

Summary of
“Consultation with Early Childhood and Daycare Groups”
Community Engagement

October 10, 2018

SD 71 – Comox Valley – Consultation with Early Childhood and Daycare Groups – October 10, 2018

Below is a summary of answers from discussions that took place within three focus groups.

1. Review of consultation notes from the last meeting

- Notes are quite accurate and complete
- Lack of reference to outdoor spaces
- Not for profit/for profit distinction
- Reality of schools in public sector
- Quality of care for consideration
- Affordability as an issue
- Policy needs to recognize two levels of organization
- Need to consider private/not for profit
- Reference Early Childhood Collaborative
- Reference Childcare Committee
- Terminology - childcare

2. Draft Administrative Procedure 8001 MR3: Daycare Centres Before and After School Programs

- **What do you like about the draft administrative procedure?**
- **What do you dislike about the draft administrative procedure?**
- **What changes would you make to this draft administrative procedure for it to work better for your organization?**
 - Process for “negotiating” unique needs of individual care providers
 - Provide for alternate options for buildings, additions, renovating space
 - Language to ensure that the District will apply for \$\$ for buildings
 - Challenging to find staff, funding on a three year lease
 - Non-profit seems to suit the philosophy of public schools
 - For profit, add social procurement process?
 - Capacity of maintenance staff to deal with ongoing (or urgent) maintenance needs
 - Provincial mandate for K-12 - do we also have equal mandate for early years provincially?
 - Opportunity to demonstrate community partnerships
 - Profit/non-profit, make sure to create a level playing field for wages/fees
 - Guiding principles: Modular, who owns
 - Funding model for new facilities needs to be clarified. Public funds or private?
 - Where do existing property not paid for by public funds? Grandfather.
 - Modular needs work

- Grandfathering issue – what does it mean?
- What is best-case scenario going forward?
- Permanency of childcare spaces?
- Need for a vision
- Community perspective: as opposed to parent, SD, providers
- Look at our countries for the vision
- Modular vs. portables
- Use childcare committees as source of new vision/ideas
- Not for profit management group. Maybe as part of the Community Health Network?
- Need for planning jointly with the SD. \$ are available. Collective Planning.
- There is \$ available
- UBCM direction
- Fear of liability at base of policy
- Need to mitigate risks
- Protocols
- Communications strategies
- “Business Days”, “Business Hours” – weekends, shift workers, non-traditional hours?
- Different strategies for in-school and on property
- Centralized? Transportation
- Summer programming – collaborative planning to meet needs
- Synchronicity
- Transportation
- Affordability
- Joint use agreements – collaborative approach to shared use.
- Agreement time tendering/short-term issue

3. Impact of district space needs on Child Care Centers

- **Discussion of potential issues and growth areas**

4. Discussion about the recently government announced day care spaces to be built at Lake Trail Middle School.

- **What groups or representatives need to be at the table for discussion about a needs assessment and what type of services will be offered? (Needs Assessment)**
 - Municipal council/planners
 - Providers
 - School District
 - Social Services (poverty, housing, food security input to assessment)
 - Recreation providers

- Economic Development staff
 - NIC, VIU (Need for some trained staff)
 - Parents
 - Open at Lake Trail and close an existing space
 - Lake Trail needs all three levels of licensing
 - Multi-age facility at Lake Trail. The management agreement – need for
 - Infant to Toddler – 12. Birth to grade 12 – big picture – umbrella
 - 3-5, 20
 - Identify the operator – process for selection. Who will assist with details – make it work
 - Hire a consultant to assist with capacity. Childcare planner who would also assist with community education issues – e.g., Community Schools
 - District spaces of potential issues and growth area
 - Zoning – municipalities can enable increased uses
 - Unlicensed spaces – risks
 - Include licencing officers, Island Health, MCFD –subsidy
 - NIC & VIU practicum spaces
 - Growth – analyzing trends, demographics, areas, issues, understanding demand projections, 20 year plan, mapping
- **What other issues you would like to discuss or issues you believe the district is not considering as we move forward toward planning the Lake Trail facility (childcare)?**
- Shortage of qualified staff - ECE's
 - Living wage for ECE's to ensure quality care
 - Outdoor spaces
 - How do we address the full need for spaces – projected
 - Will there be “catchment” areas for spaces, how are waitlists managed?
 - Addressing 40% vulnerability
 - Priority, who gets space
 - Staffing – shortage, training and support, wages
 - Adjunct programs: Kinder-readiness, Strong Start, Early Literacy