

KITCHEN TABLE TALK FEEDBACK
SEPTEMBER 21, 2009 – GRAND FORKS PUBLIC
TABLE 1

TOPIC 1 – Variety of Course Selection

- Bus BCSS students to GFSS
 - What are the costs re transportation
- Perhaps BWCS should become part of Kelowna
- Is the cost of technology and the infrastructure of technology cheaper than bussing vice versa
- Locks in courses into semesters of course offering
- What about students not physically there, but taking web courses at home?

TOPIC 2 – Declining Enrolment

- Amalgamate MES and GES – shut MES down!
- Beavertell students to WBES
- Create catchment areas right between Midway and Rock Creek to balance both schools in terms of size at WBES and GES (Midway close)

TOPIC 3 – GFSS Declining Enrolment

- Not a good idea socially for grade 7s unless you can do some type of segregation
- Closing off a part of GFSS should does not seem reasonable
- Can some custodial duties be every other day?
- If one goes, the other should as well
- Grade 7 girls round older male students?
- School within a school – grade 7s
- 6, 7, 8 school, a 9, 10, 11, 12 within GFSS building

TOPIC 4 – Community Use of School

- How many outside people?
- One Family Services and MCFD
- Would families using services be embarrassed by having to come on school grounds and building to get services?
- How long is the lease?

TOPIC 5 – All Day Kindergarten

- Hutton as Primary
- It would be good to have Primary students away from the high school
- It would be better to have young, Primary students away from the highway
- All-day kindergarten is good
- Elementary families split between two schools

KITCHEN TABLE TALK FEEDBACK
SEPTEMBER 15, 2009 – GRAND FORKS PUBLIC
TABLE 5

TOPIC 1 – Variety of Course Selection

- Drivers' education
- Courses offered through electronic means should be those with limited hands-on components
- Specialists shared among schools – Drama teacher, Languages
- Technology-based course eg CAD
- Wireless capability

TOPIC 2 – Declining Enrolment

- Trades school for secondary students and adults?
- Work with City to promote Grand Forks
- Tourism component to draw population
- Combine smaller schools eg Greenwood and Midway
- Relocate Fred Walker to current Boundary buildings
- Have Big White transfer to Kelowna for a price
- Close CLES and bus to Grand Forks
- What are cost savings in combining elementary schools (Perley & Hutton?)
 - Lease out spare capacity
 - More efficient staffing
- Rent out CLES
- Rent out Hutton Hideaway and Perley Playstation?

TOPIC 3 – GFSS Declining Enrolment

- Educational merit of going to intermediate and primary schools – not accepted well
- Look at 6-12 and have one large elementary K-5. Close one large elementary.
- Lease out to other agencies? A wing of GFSS – some concerns about what agencies.
- Capacity?
 - Hutton – 300
 - Perley – 300
 - GFSS – 600
 - CLES - 120

TOPIC 4 – Community Use of School

- Relocating services closer to schools eg MCFD to Perley (closer to student body)
- Concerns about certain clientele being on school property (alleviated by closing one school)

TOPIC 5 – All Day Kindergarten

- Should be choice (optional)
- Many children not prepared for full day
- Can still go half-days?
- Daycare workers in town?

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TABLE 4

TOPIC 1 – Variety of Course Selection

- Video conferencing more T.A. support in classroom
- We need to make use of technology utilize and how to use and learn as it is part
- Supervision necessary
- Target smaller classes
- Good prep for university
- Try it for a short period of time with students

TOPIC 2 – Declining Enrolment

- Beaverdell little too far from home
- Restructuring GFSS middle one level older
- Social responsibility of older student helping with younger
- 6/7 greater access to shops, Home Ec but curriculum may need to be changed

TOPIC 3 – GFSS Declining Enrolment

- Great but may need to be separated
- Better utilize facilities

TOPIC 4 – Community Use of School

- Concerns of who's there
- Better signage or better middle school
- Use for child care

TOPIC 5 – All Day Kindergarten

- Transportation issue
- K-6 more a better fit

Summary

- Amalgamation – will not be good for the Boundary relationship
- We start centralizing
- Keep guys close to home
- Use technology to prep our students for the future
- Get rid of both time tables and get one new common one
- Loss of local control at local level

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TABLE 3

TOPIC 1 – Variety of Course Selection

- DESK
 - Do online through DESK or other agencies
 - Budget factors
 - Offer more
- Web-based solutions
- Consult promising practices re keeping courses – meet with them – Trail/Castlegar

TOPIC 2 – Declining Enrolment

- Don't close schools – unfair to close schools
- Keep schools as is
- Keep small primary elementary
- Combine schools in Grand Forks – Hutton/Perley

TOPIC 3 – GFSS Declining Enrolment

- 7-12 – what configuration? Concern about maturity level.
- Amalgamate with Selkirk to provide programs in the school – post-secondary programs
- Learning focused – FISS type situation
- Day care in schools – private

TOPIC 4 – Community Use of School

- Be careful who you would lease space to
- International school ESL China
- Sports academy
- Daycare in schools
- Go after outside agencies but need parameters for safety
- Put all outside learning areas in one school

TOPIC 5 – All Day Kindergarten

- Start all day next year so you can work out the bugs before it's mandated
- Don't agree with all-day kindergarten
- No one feels all-day kindergarten is a good plan

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TABLE 2

TOPIC 1 – Variety of Course Selection

- Common timetable and use technology for diversity of courses. What would be the actual costs of doing this?
- Itinerants could be a problem
- Good/fine for sharing specialists but concern that a child might be limited in their opportunities
- Concerns with elementary specialists and will take away from quality of education.
- Maybe look at relationships with neighbouring Districts for 'technology' courses for secondary and senior elementary schools for advanced courses

TOPIC 2 – Declining Enrolment

- Concerns of the length of day and long bus rides
- Combine GES and MES but one other feels these are issues for those people to decide
- Question – would the government fund a large capital project? Investigate to see what that means
- Status quo is not an option. We just need to make the right decision.
- CLES kids would have least travel time and less impact but would this make sense?

TOPIC 3 – GFSS Declining Enrolment

- GFSS as a grade 7-12 school – grade 7s are ready to go to high school and grad 7s would want the opportunities
- Middle school as a option (would be preferred by one)
- Can part of the school be a middle school and the rest a secondary?
 - Do K-4 at Perley
 - Do 5,6,7 and 8 at Hutton
 - Grade 9-12 at GFSS and look at other option
- We can't keep the status quo
- Need to consider BCSS and GFSS separately

TOPIC 4 – Community Use of School

- What space could be 'rented' – ie our professional kitchen to caterers to make money
- Rental of specialist rooms/offices
- Co-location with Selkirk and Community Futures
- "Privacy issues" for families (MCFD can be a concern)
- But it could be a good thing – look at the success of Glanville at Perley

TOPIC 5 – All Day Kindergarten

- All-day K – let's get on board right away
- Don't think right away there are any costs doing all day kindergarten
- Maybe some parents aren't ready to let their kids go a whole day
- Totally for Hutton being K-3 and Perley being a 4-7
- Can we do just one K-7 school in Grand Forks? Maybe a K-5 and a 6,7,8 middle school in GFSS

**KITCHEN TABLE TALK FEEDBACK
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 TABLE 6**

TOPIC 1 – Variety of Course Selection

- Use of technology
- Will there be a teacher in both classes?
- Great if you make it work
- Technology
- Do the research
- Kids are sponges they will get it

TOPIC 2 – Declining Enrolment

- How many children? Costs
- Community
- Sounds more feasible
- Greenwood Midway merge
- \$\$ Midway repairs
- What happens to the site in Midway?
- Building new school would make change easier to deal with
- Some change needed

TOPIC 3 – GFSS Declining Enrolment

7 – 12

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good idea they are ready • Opportunity • Kids development has them ready • Could lead to other configuration opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They can be intimidated • Social impact

- Use model of 7-12 across District if okay for GFSS
- 6-8 middle easier transition than 7-12
- K-5

TOPIC 4 – Community Use of School

- Can we go back if we have growth?
- Use space in GFSS for rental not elementary schools
- Dependent of services

TOPIC 5 – All Day Kindergarten

Hutton K-3	Perley 4-7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siblings same school • Mentorship as important K/1s and 6/7s • Choice and options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More teachers same grade • Possibly less split

- How is it structured?
- Would not do it
- Teachers
- Options – would like choice
- Parents know their children