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Calgary Board of Education (CBE) Area IV

Spanish Bilingual Contingency Planning

Open House Session Notes

Nov. 17, 2016



Number of Attendees: 98

Affected School: A. E. Cross School
Bishop Pinkham School
Rosscarrock School
Westgate School
Glenmeadows School

Kindergarten – Grade 3 Feedback

- Scenario 1 is preferred but if there is space to start the year at Westgate, why not finish the year? Why create extra stress? How will transportation be managed? Will buses stop at all three schools? If not, how will families with multiple kids juggle different bus stops, start and end times etc.
- What experience does CBE have leading mid-year moves? When does the CBE anticipate being able to do a full assessment of Glenmeadows? How will the CBE mitigate the impact to students and teachers so learning is not affected? Will a dedicated project manager / team manage the move? What is the philosophy of a mid-year move versus waiting until the beginning of a school year? What is the anticipated lag time between occupancy and exiting Glenmeadows?
- I think that CBE should stick to one plan because you keep changing your plan and it is really hard to figure out what plan is the one you're using. You also should keep the Spanish in because if they kick out Spanish this will be just like other schools and it will not be unique
- Similar start times and end times
- (a) Mid-year moving is a big problem. School bus confusion, child care (before and after school care) issue. Is it worth moving there for a few months of the school year? It will be difficult for both student and teachers to have quality time in a new environment. (When you register a new child care (extra \$100-200) you have to pay another registration fee and admin fee.) (b) Will Glenmeadows be renovated? Moving to an old building doesn't really give students uplifting and positive feeling. It doesn't have to be a brand new building but we want it to be at least clean, bright and updated. (c) No further delay after this plan?? (I hope.)
- My biggest concern as a parent is a "mid-year" move to Glenmeadows. Realistically, the move will not happen until March-April, which doesn't make a lot of sense. It will be difficult for students in before / after school programs, and may cause some challenges logistically for parents. If the move is scheduled so late in the year, it would make more sense to wait until September. Otherwise, all scenarios are equivalent for grade K-3 students.
- Why?! Is it taking so long for the Arts Academy to renovate their new building? What happens if construction of the new Arts Academy is delayed further? Glenmeadows School is in need of repair / renovation as the outside (and possibly inside) is not in great shape – how will the CBE be able to do such repair before the Spanish program moves in with such a tight timeframe???
- A mid-year move would be ok if done early in the year (before Christmas or Jan.1) however a move early to late spring is not ideal as it impacts the kids too much for only a month or two at a new school (i.e., bus changes, child care). Also if a move is rushed, it won't allow for proper preparation of the school for the kids. Painting is not enough – need to ensure it is up to building standards and I don't think this has been thought about.
- Please contact KIDZINC to find out about before / after school care on-site. Want to ensure that teachers and amenities transfer. I believe it would be better to have the two language programs (French and Spanish) at one junior high, and English at the other. Doesn't make sense to split up.
- Child care available at Glenmeadows?



- Not counting parent demand / feedback. Why is the CBE an advocate of a mid-year move to Glenmeadows?
- Scenario 1 is best – (keeps my kids together longer) but eliminate the mid-year move!! If transition is a concern, why create one artificially? If there is room to start the year, finish it! Busing? Childcare? Will Glenmeadows even be ready?
- Why transition halfway through the year. There is no wiggle room if something structurally happens at Glenmeadows (such as flood, pipe bursting, electrical stuff). Prefer all renovations completed prior to this transition. Why is the Fine Art School not departing earlier to make sure renovations are totally complete? May be they could be transitioned over winter break and give it month and a half to complete renovations. Are the start times going to be consistent as Westgate's? Only pro is both kids in the same school.

Grade 4 Feedback

- My situation – daughter in Grade 4. Suggest: Do NOT move mid-year. Just do all in Sep. 2018. It is too much stress on both parents and kids. Parents will have to rearrange their whole schedule.
- What consideration has been given to the environment created by a mid-year move? Currently the environment at Vincent Massey School is toxic with school moving mid-year?
- Does anyone in a leadership position have experience with kids / teachers / staff doing a mid-year move?
- Do not move kids part way through a year. Disruptive to students and learning. Keep a grade in school for the year.
- Why is no transition plan being presented?
- I go to Westgate and I love it here. I made friends (named friends). I love it here. (student)
- Please can we stay here until the end of Grade 5? I am glad that we are all moving together. Thanks (student)
- I don't want to go to A. E. Cross. Please let us stay until the end of Grade 5. In Grade 6 I would like to go to Glenmeadows. I'm glad we're all moving together as a community. Thank you. (student)
- Please let us stay till the end of Grade 5. I am glad that we are all moving together. THANK YOU. (student)
- Mid-year move is a misguided idea. Bad for kids, staff and parents
- Child is currently in Grade 4. Mid-year move would be extremely disruptive the logistics and the sheer complexity of moving kids / teachers / resources. Keep the kids in Glenmeadows until Grade 6. Scenario 2 without a mid-year move. Let kids be kids – no playground on site. Like that the Grades 7/8 will be together in 2018 (Scenario 2). DO NOT like the idea of having one isolated class Grade 7 (Scenario 1) at A. E. Cross – where is the community in that? Support your teachers, resources. Keep it to Grade 6 (Glenmeadows)
- Keep the kids at Glenmeadows until Grade 6
- How will you fund everything for every Spanish school? Teachers, furniture, resources, upgrades to infrastructure, busing. We would want to have a guarantee this would be done properly please.
- Multi-grade families will be adversely affected if some family members move to Glenmeadows and some family members remain at Westgate (as would be the case in Scenarios 2 & 3).
- Why isn't the scenario with staying at Westgate until the end of Grade 5, then moving to Glenmeadows for one year an option? I would like my child to stay in an Elementary school until the end of Grade 6. There are no other children in their age group at A. E. Cross, nor is there a playground. Please let our children remain at Glenmeadows until they are ready for Jr. High school.
- I prefer to minimize the mid-year moves and like Scenario 3. This scenario also only has a single transition for children in Grade 4 (2016-2017) school year and a minimum three years for all other ages at Glenmeadows.



- Having two girls at Westgate and the third one coming to Kindergarten next year: (a) I want them to stay in Scenario 1 or 2; (b) Preferably not moving at mid-year.
- You are grossly downplaying the complexity of disruptiveness of a mid-year move, especially in the face of not having a hard date. You are playing political games with children. The best possible option is waiting until Sep. 2018 to give everyone – students, teachers, and families – sufficient time. Furthermore, your plans abandon whole grades, isolating them from their peers. The school options are fine. But regardless of whatever you've said, Glenmeadows clearly needs maintenance before we move in.

Grade 5 Feedback

- Scenario 1 is my firm preference. If there is space to start the year at Westgate, why not finish the year? Especially if the impact of transitions on students is such a concern? How will transportation be managed? Will buses drop at all three schools? If not, how will families with multiple kids juggle different bus stops, start and end times etc. Scenario 1 is best – if Glenmeadows isn't ready (and given the delays to date this seems likely) then the older kids would have moved to A. E. Cross early for no reason.
- We find it unfavourable that the Grade 5 moves to A. E. Cross to Grade 6 – as they will be the youngest in the School. Our preference is Scenario 1 for Grade 5.
- Please don't utilize Scenario 2 or 3 where Grade 6 ends up at A. E. Cross. This is too early.
- In scenario 1 what support is CBE providing for child care before and after school following the move as it is unlikely any third party is aware or planning to support this move? If there is room at Westgate in September and number of moves is a concern why move to Glenmeadows mid-year? For scenario 2 & 3 where elementary age kids move to A. E. Cross what does the transition plan and daily schedule look like?
- What is the budget allocation for resourcing three schools offering Spanish programming (Bishop Pinkham, Glenmeadows and A.E. Cross)? CBE cannot currently resource the two current schools (Bishop Pinkham and Westgate) in an adequate manner. No textbooks (math) at Bishop Pinkham and no library resources / home reading in upper grades.
- Why are we waiting so long on the Arts School? Find them a temporary place? Why are CBE kids on hold? Let the Art kids be on hold. Their build should not be affecting us.
- My son is in Grade 5. He is very excited about the prospect of going to A. E. Cross for Grade 6 next year. His older sisters attended Bishop Pinkham starting in Grade 6 and Grade 5. They really enjoyed the freedom and responsibility the middle school allowed them. I also believe it would be beneficial to reduce the number of transitions and send a larger cohort to A. E. Cross.
- I think scenario one is the wisest course of action and I also think it's very disruptive to move students mid-year when the school may or may not be built. It's also unfair to students when we are told we are going to move schools but then end up staying here. In my mind and some other students, it would be far less disruptive to pick a plan and stay with it. (student)
- I think that CBE shouldn't take out Spanish from Westgate because there is already sooooo much only French school and if they kick out Spanish this will not be the school it should be and all the Spanish teachers will have to get a new job.
- Best option #1. Scenario 1 – minimized the amount of moves and impacts least number of kids. Keep the Grade 5 kids in Westgate until Grade 6. If the Glenmeadows is delayed option 2&3 move kids early for NO reason. Kids in Grade 5 (now) may move to a different school / program in Grade 7 as that is a transition / intake year. Moving them to middle makes it difficult for a second move.



- We have two kids in the Spanish program Grade 5 and Grade 3. We are leaning towards Scenario 1 but want the kids to remain at Westgate School for the entire year. Logistically moving a school mid-year is not good for kids, teachers or parents. Let the Grade 6 kids “graduate” from the school they have been at since kindergarten. Any other option robs these kids of a wonderful experience thing back to when you were at the higher grade in your elementary school and how proud you were of that accomplishment,
- Do not move mid-year. It is disruptive for students, teachers and parents. We do not support moving Grade 6 to A. E. Cross (Scenarios 2 & 3) because they will not be well-supported with Grade 6 resources there since in future they will have only Grades 7-9 at A. E. Cross. Move K-6 to Glenmeadows in Sep. 2018.
- If disruption / transition is a concern, why move mid-year? Scenario 1 is preferred – keeps my kids together longer. If Glenmeadows isn’t ready (likely, given past delays) older kids will have moved for no reason in Scenario 2 & 3. Busing? Childcare?
- Our Grade 5 student would prefer to have an opportunity to have Grade 6 at a K-6 school. Rather than missing out on her chance to be the big kid at the school. We also wouldn’t want her to be one of a small group of Grade 6 students at a Jr. High.
- Scenario 2 & 3 is preferred (Spanish). Concern around busing and possible long “milk” runs. Is there going to be on Area IV high school for pro Spanish Bilingual regardless of the scenario mid-year moves are very difficult for everyone. Age of current Grade 5 is not a concern – many schools deal with age discrepancies. 2 vs 3 – depends on space available at each school who has the most space.