

Winlaw Elementary PAC
Questions for SD8 Reconfiguration Meeting
December 2, 2019

1. Why is this reconfiguration process happening now? The current the facilities plan extends to 2024.

The existing facilities plan is outdated, new reliable enrolment projections, opportune time of year to propose reconfigurations. Different government, different priorities.

2. If any changes do occur, when will they be implemented?

Whenever the Board of Education determines.

3. Where did the number of 88 for Winlaw's capacity come from? Why is there a discrepancy between these numbers and BC Teachers Federation standards and the SD8 operating capacity definitions?

The difference is 2. No real difference.

4. Does the board have information about compromised delivery of programs or education outcomes at Winlaw? If the board has such information, where did it come from and what does it say?

We have the following concerns and we have limited space to provide any of the following:

(1) 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*

(2) Inadequate space for:

- a. Speech language therapy*
- b. Art Therapy*
- c. To help child regulate*
- d. Diverse students, including those with complex behavioural challenges*
- e. Perform assessments*
- f. Meeting with parents*
- g. Meeting with other agencies*
- h. Staff implementing simple systems for executive functioning*

5. How are the perspectives of Winlaw's educators being solicited and considered in this planning process? If those perspectives have been shared, what are they?

Educators have had opportunity to share perspectives at public meetings, with their unions, the Superintendent, and ThoughtExchange. What are they? - We respectfully suggest that you ask individual educators.

6. If grades are moved, what implications will reduced enrollment at Winlaw have for school funding, programming, prioritization for renovations, etc. at Winlaw?

Funding is based on per student basis, therefore none.

7. What issues is moving one grade from Winlaw meant to address? How will it solve issues at Winlaw and how will it affect the family of schools?

Over capacity. It will make it at, or under, capacity, and will make for a better learning and working environment for all students and staff.

8. Is there research the board can share regarding the outcomes of integrating grade 6 (or younger) students into a high school?

SD8 schools have many different configurations and students thrive in all of them.

9. What other options have been explored for creating space at Winlaw, and have all other options been exhausted? If so, what were those scenarios and why did they not move forward?

The Board of Education is listening to all options put forward, and have been present at all 24 public meetings. The public has also always been welcome at the Board of Education's monthly public meetings.

10. Has the board requested to add space at Winlaw? Why are portables a possibility in Castlegar and not at Winlaw?

No. Castlegar does not have capacity available because they closed several schools over the past decade, and Slocan Valley of Schools has capacity available.

11. Can we get ministry support if the school community raises the money to add space or can we work with the district or the ministry to look at creative, community-based solutions to adding space at Winlaw?

Yes, this is always possible, but it takes many years unless a donor comes forward in the short term.

12. How will vulnerable students be affected by the proposed changes of moving students from Winlaw, where attachment and community are such a strong focus?

The proposed changes are meant to help vulnerable and at-risk students succeed in their learning, in a better learning environment.

13. Could WE Graham be the location for the early education programming that was suggested for Winlaw, or could the extra space there be used to have regular grade 9 and 10 programs or expand the outdoor ed program?

We have a capacity problem at Winlaw, not WE Graham.

14. What other initiatives are being considered to expand utilization of space at WE Graham? If it is better utilized, Winlaw could be considered for an expansion.

None. No, because there is capacity at WE Graham School that needs to be utilized. Winlaw is not under consideration for expansion.

15. How is ministry direction noted in the April 2019 letter on the SD8 website being taken into consideration? Specifically, that long range facilities plans should be broad visioning documents, focused on more than just enrollment and capacity utilization, and consider factors such as natural movement of students and other community uses of school buildings.

The new proposed Long-Range Facilities Plan will take all of the above under consideration.