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Area 6 and 7 Impacted Schools Engagement Session Notes Group A Schools (Rosscarrock, West Ridge, West Springs and Wildwood) – Feb. 8, 2018

Below you will find all comments provided in the survey as they were written. Comments have not been edited for spelling, grammar, sentence structure or otherwise, Comments have been edited to ensure anonymity. We also edited or omitted abusive, discriminatory and otherwise inappropriate comments.

What are the opportunities for the proposed scenario?

- We feel it's important to limit the travel for younger kids. We have two young children so moving them both closer is key for us.
- Friends and cohort development earlier
- Provides a more desirable education option for children in Cougar Ridge
- More community – kids in same neighbourhood together at the 'local' school
- Some kids get to attend an in area school
- Great
- Some kids get to attend closer to home great!!
- Keep kids close to home if possible why not?
- Large funds to help accomodate dif needs – giving us flexibly to move funds
- By increased population there is more room for increased resource teachers
- Provide an opportunity for families with siblings within the age group K-9 be able to attend "sister-schools" as part of the priority
- Build relationships & friendships w/ neighbours
- Many and important
- Finally students from Cougar Ridge can be close to home close to their siblings in West Ridge and better bell times for better sleep AND no or very little bus ride
- Like – assuming Cougar Ridge will get busing
- Seems fair as a go forward plan
- Busing to Wildwood
- Shorter commute for busing to West Springs
- Stays in our community
- Having children attend school closer to home
- It is very clear that the community supports the ability for Cougar Ridge students to attend West Spring School: survey said 86%. Generally our table supports this
- Ross 3-4 west than 5 Ridge



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- Cougar Ridge to be closer to home
- Would be great to be closer to home and work
- BEST – having youngest kids going to school closer to home
- Having cohorts – neighbourhood kids together earlier than Grade 5
- Shorter bus times for little kids
- Support very strongly getting the youngest grades at school closer to home
- CR students should have priority to fill any available space in West Springs school
- Incorporate more community friends
- Closer to home
- Continuity – being able to keep families / kids closer
- Step in the right direction for some
- Opportunities to enroll opportunity for Cougar Ridge kids to form more sense of community
- Gets kids closer to home...
- Keeping kids closer to home as much as possible
- More resources available when the classes are more full
- Children moving and being in a school where they will move to the next school with their friends

What are the challenges for the proposed scenario?

- What about the grade 3 Wildwood kids that are forced to switch twice (in 4 & 5) simply because the busing was terminated. Bring the busing back to ensure continuity for these kids. The Ross kids have that continuity > give it to the Wildwood kids
- Presentation mentioned the commitment to the Ross kids in grade 3 not having the change schools for grade 4 and again for grade 5. That commitment needs to be extended to the Wildwood kids. B/c there is no busing my child will have to switch twice. Busing should not drive the decisions stay value based
- I don't have confidence in the planning and projection coming from the CBE
- Your first value is "students come first". Moving grade 5 & 6 into a junior high scenario is not putting students first. Check with parents, school & grade 5 grades. It should be informative. And it should matter
- If we were to possibly lose the lottery for Cougar Ridge spots, there is a chance we'd move to the Spanish Program
- Cougar Ridge cohorts community
- Uncertainty for this going forward



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- Uncertainty for future boundaries of lets say middle school – could the boundaries for that school change in the future & result in CR children having a boundary change?
- Space is limited
- Uncertainty / unpredictable
- More transparency as going through process
- CR does not want to be just “second” class
- When will we know results of lottery
- Treat CBE stream kids the same eligibility wise
- Transparent process #'s wise
- No consistently
- housing values
- alternative programs not having priority
- moving kids back & forth w/ wait lists
- West Springs families w/ only one child not being priority
- Traffic – regardless of scenario / bussing
- Overcrowding – large classes?
- We want to keep siblings together
- Parents who selected alternative programs are now “punished” by being put on a lower priority
- Pick-up & drop-off times between West Springs & West Ridge
- Traffic around the schools
- Class size
- Not all potential students will benefit but many will
- Uncertainty / lottery
- Childcare
- Cougar Ridge always the shuffled community
- Timing – coordinating child care with unknowns
- Before and after school care
- One concern is the logistics surrounding kindergarten kids who may select a specialty program (ie Jusos) who will make the tough choice to reg at West Springs and make other plans for day care
- Timing of lotto process? May?
- Lottery then Wildwood
- CBE lottery
 - walk w/ sib
 - walk
 - bus w/ sib – walk limit 2.4
- The possibility of lottery for Cougar Ridge
- Will my two children be split up and at different schools? One at West Springs and one at Wildwood?
- Before/after care programs at capacity? How can that be alleviated?



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- Uncertainty w/ lotteries – any potential for siblings going to separate schools/programs
- Continuing before & after care space
- Lottery concern – any chances of w.s. kids in lottery situations
- Managing a lottery scenario for the 2018/19 school year
- What happens to Rosscarrock
- Limited/full parent parking currently at West Springs
- Alternative programs could end up on a lottery
- Wildwood – loses bussing for gr. 4
- Will they over fill the school – it does sound like CBE is trying to avoid this
- Over crowding classrooms ratio / teacher student
- Very few entrances – chaos when school starts – limited doors at West Springs (fire evacuations?)
- How will school & community cultures merge
- Being outside of the designated schools already
- Not a solution for very many families
- Our oldest is in grade 2 next year, I've only heard about room for kindergarten
- This proposal appears to be flawed as students who are Cougar Ridge residents – currently attending CBE programs NOT @ Wildwood or Rosscarok are missing out and this appears to be a large number? 299 Cougar Ridge k-4 59 currently enrolled @ Rosscarock & Wildwood
 - What happens to the 240 other students?
 - They become 3rd tier? – this appears to be flawed
- Cougar Ridge always appears to be the odd man out
- Transitioning plan kids
- Community contention

Are there any other considerations for this scenario?

- Tiered priorities
- Allow students with siblings at West Ridge to keep siblings in the same area
- Consideration for CR to have 1 designated school for community
- School community culture merging?
- Changing boundaries
- Changing boundaries
 - I.e. Moving East boundry further west and those kids going to Roberta Bondar
- Redesignate all boundaries “on the hill”??



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- More consideration of the numbers of CR kids in regular stream vs. alternative
- Like Wildwood as overflow school for regular program
- CR community is still split
- Possibility of expanding – more portables - @ W.S. school
- All CR in designated regular or alternate program same lottery priority
- When is the lottery?
- Boundary changes
- Bell times – better aligning w/ west ridge & earlier times
- Decide and confirm the proposal a.s.a.p
- Bell times for West Springs & west ridge
- Priority to students with siblings at west ridge to keep families together
- Bussing for elementary & middle school siblings
- Parents have expressed concern about the challenge of gd 5&6 attending middle school with gd 7-9 – many feel a better use of West Springs would be to leave it as a designated k-6 school to enhance learning experience of the gd 5&6
- Build the Cougar Ridge school sooner!
- Parents w/ kids already in West Ridge getting priority to help w/ families
- Declining #'s & fewer resources w/ the students leaving
- Can Wildwood handle all overflow? Or will we be back to 2 overflows.
- If parents of Wildwood or Rosscarrock want to stay what are the possibilities bussing/options
- Is this short term – what about 2019?
- Is this enrollment opportunity ongoing
- If we start to fill w/ West Springs families what is the uncertainty of kids being in Cougar Ridge as years go forward – especially w/ siblings
- Why go back to Wildwood? Why shuffle CR all the time.
- over flow schools closer to CR, not across Sarcee
- rumour is the high school for CR is changing for CR kids (transparency)
- Priority given to students with siblings at west ridge
- CBE should not assume or make assumptions on why parents choose alternative programs. Parents base decisions on multiple factors
- Portables to accom the 'bubble'
- Priority given to students w/ siblings at west ridge?
- Cougar Ridge kids should not continually be “shuffled”. This includes elementary, middle & high school



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- Appreciate the CBE engaging with the community on this topic
- Would very strongly support this proposed scenario going ahead
- Echo comments tonight about Cougar Ridge always having to shuffle or being the odd community out
- Bring back busing for Wildwood kids – reduce those issues for those families. You are forcing less than ideal choices for those families just based on busing
- Keep continuity for the kids a top priority



Participant Evaluation Summary – Area 6 and 7 Impacted Schools Group A

Ernest Manning High School – Feb. 8, 2018

Rosscarrock, West Ridge, West Springs and Wildwood schools, and families
from Cougar Ridge with students not attending these schools

Number of participants in attendance: 57

Number of evaluations completed: 38

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

24 Agree **13** Somewhat Agree **1** Somewhat Disagree **0** Disagree **0** Not Applicable

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

21 Agree **10** Somewhat Agree **2** Somewhat Disagree **4** Disagree **1** Not Applicable

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

13 Agree **16** Somewhat Agree **8** Somewhat Disagree **0** Disagree **1** Not Applicable

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

20 Agree **13** Somewhat Agree **4** Somewhat Disagree **1** Disagree **0** Not Applicable

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

14 Agree **19** Somewhat Agree **2** Somewhat Disagree **3** Disagree **0** Not Applicable

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

17 Agree **17** Somewhat Agree **1** Somewhat Disagree **0** Disagree **3** Not Applicable

7) What did you like most about this engagement?

Comment: 25 No Comment: 13

- Learning more about CBE policy & procedures. how this will roll out if CR goes to West Springs
- Presentations w/ questions rather than “open house” format
- Open discussion
- The opportunity to speak w/ parents from other schools
- Great idea to purposely have random seating
- Challenging topic / thanks
- That I was able to meet other w/ the same concerns as myself

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- Question – will you provide feedback back to tonight's participants?
- Learned some of the different considerations
- Open forum for questions
- Hearing the #'s eligible to move into West Springs k. more details the better allows parents to make better decisions
- Nice to hear what others have done to deal with the issue
- The ability to attend
- The few folks from CBE that came table to table – some didn't engage with us
- Loved the online ?'s
- I liked the slido.com opportunity
- The slido app to ask/document questions
- Slido.com – great tool
- Meeting neighbours
- Knowing the board is listening to concerns of parents before making decisions
- That planning was done & the session held for parents. An opportunity to meet other parents and share experiences & discuss
- The helpful people
- Talking to parents from to other schools
- Adding questions online to slido.com
- Informative and well organized
- Love slido.
- Like the scenario
- Boundaries changed?
- Transparency
- Nice to be heard

8) What did you like least about this engagement?

Comment: 20 **No Comment: 18**

- Not sure if info well received by CBE
- Emotions – it's such an emotional topic – and it feels heated at times – but tonight felt pretty good
- It seemed that CBE was not prepared to answer question about numbers & how numbers affect these decisions
- A lot of questions could not be answered & at the end it didn't feel like there was any clear direction for CR students. Shuffle, shuffle, shuffle...
- During question period a small vocal minority seemed to change the tone. I feel this proposal is a positive step in the right direction
- Also, would have liked more #'s & data readily available

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- No concrete dates for parents to plan
- Lack of answer regarding why CBE kids in English, French & Spanish are treated differently. The choice of schools is not really the parents choice. You make the best choice you can given all the factors. And the CBE English stream did not give my kid an option
- Uncertainty and limits of what can be done
- Would have liked more time to ask questions (open forum)
- I wasn't confident that we will be heard. I wasn't confident enough research has been done. It feels disorganized. It feels uncertain and unpredictable. I am not confident the CBE is putting students and families first. Poor planning in general. I.e. Bussing, bell times, projections, boundaries (schools) for Cougar Ridge
- Unfortunately, sometimes such sessions become venting sessions for ppl. I think other engagement sessions on the lack of a school at all in CR could address that.
- * can you create a survey to find out if people in Cougar Ridge are planning to keep in Alternative programs? Just to get a general idea how many would be impacted by lottery?
- Not so necessary because the online process / survey was sufficient
- Hearing that alternative programs are less important than regular (again!)
- Feels like the 'high level' has been made
- Lots of uncertainty, specially about dates
- Knowing that our family choice has affected our chance of getting into a CBE (closer) school
- Lack of bussing to Wildwood wasn't adrsd or considered. It needs to be reconsidered as having big impacts on the kids. Keep continuity for Wildwood kids by bringing back the bussing
- Uncertainty
- It is not being considered that there are few people from West Springs here and the rest are Cougar Ridge. Obviously.
- It does not feel like "engagement" This feels like 'inform' from an IAP2 perspective
- Open house should take place