

Information Meeting: Proposed Closure of Midway Elementary School

School District No. 51 (Boundary)

January 24, 2022

Agenda



INTRODUCTIONS



CONSULTATION
PROCESS / TIMELINE



PRESENTATION OF
INFORMATION



QUESTION PERIOD

Introductions

Trustees

- Rose Zitko, Chair
- Jaime Massey, Vice Chair
- Mark Danyluk
- Bronwen Bird
- Larisa van Marck
- Cindy Strukoff
- Katie Jepsen

Senior Management

- Anna Lautard, Superintendent of Schools
- Miranda Burdock, Secretary-Treasurer
- David Reid, Director of Operations

Consultation Process Timeline

Information Meeting: Monday, January 24, 2022

Presenting information to trustees and public

Information package reflective of tonight's presentation will be available

Written Submission Timeline

Deadline: Thursday, February 17, 2022

For those individuals affected by proposed closure

Mail, fax, or email


Phone discussions not accepted

Public Meeting(s)

Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 6 pm in Midway

Tentatively - Thursday, March 3 or 10, 2022, if needed

To discuss the proposed closure, share written submissions and listen to community concerns and proposed options



Midway Elementary School

Facility

- Built in 1948
 - Originally had 3 classrooms and went up to Grade 10
- Enlarged and renovated in 1978
 - Gym and library added
- Variety of configurations over the years
 - Has been K– 3 for at least the past 12 years
- Currently 2 classrooms, with a library and a gym, as well as a StrongStart Outreach program

Educational Staff

- 2.625 teaching time allocated
 - 2 full-time classroom positions
 - 1 part-time (0.625) for prep, Library, Literacy Support and release time for non-enrolling
 - Also works at Greenwood Elementary (0.375)
- Non-enrolling Programs
 - 0.25 Learning Support for students who need additional support
 - 0.125 Library
 - 0.17 Literacy Support
- 0.25 principal who also teaches prep at MES
 - 0.25 principal, prep teacher at Greenwood Elementary
 - 0.25 district responsibilities for west end of district

Support Staff

- 2 educational assistants
- 0.50 clerical (works out of Greenwood)
- 0.50 Indigenous Culture and Student Success Facilitator – also 0.50 at Greenwood Elementary
- 0.25 Child and Youth Care Worker - also at Greenwood, West Boundary and Beaverdell
- 0.25 StrongStart Facilitator – also at Greenwood, West Boundary & Beaverdell StrongStart Centres
- 1 supervisor (should have 2 supervisors)
- Custodian for 5 hours a day
- Also have itinerant staff who support students
 - Speech language pathologists, Applied Behaviour Analyst, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy⁸

Students

- 31 students
 - 15 students in K/1
 - 16 students in Grade 2/3
- 29% (9 of 31) of students are from Midway
- 71% (22 of 31) of students are from Greenwood
- 36% self-declare Indigenous ancestry
- Across SD 51, students have significant needs that we need to meet, and MES is no different
 - Support needed for learning and behavioural challenges



Challenges

Staffing / Student Learning

- Attracting qualified specialist teachers difficult when position divided between 2 schools
 - Learning Support Teacher must be qualified to give Level B assessments
 - Librarian and Literacy Support positions
- Student support fragmented for students at Midway Elementary and Greenwood Elementary
 - 1 day a week from Child and Youth Care Worker
 - 2 days a week from Indigenous Culture and Student Success Facilitator
- Principal who travels between schools
 - When at one school, cannot physically support other school – students and staff
 - Valuable time is lost on travel – sometimes multiple times in a day
 - Difficulty offering intramurals or coaching because of travel between schools

Staffing / Student Learning cont.

- If staff absent with no replacement, domino effect for both schools
 - Principal must cover so unable to do prep or other components of job
 - Takes away time from other students, not able to give full attention
- Additional supervision during unstructured times
 - If supervisor unable to work, falls on principal or other staff to cover
 - Takes time out of classroom if educational assistant covers
 - Principal again can be pulled from other school
- Logistics around supplies that are shared between 2 schools
 - Not easily available for staff who need something for their teaching

Facility


- Age and condition of building is a challenge
- In 2018, SD 51 completed a provincial architectural review that is used to calculate the facility condition index (FCI) comparing the maintenance, repair and replacement deficiencies of the facility with its replacement value.
- MES is rated as “very poor”
 - Roofing assessment in 2020
 - Needs replacement and insulation added: \$400 000
 - Has priority 3 asbestos removal assessment
 - Any project requires pre-inventory assessment and abatement (project audit)
- However, MES is not the only school that has a low rating

FCI Rating Index Facilities Only

- Excellent – Under 0.05
- Good: 0.05 – 0.15
- Average – 0.15 – 0.30
- Poor – 0.30 – 0.60
- Very Poor – 0.60 and above

SD 51 Facilities	
School Board Office – Midway	0.85
Bus Garage – Grand Forks	0.80
Boundary Central Secondary – Main	0.73
Perley Elementary – Main	0.70
Midway Elementary	0.69
West Boundary Elementary	0.69
Beaverdell Elementary	0.66
Glanville Centre	0.63
Grand Forks Secondary	0.62
Bus Garage – Midway	0.61

SD 51 Facilities	
Technology Building	0.57
Hutton Elementary	0.55
Boundary Central – Industrial/Arts	0.55
Greenwood Elementary	0.52
Board Office – Grand Forks	0.45
Christina Lake Elementary	0.42
Hutton Hideaway	0.36
Perley Indigenous Education	0.36
Big White Community School	0.21



Implications of Proposed Closure

If Midway Elementary closed:

- Date: June 30, 2022
- Students in Midway would be bused to Greenwood Elementary School (K to 7)
- No change to staffing for 2022/23 year - MES educational staff will transition to Greenwood
 - 4 divisions
 - 5 full-time Teachers (Learning Assistance, Library, prep)
 - 4 full-time Educational Assistants
 - 1 full-time Indigenous Culture and Student Success Facilitator
 - 1 half-time Child and Youth Care Worker
 - 0.50 Principal who still teaches .25 prep and has .25 district responsibilities (but at GES nearly full-time)
 - 1 full-time clerical
 - Custodial to be determined

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 Enrolment-based Funding or Supplement for Unique Student Needs
 - Projected impact to Supplement for Unique Geographic Factors as follows:

	MES K-3, GES 4-7	GES K to 7	Difference
Small Community Supplement	2,560,868	2,339,451	-221,417
Low Enrolment Factor	1,665,625	1,665,625	0
Rural Factor	194,330	194,330	0
Climate Factor	107,893	107,893	0
Sparseness Factor	67,710	62,243	-5,467
Student Location Factor	919,657	913,726	-5,931
Supplemental Student Location Factor	91,000	91,000	0
Total	5,607,083	5,374,268	-232,815

Potential Savings

- Maintenance (facilities and grounds)
 - No reduction in staffing, staff re-deployed
 - Supplies/equipment (custodial)
- Utilities
- Insurance
- Mileage
- Not doubling up on educational resources
 - Library, gym equipment, science equipment, technology (iPads, photocopier), PA systems

Busing

- Tentatively
 - Pick up at Midway Elementary at 8 am with school starting at 8:35
 - School day ends at 3:12 with drop off at Midway Elementary around 4:15 pm

Renovations

- Minor renovations to change Greenwood Elementary back to K-7 school
 - Can be completed Summer 2022

StrongStart

- No plans for the Outreach program in Midway at this time, but hours for facilitator will be maintained in some capacity in the west end of the district

Possible Uses of MES

- Nothing definitive
- Possible to have agreement with other stakeholder groups to lease part of building
 - Grants available for capital projects so district not bearing cost of renovations
 - Lease agreements to cover costs and/or generate revenue
- Ministry of Education will soon have childcare portfolio
 - District may work with non-profit groups to provide childcare or preschool, or it may decide to apply for a license
 - **Cannot be for profit**
 - Focus on quality programming which would need qualified early childhood educator
 - Would have to align with SD 51 vision and mission
- District is open to discussion

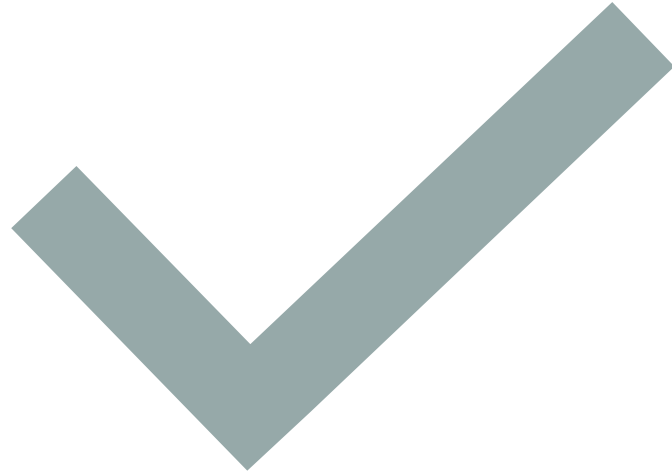
Submission Process

- Individuals affected by the proposed closure of Midway Elementary 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
- Deadline is Thursday, February 17, 2022
- Full name and address must be on submissions
- Written responses may be referred to at subsequent public forums respecting the closure, unless the correspondent specifically states in the written response that they wish to remain anonymous.

Future Meetings

- To discuss the proposed closure, summarize written submissions, and listen to community concerns and proposed options.
- 6 pm on Thursday, February 24, 2022, in Midway
- If necessary, 6 pm on Thursday, March 3 or March 10, 2022
- Trustees to make decision at Regular Board meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 2022

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



QUESTION PERIOD