



**Willoughby Slope
Community Consultation Meeting Q&A**
Monday, May 11, 2015
6:30pm

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

Questions:

1. Will there be any grandfathering of students?

The grandfathering of students has surfaced as an important issue from the community. The District is aware that people want their children to be grandfathered and for the new students to have to be moved to schools outside of the catchment if the home school is at capacity. Community members should refer to Policy No. 7008 for more information.

2. Is there a possibility of moving optional or choice program? Choice program?

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.

3. Where do the numbers come from?

Staff at the School Board Office use the BARAGAR Demographics program, and continually update the population data as the District receives it. The Director of Facilities and the Secretary-Treasurer meet regularly with City and Township staff. The City and Township notifies the District of upcoming developments. The new developments are incorporated in with other pertinent information to achieve projections. The District understands the importance of the projections and, therefore, the data is scrutinized to ensure accuracy.

4. Is the District aware of the new development on 200th Street and 68th Avenue?

The Director of Facilities indicated that the District is aware of this development.

5. No development on the map for Willoughby Elementary and Langley Meadows, currently RC Garnet (will the border change?)

At this time, the committee has not had conversations about portables moving from current locations such as RC Garnett.

RC Garnett is a small catchment with a large number of students. The District will be looking into the RC Garnett catchment, as well as others, once the configuration decision has been made (K-5 or K-6) and if the Ministry announces a plan for a new school in Willoughby.



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6. Are the numbers from the development in the District's projections?

The Director of Facilities indicated that he believed the numbers from that development were in the projections

7. Does the District see keeping the RE Mountain catchments the same?

The committee does not see changing the catchment for REMSS.

8. We were told out of catchment kids would not be accepted at YCMS in September 2015 and now you say if you are currently attending one of the feeder schools you are automatically enrolled.

Tim Everson, Principal at YCMS, said current Grade 3's who are attending one of the feeder schools have been told that they will not be able to attend YCMS (in 2017-18). This decision came as a result of the 2016 projections for YCMS. A letter was sent to the community in the spring of 2014 stating this information.

9. Would the catchment changes at Bulpitt apply to currently enrolled students?

The District will try to keep current students at Richard Bulpitt.

10. Is there no need to consider LSS or WGSS in the solution for the next 4 years? Why was a junior high system not implemented for relief on Mountain?

The District has not considered WGSS because the configuration of the schools is different from the schools in Willoughby. The LSS solution that came as a result of the last consultation process recommends to the Ministry that the District reconfigure to the population needs at LSS. It is not the intention of the District to have Willoughby students attend LSS (unless they choose to). Staff supports a single configuration of schools around the District. The Board approved the LTFP with the recommendation that staff review the configuration of schools in the District.

Tim Everson commented that the grade 6-8 model is:

- Driven from the needs of students,
- Mindful that students are becoming adults,
- Aware that grade 9's are past the age of a successful middle model.

The District recognizes that the solution (K-6) put forth would deviate from the District's middle model but the solution would only be temporary

11. With so many different models for schools, is the District not creating chaos?

Staff recognizes that there are different models in the District. Trustees are in attendance and they have now heard the community's concern.

12. Seems like there is a lot of space at Willoughby. Could that be a consideration and how many can it accommodate?



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The District has heard from the Willoughby community that there is little desire to make changes in catchments at this time. Willoughby Elementary will eventually increase in enrolment and the District will require that space going forward.

13. Putting additional portables on the Yorkson Creek field an option? What will be done if we maximize YCMS and we need more than 3 portables?

Yes the Board could explore the option of placing portables on the fields at Yorkson Creek Middle School. The Board could, if the current configuration is the recommendation, enter into exploring options with the Township.

Other options for additional space may include placing portables in parking lots.

14. Richard Bulpitt would like to configure to a K-6 model based on the surveys that were put out to the parent community by the school board and they are the school most affected. Why are we considering more options?

The survey was conducted by PACs and provided useful information. The District is now considering K-5 and K-6 configurations.

15. What has the Ministry actually committed to provide the Langley District?

The District continues to work with the Ministry. The business plan has been submitted and the District continues to provide the Ministry with pertinent information related to the development of Project Definition Reports, which are required under the Ministry's capital approval process.

16. What is the timeline for the announcement of the new school?

The District does not know a timeline regarding a potential announcement of a new school.

17. Why don't we tell the Township that our numbers are at capacity?

The Township is made aware of capacity concerns in our schools. The Ministry only considers new schools for students that are currently in the District. The District presents information about projections to the Township on a regular basis.

18. Why do they keep writing letters about housing the students?

At this time the District is able to accommodate students on the Willoughby Slope. The District is and will continue to provide space for Langley students. Projections provided to the community indicate that the current growth can be maintained in the Willoughby Community for the short term

19. Could pressure be put on the Township to slow down development to allow the school district to catch up?

The Township is aware of the process the District is going through. The meeting this evening is on the same night as the Council meeting so Council unfortunately could not attend. The District will share with Township the feedback provided through the consultation process.

20. Hockey Academy: Will they follow the hockey Canada model or South Delta/ Yale Academy Model?

This model will be different than the Yale and Delta Academy models. The REMSS model, if approved by the Board, will be skills based.

21. Which elementary schools are under capacity?

RC Garnett and Langley Meadows are at capacity currently. Willoughby, Richard Bulpitt and Lynn Fripps still have physical space to increase enrollment. There are other schools within the District under capacity also.

22. Why four years to have a high school vs two years for a middle school?

The high school building is more complicated. The District already has a footprint for a middle school (Yorkson Creek)

A four year plan would require the District to come back and consult and then plan ahead two more years.

A four year high school plan would have the District looking at other new high school plans. This would expedite the overall process.

The Director of Facilities described the process for creating the building plan for Lynn Fripps. The Director did say that there were savings but the uniqueness of the soil and elevation of the building envelope did add costs for the development.

The four-year plan for a high school is a conservative estimate by the District. The District would look at as short a window as possible from the point of approval to opening.

23. How far out does the current proposal to the Ministry take us? At what point do we have the ability to catch up?

The District put out its long-term facilities plan report in 2011 indicating that the population growth in Willoughby will require a number of new schools before the area is built out.

During the time that development continues, the District will continue to work to provide the necessary information to the Ministry of Education so that new schools can be acquired.

24. Respect that we are part of the solution and communication is key there is always a bottle neck somewhere...where is the bottle neck best addressed with communication.

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



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25. What is the current population of Mountain and Yorkson? What size of school are you looking at?

The current population of Mountain is about 970 students, including international students. The current population of Yorkson is about 800 students (no international students). We are looking at a secondary school size of 1500 core and 1300 capacity.

26. How is that compared to other Langley High Schools?

BSS has about 1000 students and WGSS has about 1800 students.

27. Please go over the long-term plan for the James Anderson School?

The district owns that property and James Anderson remains an asset of the Board. It is currently empty because the students were moved to APEX (Vanguard). The school has approximately 6 classrooms. It would take some funds to make that a viable site. There have been suggestions that James Anderson may be used as a primary Annex for Garnett but this has not been explored.

28. Has the District purchased property from the TOL that was in the Newspaper?

The District continues to work with the TOL regarding the acquisition of land in Willoughby.

29. Staffing implications

Should YCMS reconfigure to grades 7-8, some of the teachers at YCMS would not be able to stay at that school. Grade 6 teachers would hopefully secure work at the elementary schools.