

Meeting September 12, 2017 Minutes

1. Introductions

Co-chair Trustee Bob Patterson welcomed Advisory Committee members. Each member had opportunity to share their interest in the committee.

2. Future Meeting Dates

The committee reviewed to confirm future meeting dates to be held monthly.

3. Committee Mandate and Terms of Reference

Co-chair Trustee Bob Patterson reviewed the Reconfiguration Advisory Committee Mandate and Terms of Reference.

4. Reconfiguration – Implementation Advisory Committee & Flowchart

Co-Chair Superintendent Evelyn Novak reviewed the structure of the Working Committees and how the work of the Advisory Committee, the Working Committees and the Board were connected to the implementation of Reconfiguration Fall 2018.

5. Elementary School Implementation Working Committee

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

Actions

- Large elementary Principal and Vice Principal group has discussed the overall concept of Reconfiguration.
- Questions, concerns and opportunities were identified.
- Elementary Working Committee structure was reviewed.
- Next steps:
 - discuss plans for school leaving celebrations for grade 5 & 6,
 - creating effective transition process for both grade 5 & 6,
 - re-visioning the K – 5 system - how will our elementary schools look different, what will the impact of smaller school sizes have on staffing, how can we take advantage of the changes to provide new learning opportunities for students.

6. 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 Fall 2018.

Actions

- *What Every Middle School Teacher Should Know* – Dave F. Brown and Trudy Knowles, book was purchased for all Middle PVP.

- Middle School Values, Vision and Mission Statement Draft were presented, developed through the leadership of the teachers and administrators who attended a Middle School Conference in July.
- Culture and climate are a big component in any school and, as part of the transition plan, plans are being made to have two teachers trained in WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) in January – Middle School Transition and Peer Mentoring Program.
- December 2017 – 2-Day Retreat in Harrison for 60 middle school teachers.
- Next Steps:
 - staffing process needing to be clarified in October 2017,
 - effective transition process for students in grades 5 and 6,
 - parent night speaker at each Middle School January/February 2018.

7. 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

- Multiple informal discussions amongst Secondary Principals and Vice-principals since late May 2016.
- Secondary School Mandate and Mission were presented, developed through the leadership of teachers and administrators.
- Principal and Vice-principal from Abbotsford Secondary School met with SD33 Secondary Principals and Vice Principals to share their journey from an 8-12 to a 9-12 model.
- The 3 Secondary Schools will use their existing school structures (e.g., Department Head Meetings, CUPE Meetings, etc.) to generate information and conversations in relation to reconfiguration, which will then inform the Secondary Working Committee.
- Feedback will be garnered from school committees in relation to reconfiguration, instruction, intervention and supports for grade 9's as they transition to Secondary School in 2018.
- Each Secondary School has submitted a timeline of all major events, which have been collated to help with planning for the transitions of grade 9s in 2018.
- Culture and climate are a big component in any school and plans are being made to have at least one teacher trained in "Link Crew" – High School Transition and Peer Mentoring Program.
- School departments will determine the grade 10 courses offered to grade 9s based on exiting courses, redesigned curriculum and availability of viable learning spaces.
- Schools will continue to offer linear and semestered courses based on student academic, social and emotional needs and choices, and based on availability of viable learning spaces.
- Next steps:
 - Board determining boundaries by November,
 - each Secondary School having a clear indication of student enrolment data and school committees to then start the process of mapping out grade 9 course offerings, and academic and elective space considerations,
 - exploring the options of running two schools in one (two different start times) to accommodate meaningful timetables for all students.

8. Reconfiguration Timeline

Co-Chair Superintendent Evelyn Novak reviewed the timeline of tentative planning of important dates and considerations in order to prepare for Reconfiguration Fall 2018.

9. Questions/Comments

Committee members shared questions and comments throughout the meeting:

Communication:

- What message have students been given regarding why Reconfiguration is taking place? There may be anxiety.
- Communication for parents is needed. There is some fear about “my kids aren’t ready.”
- Communication with teachers and staff regarding SD33 Middle School Philosophy.
- Distinction between Pro D and Inservice to be made in the Middle School report.
- Suggested need to include CUPE staff in planning and resources/training.
- Suggested need to consider that there are parents and teachers who are opposed to Reconfiguration, and that the transition will not be easy for all parents and teachers.

Preparing Students:

- How will special programs such as Outdoor Education and French Immersion be included?
- Are the grade 5s ready for leadership, responsibilities, mentorship?
- Will grade 5s and 6s still be able to play?
- How does the day look for grade 6s?
- Some Middle School students appreciate not having the same teacher all day.
- Grade 7s will be the leaders – how will they be prepared?
- What is being done to prepare grade 8s for the transition?
- Good to have connectedness (LINK) for grade 9s. How to ensure they don’t feel anxiety, insignificance. Is there enough support for the swell of students coming in to Middle and Secondary Schools?
- Will teachers be moving as well? It may help some students to have a familiar teacher face.
- Many parents with kids in grade 6 are happy because they feel their children are ready for Middle School, and are not little kids. The transition provides great opportunity for grade 9s to be exposed to more options/possibilities in Secondary School.
- Will there be additional transition time/support for special needs students?
- Need supports for high school students and staff, especially with large numbers of students coming.

Space at Schools/Staff:

- Will Reconfiguration “make the bubble burst” at Middle and Secondary schools?
- Where are you going to get TTOCs for support in the transition?
- How does the boundary change happen? Will schools transitioning students from Middle to Secondary Schools be split?
- What is the plan for the GW Graham grade transition to a Secondary School? Students and parents don’t want to be transitioned back and forth to having three new schools in three years.

10. Next meeting date: Tuesday, October 10, 4:00 to 6:00 pm, Computer Lab – 2nd Flr., NLC