

**Meeting October 23, 2017  
Minutes**

**1. Welcome and Review of October 10 Minutes**

Co-chair Trustee Bob Patterson welcomed Advisory Committee members and reviewed the Minutes of the October 10, 2017 Committee Meeting.

**2. Boundary Review/Feeder Schools Feedback**

Co-chair Trustee Bob Patterson reviewed three DRAFT Options regarding redefined Boundaries and Feeder Schools and invited feedback on the strengths and concerns about each Option from Committee members. Committee members shared the following strengths and concerns.

Option 1

Strengths	Concerns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth in both secondary catchment areas</li> <li>• If French Immersion moves to GWG the population of GWG and SSS will quickly balance</li> <li>• It is clear, with the Vedder Road as the boundary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bussing would be difficult if French Immersion is moved to GWG</li> <li>• This Option has more change than the other Options</li> <li>• Lack of honours programs at GWG and many French Immersion students have their last year planned</li> <li>• VMS is closer to SSS, MSMS can continue bussing to GWG</li> <li>• Parents are worried about students getting to GWG safely</li> <li>• Vedder Road, an already extremely busy road, would be the walking route for many students to get to GWG. This is not practical nor safe</li> <li>• Sardis Elementary Catchment to feed into GWG</li> <li>• First Nations on-reserve students would all be in one secondary school</li> <li>• Getting students to choose between their education and their peer group</li> </ul>

Option 2

Strengths	Concerns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bussing is easier to accommodate, only large change is MSMS to GWG but that is not difficult</li> <li>• Yarrow is used to going to VMS</li> <li>• French Immersion students and parents will be more satisfied</li> <li>• Sardis Elementary parents would be satisfied with Option 2 or 3</li> <li>• Only 3 elementary schools changing their feeder schools as opposed to 5 in Option 1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GWG is not in its own catchment</li> <li>• Vedder Elementary siblings would be at SSS but the school that is closer is GWG, sister school is Promontory.</li> <li>• Siblings going to different secondary schools</li> <li>• Location of Greendale – makes more sense to feed into SSS than GWG</li> </ul>

Option 3

Strengths	Concerns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vedder Elementary did a poll of parents and this Option was favoured by the greatest number</li> <li>• Vedder Elementary and Promontory Elementary keep going where they thought they would, just changing middle school</li> <li>• Adjusts the First Nations on-reserve students between the two secondary schools</li> <li>• French Immersion will be satisfied</li> <li>• Familiar change for Yarrow</li> <li>• VMS and MSMS are so close, only a concern for students living farther out</li> <li>• Causes the least disruption</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watson is a question – some families live close to MSMS but some are closer to VMS, both middle schools are in their catchment</li> <li>• Can we consider splitting Watson between the two middle schools, one side to each VMS and MSMS?</li> </ul>

Co-chair Trustee Bob Patterson then invited each Committee member to state their general questions and preferred Option(s).

- Main concern is that French Immersion families want to know that the programs they want will be available immediately, not waiting a year or two.
- What happens to grade 7s at MSMS? Grade 9s? They would continue in the same schools and there would be flexibility for keeping siblings together.
- How does the potential new south side school fit into the planning? Should have an eye on what would be done if/when we get it. Option 3 has more ease for making that happen.
- Option 3 good, most advantageous but should switch Promontory and Watson.
- Favour Option 1 because did not want students to bus to MSMS while passing VMS.

- Option 3 the best but should look at Watson. Also, Greendale catchment should feed SSS and not GWG.
- Promontory and GWG go together. Do we need to adjust Watson?
- For all Options, adequate staffing will need to be in place to implement the changes.
- Parent/student school choice may still be a challenge due to lack of space.
- AP programs would need to be in place at GWG – perhaps a soft roll out over two years so that current senior students can stay at SSS.
- Option 3 is a favourite of parents but there is concern about space at SSS.
- Option 3 is the least impactful but if it is changed may need to call it Option 4 and seek feedback.
- Option 3 is the best option and the District should keep planning, in anticipation of a new school.
- Concern about the impact over the long term. Need to make sure that the option selected satisfies the enrolment pressures for years to come.
- Option 1 visually makes sense but Option 3 is more palatable, except concern with Watson.
- Option 3 with dual catchment for Watson. MSMS is larger than VMS so a better balance, allows for more equitable distribution to a new school.
- Option 3 is the best and reserve spots for Watson at VMS or MSMS.
- Option 3 is the best but consider Watson and make sure both secondary schools have as many program/course options as possible.
- Options 2 or 3 the best for bussing and require less change than Option 1.
- The process of the change is most important, and boundaries and staffing should have been considered before making a decision about Reconfiguration.
- Option 3 is the best and give Watson families the option of going to either middle school.
- Option 3 is the least disruptive, especially for French Immersion.
- What feedback has been received by the Superintendent? Options 2 and 3 favoured. Concerns are generally walking, safety, access to programs, French Immersion.
- Suggestion to have Qs and As developed once an Option is chosen.
- Can we do a better job of celebrating the strengths of all 3 secondary schools?
- French Immersion is the big issue and the principals of the 3 secondary schools should be included in discussions.

**3. Next meeting: Tuesday, November 21, 4:00 to 6:00 pm, Computer Lab – 2<sup>nd</sup> Flr., NLC**