

Preliminary Boundary Discussions

Promontory Heights Elementary Community School: Questions + Answers Document

Long -Term Planning

- 1. What is the long-term plan to accommodate school capacity in Chilliwack?** The Chilliwack School District has a [Long-Range Facilities Plan \(2021-2025\)](#) which provides a framework for facilities planning and investment decisions. An updated plan is expected in the new school year and there will be opportunities for the public to provide feedback.

Importantly, this work is part of a collaborative effort between the Chilliwack School District and the Ministry of Infrastructure. With many districts across B.C. competing for limited capital funding, Chilliwack has been successful in securing investment by working proactively with the Ministry.

Since 2018, our partnership with the Ministry has delivered 2,420 new student spaces through new schools and expansions. Upcoming projects, including expansions at Sardis Secondary and AD Rundle Middle and the construction of the new east-side elementary, will add another 1,200 seats over the next two years.

- 2. Can we expand Promontory Heights Community School by removing portables or building upwards?** There is no opportunity to expand the existing facility, either by removing portables or building upwards, due to site limitations and structural constraints.
- 3. What is the City of Chilliwack’s responsibility to put land aside for schools?** The City of Chilliwack has no role in land acquisition for school sites. That is a provincial responsibility under the Ministry of Infrastructure.
- 4. Is the City of Chilliwack working with the District to find a solution for new land for schools?** When engaging in new neighbourhood planning exercises, the City considers a variety of land use needs including schools, health care, parks, recreation, housing, etc. and designates land accordingly based on need. Further, City and School District staff meet on a regular basis to discuss future growth and development in Chilliwack. Staff provide the District with growth projections, which are used to determine anticipated needs to accommodate student growth over a 10-year period. The Chilliwack School District prepares an “Eligible School Site Proposal” and submits it to the Province (Ministry of Education and Child Care) for



approval. Ultimately, the purchase of land for new schools is a provincial responsibility under the Ministry of Infrastructure.

- 5. Can the City prevent new builds until there is another school?** No. The City cannot refuse to issue a building permit for a use that is allowed on private property.
- 6. Is there an opportunity to build schools in collaboration with local First Nations?** Yes. Engaging with local First Nations on long-term leases was identified in the [Long-Range Facilities Plan \(2021-2025\)](#). The School District engages with local First Nations exploring the potential of a long-term lease to develop schools on First Nations land.
- 7. Will Stitó:s Lá:lém Totí:lt Elementary / Middle School become a full middle school?** Stitó:s was purpose-built as a K–8 school, aligning with models like Rosedale Traditional. Its layout and larger capacity including a middle-grade wing with a shop, foods room, science lab, and larger gym provide flexibility for a possible future transition to a middle school model. However, it was not originally intended to operate solely as a middle school and there are no changes planned at this time.
- 8. Is it possible to add another school in Promontory?** A new elementary school in Urban South is identified in the District's Five-Year Capital Plan, which is updated annually.
- 9. Will the school population numbers be shared with the public?** Yes. Projections are available in the Long-Range Facilities Plan and will be updated in the fall. If you're looking for information about a specific school, please contact communications@sd33.bc.ca.
- 10. Is Promontory the only school where the District is exploring changes?** In addition to Promontory, District staff also held parent meetings with Rosedale Traditional Community School, Cheam Elementary School, Yarrow Community School, Greendale Community School and Chilliwack Middle School to discuss potential changes that would help balance enrollment and capacity for the next 10-15 years.
- 11. Have decisions already been made?** [Policy 660](#) outlines the process we are following. Per the policy, the Board of Education must give fair consideration to all public input prior to making its final decision. Fair consideration includes the possibility that the Board's proposal could be changed.
- 12. Will there be (or are there talks of) changing the boundary of addresses that feed into Promontory?** School boundaries are always under review, but there are no immediate proposals for boundary changes at Promontory at this time.

Transportation

1. **Is the District going to expand its bus fleet?** Transportation is not fully funded by the Ministry of Education and Child Care and the School Act does not require school districts to provide bus transportation services. We provide more service than is funded in our operating budget.
2. **What is the budget for busing?** The Chilliwack School District allocates approximately 2.6% of its budget to busing. The transportation system is complex, moving nearly 5000 students at the beginning and end of each day. Our teams work hard to minimize travel time for students and to ensure responsible use of our financial resources.

School Culture

1. **Would eliminating middle school solve the capacity issues?** The Chilliwack School District is dedicated to the middle school model. Eliminating middle schools would not solve capacity challenges.
2. **For parents whose children don't attend Stitó:s Lá:lém Totí:lt, what does the separation between elementary and middle school look like?** Elementary and middle school students have separate bell schedules and attend separate sections of the school. The middle school follows the middle school model, incorporating pillars of connections, exploratory, teaming, and collaboration.

Communication

1. **Do parents' opinions matter?** Since late February, District staff have met with PAC representatives from six schools and over 200 parents to share potential changes to those schools. There were over 800 visits and nearly 70 contributions to the Let's Talk page. Family feedback will be one consideration when developing a plan to share with the Board of Education. If the Board decides to consider specific changes, there will be a formal consultation period as per Policy 660.
2. **When will a more concrete plan be available?** District staff are taking more time to consider options before making any recommendations to the Board of Education. Any recommendations would be added to the agenda of a Public Board Meeting. If the Board adopts a recommendation for Consideration of Consolidation or Closure of Schools, they must share pertinent facts and information considered by the Board, including:
 - the specific school that is being considered
 - how the proposal would affect the catchment areas of effected schools



- the general effect on surrounding schools
- the number of students who would be affected
- the effect on district provided student transportation
- educational program/course implications for the affected students
- the proposed effective date
- financial considerations
- impact on the Board's capital plan
- enrolment projections
- future enrolment growth

This would be followed by a minimum of 60 days of consultation.

- 3. Why is the decision already confirmed for Dec. 2025 if this is just a preliminary discussion?** For planning purposes, any decisions that would impact students the following school year should be confirmed by the prior December. District staff are taking more time to consider options before making any recommendations to the Board of Education. We can confirm that there won't be any changes for Grade 5 students at Promontory for the 2025/2026 or 2026/2027 school years.
- 4. When will we know about any changes?** For planning purposes, any recommended changes that would take effect in the 2027/2028 school year should be confirmed no later than December 2026.
- 5. Will there be further discussion after the "What We Heard" report is available?** Yes. If a Board votes to adopt a recommendation for a particular school they must advise school staff, parents/guardians of students in the school and the general public that the change is being considered. Following that, they must allow for public feedback for at least 60 days.

General

- 1. Are there empty classrooms that can be used?** There are empty classrooms at Unsworth Elementary. While some other elementary schools have limited capacity, it is not necessarily at the grade levels where it is needed. For example, Watson Elementary has some space split among grades, but kindergarten classes will be full. Vedder Elementary has a classroom currently being used as a Story Studio, but it is projected to be full within the next year due to the number of new families moving into the area.
- 2. Will class sizes be affected by any changes?** No. Class sizes are guided by the collective agreement and the School Act.



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- 3. What's the capacity of Stitó:s Lá:lém Totí:lt?** 930
- 4. Does the District have empty portables available for use?** We have some portables available.

The process for the Chilliwack School District's

Enrollment and Facilities Review

What We Heard Report

(April 2025) Feedback
and questions
compiled and shared
with PACs and Board.

Recommendation to Board

(Date undetermined)
District staff present
recommendations at a
Public Board Meeting.

