

## **Information Package**

### **Proposed Reconfiguration of Big White Community School**

#### **Consultation Process Timeline**

- Informational Meeting: February 7, 2022, at 6 pm via Zoom
- Written submissions from affected individuals received until Thursday, March 3, 2022
  - You can mail, email, or fax your response
  - Details will be shared at end of document
  - Phone discussions are not accepted
- First public meeting tentatively on Thursday, April 7, 2022, at 6 pm at BWCS
  - We recognize the importance of having this meeting in-person
  - We will be following SD 51s Communicable Disease Plan
  - This meeting is to discuss the proposed reconfiguration, share written submissions and listen to community concerns and proposed options
- All the above information will be on the district's website as well

#### **Background Information**

##### **Facility**

- Newest building in SD 51
  - built in 2005-06 with 6835 square feet usable space
- At first a K-12 school, but has been K – 8 since September 2011
- Currently has two classrooms and a library/workspace on main level
- Had a fire claim in December 2015 for approximately \$87,545
- Licensed pre-school operates in basement
- Wonderful outdoor area - students love to play outside
- Tennis courts with basketball hoop
- Community garden
- Great programs run at BWCS
  - outdoor education at its finest, annual entrepreneurship fair

## Staffing

- 2.75 teaching time allocated
  - 2 full-time classroom positions (K-2 and Gr 3-9)
  - 1 part-time (0.75) teacher who does prep and non-enrolling
- Non-enrolling Programs
- 0.25 Learning Support
  - 0.125 Literacy Support
  - 0.25 extra support since January to support complexity in school
- 0.25 principal
- 1 educational assistant
  - Also supervises at lunch

## Students

- Quite the difference in the enrolment from September and February.
- While some of these numbers are because of seasonal students (coming up to Big White for the season), we have also noticed a number of families/students at BWCS are not long-term
  - it is not unheard of for families to come for a year (as an adventure), but they don't stay.

- September 1, 2022, Enrolment

K	Gr 1	Gr 2	Gr 3	Gr 4	Gr 5	Gr 6	Gr 7	Gr 8	Gr 9	Total
4	6	4	8	2	3	5	0	2	1	35

- February 1, 2022, Enrolment

K	Gr 1	Gr 2	Gr 3	Gr 4	Gr 5	Gr 6	Gr 7	Gr 8	Gr 9	Total
3	7	7	9	5	2	5	1	2	1	42

- Seasonal students reflected in Feb count – 5 students (grade 1, grade 2, two grade 4's, grade 7)
  - Leave at Spring Break
- As with all SD 51 schools, a variety of students need extra support
  - Students with designations / Students without designation

## **Configuration Challenges**

A lot of great things are happening at Big White Community School; however, there have been some issues arising over the configuration of the school itself, and those are issues which must be addressed

- BWCS was a K-12 school for around 5 years – not many students were there from September to June
  - Mostly from ski season – very unpredictable and transitory
- The low number of students in grades 10 – 12 contributed to its reconfiguration.
  - Grades 10 – 12 are part of the graduation requirements, and the configuration made it difficult to ensure grad requirements were met.
- For the last 11 years, students in grade 8 and 9 have been a small number for the most part
  - Many students by this age have begun to migrate down to Kelowna
    - Attend middle schools – more choice in courses, more appropriate social interaction
  - As a result, very few students are in those grades, which makes it difficult to plan effectively for such a broad range of students

## **Student Learning**

- Challenges are greatest in intermediate classroom
  - Usually is Grade 4 – Grade 9 or ages 9 to 14
  - 6-year grade split
- Academic challenges:
  - Meeting all students' needs difficult
  - Cover curriculum (content and curricular competencies) in a way that is engaging and encourages deep learning
- Social-emotional challenges
  - Students in grades 8 and 9 and students in grades 4 and 5 do not have a lot in common
  - As I have already mentioned, many students have started to leave in grades 7 up because environment not meeting their needs

### Class make-up

- Large number of students in one/two grades, not small number over all grades
- Projected enrolment for September 2022

K	Gr 1	Gr 2	Gr 3	Gr 4	Gr 5	Gr 6	Gr 7	Gr 8	Gr 9	Total
2	3	6	6	9	3	2	5	0	2	38

- K to Grade 3 – 17 students
- Grade 4 to 7 – 19 students
  - Grade 4 and Grade 5 have most of the students

### Number of Students

- Number of students does not warrant third classroom
  - September 2021
    - K to Grade 2 - 14 students (maximum is 22)
    - Grade 3 to 5 - 13 students (maximum is 26)
    - Grade 6 to 9 - 8 students (maximum is 29)
  - February 2022 (including seasonal students)
    - K to Grade 2 - 17 students
    - Grade 3 to 5 - 16 students
    - Grade 6 to 9 - 9 students

### Implications

- Reconfiguration will come into effect for September 2022
- Students in grades 8 & 9 would enroll in distance learning course (not in SD 51)
- No change to staffing for 2022/23 year
  - 2 full time classroom positions
  - 0.50 part time position
    - Prep/Learning Support/Additional support (library, literacy)
  - 1 full time educational assistant
    - Continue with supervision
  - 0.25 principal

## **Financial**

- 95% of annual operating revenue is through grant from the Ministry of Education
  - Allocation of grant is largely based on student FTE and school configurations
  - No change to Supplement for Unique Student Needs or Supplement for Unique Geographic Factors
  - Small reduction in Enrolment-based Funding for reduction in grade 8 and 9 student enrolment
  - \$7,885 per FTE

## **Joint Committee**

- School District 51 will work on joint committee with other stakeholders to explore alternatives for students in grades 8 to 12
  - Families
  - Grade 8 – 12 students
  - Community members
  - Local government
  - Others?

## **Submission Process**

- Individuals affected by the proposed reconfiguration of BWCS may submit their concerns to School District 51 in three ways:
  - Mail: Box 640, Grand Forks, BC, V0H 1H0
  - Fax: 250 442 8800
  - Email: [info@sd51.bc.ca](mailto:info@sd51.bc.ca)
- Deadline is Thursday, March 3, 2022
- Full name and address must be on submissions
- Written responses may be referred to at subsequent public forums. Correspondents wishing to remain anonymous must specifically request anonymity in the written response.

## **Future Public Meeting**

- To discuss the proposed reconfiguration, summarize written submissions, and listen to community concerns and proposed options.
- Tentatively Thursday, April 7, 2022, at 6 pm at BWCS
- Trustees to make decision at Regular Board meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2022

**If you want an information package, or require additional information, please call the School Board Office at 250 442 8258**