

KITCHEN TABLE TALK FEEDBACK
SEPTEMBER 14, 2009 – WEST BOUNDARY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PUBLIC
TABLE 1

TOPIC 1 – Variety of Course Selection

- Extra help for students?
- Interested in exploring this option
- Video-conferencing is a skill needed later in life – teach it now
- Common timetable makes sense
- Interested in idea
- Itinerant teachers has worked before – look again
- Increase technology delivery might increase interest and more courses

TOPIC 2 – Declining Enrolment

- Dead against having small children gone that long – bus ride, all day K – problem for a 9-10 hour day
- Community link – school closed, community loses its only public facility – it is vital for other programs
- Midway/Greenwood – 15 minute bus is not a big deal
- Is Beaverdell costing the District \$\$
- Is Midway costing the District \$\$
- How much do these schools cost to run?
- K-12 – could work excluding Beaverdell

TOPIC 3 – GFSS Declining Enrolment

- Concerns about grade 7s being exposed to negative influences
- Negative effects on elementary schools?
- Rob Peter to pay Paul?

TOPIC 4 – Community Use of School

- Could be a benefit to kids in school
- What kind of revenue will be generated?
- Should the District compete against other business landlords?
 - We would undercut them for revenue?
- How many schools would really benefit? Especially out West
- Could we provide day care space in schools – paid by parents (especially after school) – Quigley Elementary in Kelowna

TOPIC 5 – All Day Kindergarten

- There should be a gradual transition from ½ day to whole day
- Could there be an option of ½ or whole day?

Summary

- Beaverdell must stay open
 - too hard on kids to go all the way to WBES
 - community needs building for other programs
- Students must have a variety of course options
 - technology is the ticket

- it is silly not to share specialists

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TABLE 4

TOPIC 1 – Variety of Course Selection

- Same pie, neighbours, robbing Peter to pay Paul

TOPIC 2 – Declining Enrolment

- Small school in remote areas

TOPIC 3 – GFSS Declining Enrolment

- Involve kids
- History 2/3 all day kindergarten
- 6:30 – 17:30 Beaverdell
- Throw ups, kids asleep, organize stuff
- Safety big issue
- Full load this year
- Bathroom, rest area, pull off too, never out of sight
- Beaverdell
 - more attention
 - parent participation
- Midway
 - school is heart of communities but
 - Midway not BCSS though
 - Very old building, only 10 minute bus ride, least of hurt of the two options
- K – 12
 - too broad
 - before BCSS in Midway, had this discussion, would be at Ingram Bridge
 - not a problem 100 in a School
 - Midway not central
 - why build a new one, use what you've got
 - not an option – mixed ages
- BCSS
 - bump up enrolment in high school – more options, more teachers
 - takes away from WBES
 - provide more for kids, better off can be
 - not really ready for trades (gr 7)
 - social issues
 - AB 7, 8, 9
 - not so tight at WBES this year
 - changes every year
 - teachers guide and direct
 - changing culture
 - little kids more play based
 - st starts bigger kids
 - little kids, ½ day, too tired
 - day care/child care
 - constraints, liability, certification
 - free up parents to work

- nursing in Midway
- taking away from schools
 - janitorial, clerical
- bus drivers 20% cut
- more families move
- everything we do has an effect elsewhere
- don't shop as much in town, etc.
- maybe something will change next year
- do things differently
- psychologist
- increasing number of special needs kids

TOPIC 4 – Community Use of School

- 1 psych. child/youth mental health
 - counselors
 - work with S.D. personnel
 - social workers – families that need extra support
 - youth probation – we have very few
- hurt Medical Society

TOPIC 5 – All Day Kindergarten

- very poor care
- why pay teachers to play with kids
- all day – Penticton – nap in middle
- young children and learning – learn best through play
- body of educators – more play based
- let a kid be a kid
- why are we letting government tell us to do things
- parents not reading to kids
- communities – supporting each other
- rural communities suffering so much from down turn
- we have the secret to work with communities
- ask kids – our kids speaking out about issues – grade 6,7 great ideas
- why are we supporting kids whose families aren't giving them sufficient care?

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TABLE 3

TOPIC 1 – Variety of Course Selection

- Excellent idea if teachers would go for it
- Not bad for students to do electronically to prepare for post secondary

TOPIC 2 – Declining Enrolment

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More one on one • School goes down, community business suffers • Midway and Greenwood yes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation time • Heart of community • Fluctuating population • Days long enough • Intermediate level okay

TOPIC 3 – GFSS Declining Enrolment

- Too much already in facilities
- Busing issue increase
- Pre k's to the mix
- BCSS 7 – 12
- Positive educationally – Shop/Home Ec
- Multi Grade – 7/8/9
- More option
- Keep students engaged
- What do we do with all of the buildings if we vacate?

TOPIC 4 – Community Use of School

- Should be mandated rental agreement

TOPIC 5 – All Day Kindergarten

- See how it works in other districts
- Don't make panic decisions
- Enrolment will come back – we may need these facilities
- Beaverdell stay open, it is the heart of the community
- Moving 7s to BCSS and offering more middle school courses – Shop/Home Ec

Summary

- If full day kindergarten happens, that is the time to have the 7 – 12
- Share specialist between schools
- Change to common timetable
- Same as S.D. #53, Bo says going to four-day week
- Topic 4 – no brainer mandate

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TABLE 2

TOPIC 1 – Variety of Course Selection

- School Board's ability to track home schoolers and demographics (so could increase) but assume it goes down (but we think go up) Regal Ridge growth, Carmi growth, more toddlers in town
- Schedule fair to both
- + course offerings
- - technology concerns
- is there much cost savings here? (mini bus – no (liability) teacher travel more likely)

TOPIC 2 – Declining Enrolment

- Beaverdell – whole community centres there (9 fte right there) – travel time a concern (passionate about not closing)
- K-12 (if – it should be here in Rock Creek) concerns though if kids mixed
- Choice issues and flexibility (can be good and bad)
- Big White concerns
- Okay with Midway/Greenwood for most part (no participants from that area though)
- Okay with grade 7s to BCSS

TOPIC 3 – GFSS Declining Enrolment

- GFSS declining quickest (concern with protecting them and services)
- Opinion about taking our services away – okay with BCSS grade 7 – 12 for now unless an issues (ie Beaverdell)
- Timetable concern
- Alter Trustee configuration
- Amalgamating with others

TOPIC 4 – Community Use of School

- Great with other agencies using schools (but with say) and safety issues addresses different hours and different entrances
 - preschool
 - seniors/adult courses
 - certification issue

TOPIC 5 – All Day Kindergarten

- How do people feel about all day kindergarten by 2010 (is optional)
- Want some flexibility
- + increased fte, less transport costs
- - child friendly, choice, up to parents

Notes

- Robbing Peter to pay Paul not solutions
- Involve kids in steps
 - Beaverdell passion
 - Timetable
 - Long bus rides

- Use technology better (distributed learning)
- Not much interest in K-12
- Full day kindergarten (need for more info and parent involvement)
- Wants Board to look at overhead and pressure to government to seek solutions

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TABLE 5

TOPIC 1 – Variety of Course Selection

- Is there a set number of students that we cut the course off at?
- From a financial point of view there needs to be a reality of what we can do.
- More questions about the continuing of a grade 11/12 class in sciences, math, etc. Ask science teachers if the classes can be combined.
- Offer up courses to adult learning

TOPIC 2 – Declining Enrolment

- Make home schoolers more accountable
- Why should Beaverdell and WBES merge when the geographic distances are greater than MES & GES?
- Why not pay a little more in transportation.
- Losing school will do huge damage to Beaverdell property values, etc. Home schooling will increase.
- Preschool and all day K will help to increase the number of students.
- Close Beaverdell and how do we send those ks to full day and long day bus rides?
- Should not be merging 7s with high school – too young!
- Why not go K-8 instead of 7s to high school and combine the two high schools?
- The older kids can deal with it.
- Kids would choose to go to Osoyoos or Kelowna.
- Send GFSS to BCSS instead of the other way around.

TOPIC 3 – GFSS Declining Enrolment

- If close a wing at GFSS, put 6 and 7 there then combine Hutton and Perley.
- How does it affect staff to move 7s to high school?
- Making them grow up too fast.
- Danger with closing schools, once they are closed, they are gone.

TOPIC 4 – Community Use of School

- Yes, consider renting space in high school and our other schools to keep them going.

TOPIC 5 – All Day Kindergarten

- Worked well in MES and GES to separate the schools.
- If Beaverdell is closed, how will those 5 year olds be supervised on the bus? How about pee breaks?
- Anxiety levels would be huge for those kids who are further from school.
- Kids are on the bus with all age groups.
- In favour of all-day K.
- Nit pick at home schoolers.
- Challenging grade configurations.
- Move the 8s down, don't force kids to grow up too quickly.
- Beaverdell would be decimated if school went.
- Consider the 5 year olds on long bus runs.
- Midway and Greenwood could be combined.