

CATCHMENT CONSULTATION

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

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

- Build a new school elementary or high school
- Use the available land for an expansion and add grades 7 & 8
- Expansion for a K-7 elementary – grades 8 & 9 go to Vanier Secondary
- Some Vanier students go to Highland Secondary
- Cost of Hornby style modulars at Union Bay
- Shift catchment areas to build capacity
- Off site before/after school care
- FEAR: our students end up being moved to other schools
- Union Bay/Fanny Bay students bussed into town
- Shift higher grades Cumberland grades to create space to shift students from Royston to Cumberland
- Confirm Enrollment – Where do students come from (have people updated addresses over the years?)
- Fix the septic and add Annex on existing property
- Move grades 8 & 9 to Vanier, move Vanier to Mark Isfeld and move Mark Isfeld to Highland
- Move only grade 9's from Cumberland to Vanier
- Build another K-6 (South)
- Re-opening/rebuild in Union Bay
- Not liking the boundary shift
- Add modules to Royston while doing an expansion
- Change the North boundary lines. Fraser road "The Ridge" goes to Courtenay Elementary
- Choice programs move to schools with space. French Immersion to Airport and Highland. International students go to schools with room.

2. Tonight, you were presented with the 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?

- Shift programs of choice to schools with lower capacity
- The schools are close together, shift boundaries
- More even distribution of wealth between the schools so some school become less “Elite”
- Equal offering of programs
- Change bus routes
- Build a high school in South Courtenay
- International students and French Immersion move to Highland (3)
- Change boundaries where needed. Vanier = Courtenay North & South, Isfeld = Courtenay East, Highland = Comox, all French immersion, NIDES, Montessori, International students, Lake Trail = Courtenay West, Cumberland Junior – only Cumberland
- Special programs at Highland – Provide incentives so people will want to go
- New high school for Courtenay South
- Change Huband and Miracle Beach to Highland (2)
- Shift specialty programs from Isfeld and Vanier to Highland
- Make Airport a K-9 and have Huband and Miracle Beach grade 8’s and 9’s attend there
- Move students in Comox and Courtenay to create capacity to have less impact on neighbourhood schools (rural schools)

3. If the final decision results in 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 way or should we move them over time?

- Immediate change will not go well
- Don’t separate siblings
- We favour change in grade structure over boundaries (except for elective programs and those should be placed wherever there is room)
- Quickly – move them right away
- Grandfather and keep families together
- Kids with difficulties, who do not like change should be grandfathered
- Move the older students first and cascade changes down G12 to K
- Just do it!
- Start by moving choice programs around the district. Community school boundary changes should be a last resort
- If your going to do it, then just do it. Rip off the band aid
- Any child already in Royston should be able to stay and be grandfathered in

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

- Bus time limited for students travelling long distances – limited stops
- Change boundaries closest to schools and communities, for example: Northern boundaries to Courtenay El from Royston
- Move boundaries of Vanier & Isfeld to Highland
- Move grade 8 & 9 from Cumberland to Vanier & Isfeld
- NIC Campus/High school campus at St. Joes (like CR NIC/Timberline) 2nd Floor available at St. Joes (NIC is offering a program at the CR location to teach care adies – do the same at St. Josephs)
- Focus on expansions and adaptations vs. building a new school
- How do we make all schools vibrant/competitive – “Magnet schools”, balance “choice schools”/neighbourhoods
- French immersion needs to be limited
- Focus on renovations and expanding current schools – boundary changes are a band aid to the crisis we face
- Royston and Cumberland should work together when it comes to changes. Treat the two as a “whole” when looking at a solution
- Address the low-income areas and schools. People mentioned they will move as opposed to sending their children to a school they did not choose
- Move outlying area students via bussing to other schools
- Redistribute specialty programs
- Consider Cumberland as K-4 and Royston as 5-12
- Rebalance grades in under capacity schools – Airport K-9 and Huband K-6

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

- Map of current boundaries
- Map of all schools in district with capacities would be helpful next time
- Map of general travel of schools now
- Provide public with costs for all options eg: Annex, modular, bussing, building schools, redistribution of speciality programs