

# Long Range FACILITIES PLANNING

School District No. 8

Public Consultation

Consideration of School Closure:

Jewett Elementary Re-location K-3/4-5

June 20, 2016



# Work Done Since May 3

- Staff to staff meetings:
  - SD8 Staff and Lardeau Valley Hall Society/Association
- Trustee meetings:
  - Consultation meeting in each community with consideration of closure
  - Consultation meeting with all municipal, local government and Lower Kootenay Band
  - Appraisal of Jewett Elementary: pending

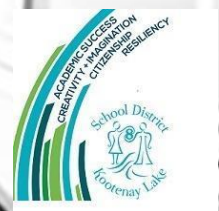


# Impact of Scenario - Overall

- Jewett has a capacity utilization of 15%, 81 empty seats and enrolment of 14 students
- Some families currently choose to take their children to JV Humphries for elementary school
- Permanent structure is important, portable is not desired
- Early learning is an important consideration in the scenario

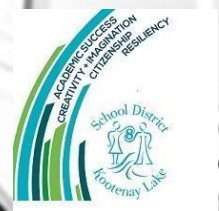
# Impact of Scenario - Educational

- Provides Jewett Gr 4-6 students with larger cohorts at JV Humphries and a greater range of intermediate opportunities and access to instructional and specialty staff
- **Maintains K-3 public education program in community**
- The community hall site is in close proximity to school's existing location
- Strong Start to be considered as part of re-location of K-3 and 4-5.



# Impact of Scenario - Financial

- Maintains small community supplement by keeping elementary students in the community
- Good partnership opportunity for community entity maintaining its own building; may contribute rental or capital injections from SD8 to Lardeau Valley Community Hall
- Operating Savings: \$47,000 annually (on-going)
- Initial Capital Outlay: \$Pending (formerly \$150,000) (one-time)
- Elimination of Future Deferred Maintenance: \$951,000 (one-time)



# Impact of Scenario - Operational

- Requires addition of space in the form of a portable or addition of permanent structure as well as other infrastructure such as fencing, bathrooms etc
- The community hall is in close proximity to school's existing location
- Move playground equipment from Jewett to Hall for age appropriateness
- Shares property with public places: municipal campground and community hall, commercial kitchen

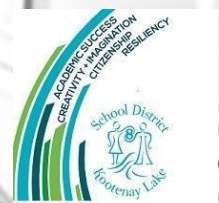
# Impact of Scenario – Operational

- Utilization changes from 15% to optimal (75-90%) if inventory/size of educational space is right-sized.



# FAQ – Strong Start

- Does Strong Start enrolment count toward capacity utilization?
  - No
- Jewett Strong Start has 20-25 registrants attending on a regular basis and enrolment is growing – has this been considered?
  - If we take the current enrolment of 14 and add 20 students capacity utilization increases to 37% which, even though improved, may not be sustainable
- Is the Strong Start being considered in the scenario?
  - SD8 staff is currently exploring space for office, classroom, bathrooms and strong start spaces.





# FAQ – Distance from JVH

- JVH is far away from Jewett on a bad road. The road is often closed due to winter conditions. Has this been considered?
  - JVH uses a “Buddy System” where each Meadow Creek student has an emergency contact in Kaslo. The “buddy” family in Kaslo has permission to house students overnight in case of a road closure.

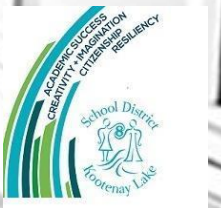
# FAQ – Deferred Maintenance

- In reviewing the deferred maintenance / “requirements” list, it seems like lots of the items don’t really need doing – why are they on the list?
  - The list was prepared by VFA using architects and engineers. There may be disagreement about the priority or the value of the work to be done, however certified professionals have given their opinion on the facility. It is also consistent across the district as the same auditors audited all SD8 facilities at the same time.
  - This is a common concern about the ‘data’ in the facilities plan
  - However, whether the total deferred maintenance for SD8 is \$83 m, \$60m, or even half \$40m, with only \$1.3m in annual facility grants, it is easy to demonstrate the looming capital costs the district faces



# FAQ – Portable

- We don't want a portable – are there other options?
  - The potential of an addition to the hall could be explored, rather than a temporary structure.



# FAQ – Increased Usage

- Could we start a Homelinks program?
  - Currently there are 4 homeschool students registered at JVH and 0 at Jewett. District staff question where students would be drawn from given the small number of homeschooling students in the area.
- Can other partners rent space at Jewett?
  - Yes potential partners are welcome to come forward to discuss tenancy. However, our tenants to date do not contribute to our capital needs



# FAQ – Working Group’s Submission

- We put in a proposal to increase capacity and revenue in the Jewett School – has it been considered?
  - The proposal put forward was well thought out and proposes some good ideas for ‘filling’ the building
  - However, increased operating revenue from tenancy rarely compensates districts for capital or deferred maintenance costs
  - Currently SD8 does not factor capital amortization into rental revenue
  - In most cases charging tenants operating and capital rent would be too expensive for the renter



# FAQ – What Does Three Readings of a By-Law Mean?

- By-laws are used for the most very important decisions a board will make: budget, school closure
- Legislated
- 3 readings of any by-law are required
- Can't have all 3 readings at one time
- Intended to have separation between readings in order to leave time for sober second thought and final gathering of information before final decision



# Closure Framework Should a School Close

- Decommissioning Schools After School Closure
- If a decision has been made to close a school, the physical plant must be decommissioned and students, staff, resources and equipment transitioned to new sites. The following is a DRAFT framework for the closing of a school and transitioning to a new site. Framework is expected to be customized for each school and timeline:



# In Preparation for Closure

- Arrange transition visits, if possible, for students and staff from closing schools to visit receiving schools; and joint PAC meetings
- School that is closing and school to where students are redirected prepare a transition plan for students
  - Opportunities for students from school that is closing to visit and interact with students from the school where they are being redirected
  - Opportunities for staff from closing school to meet with staff at school where students are being redirected to speak to the learning needs of students being transitioned
- Closing school to host/hold celebratory event





# Last Day of Closing School to First Day of Receiving School (during summer)

- Invite to make requests for resources, in the following order:
  - Receiving school (Team: P or VP, PAC Chair and IT Rep for receiving school tech needs)
  - Schools in the family of schools
  - All remaining schools in the district
- District staff consider requests and allocate inventory; operations crew to move
- Move remaining resources to a district storage facility for future use or auction
- Re-key locks so that only one door is accessible to senior leadership as required



# Next Steps

- June 15-July 5: Board continues to gather information
- July 5: First and Second Reading of School Closure By-Law
- July 12: Third Reading of School Closure By-Law

# Next Steps Cont.

## If 3<sup>rd</sup> Bylaw Reading Passes

- July 12, 2016 to May 31, 2017: Negotiations with community partners
- If negotiations are successful, implementation begins (May – August 2017)
- If negotiations are not successful, board considers further options

## If 3<sup>rd</sup> Bylaw Reading Fails

- Status quo

**Thank you**

