



dialogue)))

CBE Area V - Schools Impacted by New Schools Openings

Andrew Sibbald School

Session Notes and Evaluation

October 20, 2016

This summary of the feedback from the Andrew Sibbald School engagement session on the Area V Scenario opportunities, challenges and other questions and comments was compiled and summarized by Stantec Consulting Ltd.

November 2, 2016



Number of Attendees: 75

Affected School: Andrew Sibbald School

Scenario 1 Discussion

OPPORTUNITIES

- None (X 7)
- Causes more disruption
- Short term numbers accommodation possible, but long term loss as regular public school numbers inevitably will grow
- K-6 is positive

CHALLENGES

- Safety of kids and community with increased traffic (bus and vehicle) coming to Andrew Sibbald. (X 10)
- Montessori school attendance means more parents driving their kids into the community
- Uprooting kids again (X 4)
- Band aid solution (X 3)
- Moving children/families (X 3)
- We feel this scenario is being forced upon us
- Families that are bussed into Montessori are not interested in the community
- Numbers are not going to just switch between buildings. Families will make decisions based on new locations that are negative to regular program
- Don't make Andrew Sibbald move. Let us be a desirable school for K-6 Lake Bonavista students (X 2)
- Disruption to Sibbald school community again!! (X 3)
- Give Sibbald a chance to thrive by making K-6 and letting the school community stay together
- School community will be divided as some people will stay because of walkability
- Allow us to continue investing in our community. It will be difficult to want to invest after being moved!
- Walkability (X 4)
- We will lose programs (access to Fish Creek outdoor recreation and closeness to rec centre) (X 2)
- Leaving newly and costly updated playgrounds and learning grounds (X 3)
- Moving hundreds of kids
- Transportation costs (X 2)
- Loss of lunch room
- Ability to walk to school is very important to develop independence
- The number of kids wanting to enroll in the public school will grow! This neighborhood is changing rapidly. If the public program moves to Lake Bonavista, we will likely pass capacity over there too!
- Lot's. Does not make people want to come to Sibbald.
- Start hours are different between schools. Preference for 9 – 3 pm



- Costs taxpayers a ton of money in school and equipment moving costs
- We bought our home to be in close proximity to Andrew Sibbald. If this scenario goes through, we wouldn't be accepted into the school we live right by and would be forced to drive or be bussed (X 2)
- Instability to children/teachers
- May actually reduce numbers at regular program as some families will move and some may not
- Grade 2 children are not allowed in the Montessori program. No opportunity for our children to go to school in walking distance
- Forces Sibbald parents to leave school and move to Prince of Wales because of proximity to home and type of program
- Moving schools for 100 space increase.
- Makes no sense from cost perspective, moving staff, etc. in a recession and when student funding is a priority

Scenario 2 Discussion

OPPORTUNITIES

- Provides some stability for Andrew Sibbald students. They have gone through change after change (X 9)
- This is the safer scenario as it keeps traffic through and into the middle of the community to a minimum
- Not only are the people at Sibbald passionate about our program (being a fantastic regular program), they are equally passionate about the surrounding area (playgrounds and learning grounds). (X 5)
- Moving to a K-6 program may entice families back to Sibbald or stop families from choosing Prince of Wales school or alternative programs (X 2)
- Parents in the community want K-6. They have not enrolled as this has not been available in the community (X 5)
- Try scenario 2 before making any decision to move students to Lake Bonavista. Enrolment will be better and then this major change will not be required
- The regular program K-6 can grow where we are and really become a school of choice
- The parents and students that have worked hard to remove the loose playground cover and replace with the poor in place ground cover can enjoy the benefits.
- We get to stay here at Andrew Sibbald, the school we chose first (X 2)
- K-6 is preferable, can have older siblings walk younger ones to school (X 2)
- This is the best situation for the stability of our children and our school
- It will allow our school and the regular program to grow and fill the available space
- I think people will bring their kids back to Andrew Sibbald for all grades once the school is K-6 instead of enrolling in other schools. This will boost our numbers
- More families moving to community and want the opportunity to have a solid and stable community school (X 2)
- Keeps community safe (X 2)
- Our children are able to walk home for lunch



- Sibbald will become a holding school again down the road when communities in the SW don't have schools yet
- Only add grade 5 in 2017 and then phase in a full grade 5 and 6 program
- Less noise, traffic, CO2 scenario
- CBE has made changes for years and now needs to commit for 5-6 years plus past actions have limited enrollment
- Lake Bonavista has gone from several K-6 schools in the past 20 years to none
- More stability – better reputation (X 2)
- Decreasing disruption for kids already here (X 3)
- Build confidence within the community
- Cap Montessori enrolment to fit schools – open new school
- Close border for neighbourhood
- Don't allow Prince of Wales to poach students
- K-6 longer time with classmates
- Better traffic flow in the area
- Better walkability (X 4)
- Families in Sibbald have invested lots of dollars and time in the school grounds
- It will be a true community school. I think the numbers would go up on their own if we stay (X 5)
- K-6 for current students, patrols, field trips, Bridges program (X 3)
- With additional space at Sibbald there is the possibility of creating better programming for grade 5 and 6 to help them transition to Junior High, i.e. options such as art, home economics, language, science fair etc. (X 3)
- Sibbald has a beautiful facility and great volunteers for a special needs program
- Allows for Sibbald to heal and grow back from all the disruption over the last few years
- Uses all upgrades to facilities
- Open the school to allow Parkland and Canyon Meadows kids in and the school numbers will increase
- Keeps sense of community
- Solidifies our decision to buy our house where we did. We do not want our kids in the Montessori program
- Allows our students to continue using valuable nearby resources, such as Fish Creek Park and the recreation centre

CHALLENGES

- None that I can see (X 4)
- Space at Lake Bonavista – add portables, cap program
- The risk that another brand-new community starts to bus their kids in because we have some extra space. We don't want this again!



Other Questions and Comments

- If both options are viable, why do we need to change? (X 5)
- What happens if we move and then run out of room again?
- If there is only a 100-student capacity difference, why do we need both scenarios? (X 3)
- How big is their wait list?
- Why are the people to choose to live here and paid to be here need to be impacted by people who don't live in the community? (X 2)
- What happens in Junior High? Will Nickle accept our kid's mid-way through or are they going to be further uprooted?
- Why does a community school have to be uprooted?
- Why can't a second Montessori program open in a different community that supports the kids from external communities?
- Why does my child have to be bussed past the school next to his house to go to school somewhere else?
- When will the disruption stop?
- We need to have both scenarios presented and the numbers explained (X 4)
- Scenario 3 option – Is planning a scenario 3 worth the pain to open 100 spots? Only a 3-year plan. Maybe the older grades for Montessori over to Sibbald? Would still allow linked bussing
- When will the CBE stop Prince of Wales school from accepting Lake Bonavista students and diminishing our population? This has been especially frustrating since Andrew Sibbald hasn't been permitted to draw Parkland students.
- If the Montessori School is over capacity with a waiting list – would the CBE consider opening a second campus for Montessori to accommodate the need instead of putting a band aid on their over-capacity issue by moving schools?
- What is the possibility of having a program such as 'Bridges' run at the school due to having extra physical space?
- Can we submit for consideration the financial and in kind contributions made by the community members to Andrew Sibbald?
- Can we add a full day Kindergarten program?
- What is happening with the Special needs program at Sibbald? Will it continue?
- How can we attract non-Catholics back to our system?
- I ask you when is Andrew Sibbald and this community program going to get that same chance that is given to new communities to other communities and to specialty programs – to grow their numbers. It has paid its dues for other communities and programs and deserves its turn.
- Does every school have to follow the whole scenario?
- How does switch affect school programs?
- Has community support been considered by the CBE in their decisions?
- Has CBE looked at the unique demographics of the community?
- Work with the Lake Bonavista Homeowner's Association to get updated demographics
- Is there a specific number to make a school sustainable?
- What is the enrolment numbers at Lake Bonavista?
- Community turnover taken into account?



- Modularity was added to Lake Bonavista recently, why were they added if we can not add based on the principles stated in the presentation? (X 2)
- What are the opportunities to have a 5-6 program that will be a draw for parents and be sustainable?
- Can Prince of Wales not be allowed to take Lake Bonavista students?
- What is the possibility that another program such as Bridges come here after the change?
- Is there the possibility of staying with Scenario 2 and then have a reassessment in 3-5 years to see how it is going?
- How long do new schools wait before reviewed and have alternative programs?
- Is the CBE taking into account the return of students to the community school in their projections when going to K-6?
- The numbers are important to make a proper decision.
- Will Nickle still be the feeder school for grade 5 or do they go in at grade 7? Do they have a choice?
- Does my child have a choice of staying in this school with whatever program is in this building?
- What is the learning space at Lake Bonavista like: open space or closed classrooms? How many classrooms? Lunchroom and music room, other facilities? Could we have a tour of Lake Bonavista?
- Curious about the resources. Do the resources transfer with the school? Parent Council did a lot of fundraising for these resources. (X 3)
- Expected length of time before potential other changes? Is this for the long haul? We want stability.
- How would they do the transition? Does the grade 4 just go to grade 5?
- What is the implication for transportation?
- What projections are there for future needs in the system? Have they considered that? Will there be the need for a feeder school in the future to fill the "space"?
- When is the CBE coming to explain the rationale behind the scenario? Need a date for when the decision is being made.
- What happens when they are supposed to move to Nickle?
- Regarding before and after school care, it is provided at Sibbald. Will it be provided at Lake Bonavista as well?
- How many kids might be enticed back to K-6? That could change the numbers
- If someone feels that moving to LB is not a good fit for their child – is priority given to choose an alternative program?
- When did Sibbald move from being a K-6 school to a K-4?
- If Nickle was bursting at the seams, would they ever consider making Sibbald a K-9?
- Is the disruption of Sibbald making a big enough impact to move Montessori program?
- K-6 is great. But the big question is what will happen for Junior High? Will it be Nickle or will it be RT Alderman?
- Are we open to becoming a feeder school if we go K-6 scenario? Need to be mindful of transitions and the problems that it will lead to.
- If we have a larger population, it brings in more \$ for programs/ more fundraising / more programs. Is this an option?
- What is the definition of no change in Scenario 2? No change in the physical building? No change in programs?
- We would like a panel question and answer discussion. Do not want a session where parents to talk to each. Want to talk to the decision makers.



- When the decision in March are communicated, will it include a timeline / big picture?
- If the Montessori school is over capacity with a waiting list, would the CBE consider opening a second campus for Montessori to accommodate the need of that program instead of putting a band-aid on their over-capacity issue by moving schools?

(The following is a submission from one parent)

Andrew Sibbald is a community school that has had a rich history in the Lake Bonavista community. I am not sure if everyone, including the board, fully appreciates the changes that this school and this community program has been impacted by over the past 8-10 years. Impacts and board decisions that have caused the community program to not have had a chance to nurture and foster and grow. Board decisions that have taken away focus and priority of this community and this community program, while prioritizing other communities, other programs and other community programs. This has caused many families to shy away from this school and its program due to changes and uncertainties.

- Andrew Sibbald opened their doors to both the Cranston and Auburn Bay community students. As a result of the large population coming from these communities this forced the board to decide to make Andrew Sibbald a K-4 school in 2008, from a K-6 program (while maintaining a K-6 program at neighbouring schools – namely Lake Bonavista and Prince of Wales in Parkland) – as well as the Catholic School in the community. The community enrollment drastically declined at the school because of that decision.
- Montessori and French immersion program were brought to the community. Specialty programs always have more than normal levels of students from the community in which the in 2008 school is located – families may choose to send their kids to those programs, more so because it is close and in their community than a fundamental choice and belief about the special programming.
- The Prince of Wales Community program in neighbouring Parkland was **ALLOWED** to open up to out of community students by the board – a large number of families from Lake Bonavista community chose to go there because the school was smaller and was K-6. This was probably largely allowed because Andrew Sibbald had to house an ever growing out of community (i.e. Auburn Bay and Cranston) community and they needed the space for that community. While at the same time - Andrew Sibbald was **FORBIDDEN** to allow out of community students (including the past year because of the uncertainty with Auburn Bay opening). Prince of Wales should not be allowed to take Lake Bonavista community program kids (subject to the older sibling rules that are generally in place)
- Two years ago, Lake Bonavista school community program moved to Andrew Sibbald because of lower numbers which were due in part to the above decisions as well. These students would have to move again in a two-year period. – not stability for these students.



- The Catholic board has opened up a number of schools to students that in the past (i.e. that weren't from Catholic faith) would not have been eligible to attend those schools. So, some of the public community program families have chosen to go to the competing school board.
- A number of families have made choices to enroll their kids in a K-6 program in or near the community – regardless of the type of program – preferring a K-6 school above a K-4 school.

All of these decisions have limited the opportunities to have new families enroll at Andrew Sibbald. Mostly by making other programs more attractive. These decisions have caused, over the years, families to choose not to go to the Community program at Andrew Sibbald. Then they keep their children at the other schools until their last children are out – i.e. just because Andrew Sibbald moves back to a K-6 – doesn't mean it will be an immediate impact. It will need time to rebuild – and with the growing demographics in the community (i.e. re-birth of younger families with numerous school aged children) – that will happen. But just as the demise of the community program over 8-10 years occurred, the school should be given at least 3-5 years to show what it can re-build to.

Add to that – when Auburn Bay opened – the board said that Andrew Sibbald **could not accept any out of community students**, including Auburn Bay students – because the Board (in a letter to the impacted families last year) said that they wanted to **give the Auburn Bay Community program a chance to grow and support the community program to ensure that the new school was a success.**

To protect the new school for sense of community in Auburn Bay – what about the Board protecting the Lake Bonavista community for a change.

I ask you when is Andrew Sibbald and this community program going to get that same chance that is given to new communities to other communities and to specialty programs – to grow their numbers. It has paid its dues for other communities and programs and deserves its turn.

Where families have had a choice – because of the changes and uncertainty and excessive size of Andrew Sibbald – they have chosen to put their children into different programs, different schools and different boards – like Sam Livingston, Lake Bonavista, St. Boniface, Prince of Wales – had Andrew Sibbald had the benefits of some focus from the board – they would have gladly sent their kids there. The largest reason being they wanted K-6 – they were uncertain of the K-4 program (more so the 5-9 program) – and they were scared or unaware. And they had options.

The uncertainty as to the future of Andrew Sibbald over the past 2 -3 years, since the Auburn Bay school was proposed has kept students away in kindergarten and families are choosing different programs to ensure they keep their kids within the community. Those families would be in grades 1, 2, and 3 now. The school has had its third principal in three years, lost 80% of the teachers.

The community program is the mainstay of the Calgary Board, and the majority (75%) of the students in the city are enrolled in a community program, but the community program at Andrew Sibbald has not been prioritized. A decision to accommodate a specialty program that houses 1.5% of the population and that are bussed from a number of communities above the community program that impacts 100% of the students in the community does not make sense.



You can't look at one-year enrollment – because it takes starting at kindergarten and growing with the grades – because families stay away once their kids have started – with other kids etc. It will take time. The board owes that fighting chance and they need to stop making one year decisions. Give the school some stability and give it time.

Swapping schools with Lake Bonavista is not a long-term approach

- With the grade 5 and 6 being added to the school, and that at least 10 families that are at each of Prince of Wales, Lake Bonavista, St. Boniface and Sam Livingston – so at a minimum 40 families – or probably about 80-100 kids – the number of students different between the two programs is not significant
- Changing schools will cause further change to a program and a school that has had more than its fair share of change over the past 10 years
- The Andrew Sibbald community and families have spent a lot of time, effort and funds to enhance the school – to enhance the community and the use of other community facilities – and the experience for other community students from Cranston and Auburn Bay – 20% of the school community has done probably 80% of the fundraising, manual labour, applying for grants, building and upgrading – the other communities were never as vested as they knew they were getting their own schools
- The learning grounds and learning commons – maintaining and planting trees and making the school a great part of the community
- A large number of internal infrastructure within the school
- They have fundraised to get rid of the rubber crumb for both playgrounds and re-sodded
- They use local facilities for their programs- the community centre for skating, fish creek for Forest school
- Families have bought houses close to the school as they enrolled their kids in the community school within walking distance
- We know the community is turning over and younger families with school aged children are moving in – it is a community that is growing with school aged children

I urge the board to give Andrew Sibbald a chance to show that with a few breaks in its favor can and will grow the community program and continue to be a vibrant part of Lake Bonavista Community. One more change for the community program may cause more families to search for other alternatives – outside of the Public system. A loss for all.



Participant Engagement Evaluation

Andrew Sibbald School – Host Location: October 20, 2016

- Andrew Sibbald School

Number of participants in attendance: 75

Number of evaluations completed: 29

To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements:

P1) I was encouraged to share my thoughts and/or feedback during this engagement.

25 Agree **1** Somewhat Agree **1** Somewhat Disagree **2** Disagree **0** Not Applicable

P2) I was able to ask questions and learn about the opportunity for input/feedback prior to my participation in this engagement.

17 Agree **2** Somewhat Agree **4** Somewhat Disagree **6** Disagree **0** Not Applicable

- Ask questions - no. Learn – yes
- I live in the community but have kids that go to school out of bounds and wasn't aware until yesterday of these issues

P3) I had the information I needed to participate in a meaningful way.

6 Agree **10** Somewhat Agree **5** Somewhat Disagree **8** Disagree **0** Not Applicable

- Clear link to previous session boards and stats would have been helpful
- Should have had more #'s
- no numbers.

P4) I was able to provide input on the best way for me to share my thoughts and ideas.

13 Agree **8** Somewhat Agree **3** Somewhat Disagree **5** Disagree **0** Not Applicable

- No one asked me how I wanted to provide input/ what was best for me.

P5) I clearly understand all of the factors being considered in the decision making process and which of these factors I can and cannot influence.

6 Agree **6** Somewhat Agree **8** Somewhat Disagree **9** Disagree **0** Not Applicable

- Stats? Forecasted Growth?

P6) My input was documented as part of the engagement process.

22 Agree **3** Somewhat Agree **0** Somewhat Disagree **1** Disagree **3** Not Applicable



P7) What did you like most about this engagement? What did you like least about this engagement?

Comment: 19 No Comment: 10

- Equal opportunity to share/speak! Middle table idea.
- Liked: group discussion. Least: Not represented by people that have answers
- Good to hear community values, but at this phase I feel it should have been a bit more focused and refined in scope. Thanks for the opportunity to provide input. Please check demographics and give Andrew Sibbald a chance. Scenario 2!
- Like the set up of the discussion table in the middle and observation on the outside. Gave everyone equal opportunity to speak.
- Most: everyone had a chance to share. It was open. Least: hosting different schools on different nights. Would have been nice so you could hear what others had
- Parents want best for kids. Either way kids stay in community. No info on why Andrew Sibbald would want / consider moving to Lake Bonavista. There are no obvious upsides for us.
- The sense of community!
- Nobody from CBE proposing these ideas are present. How can I understand the factors when questions can't be answered?
- Love the discussion set-up. Very open.
- NEED MORE INFORMATION. Like Most: Scenario 2. Parent Engagement. Lake Least: Scenario 1. Not having explanations or CBE stats and updated information. Set up for discussion with chairs in the middle.
- I like that it is done by an independent company but believe that it is also a flaw in that people wanted answers that you were not able to provide.
- People who are not comfortable with sitting in the circle were not heard.
- Waste of time. No info. Bad Facilitator. No organization. Would like a call to discuss.
- The scenarios were not explained. There were far too many questions than answers.
- Confirming that ALL parents are in favour of Scenario 2. Least: Not having an understanding on why scenario 1 is an option. No numbers presented aside from our limited understanding of the capacities. No one present to "sell" us as to why scenario 1 has any benefit.
- Great "mediating". Well organized meeting!
- Lack of data at back up Scenarios presented.
- Waste of time
- No info
- Bad facilitator
- No organization