Completed

1. The MANDATE of the Middle Working Committee was reviewed and finalized.
2. The Values, Vision and Mission statement was revisited, revised and completed.
3. The Committee agreed Reconfiguration could be the first item on the agenda at staff meetings, and that CUPE staff will be invited. CUPE staff would be excused if they wish after the Reconfiguration item.
4. The Committee agreed that CUPE staff would be invited to serve on school based working committees.
5. The Committee will provide the following suggestion to the Secondary Working Committee: That there be facilitated parent nights for grade 8/9 as they transition.
6. WEB Training is available in Blaine, WA at the end of February. The cost will be significantly less per person than anticipated (approx. \$2800 per person) if we register before January 24, 2018.
7. A comprehensive list of resources that will be needed at middle schools was created. The list includes both facilities and educational items.

- a. Play structures
 - b. Need to develop outdoor activities on the school grounds that promote play
 - c. Books for libraries
 - d. Possibly newer, smaller desks
 - e. Carpets
 - f. Science equipment etc. that go with the grade level curriculum – should it be transferred if no longer useful at the original school?
 - g. Smaller and more sports uniforms
 - h. Professional resources for teachers and in-service for teachers who may be required to teach other courses such as French and PE
8. The Curriculum Department is providing the SPARK retreat in December for middle school educators. The retreat will be over two days at Harrison Hot Springs Resort.
 9. The timeline as presented to the Advisory Committee was shared.
 10. The committee discussed the inclusion of student voice in the process. (Co-creation of school identity after reconfiguration, Leadership in WEB/LINK, and ongoing discussions in Advisory classes).

Actions

1. Staffing Process
2. Boundary Review
3. Parent night presentation structure, speaker(s)
4. Communication – it is anticipated that timely and informative information will be communicated publicly
5. The timeline will be organic and may change as we travel through the year

6. Secondary School Implementation Working Committee

Assistant Superintendent Rohan Arul-pragasam and Principal Brian Fehlauer provided a report regarding the work of Secondary Schools in preparation for Reconfiguration Fall 2018.

Actions

- Discussed options regarding Boundary Review and Feeder School Relationships
- Boomerang Project Peer Mentoring LINK Crew Training - this training has been very effective in other school districts (e.g., Abbotsford, Kelowna). Discussed potential training dates, each school to provide the names of two teachers for training February 26-28, 2018.
- Next steps:
 - Start to plan on what resources your schools will need – facilities, department course offerings and resource allocations.
 - Staff have questions before they can plan – how can we configure things like carpentry? Is it a site choice? Resources? Grade 9 textbooks. New grades 9-12 across the board from our current budget?
 - Is there a budget for reconfiguration? There will be a budget but information is needed before it is finalized.
 - In the next month, discuss course offerings with your school teams, based on the availability of space, different for each school.
 - Need to explore based on who your students will be, aligning with the new curriculum.
 - How many students will you be getting and then start to plan for them.

- Need to be creative in developing courses for students within the timetable and possibly outside of the timetable.
- Gym space will be a problem for all secondary schools.
- We don't want to provide a lesser selection of courses for grade 9s than what they would have had if they stayed where they were.
- Can possibly do a larger block once a week – extended block, double block in an afternoon.
- Everything is up for discussion – need to consider what is reasonable.
- Have to explore transportation as well.
- Need information by November: budget, course offerings, athletics, space allocation, redesigned curriculum, split shifts.
- Good to have differences among schools.
- Need to have the flexibility to accommodate more students if necessary.
- Staff request to have their new colleagues prior to the end of June.
- For next meeting: rough estimate of costs to contribute to the district budget process, impact on facilities beginning with core courses.
- Also looking for more feedback on issues related to reconfiguration (i.e., what are you hearing from families?).

7. Next meeting date: Monday, October 23, 4:00 pm, Alumni Hall – 1st Flr., NLC