

CATCHMENT CONSULTATION Q&A

Date: Monday, November 4, 2019
Time: 6:30 - 9 pm
Venue: Royston Elementary School

1. Can we sell Valley View elementary and Airport elementary to build somewhere else?
No, although the population is below capacity, we still need the space as both sites are still enrolling students.
2. You renovated in the late 80's... Isn't it time to reno again? Septic, gym, library and annex.
At present the "only" issue is space, the infrastructure is operating very well for the capacity of the school. Should an expansion be built, then a renovation may need to occur.
3. We are as far away from Highland as possible. Would a boundary change mean that we go to Vanier or Isfeld and East Courtenay students get bussed to Highland to even out travel time?
Part of these consultations is to balance out the populations of our secondary schools. As we do that, we must consider the time students spend on the bus. At this point, once options are created, we will look at all the ideas created and determine which are viable. Our goal is to make as few disruptions as possible while addressing the situation.
4. Does the Ministry value proximity of homes/schools?
The Ministry is not involved in planning subdivisions or in many cases the location of schools.
5. Why is there no high school closer to the Royston area?
Historically our District had 2 high schools (Vanier and Highland) which served the needs of our student population. Approx. 20 years ago, Isfeld was brought on as the third high school. High schools are usually located in areas in or close to densely populated areas, and where land is (was) available.

CATCHMENT CONSULTATION Q&A

6. Why is Courtenay El population low? Factors behind it.
Courtenay El. is in an older section of town that is not populated by young families. However, having said that the Courtenay El. area is undergoing a resurgence of new families.
7. How soon will decisions happen?
Our intent is to have something to our Board early in the new year.
8. What if a parent outright refuses the final decisions? I do not want “Ridge” students busing to a school in town.
Once a decision is made by the Board, we will work with families as we transition to the any change in boundaries.
9. Are there “inner-city” designations for schools?
Not really
10. How much money does the District have to spend on this? Is there money from the Ministry available already?
The total cost will depend on the options that the Board chooses. All funds must come from the School District, the Ministry will not provide extra funding beyond our regular allocations.
11. Will siblings be considered when “grandfathering”?
Siblings are always considered when creating a grandfather clause.
12. How would a boundary shift change projections – would it solve the problem long term?
A boundary change is intended to address enrollment pressures for the short and long term, the only exception would be unforeseen circumstances that we are unable to plan for. (i.e. Fort McMurray situation / Supreme Court Ruling etc.)
13. Is it worth the disruption to those families?
We recognize that change is difficult for everyone, however we are confident that our students are resilient and together we can work through any challenges.
14. Do you foresee a time when Cumberland will close the door to Royston? If so, when?
Not at this time.

CATCHMENT CONSULTATION Q&A

15. Will a grandfather clause apply to students or families?

As it is now, it would apply to students currently in the schools. This would be a Board decision.

16. Do you have projected boundary changes?

We will be able to present some options at the Round 2 consultations as these options will be developed from the input and ideas collected from both the Spring and round 1 consultation.

17. Where are the empty schools?

We do not have “empty schools” however schools with significant space are Airport, Courtenay Elementary and Highland. Other schools have space but not to the same degree as the ones above.

18. What would be the process of adding grade 7 locally?

As Royston is already full at K-6 and continues to grow it is unlikely we would be able to add grade 7's. However, as with any school that is at capacity should both the Board and the Ministry see fit an addition could be built to accommodate enrollment.

19. Are vacant lots taken into consideration?

Vacant lots in a subdivision are part of the calculation and planning process. However, general vacant lots are not really considered as we have no idea what will be built on that lot.

20. Have you compared the costs of annex, modular, bussing and a new school?

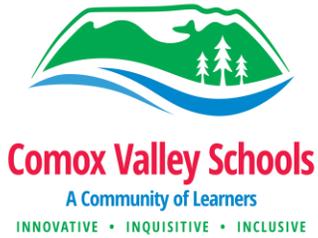
That will be done as part of creating the options, which will be based on the ideas presented to us at the round 1 consultations.

21. What is the cost of a new school?

There are many factors that affect the cost of a new school such as; size, grade level location, infrastructure, market costs, cost of obtaining the land, etc.

22. Are parents in Comox involved in boundary discussions?

Yes, all parents in School District 71 can participate at the consultations and are invited to participate in the online survey



Comox Valley Schools

School District No. 71

CATCHMENT CONSULTATION Q&A

23. Could Union Bay be reopened as a Kindergarten only school of choice?

Yes, anything can be re-opened in this case it would be approx. 2.5 million dollars to re-open the building.

24. Can we move all French immersion students into one school to create room?

No, we cannot accommodate all French Immersion students in one school.