

Parent Response to Facilities & Operations Questions
Budget Stakeholder Engagement Committee Meeting – February 16, 2016

“As with the earlier requests for responses, you must understand that it is difficult for parents to understand the context of maintenance issues and requirements in schools and districts.”

“Once again, I feel I would need more context and background in order to contribute solutions to these problems.”

1) What model could be used to manage and prioritize work orders? For your school? For your family of schools? For the district? Please consider this question as it relates to:

- a. Technology infrastructure*
- b. Custodial*
- c. Transportation*
- d. Operations/Maintenance*
- e. Facilities/Buildings*

“This a difficult question to answer without knowing the current model. At this time, it appears as if it takes a long time to get things completed. I am not sure if that is due to lack of staff or lack of resources.”

There needs to be (if there isn't already) a risk/maintenance approach to managing maintenance items (Identify, Assess, Plan, Apply, Monitor) against the project management triangle (Scope, Cost, Time & Quality). This is to be done for each school, then that list goes to district based on district based business drivers:

- 1: Date of order (manage and prioritize)
- 2: Health and safety of students/staff.**
- 3: Any learning/teaching impairment for students/staff.
- 4: Comfort level for students/staff.
- 5: Facility sustainment and future development/growth

All of which would rate a number of severity (say 1-10); then further broken down to

- 1: seasonal and/or weather (best time to do the work)
- 2: risk assessment ranking
- 3: security
- 4: scope of work
- 5: length of time
- 5: costs
- 6: educational impact
- 7: transportation
- 8: educational business drivers

General recommendations:

- **HIRE MORE STAFF**
- **Health and safety should be #1 when prioritizing work orders, including long term issues.**
- Items that affect students' ability to learn need to rank high
- Give more consideration to older structures because they have more health & safety issues

- Repetitive work orders should trigger a deeper investigation into determining the cause of the ongoing issue (rather than a repeatedly applying band-aid fixes)
- Have a discussion around longstanding work orders that 'never get done' because there are always higher priorities and limited resources (maintenance staff and \$), e.g., small fixes that skilled parent volunteers could easily manage, i.e., install hooks for coats (Why do these tasks have to be completed by staff?)
- Maintenance visits to more distant schools should be planned well with lots of notice provided to school and as many tasks as possible completed, because maintenance staff may not be back again for quite awhile.
- Staff at schools should have more input into prioritizing what would assist them in their jobs.
- Recommend PVPs within a family of schools discuss maintenance priorities to achieve efficiencies
- parents have complaints about attitude and customer service from transportation department staff

2a) What are the best things about the physical learning environments in your school?

Winlaw

- Our forest! It provides creative play space, endless adventure and imaginative games played at recess.
- Wifi switch. Ability to turn off the wifi in the school.
- Proximity and access to natural features such as river, rail trail
- Large windows in school

CLES

- The area/location/community.
- Large field area/wide open space
- The best view ever!
- Large gym
- Nice classrooms
- Nice library

Wildflower

- teachers are so creative in how they use the space to create different spaces for different types of learners and different types of learning; they creatively using space in the hallways and in other rooms in order to facilitate learning

2b) What are the worst things about the physical learning environment in your school?

Winlaw

- ongoing issues with bathrooms
- **no storage, limited storage options for everything from supplies and seasonal equipment to not enough student lockers for daily use**

CLES

- The outside of the school looks unappealing.
- The library needs an update and it's too cold in winter.
- The septic system smells, and the smell gets into the halls.
- Not enough shade in spring/summer outside.
- Needs community information sign directing people to school
- Rodent problem.

- **Need storage to house extra desks, seasonal equipment, supplies. Not in the classroom.**
- Need a bigger garden.

Wildflower

- one classroom is located two floors away from the rest of the school and the majority of the classes are on the second floor therefore removed from the playground and garden space.
- have all classrooms on the main floor, then the upstairs classrooms would more readily use the outdoor space for learning.
- one does not feel welcome when entering the school because unfortunately, there is no longer anyone at the desk on the main floor; this decreases school cohesion and is a security concern/risk, especially when the building is used for other events and programs when many people are in the building, e.g., election polling station

3) Do you have any ideas for increasing efficiencies while maintaining or improving service, learning opportunities and working conditions in our district with regard to facilities, custodial services, technology, and transportation?

“This is another difficult question to answer; do not know enough about custodial services, technology and transportation to be able to comment on how they could become more efficient.”

Winlaw & CLES

- 4 day school week
- motion sensors, timers, power bars for electrical efficiencies
- dark campus program to cut down on vandalism and electrical costs:
<https://www.schoolde.com/community/discover/blogs/dark-campus-programs-reduce-vandalism-and-save-money>
- repurpose gymnasium spaces for multi-use – e.g., install dividers
- more use of public resources – transit!!! Why do high school students need to use the school bus – put pressure on local/regional gov’t for more public transportation that will serve public school students
- utilize skilled parent volunteers for minor maintenance work orders, e.g., installing hooks
- could assist with custodial time/resources by establishing programs that promote stewardship and involve students and encourage them to take ownership and build pride in their school
- parents should be able to ride the school bus (to and from school) to volunteer, as some parents do not have other means of transportation available. Why are parents allowed to ride along on a field trip, but not to and from the school?
- utilize district or joint purchaser for contract services and goods/services that would save resources, i.e., bulk school supplies; partner with other nearby school districts for added savings
- continue movement towards schools promoting online communication methods – online newsletters/digital apps (cut paper/photocopy costs, increase efficiencies with consistent messaging).
- more outdoor classrooms
- hire a project manager

Wildflower

- have all classrooms on the main floor of central school building, more cohesion, better security, increase efficiencies in many areas, facilitate learning together, improve working conditions, potentially decrease electrical costs, reduce custodial work
- partner with other schools in the same family of schools as well as partner with community organizations to increase services & learning opportunities
- we will know more regarding facilities as the facility plan is developed/revealed

4a) How do schools and other district facilities contribute to your child's/student's learning and why?

Winlaw

- various schools and non-profit groups work together to align resources and assist where/when possible.
- appreciate inclusion of Winlaw students at district sporting events, i.e., X-C running, track etc.
- would like to see more opportunities for students to visit, tour other schools in the district (for transitioning and for family of school community development)

CLES

Several other schools contribute to CLES students' learning.

- basketball and volleyball games hosted at other schools.
- aboriginal learning and dancing at PCSS.
- Focus on Youth hosted at PCSS.

Wildflower

- other schools do not contribute substantially; have experienced very few interschool activities.
- Wildflower shares space with other district facilities and sometimes it's a hindrance to feeling comfortable in that space which inadvertently contributes to their learning.
- wish there were more inter-school opportunities, e.g., after school sports, however recognize that this would require more staff and parent volunteers

4b) Are there community facilities outside of SD8 that also contribute to learning in SD8?

"Our area/community has so much to offer to our students. It would be nice if they could take more advantage of it. (busing/staff)."

Winlaw

- Dynamic and engaged community spirit in Winlaw. Community events are well attended and local fund raisers well supported.

CLES

- College of the Rockies. They teach about plants and gardening to our students.
- Creston Rec center: annual sports day there for all Creston area schools
 - track & field.
 - swimming
 - skating
 - Annual pow wow - all schools attend and aboriginal students participate

- Creston Wildlife Management Area: labs, educational programs, tours, cross country ski races on the paths.
- Creston Library: reading programs
- Whitewater Ski resort: group lessons.
- local farms provide tours and valuable information to our students

Wildflower

- Oxygen Art Centre exhibits and resources
- Touchstones
- Nelson Food Cupboard
- Kokanee Creek Interpretive Centre
- Shambhala Meditation Centre