

Frequently Asked Questions – from CEC support letters to all:

March 9, 2018

Homelinks

Needs/Concerns:

- *Washrooms* - Washroom groups are anticipated for male/female students and staff.
- *Building sites are inadequate* - This is not a face-to-face program. Students are only to be in the building 50% of the time four days a week - Mon. thru Thurs.; Friday is supposed to be a Homelinks activity day. In September, 153 headcount registered and in February, an additional 75 headcount registered. A total of 228 Homelinks students divided by 2 for 50% contact time equals 23 students per day. Easy to group and book families and students. In addition, there are still 200 empty seats inside PCSS.
- *Board Office site too close to highway/Busy intersection* - We are looking at an access point from the parking lot side.
- *Has a leaking roof* - Roof is being replaced in the regular roofing program. Leaks have been repaired.
- *Mould and lead in water due to old pipes* - Testing has been scheduled.
- *No plan in advance means kids have to fit into below standard facilities* - Building will be renovated and brought to up to Code.
- *No green space/playgrounds* - Access to the existing field and the Ministry of Ed is offering \$15 million over three years for Playground development. SD8 will be applying.
- *Severely undersized rooms* - There is NO room size requirement for DL schools.
- *Children in early learning programs being in a different location than Homelinks students* - This is true. However, StrongStart, the program the Board of education is responsible for, will be in two locations, ARES and Canyon-Lister, serving 400-500+ students' families.
- *Parking* - The actual physical parking lot is larger than existing at CEC.
- *Safe and easy access points* - Cars can access off of 16th Avenue south and a back access from the parking lot to the building is being contemplated.
- *Gym* - PCSS will reorganize to be able to share gym space in Fall and Spring. Plans are underway to utilize the Gymnastics program, the Creston Rec Centre, as well as, other community assets.
- *Library and resource centre* - - There will be room in the building for Library Resources. PCSS Library will also be available and the Creston Library is approximately a block away.
- *Proposed location is too close to "regular bricks and mortar" school* - this is an excellent location that will enable Homelinks to provide additional learning options such as Trades, Fine arts, etc. In fact, Homelinks students currently access PCSS shops for carpentry and other tech ed experiences.
- *Adding mostly elementary students in the form of the Homelinks program to PCSS is reprehensible* - We are not adding any Elementary students into PCSS.

- *Security measures are needed* - The building will be armed just like all other District facilities.
- *At least one Homelinks student who will require a full time aide in the regular program...expect there are others...in the past, the parents of these children have been counselled to leave the district in favour of somewhere with "more opportunities"* - Homelinks is a Distributed Learning program.

Wants:

- *Washroom facilities* - being developed as part of renovation
- *Administrator* - will be provided
- *Clerical* - will be provided
- *Photocopier* - will be provided
- *Internet* - will be provided
- *Library books/shelves,* - will be moved to new site
- *Gym equipment* - There is room to store items in the basement.
- *Science kits* - There is room to store things in the basement.
- *Music equipment* - There is room to store things in the classrooms and the basement.
- *Furniture (black leather couch, tables, chairs, etc.)* - will be utilized in the Welcome/Reception area.
- *Space to house resources* - There is plenty of space in the classrooms and in the basement for storage.
- *Safe outdoor learning and green space* - There is a fenced field right outside.
- *First Nation space, etc.* - There is space in the building and next door under the Yeti program.

Dreams:

- *Old Pathways building with an addition of classroom space and washrooms* - the Field House is currently utilized for P.E. programs.
- *Outdoor (covered) learning environment* - The PAC can apply to the Ministry of Education for the new Green space/playground monies (\$15 million will be available).
- *Outdoor horizontal climbing wall* - see above.
- *Name change of property to promote unity (now that three or more schools are located there)* - Great idea!

Wildflower Creston:

Wants:

See all of the above. However, Wildflower is in need of space for 22 studentes as they meet four days a week. Current preference is under the Yeti building. The Yeti Building has space for arts, Library, creativity, First Nations programming, music and any other activity.

Plus ...

Second class to be added - This is dependent on future enrolment.

Wildflower also has the option of a classroom inside PCSS.

Dreams:

*Would like to add Kindergarten - This is dependent on enrolment.
Can we canvas for new and interested families - Yes.*

Other:

Needs/Concerns:

- *Current building houses various programs for children with needs outside the traditional public curriculum - We are a public school system and must deliver the public school Ministry of education curriculum, within financial and legislated constraints.*
- *Children as young as K/1 [are being] asked to conjoin with the culture of the local high school to access programs that CEC already has - The programs at CEC are moving. Children will be cared for and will not be conjoined unless a “buddy” program is created. For example, senior students reading to little buddies. Homelinks is currently a K-12 school. Wildflower is a K-9 school.*
- *Choice being taken away from parents - Programs are not being shut down, simply moved.*
- *Compromising of the education of children - The quality of education will remain the same or improve. We aim to improve on a daily basis..*
- *Decision has been based on money and the misconception that there will be more for all - Resources will go into improving programs for all our students.*
- *Building maintenance and liability to SD8 if closed - the old CEC will be disposed. In the meantime, locked and maintained.*
- *CEC is important HUB - There will be many services offered at the PCSS Wellness Centre including but not limited to medical, counselling, academic support, drug and alcohol, social/emotional, youth care and so on. StrongStarts will move to high traffic school with exposure to two sites with 400+ students’ parents coming and going each day.*

Wants:

Stakeholder committee who are close to finding a solution to divest SD8 of maintenance and annual operating costs - The option has been available for a stakeholder committee since the decision to close was made in July 2016.