
Catchment Boundary Review - Phase Three

Summary Report

Introduction

Over the past year, the Greater Victoria School District has been conducting a boundary review due to increasing student enrolment and limited space in some of its schools. The purpose of this review has been to identify the need for space, to present options and to engage with the h-

Background

The current Catchment Boundary Review is the culmination of three years of work on a variety of issues including:

1. How students access schools (Enrolment Priorities);
2. How French programming will be accessed in the District (French Language Programming Review); and
3. How our facilities are maintained, shared, and modernized (Facilities Plan).

These three processes connected with thousands of people in our community, internal and external partners, and provided feedback and guidance to the Board on our communities' vision for our District. From equity to the environment to childcare to partnerships, our community has set high expectations on the District on how they want to see our system grow.

While the Facilities Plan will be a living document, ultimately, the culmination of this work is the Catchment Boundary Review. This process is intended to provide a framework for the next 10-15 years in our District.

Catchment Boundary Review - The Process

Background

The current process began in the Spring of 2018. The District engaged its community in the Thetis Vale area of the District. While this consultation showed strong preferences in the community, it was clear that due to class size and composition restrictions and increased enrolment that the process needed to be more holistic.

In the Fall of 2018, the District initiated planning to develop a consultation process and set up an internal Boundary Review Team. The Boundary Review Team includes Colin Roberts, Associate Superintendent, Mark Walsh, former Secretary-Treasurer

Phase One of Public Consultation

The first step in the process was gathering input from our community. This involved the creation of a survey to find out the priorities of our families and students. The draft survey was created by the Team and then reviewed and revised by the Facilities Plan Committee as well as our District Leadership Team. The survey was posted from November 19 to November 30, 2018. It was available in six languages (including Spanish, Filipino, Arabic, Mandarin, and Punjabi) upon request. We received over 5,100 responses between the Parent and Student Survey. The results of the survey have been made publicly available at the following link: www.sd61.bc.ca/catchment-boundary-review

In the background, the Team was ensuring that capacities of our schools accurately reflected the number of students that could be accommodated at each site, and awaited the final results of future enrolment

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Minimizing the need to build further learning studios or move existing portables
Keeping Secondary Programs of Choice at their current sites
Limiting the amount of change for schools, parents and community
Continuing to provide the opportunity for choice through student transfers where space permits, particularly at the secondary level
Allowing students to complete their studies at their current school until the next school level transition

Phase Two of Public Consultation

The Boundary Review Team then created the first draft of the catchment boundary proposal and presented the proposed changes to the Facilities Plan Committee and the District Leadership Team. The Team then worked to implement the second phase of the public engagement strategy.

The proposed changes included:

Introduction of three new elementary catchment boundaries (South Park, Cloverdale, Victor) to address population density in the core area of Victoria and Southern Saanich.

The District would no longer offer Elementary Schools/Programs of Choice.

The Quadra Elementary catchment would be reduced through the creation of a Cloverdale boundary.

Reopening of Richmond Elementary as a middle school South Campus for Lansdowne.

The intention is for Richmond to serve the Grade Six cohort.

The Thetis Vale area of View Royal would become part of the Eagle View catchment.

Victor School would open as an elementary catchment school. The plan was to start by phasing in Kindergarten and Grade One students, with some of the current student population to transition into a new purpose built location.

The James Bay Elementary and Sir James Douglas catchments would be reduced through the creation of a South Park catchment for the James Bay and Beacon Hill area, and portions of Victoria's downtown/

» Students at Oak

For the the full **Phase Two Summary Report** please visit:

www.sd61.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/91/2019/05/Catchment-Boundary-Review-Phase-Two-Summary-Report-0429192.pdf

Catchment Boundary Review - Phase Three of the Consultation

Introduction

Following Board approval of the new set of recommendations, the District set out to conduct additional consultation. With new boundary adjustments proposed, there was a domino effect that included many other proposed changes for schools that were not initially considered. To ensure that the public and school community were aware of the new proposal, the District held eight school-targeted consultation meetings and once again collected input online via email. The District visited each school or local area that would be significantly impacted or where a new major recommendation had been put forward to discuss the impacts and hear feedback prior to a final decision by the Board in June, 2019.

The eight additional consultation meetings were held at:

- Cloverdale
- South Park
- Margaret Jenkins
- Richmond
- Quadra
- McKenzie
- Macaulay
- Doncaster

The proposal included specific recommendations and focused on the major recommendations involving the creation of catchments for certain schools, changes to catchments and then major proposed pathway shifts. It also contained a number of relatively significant changes from the initial recommendations proposed during phase two. The overview of the propoa

Introduction of three new elementary catchment boundaries (South Park, Cloverdale,

Small changes would be made to the Lake Hill and Braefoot boundaries to better realign these areas with improved walk routes.

A small portion of the Macaulay catchment would be added to Craigflower's catchment

The Thetis Vale area of View Royal would become part of the Eagle View catchment.

A small portion of Shoreline that is north

Enrolment Priorities

1. If space and facilities are deemed available at a school, enrolment priority shall occur in accordance with the following list:

Priority 1: Re-enrolling students

Priority 2: A catchment area sibling

Priority 3: A new catchment area child

Priority 3.5: A non-catchment sibling impacted by a change to a catchment boundary

Priority 4: A non-catchment sibling

Priority 5: A non-catchment area child

Priority 6: A non-school district child

2. What We Heard - Proposal to create a catchment for South Park

We heard from a range of individuals from South Park including community members, current and former staff, students, and parents. These individuals ranged from local James Bay parents who value the school's educational program to individuals who commute from across the District and as far as the Westshore to enrol their students in the school.

They continued



and the parent participation focused educational model could not be sustained if separated from a family's choice to attend the school.

At the June 10, 2019 O

Limits the amount of capacity available for catchment students in the event of increased growth;

The timing of the build would be unlikely to assist with capacity issues in the short term;
It is not clear whether there would be enough financial return out of airspace parcels to build additional classrooms;

The District's ownership of the land is limited to the strip of land immediately under the

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) reassign the students at South Park to feed Central Middle School and then feed Victoria High School.

3. What We Heard - Proposal to create a catchment for Cloverdale

We heard from a range of individuals from the Cloverdale Traditional school community including staff and parents. We also heard from members of the Quadra catchment and s>ardc

There would be increased operating expenses and a loss of revenue to the District;
Public school children at SD93 would be impacted;
Given potential growth in Esquimalt, Lampson may be required to open as a regular
program school at some future point.

We do not recommend th

Open Sundance as an elementary school;
Construction of a new school in the core of the City of Victoria such as near Central;
Open Sundance and Bank Street as SD61 schools and upgrade the school on Bank Street to create a single elementary school of approximately 200 students;
Using Richmond as an elementary school and implementing the alternative for Lansdowne below.

During phase three t c

Such a move impacts our operating fund through the loss of the lease revenue to SD93
as w

5. What We Heard - Open Richmond as the grade 6 campus for Lansdowne

The feedback on the creation of a Lansdowne South Campus at Richmond acquired during the third phase of consultation was generally supportive. However, there remained many questions of how the District would support the staff and students.

We heard from current staff members and potential future parents. There were questions about how the campus would offer sufficient amenities and how the satellite campus experience would be for the students in comparison to the Lansdowne building. There was some apprehension about the walking distance between the campus and the main site in case students were required to travel between the two sites for specific programming. Staff want to ensure it doesn't become an isolating experience for students or themselves. There were also concerns about the school not being seismically upgraded.

Lansdowne's principal shared how the space has worked in the past supporting schools who have undergone seismic upgrades and how the facility will be able to accommodate all amenities, with the exception of a woodshop. In addition, he shared how he envisioned administration working between the two buildings. Parents expressed they would like additional consultation in order for the grade six campus to work in a way that best suits the students.

There was positive feedback from residents in the Lansdowne and Middowne neighbourhood pocket. They were happy to know their children would be able to attend Willows Elementary. Meanwhile, there was some concern that there would be three schools feeding to the middle school which could create an overcrowding issue similar to Central Middle. We heard strongly from the education community that a middle school with 700-800 students at a single site is not a positive educational environment and should be avoided.

Some individuals suggested opening Richmond as a K-5 school to capture the overflow of students from Oaklands, Willows and Campus View. There were also questions regarding whether the campus could accommodate additional French Immersion programming.

Finally, we heard that it was desirable to maintain a 6-8 model if possible.

Alternative suggestions included:

Use portables and Artemis Place to expand Lansdowne;

Expand Central and Lansdowne to 700-800 allowing Richmond to be used as an elementary school;
Open Richmond as a French Immersion or English only 6-8 Middle;
Open SJ Willis as a middle school.

Alternative 1 - Portables and Artemis Place to expand Lansdowne

Considerations:

Houses enough students at Lansdowne to avoid using Richmond;
Impact on Artemis Place Society and the young women it serves;
Significant capital investment from land sales or leases for expansion;
Lack of amenities (gym, exploratories etc.)

Alternative 2 - Expand Central and Lansdowne to 700-800

Considerations:

Significant capital investment from land sales or leases for expansion;
Using Richmond as an elementary school rather than Bank Street/Sundance impacts a number of other recommendations;
Expanding on the site of Lansdowne and Central will be

SJ Willis is required for our seismic program including Vic High and others;
The school has capacity and is situated in a geographically ideal area.

Conclusion:

While the idea of expanding Lansdowne and/or Central and using Richmond as an elementary school has some positive aspects, ultimately, we cannot recommend any further on site growth at Lansdowne or Central. Size at middle school is fundamental to culture and we highly recommend limiting the population of a single campus middle school.

Recommendations: *(these recommendations remain unchanged from the P*

Some parents were also vocal about the revisions made to the northwest and

these families. Many of the families in these areas whose children are in the English Program, wanted to remain in the Margaret Jenkins catchment and the Monterey and Oak Bay pathway.

Hearing that there was little community support for this proposed revision, the areas of Rocklands and St. Charles currently within the Margaret Jenkins catchment wil

That the Board

11. What We Heard - Tillicum

We heard from a range of individuals from Tillicum including current and former staff, and parents. The Tillicum community members recognized how the school is overcrowded and suggested allowing schools of choice would just add issue to schools that are currently full.

There were concerns of why Tillicum students would need to cross the TransCanada Highway to get to Colquitz and Spectrum. Parents have also shared positive stories about Tillicum School and expressed how diverse, dedicated, and engaged the school community is.

The District did not make any recommendations with regard to the catchment for Tillicum in the first phase proposal, based on the guiding principle of implementing as little change as possible, and because enrolment at Tillicum had been managed in previous years through student transfers. While the Tillicum catchment population far exceeds the school's capacity, the

While the District recognizes that the commute times will increase for some families, and that

Given this possibility, we are suggesting a minor shift of the boundary in the north-east corner of the Macaulay catchment, with Vic West to absorb the identified area. More significantly, however, we are reco

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) expand the Eagle View

Compiled Recommendations for the Board of Education

Recommendation 1:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) redraw the South Park catchment from a District wide catchment to the proposed boundary taking parts of the James Bay, SJD and George Jay catchments.

Recommendation 2:

~~**That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) redraw the Margaret Jenkins catchment from the current catchment to the proposed boundary to include a minor area at Oak Bay avenue formerly in the Willows catchment.**~~

Recommendation 3:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) redraw the catchment of George Jay as proposed removing areas of the current catchment to South Park, SJD, Quadra, and Bank Street.

Recommendation 4:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) open the school on Bank Street and Sundance and create a catchment as proposed incorporating areas of the Oaklands catchment in the Jubilee neighbourhood, George Jay catchment in eastern Fernwood and Willows catchment at Foul Bay Junction.

Recommendation 5:

That the Board of the Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) expand the French Immersion catchment of Margaret Jenkins to incorporate the proposed Bank Street catchment.

Recommendation 6:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) redraw the catchment of Oaklands as proposed removing the Jubilee area of the catchment to Bank Street and add an area currently in the Quadra catchment that includes the Cridge Centre.

Recommendation 7:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) redraw the catchment of Willows Elementary as proposed to include the Laksdowne slope (from Campus View) and remove Foul Bay Junction (to Bank Street) and an area on Oak Bay Avenue (to Margaret Jenkins).

Recommendation 8:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) redraw the catchment of Cloverdale Traditional from a District wide catchment to the proposed catchment incorporation

Recommendation 12:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) reallocate the sparsely populated northeast portion of the Eagle View catchment to Strawberry Vale's catchment.

Recommendation 13:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) reallocate a small portion of the Macaulay catchment near the Gorge to Craigflower's catchment.

Recommendation 14:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) reallocate small portions of the Macaulay catchment to the Vic West catchment.

Recommendation 15:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) review the Vic West and Macaulay catchment and school populations in 2021 to determine whether Lampson is required for an elementary school.

Recommendation 16:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) redraw the catchments of Torquay and Hillcrest as proposed to expand the Hillcrest catchment.

Recommendation 17:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) open Richmond as the Grade 6 campus of Lansdowne Middle School and review the site in the event that SJ Willis becomes available in the near term.

Recommendation 23:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) assign the English cohort students at Bank Street School to feed Monterey Middle School and then Oak Bay High.

Recommendation 24:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) assign the students in the Oaklands catchment to feed Lansdowne and Oak Bay High.

Recommendation 25:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) reassign the students at Quadra to feed Lansdowne Middle School and then feed Victoria High School.

Recommendation 26:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) reassign the students at Rogers to feed Glanford Middle School and then feed Reynolds High School.

Recommendation 27:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) assign the French Immersion cohort currently at Margaret Jenkins to pathway to Lansdowne rather than Central.

Recommendation 29:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) have the students of Shoreline who reside north of Gorge Road transfer to the Spectrum catchment after grade 9 and have all other Shoreline students continue to Esquimalt after grade 9.

