

KITCHEN TABLE TALK FEEDBACK
SEPTEMBER 28, 2009 – WEST BOUNDARY COMMUNITY
TABLE 1

TOPIC 1 – Variety of Course Selection

- Work as long as students willing to do it and work independently
- Sharing specialist and itinerant
- Use technology as much as possible to enhance opportunities for students

TOPIC 2 – Declining Enrolment

- Too long of a ride for young kids, keep Beaverdell
- MES and GES should merge and should have stayed all at GES when there was the asbestos scare
- No to a k-12 school especially with the poor economy and bad for the individual communities
- Could pull the grade 7s into BCSS or move GES to Grand Forks or MES to WBES
- Greenwood needs to keep a school as a “community” resource

TOPIC 3 – GFSS Declining Enrolment

- Should do it at both ends of the District – grades 7-12
- Just need to be careful who you lease to – needs to be family services
- Maybe have all libraries amalgamating with school libraries in all communities. Hours of operation/student utilization/community literacy programs
- Could see savings on school libraries because community libraries have the majority of resources
- Not viable to continue status quo

TOPIC 4 – Community Use of School

- Family resource/oriented programs would be okay to have in schools
- Chef training – utilize commercial kitchen (adults and students youth together – explore)
- Explore with Selkirk College the possibility of offering part or whole of the program (i.e. cooking)
- Also – Community Futures – explore
- What Selkirk has such as Office Admin and first year dual credit programs – make sure current + offered to students

TOPIC 5 – All Day Kindergarten

- Hutton – primary – would be good to consolidate primary
- Perley – intermediate – even if 4/5/6 – would have access to GFSS facilities
- Allows for possible staff savings

Comments from a parent who couldn't stay for the table discussion:

- Idea – put the Fred Walker program into Midway Elementary School
- There has been a decline in enrolment because of P&T etc. closing. Is it certain it will continue to decline?

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TABLE 2

TOPIC 1 – Variety of Course Selection

- Still have to pay for a supervising teacher in remote school
- Discouraging to learners when technology fails
- If high power courses, perhaps motivated not need supervision – but then why not home school
- Perhaps this is the wave of the future for workers and learners – this could be good training
- Do you pay travel time
- Seniority concerns
- Can teachers be forced to travel
- Students will need to plan semesters carefully!
- Better teacher travelling than children!!!!
- West Boundary schools already doing this!!

TOPIC 2 – Declining Enrolment

- We should amalgamate GES and MES!!!
- We have already spent a great deal of capital on new schools (Greenwood, WBES)
- A long drive for B-dell kids – too long
- What about K-2 at B-dell – too far for little kids to travel
- K-12 No!!!

New Idea

- Can we recruit out of district students
 - Market school district and the opportunities and beauty of the valley
 - The lifestyle
 - The four-day school week
 - Special Ed
- No K-12 school!!!!

TOPIC 3 – GFSS Declining Enrolment

- A bit of concerns with 7-12 – small little 7s, but it looks feasible
 - How about a 7/8 wing of school and 9-12 wing
 - How about a 6/7/8 wing of school and a 9-12 wing in high school
- Other suggestions – close down Board Office and house in GFSS
- Look at reducing Board Office staff
- Can grade 7s still have one teacher classroom for most of day
- Give more clerical support in schools!!!! from Board office staff

TOPIC 4 – Community Use of School

- Ensure criminal record checks for all
- Would some families with years of MCFD not bring children to school
- Move maintenance office to school site – get program sharing with students

TOPIC 5 – All Day Kindergarten

- Get primary kids off the highway
- Yes, full day kindergarten – leap, let's go!!!
- Save money on driving allowance – ks take morning and afternoon bus
- Yes, full day kindergarten

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TABLE 3

TOPIC 1 – Variety of Course Selection

- Student in the class – is it easy need help
- Works with theory classes but rules out hands-on. Type of class would be limited
- Support for sharing specialist
- Would have to change timetables
- Not always one way

TOPIC 2 – Declining Enrolment

- 6:30 am to 5:00 pm – 10-hour day k students. Not many adults work a 10-hour day
- Home school would be
- Three big Beaverdell developments – anticipate families
- Midway kids to attend Midway not WBES – glad bus was cancelled
- No support for K-12 from table
- Beaverdell – interested in running fund raising to keep school capital
- Travel time is very difficult in the west – particularly for Beaverdell/Carmi
- Keeping a school in small communities important

TOPIC 3 – GFSS Declining Enrolment

- 7-12
 - Previous experience with 7-12 was positive from parents
 - Experience with Rossland a 6/7 in high school – they staggered lunch etc. seems complicated but positive
- Closing space - rent out, wasted spaces don't see it benefitting kids, rent space
- No – all not in favour of leasing things out 65% - not financially sound
- Support for use of space with service providers
- School rental fees going to Selkirk – does the School District receive benefit from rental costs
- Sell additional space/buildings

TOPIC 4 – Community Use of School

- MCFD specifically
- Extensive support for leasing
- Seem to be huge
- SBO to GFSS

TOPIC 5 – All Day Kindergarten

- Mixed review of all day
- Late birthday more challenging – day format will need to accommodate difficult learning
- Seems to be a large financial commitment in difficult economic times
- Parental pressure to put kids in

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TABLE 4

TOPIC 1 – Variety of Course Selection

- The classroom in the school without teacher – how do the kids get the help they need
- Good idea but there could be downfalls
- Maybe certain courses but maybe not some others
- If they are motivated they will do okay
- Could happen as an online course as it is
- Concern that all delivery would happen from the larger school
- ½ course time each building should be the way to go
- Concept okay, how is it going to work
- Share specialists
- Could constrict options even flexibility even more
- May give more options
- Music/Drama/Shop/Building
- Itinerant specialists
- Already doing this more of same

TOPIC 2 – Declining Enrolment

- Beaverdell to WBES - No
 - Affects entire community
 - Who will move in
 - Young families will move away
 - StrongStart/Health Nurse
 - Bus ride 1 hour each way
 - Five year olds on the bus 3 hours/day
 - 10 hours away from home
 - Big White growth
 - Only playground
 - Bus may already be full
 - Could we go up to grade 4
- Greenwood Midway
 - Yes/Yes/Yes
 - Fiscal responsibility
 - Older school (MES) move them to Greenwood
 - Many efficiencies to combine the school
 - K-7 one school bus
- New school good idea but will it be funded
- K-12 – No
- Rock Creek better location
- Status Quo – no see bullet 2

TOPIC 3 – GFSS Declining Enrolment

- No – 7s shouldn't be exposed to the grade 8-12 behaviour
- Not ideal socially situation
- Problems in the closed off section
- Could it be done
- How much savings
- Combine schools
- If it works okay but not ideal
- School Board Office move into space at GFSS
- Other lease options
- Increase space to physical participation space – squash or racquet ball
- Adult training programs – Selkirk

TOPIC 4 – Community Use of School

- MCFD in our schools

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perception of kids attending services• What services are provided• Who are we going to lease space to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revenue• Efficient• After school care• YMCA activity-based programs

TOPIC 5 – All Day Kindergarten

- Four-day week days too long
- Full-day kindergarten all week too much
- Parents would keep kids home
- Could cause ↓ in funding into District → ↓ enrolment

Good Points

- Working parents ↓ day care cost
- Kids around friends all day
- Parents should have choice

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TABLE 5

TOPIC 1 – Variety of Course Selection

- Student supervision for video learning/engagement → would have to be of interest
- Multi-grade groupings

TOPIC 2 – Declining Enrolment

- Concerns about bussing all the way from Beaverdell
- Big White – what is cost to District
- Keep schools in communities where possible
- Use of new facility – Greenwood
- Combining all kids builds spirit
- Increases resources in bigger school
- Already doing some things together
- Keep elementary/secondary separate

TOPIC 3 – GFSS Declining Enrolment

- Privacy issues around leasing to agencies
- Move Board Office to GFSS – convert GFSS library into offices
- Relocate WDC to other District area
- Worried about grade 7 integration? Doable

TOPIC 4 – Community Use of School

- Move kids from CLES to Grand Forks, lease for industry
- Dodge Raffle – forced retirement

TOPIC 5 – All Day Kindergarten

- Should go ahead for 2010? Either way
- Optional? Should keep kids the same – full not some full and some not
- Every other day in Albertaworked well! More consistency
- Get kids into the flow
- Concerns about getting tired

Other

- Examine admin levels
 - Teachers less expensive
 - Admin teaching more
- Sell off assets – SBO in Midway

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TABLE 6

TOPIC 1 – Variety of Course Selection

- Computers – joined classes – White Board technology
- Example
- No live excitement → teachers do not have opportunity to read student body language in this model
- Split classes
- Commuting experts between schools semester by semester
- Music, Drama, extra curricular
- Empty semester – if a person goes to Grand Forks one semester and here the other
- Lack continuity more cost but better than no programs
- Woodworking 11/12 – blueprint reading changes curriculum

TOPIC 2 – Declining Enrolment

- Midway Elementary is small
- Should be more students at Greenwood
- Copy model in the West – all schools → one
- Larger school might mean better security and more people watching
- What's best educationally?
- Community-based schools are the best place to send kids
- Kids should be going in one direction
- Better environment to learn from each other K-7
- Possibly leave boundaries open to choose which school to go to
- Open boundary idea already exists
- Capacity of Greenwood Elementary – 150
- Combine MES and GES would not come up to 150
- 2015 – would this mean a K-12 school at BCSS
- Adding on not an option

TOPIC 3 – GFSS Declining Enrolment

- 7s out of elementary → secondary
- Agencies could move into elementary rooms – extra \$\$
- Kindergarten, pre-K is coming – needs to be housed in elementary
- All-day K
 - Would this benefit the kids
 - Ks are ready for grade 1 after all-day K
 - Transportation costs down
- Could drop grade 8 → down to elementary (room for outside agencies)
 - Secondary students are more people savvy
 - Basis for character judgment
 - Keep younger kids younger longer
- Are we comfortable with grades 7-12
- 7-10 then 11 & 12 (Penticton)
- This table okay with this. Would be helpful to have elective courses
- Grade 7 electives just like other students

- What happens to grade 6/7 split at elementary if the 7s move up
- Would it mean triple splits? Not good
- Grade 7s come from WBES, GES → high school
- Close MES/GES K-6 at WBES
- Pods system for grade 7s in secondary school, not so many teachers for the kids
- What happens if you close Midway – maintenance, heat, etc. still a cost
- Amalgamate Bridesville with Osoyoos, Greenwood with Grand Forks, Big White with Kelowna – close all?

TOPIC 4 – Community Use of School

- Could use for seniors as more seniors moving into our community
- Revenue from leased space
- Badminton/volleyball/courses taught at night
- If 7s come up will there be space for outside agencies? Agencies could go to elementary.
- Who is going to rent?
- This is more for Grand Forks

TOPIC 5 – All Day Kindergarten

- Kids are more ready for grade 1 after all day kindergarten
- Transportation is down
- Do we need kindergarten at all?
- Focus on core courses from start?
- Small one on one produces a stronger student
- Small community – makes students less able socially
- Not all students are ready for kindergarten
- Academics in morning, fun in afternoon
- All day kindergarten – four days a week
- Pre-kindergarten – would mean re-configuring Grand Forks elementary schools
- Agencies in schools
 - Academic morning by teachers
 - More fun aspects in afternoon taken over by outside agencies
- Would have to be all day for all
- Would provide salaries only for teachers

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TABLE 7

TOPIC 1 – Variety of Course Selection

- Problems with losing connectivity
- Technology concerns
- Common timetable/questioning
- Shared specialists (Drama/Chemistry, etc.)
- Does it save money (expenses, travel, etc.)
- Already share CYC, Ab Ed
- Virtual schools – more things to offer
- Our students are more adaptable to us
- Possible funding/District develop online programs
- Students that plan on remaining in the Boundary after high school will need to be comfortable with online-type learning. If you live in the Boundary this is a reality.

TOPIC 2 – Declining Enrolment

- Long way for primary students to travel (BES to WBES)
- GES most cost efficient
- No proof of saving money with school closure
- No money to be gained from sales. Using space more effective.
- Social issues with K-12
- 4-day school week was a draw for one family
- Promote 4-day week/family values/families coming
- Positive in any situation – depends on leadership and educators
- CLES closure – an option?

TOPIC 3 – GFSS Declining Enrolment

- Not fans of 7-12 configuration
- Could offer more courses
- 6/7/8 middle, 9-12 high school – possible
- Whole other can of worms – middle school? Change of what's happened?
- More options for intermediate
- Cost of re-structuring?
- Status quo → are we happy with what's going on?

TOPIC 4 – Community Use of School

- Safety an issue/privacy
- Who will use?
- Lock-off sections
- Bells at doors BES/MES
- Needs boundaries for schools
- Speech having own space
- Health authorities may be willing to lease space
- Cost sharing of a venue
- All buildings owned – School District #51
- Adult learning → Walker Centre. What about in West end?

- Selkirk College uses space in high school at West end
- Fire suppression
- Issues with sharing space

TOPIC 5 – All Day Kindergarten

- All day K – it's coming
- Parents from situation spoke favourably
- Solve day care issues
- Utilize space by expanding to sue 4 year olds
- Indian Affairs 'Head Start' programs
- Two full days for Ks in immediate savings

Other

- What are ramifications/cost of closing schools or ever re-configuring?
- Why purchase Fred Walker building? Couldn't it move to GFSS?
- Why have we increased admin when student population is decreasing?
- Has anyone thought of province-wide salary cuts from Education Minister down? Isn't it all about the kids? Don't they deserve the money?