



RECONFIGURATION

Middle Working Committee

REPORT To: Reconfiguration Advisory Committee

REPORT Date: November 21, 2017

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, Lisa Fugger
District Office	Kirk Savage (Advisory Member), Justin Moore, Joanne Britton

The Middle School Reconfiguration Meeting met on November 9, 2017. The following committee members attended: Erin McAstocker, Tyler Klassen, Sean Cordeiro, Diane Chapman, Quentin Baker, Kirk Savage, Jana Clattenburg, Justin Moore, Paula Gosal, Michael Kotanko, Scott Wallace, Erin Barisoff-Harris, Danielle Wicker, Gabe D'Archangelo

MINUTES – November 9, 2017

1. Updates
 - a. Boundaries
 - i. Discussion on creation of a south side options document for parents and what information should be included in the document
 - b. Parent Meetings
 - i. Dates to be set in Jan/Feb
 - ii. Some principals are visiting, or will visit, their feeder school PAC meetings
 - c. Advisory Planning
 - i. An invitation was shared for four dates for 3 team members from each school to create district scope and sequence for consistent Advisory time at Middle School.
 - ii. Discussion: If we are going to have teams of 2, is advisory necessary? Career/health etc. could be covered during this time. The group will explore the topic with a goal of co-creating an Advisory structure that will provides continuity across the district.
 - iii. WEB Training may help to shape how Advisory will look.
 - iv. Need to create the tenants/pillars
 - v. Principals have this on the agenda for their next staff meeting to find who is interested from each site.



d. Resources

i. What is the budget?

1. 2017/18 School visits/pro-d/staff resources, essentially this is foundational funding to get planning in place.
2. Play structures
 - a. The Facilities Department and the Secretary Treasurer are investigating the cost of installing a play structure at each school. When cost is identified, the Board of Education will be asked for one time funding to purchase these structures.
 - b. It is possible that the City of Chilliwack will contribute a small amount at some schools.
 - c. ADR was advised by the Director of Facilities that Summer 2019 is the earliest that play structures could be installed. Contracting could be an option.
 - d. Let's get on with painting four square etc. to paved areas at schools.
3. Finance has been advised of the needs in terms of desks and other requirements for schools where enrollment will increase. This is an opportunity to look at flexible seating. Principals are asked to submit needs/wants to the Executive.
4. Math Manipulatives – will there be a district standard? A list of possible items will be shared and some resources will be supplied. Schools can then build from there with resource funding.
5. Leveled reading bins seed monies will likely be available for middle schools. Some resources will come as budget, sometimes physical resources will be put in the school.
6. Wish lists can be created at the schools and shared with the district.
7. Does MOE fund reconfiguration? No. There is some funding available for compliance with restored language. The Ministry recognizes reconfiguration as the best way to achieve compliance with the restored language.
8. We will stay on this and communicate amended budget ASAP. Once school have communicated what their needs for next year it will help us build the next year budget.

e. Staffing

- i. Meetings between CTA and the school district have taken place and are ongoing.
- ii. Announcement will come jointly from CTA and District.
- iii. Can there be some school visits (in-district) for teachers that are considering moving to middle or secondary?
 1. Funds are available for middle schools – we will speak with Janet Hall and Elementary Working Committee to see if there has been interest, could be an option.
- iv. How do we get new teachers on staff to have input into resources purchased. These types of purchases would be taking place the following budget year when staffing will be in place. Look at hands-on resources rather than books/text books. Purchase what you can now and top up next year.
- v. It's pretty stressful out there. Teachers are feeling unappreciated. We already have a good system. Specialist teachers are the ones that reach the students who need it most. ~~Specialists are worried about their jobs. There are too many changes already ongoing.~~



Do we even need to change to middle schools. Can we have flexibility or move more gradually.

1. Principals are working on timetables for next year and when these are ready they can be shared with the staff. This will help staff to visualize “their” place next year.
 - vi. The timetable will be different after reconfiguration. We will have middle school timetables with teams across the district, rather than junior high timetables. Band will exist, and exploratories will exist.
 - vii. During prep they will get exploratories 12.5%. Extra is enhanced time i.e. core or classroom teachers delivering courses based on their passion or interests.
 - viii. The timetable will be created at the site and will be required to meet the pillars that were documented by this group in the Mission, Vision and Values statement. District oversight will be provided for this work.
 - ix. Minutes of the day will be communicated to Principals as soon as possible so that schools can begin to create timetables.
 - x. Mentorship in schools could it be made available to get them through the change.
 1. We want our gr 6/7 students to have 2 core teachers. This is crucial. We will provide the staffing to make sure that will happen.
 2. We must always reflect back to the middle values/mission... constant reflection to this document will keep the middle model alive.
 3. Additional staffing with increased enrollment offers all sorts of possibilities
 - f. Some schools have begun to take staff to schools in other districts where the configuration is already 6-8. Internal coverage has been used to facilitate these trips.
 - g. Reconfiguration Timeline
 - i. Move items around:
 1. Staffing Process Defined needs to move to Nov/Dec
 2. WEB/LINK Training will be at the end of February
 3. Communication with 5/6 parents... needs to move to new year
 - ii. Add declaration date for south side middle schools
 1. January ____
 - iii. Create two documents:
 1. Parents/public
 - a. Includes dates only
 2. Staff
 - a. More detailed with pro days etc.
 - iv. Remove:
 1. School Based NID
 2. Review School Funding/Staffing Allocations
 3. BC School Sports
2. Roundtable
 - a. Updates from School Committees
 - i. VMS –
 1. We are happy that band will be a priority and want to ensure that we are staffed appropriately for a robust band program.



- a. Staffing will be adequate to meet the needs, interpretation of what is needed may differ by school.
2. We really hope that we are headed back to true middle model with common prep time.
 - ii. Alt Ed – staff are staying current in anticipation of possible changes
 - iii. MSMS – teachers are apprehensive. We have worked on some plans that we can share as soon as we minutes of the day is confirmed. We will build the timetable with no names to help people see where they could fit, where they would like to fit.
 - iv. RTCS – we shared some timetable ideas yesterday with no names... the anxiety level dropped. Staff wonder about teaming and who chooses the partner.
 - v. GWG – middle school staff have anxiety. Request that middles share their draft timetables with GWG teachers to help them make an informed choice about possibly moving.
 - vi. VMS - having a chance to look at drafts reduced the anxiety level in the school. Team structure causing anxiety. Gabe has invited teachers to share with him what their passion is, if they have a partner request, if they prefer the Principal to select a partner for them etc...
 - vii. ADR – our staff is anxious about do I have to teach French, I am an elementary teacher? The schedule won't change too much at our school.
 - viii. More collaboration with elementary would be great – lets invite them to the middle school to see if they like it.
 - ix. CMS – staff are anxious about staffing and staffing process. We have viewed 4 other middle schools so have some knowledge. They would like to start building, but recognize there are pieces that still need to fall into place. We are also looking at the bet use of our space, i.e. some big spaces that will need to be made to feel smaller.

4. Next Meeting Date (2nd Thursday)

- b. December 14, 2017 @ NLC Room 1009