

CATCHMENT CONSULTATION

Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2019
Time: 6:30 - 9 pm
Venue: Cumberland Community School

1. You have been presented with a lot of information and data tonight. What questions or additional information do you need?

- Start planning for a future school expansion in Cumberland. Long-term solutions will be the only way to accommodate the growing population
- In the short-term consider moving grades 8 & 9 to Vanier where they currently attend for grades 10 to 12.
- No more fake news
- Implement more outdoor programs to offer gym use overage
- If they reconfigured grade structure in Cumberland and send grades 8 & 9 to Vanier, how many students are we looking at needing to accommodate at Vanier?
- Why is there not a high school option on this side of the Comox Valley?
- Move grades 8 & 9 to Lake Trail and turn Cumberland into an elementary school only.
- If the district needs to be at 95% capacity to enter the discussions regarding expansion or building but your predictions expect overcapacity in the next 6 years... What happens in the interim?
- Has Waycor and others donated land or money?
- Why is SD71 so geographically large? Could it be divided into smaller and more geographically sensible areas?
- What % of students in the Lake Trail and Courtenay El catchment are cross boundaries?
- Where is the line between Highland, Vanier and Isfeld catchments?
- Map overlay of boundaries with % capacity
- If Isfeld is over capacity and Highland is under, would it not make sense to change those boundaries?
- Consider moving specialty programs to under capacity schools as those parents seem to be willing to take on the transportation
- How hard would it be to reverse cross boundary procedure?
- Is there any way to fast track policy making and financing on an expansion when we reach 95% capacity?
- Developers partnering with community and kick in funding
- How many Cumberland students were sent to other schools in 2019 because of overcapacity?
- Data provided shows that if Denman and Hornby are taken of the district wide calculations, enrollment will be at 95% by 2020
- Is there room at Vanier to move grade 8 & 9 to Vanier in the long-term?
- Can we send Royston 6-7 students to Courtenay El instead of Cumberland? Change Royston to K-5?
- Cost to move unused portables at Airport and Highland to Cumberland?
- What is the margin of error in the Barager numbers?
- What local knowledge is missing? Talking to newcomers about why they are moving here?
- When is LRFP to be updated to prioritize a Cumberland expansion?
- LRFP states this is the first step in acquiring funding but not there currently.
- Has the District hired a consultant group to do the study about options?

- Is there land set aside in Cumberland development for a school?
- Can Airport El be changed to a federal school?
- How many portables could we have in Cumberland?
- Does it cost money to convert an elementary school into a middle school?
- Can Hornby and Denman combine as one school in order to help the District's numbers?
- Future development number for Union Bay and Cumberland?
- Can French Immersion and International move to one site at Highland?
- Are you looking at selling Union Bay or other school district property to offset costs of updating other schools?
- When do you plan on implementing?
- Why did you move Lake Trail's grade 9's as it is not full?
- What are the minimal standards for defining a classroom?
- What is the current % of operating capacity? Does that include Hornby and Denman?
- What class sizes are the operating capacities based on?
- Of all the current options being discussed as possible solutions, with there one (or more) that the school district feels are the most likely?
- When would the change be implemented?
- Who is profiting from all the new developments and can they give back?
- How much does it cost to bus 25 students for the modular vs. the cost of the modular (\$300K)?
- Could undersubscribed space be used for other profit generating purposes?
- Could funds be raised in the district to support new buildings?
- If Cumberland is K-7 is there room for our grade 8 & 9's at Vanier?
- If Cumberland is K-7, how long until it is over capacity?
- What decides capacity in a school?
- What will happen in Sept 2020 when numbers are up 60 students already?
- Concern: moving grades 8 & 9's out will impact the role of community schools
- Can Lake Trail turn into a high school?
- What specific criteria do we need to apply for Ministry funding? Can we apply early given the projections?
- What is the school board proposing?
- Is Lake Trail expanding?
- What are the specific students' numbers per grade? Where is the pressure coming from?
- Fanny Bay/Union Bay/Royston population breakdown
- What future developments have been factored in?
- In 5 years, Courtenay El has room for 140 students, Arden has no room, Cumberland has 201 students over and Royston has 163 students over = 224 students over. How does adjusting boundaries help?
- How can we keep other programs at the school e.g.: StrongStart?
- Could we consider Royston as part of the Cumberland community?
- Royston students go to Lake Trail
- Are you considering what would happen to siblings? Would they be grandfathered?
- Move all International students to Highland
- Where can we access projected enrollments? Could a link be available online?
- A map of sites and visually different colours of over and under capacity
- A visual of capacity currently, 5 years and 10 years
- Can the Royston grades 6-8 go elsewhere, so there is more space for Cumberland students?
- What is the feasibility of creating/building a K-12 school in Cumberland?

2. You have heard that Cumberland is one of our schools that is over capacity. What are some possible ideas you have to create space at Cumberland?

- Start process to expand school size in Cumberland
- Build a new K-12 school in Cumberland
 - Possibility of using “disc-golf area” to create high school
 - Create a campus
 - Re-structure current school campus with possibility of adding more classrooms
- Build additions to current Cumberland campus to alleviate immediate spacing demands with the long-term plan of re-structuring a K-12 campus
- Better use of SD71 owned land
- Are there any empty modular anywhere?
- Submit an expansion proposal NOW. Get in line
- Redraw catchment to expand Highland catchment to channel student from Vanier and Isfeld. Grade 8 & 9 Cumberland students to Vanier
- Move French Immersion high school program to Highland & redraw boundaries to balance numbers at Isfeld
- Move portables from Airport and Highland to Cumberland
- Change Courtenay EI to K-7 and moved Royston’s 6 & 7’s to Courtenay
- Prioritize shifting older students to others vs. younger students
- What can Cumberland parents do to support an expansion effort or proposal with the District to the Ministry? We are ready! Letters to the Minister? Letters to facilities staff?
- Make Tsolum campus a full-time elementary school and move NIDES to Lake Trail, Courtenay EI or Highland
- Look at redrawing ALL boundaries but at the same time plan for a capital expansion
- Is there space in the medical building to create more classrooms?
- Find alternative funding solutions (private) for modular or expansion. Developers?
- Why wasn’t land put aside in Cumberland for schools when big developments were approved?
- One building or modular for supporting the nature program. 3 or 4 classes share a classroom and alternate throughout the day who uses the classroom
- Could current Library become a classroom or two and library move to the multipurpose room in Beaufort building?
- Could Courtenay EI covert to a middle school?
- Empty floor above the Library and change to a classroom
- More modular with washrooms
- What will be happening to the Fire Hall space once they build a new one? Any other community space can we use?
- Apply for a capital expansion from the Province. Renovate Annex or upper floor of Perseverance building
- Partner with municipality and other organizations to raise funds to build a new facility
- Tax developers to raise revenue for school expansion
- Keep Hornby and Denman until grade 9, that would help Royston
- Split back into Junior school grades 6-9 and an elementary school at the Medical Centre
 - Royston K-5, Cumberland EI K-5, Cumberland Junior 6-9
- Require developers to contribute to SD71 funds to create new space in areas of development
- Move programs of choice to under capacity schools
- Royston and Union Bay students go to a city school which will free up 81 sports in Cumberland and start moving Royston students from grade 6 on
- Go Fund Me to buy/pay for an addition to our school
- Port O Potties
- Outdoor gym – use the forest
- Increase class sizes but add in EA’s or teachers

- Stagger school hours
- More covered areas as outdoor learning spaces
- Partner with Rec Centre, Library/OAP and Museum/Historical Society/Arts Society
- Move youth centre off school ground
- Eliminate Kindergarten – utilize child care providers
- StrongStart and Youth Centre move opening up 2 classrooms
- Kindergartens in modules to create more space in the school
- Cheaper module options (Yurts)
- Find a way to keep grade 7's at Royston and then move to Vanier
- Hallway classrooms

3. If the final decision results in a change (could be grade structure or boundaries for example) how do you think we should go about doing this? If it is a boundary change should we move everyone affected by the change right away or should we move them overtime?

- Move everyone right away
- The only acceptable solution is to find space in Cumberland for all Cumberland students in grades K-9!
- Delay any further enrolment from new builds until there is capacity at this school
- Just get it over with as fast as possible. Move everything all at the same time
- Keep siblings together
- Utilize the high schools and add a block per day keeping the schools open longer
- How you move everyone depends on what the changes are
- Over time
- This is difficult to answer with knowing the specific decision. Factors that should be considered:
 - How to minimize disruption for students?
 - Giving adequate advance notice in sync with the start of school year
 - Prioritize natural geographic boundaries
 - First send grade 9 students to high school then grade 8's the following year
- The Village should communicate with SD71 when planning developments/expansion
- Propose new building in Cumberland
- All students move together in June 2021
- Boundary changes should account for vulnerable youth and mental health
- Full transparency on decisions made
- We want options and choices
- We want to be heard
- Over time to allow for families to plan appropriately
- No good answer
- There should be grandfathering
- We like it the way it is and want to make it work so that students can stay in Cumberland
- Older students first then the younger students
- Change should be at the discretion of the parents
- Rip off the Band-Aid quickly

4. Tonight, you were presented with data that shows that Highland is under capacity, Isfeld is at capacity and Vanier will soon be over capacity. How do you suggest we balance the enrolment at our secondary schools?

- Comox/Courtenay students at Vanier should be shifted to Highland before Cumberland
- Island schools go to Highland
- Boundaries should be tightened geographically

- French Immersion to Highland
- Keep grades 8 & 9 at Cumberland
- Shift boundaries
 - All Aspen students to Highland
 - All Queenesh is Isfeld
 - Move International student at Isfeld to Highland
 - Huband to Isfeld
- When Vanier just went through a huge reno why was the increase in numbers not taken into account?
- Shrink Vanier and Isfeld boundaries and increase Highlands
- Move choice programs to Highland
- Offer more online programs – less students on campus
- Creative scheduling in high schools
- Courtenay EI keeps student until grade 9
- Have a high school in Cumberland
- Convert Lake Trail to a high school
- Move Huband and Miracle Beach to Highland
- Start more elementary French immersion and then feed them to Highland
- Boat Schools – Partner up with BC Ferries
- Have more field trip days
- Robb Road goes to Highland

5. What other ideas or suggestions do you have that will assist us in balancing our enrolments while at the same time maintaining out neighbourhood schools?

- If development is to continue, developers are asked to provide some funding to our schools
- Apply for grants or fundraising
- Ask the Village what they suggest
- Important to do consultations in all schools since this will affect everyone
- Seek private funding from local philanthropists e.g.: James Cameron High and Pamela Anderson Elementary
- Redraft the Long-Range Facilities plan to reflect current numbers and priorities, with the number 1 priority being a Cumberland expansion
- Talk with another fast-growing district – how are they doing it. How to avoid mistakes
- Build a new high school in the next 10 years for Cumberland, Royston, Hornby, Denman and Union Bay
- Hire a consultant to help
- Partner with community
- Support homeschool part-time programs for younger grades
- Bring French back to all grades and reduce French Immersion schools
- Offer flexible programing
- NIC to have 2 campuses – current location and Highland
- Move Fanny Bay to Denman
- Need to keep older students at Cumberland as they are the leaders
- Ask the students, engage them in this process
- Sell Union Bay property and put that money towards a new school
- Give Cumberland its own district