

The Board of Education of School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake)
Regular Meeting
December 10, 2019
Item 10C – Facilities Plan Reconfigurations
Slocan Valley Family of Schools - Discussion & Proposed Resolutions
UPDATED

Please also refer to proposed Long-Range Facilities Plan

SLOCAN VALLEY FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

DISCUSSION:

Area of Focus: There is currently an excess of capacity in the Slocan Valley, but only at Mount Sentinel and WE Graham. Brent Kennedy is at capacity. Winlaw is well over-capacity and is expected to remain so.

The following table shows the utilization at Winlaw Elementary under a status quo configuration scenario versus other scenarios with fewer grades:

Winlaw Elementary	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Operating Capacity	86.7	86.7	86.7	86.7	86.7	86.7	86.7	86.7	86.7
Grades K-6* (Status Quo)	103	106	103	111	111	107	103	105	105
<i>Capacity Utilization</i>	<i>119%</i>	<i>122%</i>	<i>119%</i>	<i>128%</i>	<i>128%</i>	<i>123%</i>	<i>119%</i>	<i>121%</i>	<i>121%</i>
Grades K-5	86	85	96	85	84	84	90	88	88
<i>Capacity Utilization</i>	<i>99%</i>	<i>98%</i>	<i>111%</i>	<i>98%</i>	<i>97%</i>	<i>97%</i>	<i>104%</i>	<i>101%</i>	<i>101%</i>
Grades K-4**	68	78	78	69	65	71	75	73	73
<i>Capacity Utilization</i>	<i>78%</i>	<i>90%</i>	<i>90%</i>	<i>80%</i>	<i>75%</i>	<i>82%</i>	<i>87%</i>	<i>84%</i>	<i>84%</i>
Grades K-3***	65	60	62	50	52	56	60	58	58
<i>Capacity Utilization</i>	<i>75%</i>	<i>69%</i>	<i>72%</i>	<i>58%</i>	<i>60%</i>	<i>65%</i>	<i>69%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>67%</i>

* The capacity utilization under the status quo Grades K-6 scenario at Winlaw Elementary is expected to become even more pressured.

**The Grade K-4 scenario is the optimal configuration to provide core educational services, in a Learning Environment in-line with high District standards.

***The K-3 configuration scenario would allow for excess capacity for other ancillary/complementary educational services, such as Strong Start, Early Learning Hub, etc.

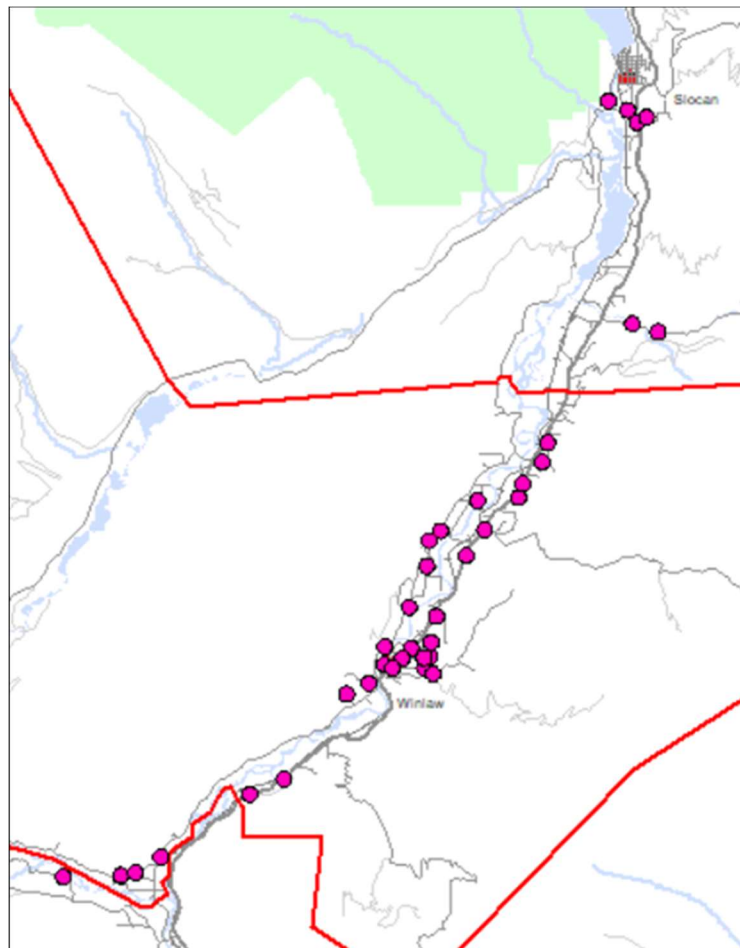
Transportation/Proximity Considerations:

- (1) Direction of School. If Winlaw was configured for fewer grades, where some Winlaw students would go to other Slokan Valley schools and parents/students are given the choice of attending WE Graham or Brent Kennedy, the issue of direction of family of travel is mitigated.
- (2) The following table below shows bussing distances between Slokan Valley schools:

Route	From	To	Duration
29 AM (Eagle)	7:34 AM – Winlaw	8:08 AM - BK	34 mins
29 PM (Eagle)	3:10 PM – BK	3:48 PM - Winlaw	38 mins
30 AM (Lizard)	7:30 AM - WEG	8:18 AM - MSS	48 mins
30 PM (Lizard)	3:20 PM - MSS	4:12 PM - WEG	52 mins
30 AM (Lizard)	7:50 AM - Winlaw	8:15 AM - BK	25 mins
30 PM (Lizard)	3:15 PM – BK	3:46 PM - Winlaw	31 mins
31 AM (Frog)	7:58 AM - Winlaw	8:25 PM - WEG	27 mins
31 PM (Frog)	3:05 PM - WEG	3:43 PM - Winlaw	38 mins

The actual time the average current Winlaw students would spend on a bus to either will be shorter than above. For example, the map below shows where current Grade 4 and 5 Winlaw students reside. Many current Winlaw students live closer to Brent Kennedy or WE Graham than to Winlaw.

2019-2020 Winlaw Grade 4 & 5 Student Location



Facilities Considerations:

- (1) Expansion of capacity at Winlaw. While there is capacity within our schools, the Board of Education has no intention of expansion. There is no additional funding available for modular buildings, and the Ministry of Education does not support the purchase of portables, while there is excess capacity available. Recent statements from Rob Fleming, Minister of Education, have stated:
 - a. “Students deserve to go to school in the best learning environments possible.”
 - b. Its better “to give students more places to learn, play and grow under our new curriculum, rather than spending their days in portables.”
 - c. “All students deserve to learn in safe and inspiring schools that give them the best chance to succeed.”

General Educational Considerations:

- (1) Configuration. In our “study of studies” about configurations there are no straightforward conclusions as to what is the best grade configuration. The middle school approach has a lot of theoretical support. The benefits of having middle school may be to some extent offset by the additional transition (see below). That said, a conclusion we can draw is that we should focus on how to provide the best learning environments, i.e. where we have capacity, rather than pushing for any specific configuration model.
- (2) Transitions. Research suggests that each school transition is a time of significant vulnerability for students, with the potential to impact academic, emotional and interpersonal student functions negatively. That said, transitions are an opportunity for positive change and the building of perseverance, resiliency and grit. Careful planning by staff to help students with transitions fosters a positive experience and ensures that all students reap the benefits of their new school.

Winlaw and WE Graham Specific Educational Considerations:

- (1) Parent choice provided as to WE Graham or Brent Kennedy
- (2) Current general impacts of overcapacity at Winlaw:
 - a. Congestion and state of school leads to dysregulated students
 - b. Cluttered space can lead to cluttered minds
- (3) Inadequate space for:
 - a. Speech Language Pathology Therapy
 - b. Art Therapy
 - c. To help children regulate
 - d. Diverse students, including those with complex behavioral challenges
 - e. Perform assessments
 - f. Meeting with parents
 - g. Meeting with other agencies
 - h. Staff implementing simple systems for executive functioning
- (4) Setting a poor example at Winlaw for organization of space.
- (5) WE Graham has excellent learning environments in close proximity to Winlaw.
- (6) Larger grade cohorts (currently split between three schools).

SLOCAN VALLEY FAMILY OF SCHOOLS PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

Option 1. Slocan Valley Family of Schools Configuration

Proposed grades configurations:

- Beginning for 2020-2021 School Year:
 - Brent Kennedy – K to Grade 6
 - Mount Sentinel Grades 7 to 12
 - WE Graham – Grades K-9 + VWP Grades 9-10
 - Winlaw – **K to Grade 4**

Proposed Resolution:

THAT the proposed grade reconfigurations in the Slocan Valley Family of Schools **BE APPROVED.**

Option 2. Slocan Valley Family of Schools Configuration

Proposed grades configurations:

- Beginning for 2020-2021 School Year:
 - Brent Kennedy – K to Grade 6
 - Mount Sentinel Grades 7 to 12
 - WE Graham – Grades K-9 + VWP Grades 9-10
 - Winlaw – **K to Grade 3**

Proposed Resolution:

THAT the proposed grade reconfigurations in the Slocan Valley Family of Schools **BE APPROVED.**

Option 3. Slocan Valley Family of Schools Configuration

Proposed grades configurations:

- Beginning for 2020-2021 School Year:
 - Brent Kennedy – K to Grade 6
 - Mount Sentinel Grades 7 to 12
 - WE Graham – Grades K-9 + VWP Grades 9-10
 - Winlaw – **K to Grade 5**

Proposed Resolution:

THAT the proposed grade reconfigurations in the Slocan Valley Family of Schools **BE APPROVED.**

Option 4. Slocan Valley Family of Schools Configuration

Proposed grades configurations:

- Beginning for 2020-2021 School Year:
 - Brent Kennedy – **K to Grade 5**
 - Mount Sentinel – **Grades 6 to 12**
 - WE Graham – Grades K-8 + VWP Grades 9-10
 - Winlaw – **K to Grade 5**

Proposed Resolution:

THAT the proposed grade reconfigurations in the Slocan Valley Family of Schools **BE APPROVED**.