

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY
AGENDA
Held at West Sechelt Elementary School
October 15, 2009
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Review: K-3 4-7 K-6 K-7 7-9 7-12
Options in school groups

Round Table: Personal comments about the situation and your
recommendations.

K-3 = 124
4-7 = 153

ASSUMPTIONS

K-7 = 277

K-3 = ½ of that approx.

You'd have money for your half.

Extra Cost:

Principal

Secretary (Admin. Asst.)

So we would get ½ of everything or portion.

Possibility of having 2 separate sites.

Solution of course

2 buildings on same site.

2 Administrators.

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COMMENTS: Summary Comments for each configuration.

Sechelt Group K-3	Both ways – same site at Sechelt 4 – 7 at different site Negatives in funding was reduced by the assumption is ½ of the scenario – we presented-----split the resources.
West Sechelt Group 4-7 Added comments	K-3 and on. Same site. No different than now. Concern about needs Separate communities may be times when they come together. Is that a new set of problems? Buddies Activities together Combining in a purposeful way School pride – what about two groups of staffs
KES Group 4-7	Similar challenges Concerned about budget. No different than what we are now – no gain. Smaller classes at inter level.
WS Group K-6	K-6 Assumption is 3 schools. Transporting students. This is what you'll have if you make the change. Bringing everyone together – good byes. Planning and PR What about impact to WS – Building capacity. Close computer lab Funding issue Bigger school – more choice Might remove the cross boundary issue Perception of uncertainty causes Positive presentation opportunities
DB Group	K-7 Bringing in 3 schools Lots of interaction anyways Foster new friendships Staffing might change a bit Have a VP to bring everyone together Increase initially – reduce over time Vulnerable – increase staffing initially

	<p>Phase in – bring 2 first and the 3rd school last Bring in traditions New name of a school – new identity Have a neighbourhood Central location SD 93 to KES SD#46 Lease – familiar building Central – close to Sechelt nation Older people gone tot the School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) Monetary Upgrading @ SES Repeat it from KES Location – incredible. Bike trails, golf, tennis, arena Not now in a neighbourood Appealing in Sechlet Aboriginal population Physical plant – bus duty Supervision area – who comes on the field Neighbourhood’s of Learning K is part of families 8 x’s a day</p>
Second Option	7-9 / 7 – 12
WS Group	<p>7 with 12’s Grade 12 assigned to grade 8 Similar plan to greet them School within a school or lose elective options</p>
DB Group	<p>Grade 7 with Grade 12’s They do step up. Been there – K’s with 12 CSS not designed for 7 – 12 Work on the tone Timetabling becomes an issue – well versed in middle school philosophy 2 bell systems 650 – foods room is packed, another 100 – specialty rooms are limited – labs 25 Gr. 7’s would help with the tone Transition for one year 3-4 months in advance</p>
Student	Good idea – friends – prepare for high school
Student	<p>Taking away from CSS (if 7-9 was separate from 10-12) What about other schools, HMB and RC? (if 7-12)</p>

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COMMENTS: Closing comments and recommendations.

PAC	K – 7 smartest route. Stays with what kids are most familiar with.
Staff	I'll do the best I can do.
CUPE	Get on with it.
Student	No comment.
Admin	We've been able to step out and talk about what's best for kids Live well for and with others. Every faith that everyone will wrap our hearts and minds around the plan.
Staff	Do what's best and we will work with it.
Staff	What's best for kids K - 7 recognize kids will change – our job is to educate them.
PAC	K-7 extra curricular only way to go – do something now. Can't have 1 school subsidizing the others.
Staff	Don't believe in good old days. I buy green bananas. We're up to the challenge. Make it smooth.
Student	No comment.
Admin	K-3 4-7 soft spot for this kind of grouping. K-7 is the way to go. No school in the heart of the community if not in Sechelt.
Community	K-7 option in Sechelt. Educating the public. See this as the best idea. Public info meetings. Consultation before decision is made. Have us available so people can ask us questions. Creative advertising. Make it plain. What could we have.
Student	K-7 is the way to do it. Educate the public not win them over.
PAC	K-7 way to go. Hardest thing is to sell it. Dream world new K-7 facility
Community	PR properly. K-7 in light of what we've seen. Overwhelming support for K-7. Recommendations that make Sechelt viable, KES viable, DB doesn't make sense. Get on with it. Deal with it and move.
Trustee	Thanks everyone for coming out – appreciate clear on comments. Make a decision what as in “move ahead”. It's a lot easier to me now.
	Make a Recommendation
Admin	Not an easy task – impressed with people around the table. Opportunity for the board to make decision other than status quo. More services to students has to be what it's about.
Support	Worked in a Middle School. Wanted Davis Bay – want what's best for kids. Trust and faith – Not expertise in this area. Cautious about expertise.

Staff	Grey zone – keep teachers employed and in a school that is diverse. I'll support what keeps teachers employed.
Admin	Change is hard. We'd benefit from elementary teacher experience. Comfort in K-7 because it's the norm. 7-9 at KES K-7 okay, we'd benefit from 7-12 – this is how they don't fall through the cracks.
SCTA	It's been great listening to the kids. Spoke at Executive about this conversation – no recommendation.
CUPE	Whatever decision will affect the support staff – recognize something has to change – every confidence that all will work together. Maximize hours.
Admin	Passion – No status quo – not good for kids. K-3, 4-7 – change and excitement. Board makes the choice.
Student	No comment.
	Round table feed back ended. Some additional comments:
Community Member	Proper Public Relations. PR presented to the public efficiently. Get all information out. Put information on the internet. Decide amongst yourself. (Board) Timeline – Manage information and make people comfortable. Moving forward, no more waiting. Same message from everyone Let the public know that there was representation at all levels. Use the questions and what we looked at – use the format we used on the website. End the middle school concept with regards to a building change. Time the letter to the editor. (Christine offered to write it.) Thanks to Dave
SCTA	Make it happen sooner than later. KES staff has been moved already.

**STARTING DOCUMENT FOR
LAST MEETING**

K - 3

POSITIVES	NEGATIVES	SOLUTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greater emphasis on early learning.• Smaller numbers• Specialized environment (with intro of three and four year olds).• Younger students more protected from older influences.• Childcare programs more likely.• Possible proximity to community links. (Seniors, pool, library)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Older role models/a negative for older students as well.• Families with two schools.• Another transition.• Money• Possible proximity to secondary/mall.• Money for staffing.• Not enough students to support systems required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two buildings on the same site.• One principal• One vice-principal

POSITIVES	CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intramurals • Platoon into different instructional groupings. • Good team sports • More efficiencies in resources • More friends of own age. • Potential for better budget based on larger class sizes and not subsidizing small primary classes. • Potential for specialists • Opportunity to focus on needs of this age group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siblings at different schools/ could be three if some in high school. • Pickup/drop off at two schools. • Primary students lose role models. • May lose family feel – older children caring for younger. • May lose innocence with no primary. • Loss of cohesive school community. • Loss of ability to be role models. 	<p>Two schools. ?</p> <p>Same site.</p> <p>Share</p>

K - 6

POSITIVES	CONCERNS/CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No grade seven's (often ready to go by April).• Tone• Good opportunity and operating budget.• Stability in population and staff• Opportunity for specialization.• Choice of friends and creativity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drop numbers in Elementary.• Need to transport large numbers in.• Developing community.	

K - 7 OPTION

POSITIVES	CHALLENGES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People you know around you.• Leadership opportunities.• Common campus.• More services potentially available.• Citizenship opportunities.• Siblings stay together.• Tried and true model.• Potential larger volunteer pool.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Might not know everyone but have a group of friends.• Challenging role for administrators.• Possibilities of vulnerable students slipping through the cracks.• Could expand beyond building limits.• Territorial ? - needs transition.• More staffing to provide full supports to all learners.• Neighbourhood School• Heterogeneity - range of people• Role of elders (seniors, aboriginal elders and older students).	

7 - 9 / 7 - 12

POSITIVES	CHALLENGES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Middle School Philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two schools in one building• Grade 7 with grade 12s• Concern re middle school.• Dilutions of services including few electives at secondary if move to middle.	

4 - 7

POSITIVES	CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intramurals • Platooning • Homogeneous grouping • Separate gender activities • Good team sports • More resources • More friends • Budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of connections • Money • Number of Students • Contractual issues • Contractual issues • Money • Number of students • Not clear how – this is only about 137 students • Is it bigger? • Special Ed. • 30 to large 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A combination of all • Smaller class size • More staff

4 - 7

POSITIVES	CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential specialists• Age group needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contractual issues You might only have one• Siblings at different schools Pick up / drop off• Primary lose role models• Older children caring for younger	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You would need at least 400 students• 2 schools on same property• 2 schools within a school• All age groups are models• Keep them together. (Necessary for many of our families)

K - 6

Good P.R./ Positive Presentation

POSITIVES	CONCERNS/CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No grade seven's (often ready to go by April) • Tone • Good opportunity and operating budget. • Stability in population and staff • Opportunity for specialization • Choice of friends and creativity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drop numbers in Elementary • Need to transport large numbers in. • Developing community With a larger area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting 3 schools together - good P.R. • People's perceptions • Keep kids positively involved • Bring in traditions • Intentionally build community • Larger catchment area means fluctuation per year • Opportunities for clubs, special interests.

K – 7 OPTION

POSITIVES	CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People you know around you • Leadership opportunities • Common campus. • More services potentially available. • Citizenship opportunities • Siblings stay together • Tried and true model • Potential larger volunteer pool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Might not know everyone but have a group of friends • Challenging role for administrators • Possibilities of vulnerable students slipping through the cracks. • Could expand beyond building limits. • Territorial - needs transition • More staffing to provide full supports to all learners. • Neighbourhood School • Heterogeneity – range of people • Role of elders (seniors, aboriginal elders and older students) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports, social events, clubs, intramurals, peer tutoring, buddies, house teams • V.P., Counsellors, full time • More support • Higher teacher: student ratios • Familiar teachers • Carefully monitor demographic Don't lose excess capacity • Bring teachers and staff from each school. Phase in transition • Supervisors on buses • Rename school • Have it in a place where one of kids can walk to school (centralized location) • Strengths • Centralized so do not have to travel so far. In a familiar area

7 - 9 / 10 - 12

POSITIVES	CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Middle School Philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two schools in one building• Grade 7 with grade 12s• Concern re middle school• Dilutions of services including few electives at secondary if move to middle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School within a school• Different schedules• Peer mentors all year.• Good PR/ positive presentation • Keep them on same campus