



Willoughby Slope
Community Consultation Meeting Q&A
Monday, May 11, 2015
1:00pm

The questions below were gathered from the Willoughby Slope Community Consultation afternoon presentation. Answers are as provided by School District staff.

Questions:

1. What are the pros/cons of making James Anderson into an additional elementary school? What are the costs? What is the cost to convert [James Anderson] to an elementary Annex and what is the timeline?

James Anderson has not been used this school year and would require re-opening, upgrading and modifying for elementary students. District maintenance staff would need to investigate the costs involved in opening it as a school or annex, after being directed to do so by the Board of Education. The timeline would be determined by the extent of the potential work required.

2. Will there be sports programs, band and choir brought back as with many schools these are not operating (K-6)?

Extra curricular programs are dependent on staff volunteers and curricular decisions would continue to be made at the school level.

3. Can developers contribute to schools/ land, etc.

Developers do contribute to the District for land purchase for new schools through School Site Acquisition charges.

4. Can the grade break up be changed? Who is responsible? Example K-6 Middle 7-8-9? High School 10-11-12? Why is high school not 10-12? Middle 7, 8, 9? Elem K-6? Does anyone at SD35 believe the middle school structure has overcomplicated the situation and/or added costs? Mountain is overcrowded and if Yorkson Creek will be overcrowded because of numbers of students coming up. Doesn't the configurations above make more sense? Is Grade 6 too young for middle? Have they crunched numbers to consider K-6, 7-9, and 10-12 if a new middle school is approved?

The District is responsible for grade configurations. The District believes the current configuration (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) maximizes the educational opportunities for students. Tim Everson (Current Principal of YCMS), indicated that he believes that the grade 9's are too old for the middle model. Further, it makes sense to have the grade 9's at the high school for at least a year before the Provincial graduation program takes effect in grade 10. Grade configurations can be changed by the District. At this time the District has not 'crunched numbers' for K-6, 7-9 and 10-12 configured schools. The District sees a potential K-6 configuration as one temporary solution.

5. How can we help the District put pressure on the province around the answer for a new school?

The community may choose to advocate for a new school by contacting local MLAs.

6. Are increases in Willoughby density factored into the projections?



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- The District monitors projections through the Secretary Treasurer's Office and considers historical data, current enrollment and future building developments.
7. Has an independent study of student demographics been under taken? (ie. How many Langley students are in Surrey?)
- The District intends to gather pertinent information regarding current demographics.
8. Is the District taking proactive steps to ensure similar issues do not arise in future communities such as Latimer, Carvolth and Central Gordon?
- The District continues to monitor Township approvals of all developments in Langley. Once approved and developed, the District takes steps to accommodate students by updating the LTFP and by engaging the community in the planning process.
9. What would a 4-year plan look like?
- The District needs to wait and see whether the Ministry approves a new school, and whether it is middle or secondary, before it can work with the Willoughby community to create a four year plan that supports the needs of children and families.
10. Will they consider the need for additional support staff in K-6 schools? Ex: Custodians, EA's etc.
- The District determines custodial time by square footage of a site. An increase in work area would result in an increase in custodial hours. The number of SEAs in schools are determined by the needs of children.
11. What about exploration classes in K-6 schools?
- Specialty classes or specialty teachers do not exist in the elementary buildings for exploration classes.
12. Can you draw boundaries now to give parents time to think over the summer? Give us more options to think about.
- 'Mocking up' boundaries would not be easily done because the configuration of schools has not been determined. In the interim, depending upon whether the Willoughby community is K-5 or K-6, boundaries may be impacted. Also, boundaries changed now may need to be changed again if (when) a new school is potentially announced.
13. Willoughby projection numbers are obviously lower—What is happening to that property? How can the space be used to help over crowding at other schools?
- The District has not heard from the Lynn Fripps or Richard Bulpitt communities that there is a desire to utilize Willoughby Elementary classroom space. Also, the



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District felt that the Willoughby Elementary community would like to have some stability as it has undergone several changes over recent years. Projections for Willoughby Elementary indicate an increase in student population in the future.

14. How will each of these K-6 and K-5 model affect the decision from the Ministry of Education to build a new school in Willoughby Slope? In terms of pressure to the Ministry of Education.

District staff continues to work with Ministry staff to highlight the District's needs and complexities. The Ministry is also aware that Surrey and Langley are the fastest growing districts in the Province.

15. Which model is more feasible or realistic for the school district? K-5 or K-6?

For the next two years, both K-5 and K-6 options are feasible. Input from the community through consultation meetings will help inform the District's final decision regarding a transition plan for the Willoughby Community.

16. Can we turn staff parking or existing areas into portable space?

Yes, portables have been placed in parking areas before, as needed.

17. Why are new schools being built with not enough space to sustain population growth of the community?

Schools are built on current projections within provincial guidelines and systems.

18. Why not designate another school (LSS, for example) as the IB school?

REMSS has gone through an authorization process to be designated an IB World School. Another school would have to offer a full authorization in their school community to provide the IB program. Staff would have to look at the logistics of pulling out of REMSS and moving into another high school. Staff may not exclusively teach IB, other classes may be impacted.

The District has not looked at the option of removing Strong Start programs from schools. The District is aware of the reliance in the community on Strong Starts and, would only consider closing or moving a centre if the Willoughby community and District supported the idea. This would require Ministry of Education approval.

19. Do the current numbers reflect current catchments or have catchment changes been taken into consideration?

Projections shared at this meeting are a reflection of the current catchments.

20. Does the Ministry of Education truly feel our sense of urgency or is this an academic exercise?



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The District continues to have meaningful conversations with the Ministry of Education. The District has made Ministry staff aware that circumstances have not changed and that Langley's needs for a new school should continue to be a priority.

21. Will Hockey Academy students going to be bused from LEC in the morning?

More information, on the Hockey Academy, will be forthcoming once approved by the Board of Education.

22. Are considerations for enrollment to the YCMS academy given to in-catchment students first?

Yes, in-catchment students, if the academy is approved, receive priority.