



dialogue)))

CBE Area V - Schools Impacted by New Schools Openings

Key Themes at Oct. 18 – 20 Engagement Sessions with Parents and Community Members (by School Groupings 1,2 and 3)

This compilation of key themes was prepared by Stantec Consulting Ltd.

November 23, 2016



Nine Area V engagement sessions were held throughout the week of October 18 – October 20, 2016. Feedback was gathered from parents and other stakeholders on two potential Scenarios for Area V that considered the CBE’s planning principles and the needs and desires of Calgary’s communities. Potential impacted schools in Area V were further divided into Groups 1, 2 and 3. Scenario discussions and planning are unique to each group and are not interdependent across groups.

Session notes recorded at each engagement session are posted on the CBE website. A total of 803 participants attended the nine sessions. The following is a list of the common themes we heard at sessions within each group and other significant key themes that emerged from these discussions.

Definition of Dual-Track Schools

Many of the key themes refer to dual-track schools. Dual-track schools have more than one program in their building. It could be a regular program with an alternative program or two different alternative programs. The two school communities share the building and participate in school-wide events that include all students. Dual-track schools also share a principal and school resources. All schools, regardless whether dual or single-track (only one program in the building), work towards establishing a strong sense of community with all students who attend the school.

GROUP 1

Participating Schools:

Maple Ridge	David Thompson
R.T. Alderman	Fairview
Louis Riel	Le Roi Daniels
Acadia	Sam Livingston

Four Group 1 engagement sessions were held throughout the week at R.T. Alderman School, David Thompson School, Louis Riel School and Le Roi Daniels School to gather feedback from parents and other stakeholders on two potential Scenarios for the eight Group 1 schools. A total of 283 participants attended the four sessions.

Common Themes

Across the four engagement sessions held in Group 1, the following themes regarding the scenarios and available space emerged at three to four sessions.

Scenario 1

- Potential for strengthening and expanding programs and options
- Better proximity to schools for families in some communities
- Disruption to existing community programs by adding in a dual-track program
- Possible competition for scarce resources in dual-track schools
- Concern about possible negative long-term impacts to some regular programs when operating alongside a newly introduced alternative program at the school
- Movement of students and programs raise concerns regarding school proximity and safety in some communities

Scenario 2

- Better proximity to schools for families in some communities
- Further distance to schools for families in some communities
- Concern about possible negative long-term impacts to some regular programs when operating alongside a newly introduced alternative program at the school
- Potential for strengthening and expanding programs and options



GROUP 2

Participating Schools:

Woodman
John Ware
Robert Warren

Harold Panabaker
Canyon Meadows
Eugene Coste

Three Group 2 engagement sessions were held throughout the week at John Ware School, Robert Warren School and Woodman School to gather feedback from parents and other stakeholders on two potential scenarios for the six Group 2 schools. A total of 409 participants attended the three sessions.

Common Themes

Across the three engagement sessions held in Group 2, the following themes regarding the scenarios and available space emerged at two to three sessions.

Scenario 1

- The opportunity to have a dual-track language/regular program close to home is seen as a positive learning experience for students
- Better proximity to schools for families in some communities
- Potential for strengthening and expanding programs
- Accommodating more students at several schools and keeping younger students together
- Allowing for interaction of students across programs
- Further distance to schools for families in some communities
- Possible challenges of matching teaching resources with program demands for alternative programs
- Concerns caused by mixing younger and older children at middle schools (Grades 5-9)
- Harold Panabaker families would prefer to continue to have the program delivered in dual-track school

Scenario 2

- Better proximity to schools for families in some communities
- Allows for expansion of alternative programs
- Addresses capacity issues for the Spanish Bilingual program and allows Eugene Coste, Canyon Meadows and Robert Warren schools to continue to work in unison
- Reinforces advantages of regular program schools within the local community
- Further distance to schools for families in some communities
- Limited opportunities for growth of some programs
- Concern about loss of the regular program at Woodman School
- Moving alternative programs to different schools will take away from the positive environment created in their current schools over time
- Harold Panabaker families would prefer to continue to have the program delivered in dual-track school



GROUP 3

Participating Schools: Lake Bonavista Andrew Sibbald

On October 20, 2016, engagement sessions were held at Andrew Sibbald School and Lake Bonavista School to gather feedback from parents and other stakeholders about the two potential scenarios for these Group 3 schools. A total of 111 participants attended the 2 sessions.

Common Themes

Across the two engagement sessions held in Group 3, the following themes regarding the scenarios and available space emerged.

Scenario 1

- Available funding for the Montessori program may limit its future growth more than the space available
- Further distance to school for families in Lake Bonavista
- Safety issues due to longer walking distances
- Increased enrolment will help with stability of school operations and staffing
- Allows for better utilization of space at Lake Bonavista School
- Potential for strengthening and expanding programs
- Question of how to share resources obtained through fundraising equally
- Costly move that may not solve the capacity issues as families may switch programs just to attend the school closest to home

Scenario 2

- Better proximity to schools for families in Lake Bonavista
- Allows for better utilization of space at Andrew Sibbald School
- More likely that student groups can stay together and there will be less disruption for students
- Potential for strengthening and expanding programs and options
- Possible larger class sizes
- Limits on facility space
- Future program acceptance may be limited