

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

Please also refer to proposed Long-Range Facilities Plan

NELSON FAMILY OF SCHOOLS
DISCUSSION:

Area of Focus: There is currently adequate but tight capacity within the Nelson Family of Schools, at approximately 90% utilization of operating capacity for 2019-2020, and utilization within the Family of Schools is predicted to grow steadily to 96% within four years. Under a status quo Grade 9-12 scenario, the utilization at LV Rogers is expected to increase well over its capacity. This status quo scenario is compared with a Grade 10-12 alternative scenario in the following table:

LV Rogers	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Operating Capacity*	725	725	725	725	725	725	725	725	725
Grades 9 - 12	741	779	798	825	878	875	875	864	881
<i>Capacity Utilization</i>	<i>102%</i>	<i>107%</i>	<i>110%</i>	<i>114%</i>	<i>121%</i>	<i>121%</i>	<i>121%</i>	<i>119%</i>	<i>122%</i>
Grade 10-12	590	628	647	674	727	724	724	713	730
<i>Capacity Utilization</i>	<i>81%</i>	<i>87%</i>	<i>89%</i>	<i>93%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>98%</i>	<i>101%</i>
Operating Capacity**	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	700
Grades 9 - 12	741	779	798	825	878	875	875	864	881
<i>Capacity Utilization</i>	<i>106%</i>	<i>111%</i>	<i>114%</i>	<i>118%</i>	<i>125%</i>	<i>125%</i>	<i>125%</i>	<i>123%</i>	<i>126%</i>
Grade 10-12	590	628	647	674	727	724	724	713	730
<i>Capacity Utilization</i>	<i>84%</i>	<i>90%</i>	<i>92%</i>	<i>96%</i>	<i>104%</i>	<i>103%</i>	<i>103%</i>	<i>102%</i>	<i>104%</i>
Intake of Grade 9s***	151	200	210	204	209	196	211	193	225

* LV Rogers' official operating capacity is 725 students.

**The operating capacity of 725 is unreduced for usage of space by Elev8 (SD8's distributed learning and distance education program) and the French School District (CSF93). An operating capacity of 700 to account for the classroom used by Elev8 more accurately reflects the space available for LVR's programming. Thus, LVR's utilization is currently actually 106% and will increase to 125% in four years.

***These are the number of Grade 9s that are projected to attend LV Rogers, but which could instead attend Trafalgar in the proposed reconfiguration scenario.

The table on the following page shows for Trafalgar the status quo Grade 6-8 scenario versus the alternative Grade 6-9 scenario:

Trafalgar	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Operating Capacity	575	575	575	575	575	575	575	575	575
Grades 6-8	415	430	417	425	415	440	437	437	419
<i>Capacity Utilization</i>	72%	75%	73%	74%	72%	77%	76%	76%	73%
Operating Capacity – Updated*	625	625	625	625	625	625	625	625	625
Grades 6-9**	566	630	627	629	624	636	648	630	644
<i>Capacity Utilization</i>	91%	101%	100%	101%	100%	102%	104%	101%	103%
Operating Capacity – Updated*	650	650	650	650	650	650	650	650	650
Grades 6-9**	566	630	627	629	624	636	648	630	644
<i>Capacity Utilization</i>	87%	97%	96%	97%	96%	98%	100%	97%	99%

*Proposed renovations of Trafalgar where some classroom space will be restored as in past, increasing operating capacity to between 625 to 650 students, as part of plans to upgrade/modernize Trafalgar in proposed new Facilities Plan.

**If parents/students are given the choice of remaining at their Elementary school for Grade 6, the actual capacity utilization at Trafalgar would be lower than stated in the above table, which was prepared with the assumption that all Nelson Family Grade 6s go to Trafalgar.

Usage Considerations at LV Rogers Facilities includes these groups:

- (1) Regular Program Students, including special programs and academy requirements
- (2) International Students – Approximately 65 students total per year Grades 10-12
- (3) Elev8 (SD8’s distributed learning and distance education program) – Uses 1 classroom
- (4) Kootenay Kids – Use of parking lot building, equivalent to 1 classroom
- (5) CSF Students – Use 1 classroom and they take 6 out of 8 classes at LVR, approximately 30 students total per year

Facilities Considerations:

- (1) Expansion of capacity at LV Rogers is not feasible. There is no space for new modular buildings, and no funding for modular buildings or an expansion project.

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.

NELSON FAMILY OF SCHOOLS PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

Option 1. Nelson Family of Schools Configuration

Proposed grade configurations, with parent choice at Grade 6 where possible:

- Beginning for **2021-2022** School Year:
 - Blewett: Grades K-5 (*K-6 when possible post-expansion*)
 - Hume: Grades K-6
 - Redfish: Grades K-6 (*Recommend no Grade 7s at this time*)
 - Rosemont: Grades K-6
 - South Nelson: Grades K-6
 - Wildflower: Grades K-9 (*Could move middle school grades to Trafalgar*)
 - Trafalgar – Grades 6-9
 - LV Rogers – Grades 10-12

Proposed Resolution:

THAT the proposed grade configurations in the Nelson Family of Schools **BE APPROVED.**

- Allows time to accomplish renovations

Option 1 Educational Considerations:

- Focus on New Curriculum grad program Grades 10-12
- Addresses existing capacity utilization issues at LVR (e.g. gym, science labs, etc. that are currently overcrowded)
- Creates space for further diverse programming, potential new academies.
- At Trafalgar
 - Aligned to new Elementary K-9 curriculum
 - Focus on social-emotional learning
 - Citizenship
 - Music Program starting Grade 6
 - Late French Immersion
 - Indigenized Curriculum
 - Multi-grade exploratory blocks for all students
 - Multi-grade outdoor program
- At Elementary Schools
 - Parent/student choice as to timing of transition to Trafalgar in Grade 6 or Grade 7

Option 2. Nelson Family of Schools Configuration

Proposed grade configurations, with parent choice at Grade 6 where possible:

- Beginning for **2020-2021** School Year:
 - Blewett: Grades K-5 (*K-6 when possible post-expansion*)
 - Hume: Grades K-6
 - Redfish: Grades K-6 (*Recommend no Grade 7s at this time*)

- Rosemont: Grades K-6
- South Nelson: Grades K-6
- Wildflower: Grades K-9 (*Could move middle school grades to Trafalgar*)
- Trafalgar – Grades 6-9
- LV Rogers – Grades 10-12

Proposed Resolution:

THAT the proposed grade configurations in the Nelson Family of Schools **BE APPROVED**.

Option 2 Educational Considerations:

- Same as Option 1
- Relieves utilization pressure on LV Rogers sooner
- Allows parent/student choice as to Grade 6 school sooner
- Minimizes stress District-wide by implementing change quickly

Option 3. Nelson Family of Schools Configuration

Involves redrawing catchment lines to ensure distribution of elementary student amongst the schools, as well as possibly moving Wildflower.

Proposed grades configurations:

- Beginning for 2021-2022 School Year:
 - Blewett: Grades K-9 (catchment enlarged upon completion of expansion)
 - Hume: Grades K-9
 - Redfish: Grades K-9
 - Rosemont: Grades K-9
 - South Nelson: Grades K-9
 - Trafalgar – Grades K-9
 - Wildflower: Grades K-9
 - LV Rogers – Grades 10-12

Proposed Resolution:

THAT the proposed grade reconfigurations in the Nelson Family of Schools **BE APPROVED**

Option 3 Educational Considerations:

- One transition.
- LV Rogers
 - Focus on new curriculum grad program Grades 10-12
 - Addresses existing capacity utilization issues at LVR (e.g. gym, science labs, etc. that are currently overcrowded)
 - Creates space for further diverse programming, potential new academies.
- At Elementary Schools & Trafalgar Elementary
 - Aligns perfectly with new Elementary K-9 curriculum