



RECONFIGURATION

Middle Working Committee

REPORT To: Reconfiguration Advisory Committee

REPORT Date: January 23, 2018

Middle Working Committee Membership:

ADR	Scott Wallace, Mitchell Rainkie
Alt Ed	Michael Kotanko
CMS	Paula Gosal (Advisory Member), Quentin Baker
FVDES	Diane Chapman, Sean Cordeiro
GWG	Matthew Brooks, Tyler Klassen
MSMS	Danielle Wicker, Jana Clattenburg
RTCS	Erin McAstocker, Michelle Kohuch
VMS	Carol Petek, Salvina Sharp
District Office	Kirk Savage (Advisory Member), Justin Moore, Joanne Britton

The Middle School Reconfiguration Committee met on January 18, 2018. The following committee members attended: Erin Barisoff-Harris, Justin Moore, Kirk Savage, Joanne Britton, Michelle Kohuch, Paula Gosal, Sean Cordeiro, Erin McAstocker, Jana Clattenburg, Scott Wallace, Carol Petek, Salvina Sharp

MINUTES – January 18, 2018

1. Welcome
2. Updates
 - a. Boundary Map
 - i. The boundaries for 18/19 have been updated and are available online.
 - b. Parent Meetings
 - i. There will be a series of meetings for incoming middle school parents. Session one will be philosophical and will be facilitated by two administrators from Abbotsford School District. Session two will explain the inner workings specific to each middle school and will be facilitated by school admin and staff.
 - ii. Kirk shared the content which will be covered at session 1, which will include middle school philosophy, characteristics of the adolescent learner, research around middle school model, best practices including collaboration and common prep time, developmental programs such as Athletics. It was noted that there are differences between the model being used in Abbotsford and the model we are moving forward with in Chilliwack. For example Abbotsford uses looping, in Chilliwack we will have teacher teams. These differences will be made clear to parents in the presentations.



1. Feedback:
 - a. These topics are familiar to staff.
 - b. Session 1 should focus on the smooth transition that will be provided to students to relieve the anxiety of parents and students. We will need to highlight that we have always been supportive of transitioning students and will continue.
 - c. Perhaps they should not mention looping at all.
 - d. The message should be that “6 – 8 is good”. That they (SD34) have been doing 6 – 8 for years and it works well for students kids and has created great students and citizens.
 - e. We must remember to honor the work that has been done.
 - f. There will be table talk during session 1, tables and chairs will be required in the gyms. AV/PA may be required.
- iii. Session 1 Dates:
 1. February 1 – AD Rundle
 2. February 8 – CMS
 3. February 15 – MSMS
 4. February 19 – VMS
 5. February 21 - RTCS
- c. Advisory Planning
 - i. The December 19 meeting with Tom Hierck focused on the “Why?” of Advisory and explored what advisory will look like. Connecting, relationships etc. were a focus through lots of table talk and interaction. The result of these sessions will be a consistent place and structure for students across the district.
 - ii. The Advisory Planning group will go through the process to determine the content of advisory, it’s not just about building relationships between teachers and students but also between students. What are our pillars for Advisory? Feedback was positive.
 - iii. Session 2 will focus on “What?” Session 3 “How?”
- d. Resources
 - i. Playground funding has been announced (\$300 000.00). We are hoping to have the units installed before September. Discussion about timeline, Kirk will confirm.
 - ii. Some funding has been provided to schools for staff and libraries.
 - iii. There will be many additional classrooms to be equipped.
 - iv. Please let us know your wish list i.e. U shaped tables, alternate seating.
 - v. What about text books i.e. grade 6, there could be some resources that could come up to the Middle level such as Math Makes Sense.
 - vi. How could resources best been utilized for teacher teams.
- e. Staffing
 - i. An agreement has been reached and a letter signed with CTA.
 1. At elementary teachers will be DITed, we will not be have DITs at Middle and Secondary. With increase of positions on south side, the displaced elementary teachers should have equitable access to a substantial number of jobs.
 - a. Timeline:
 - i. Draft Org Charts must be created by schools and shared with their staff by March 2
 - ii. DITS at Elementary determined – March 9



- iii. Secondary jobs posted – April 9/10
 - iv. Hiring secondary before May 7
 - v. Middle posted Apr 26/27
 - vi. Hiring middle May 25
 - vii. May 15/16 Elementary positions posted
- f. Other
- i. How do teachers learn how to team teach? – There will be two sessions on Feb 23 for teachers.
 - 1. Curriculum could provide additional opportunities if there is demand. Suggestion that some coaching to take place at staff meetings between now and June. Possibly invite teachers within our district (gr 6 teachers) who are currently team teaching to staff meetings?
 - 2. Teaming could result in less or more time per course – teachers will have the ability to choose this.
 - ii. Minutes of the day:
 - 1. 300 minute day with 285 of instruction (15 minutes of recess). The 12.5% prep is based on 285 minutes.
 - a. Teacher perspective: too much change, some excitement some nervousness. Teachers are feeling like they are losing 15 minutes.
 - b. Middle schools will continue to be in session for 27.5 hours a week for staff. Students will be in session for 25 hours (K – 7). This creates 2.5 hours of collaboration time each week for teachers during the instructional week. Note: grade 8 students who receive elementary minutes of instruction will receive more than the mandated amount of secondary minutes during grades 9 – 12 and this average meets Ministry requirements.
 - iii. Reporting schedule? No changes to schedule at this time (next year there will be 4). Further discussion will be required. Ministry requires 5 (various options for this including interviews, reports, interims etc.)
3. Roundtable
- a. Updates from School Committees
 - i. RTCS – talked to teachers about what grade level and team they will be in next year. Jan 26 school based NID will work further. Very calm amongst the staff.
 - ii. VMS – we are looking at which electives to offer, the structure for those electives, and planning the teaming structure, School based NID will be a working day for these items. Two portables arrived today. Staff seem more settled.
 - iii. MSMS – timetables and team building will take place tomorrow at our school based NID
 - iv. FVDES – no updates
 - v. ADR – staff are settling with the idea. Team is committed to the model and ready to move forward. Now planning. Timetable meeting upcoming and open to staff who want to comment, question and help.
 - vi. CMS – staffing announcement eased nerves. Up next is timetables and planning. Now we will focus on resources for grade 6 students... how and what?



- vii. Curriculum could help with some resource suggestions.
- viii. Robust book rooms at middle would be beneficial.
- b. Feedback on Middle Information brochure:
 - i. None at this time. Request to share feedback if you have any.

4. Next Meeting Date

- c. February 8, 2018 @ NLC Room 1009