

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Greater Victoria School District proposes additional changes to school boundaries after reviewing community input, announces final school-based consultation

VICTORIA, BC – The Greater Victoria School District is sharing new proposed catchment boundaries after collecting input from the community and is inviting final input, particularly on specific issues related to individual school changes, in a third phase of community consultation.

It has been almost 20 years since the Greater Victoria School District last reviewed school catchments. The District is undertaking this review and proposing new catchment boundaries due to increasing student enrolment and limited space in some of its schools.

“The Board of Education has heard from hundreds of parents and guardians, some who are supportive of the proposed changes and others who have requested alternative solutions to solve the overcrowding problem,” shared Board Chair Jordan Watters. “There are many factors for the Board of Education to consider and these decisions are never easy. It can be very challenging trying to find an optimal solution when you have 47 different schools, many voices and specific requests you need to listen to and consider. We understand that we will not be able to make everyone happy; however, we’ve made a number of changes since reviewing the input from the community—and we are proud that the District has been able to accommodate so many of the specific neighbourhood requests we’ve received.”

“We are one of the fastest growing school districts in the province this year. The District’s student population continues to grow significantly and legislation requiring smaller class sizes has impacted the availability of space in our schools,” noted Superintendent Shelley Green. “We must adjust boundaries to ensure there is adequate space in each school to provide the most optimal learning environments for all our students.”

The Catchment Boundary Review started in Spring 2018. The District engaged its community in the Thetis Vale area of the District to help address capacity issues. While this consultation showed strong preferences in this specific community, it was clear that due to class size and composition requirements as well as increased enrolment, that the process needed to be broader.

In November of 2018, the District launched phase one of a district-wide consultation process including a survey that collected responses from more than 5,100 members of the community, which included students and parents and guardians of current and future students. The feedback identified the most important considerations for families and students when reviewing

the school boundaries, as well as specific neighbourhood needs. All information gathered help to inform the boundary proposals shared in phase two of the review.

In January, the District proposed changes to school boundaries for the public to review and launched phase two of the consultation process. The District hosted three open houses and gathered input online to ensure parents, guardians, staff and members of the public had the opportunity to participate and provide input, including at the school level. During the phase two consultation, more than 400 community members attended the open houses and over 1,000 people submitted input online about the proposed changes. For the full survey results, input collected at the open houses, and the Phase Two Summary Report visit: www.sd61.bc.ca/news-events/community/catchment-boundary-review/

After sharing the input from phase two with the Board of Education, the District has made additional changes to the school boundaries and is providing new updated recommendations and launching a phase three consultation program, focused on school-based input.

“We are pleased to see additional revisions in this second proposal. Each time we have revised the plan or recommendations we’ve come to a better outcome,” noted Board Chair, Jordan Watters. “We are very appreciative of all the staff’s hard work and all those in the public who took time to provide feedback and help shape this process.”

“The District is trying to accommodate the needs of all of our students, families and staff, which is why we are going back to the school communities in phase three to get their input” added Superintendent Green. “The District has tried to be thoughtful when considering all of the potential options and outcomes. Unfortunately, remaining as we have been is not an option, so we are trying to find the best solution that works best for our learning community as a whole.”

Review the ***Catchment Boundary Review Brochure*** for an overview of the new proposed boundary changes. Please find it attached.

To review the new proposed catchment boundary changes in detail, use the **District’s Interactive Digital Map** at: www.sd61.bc.ca/schools/school-catchment-boundaries/

The District will be hosting meetings to consult with the schools directly impacted by the proposals. The proposed recommendations will come back to the Board of Education on Thursday, May 23, 2019, for final deliberations.

Catchment Boundary Review School Meetings

Cloverdale	May 7, 2019 from 7:00—8:00 p.m.
South Park	May 7, 2019 from 7:00—8:00 p.m.
Margaret Jenkins	May 8, 2019 from 7:00—8:00 p.m.
Richmond	May 8, 2019 from 7:00—8:00 p.m.
Quadra	May 9, 2019 from 7:00—8:00 p.m.
McKenzie	May 9, 2019 from 7:00—8:00 p.m.

**Each meeting will be tailored to the school communities involved. Invitations will be sent out from the schools that could be affected.*

For additional information about the catchment boundary review process:

www.sd61.bc.ca/catchment-boundary-review

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For more information, please contact:

Lisa McPhail

Communications & Community Engagement

Greater Victoria School District

Office: 250.475.4103

 www.sd61.bc.ca |   @sd61schools

One *Learning* Community





School District No. 61 Catchment Boundary *Review*

PHASE 3 - April 2019





SD61 Catchment Boundary Review

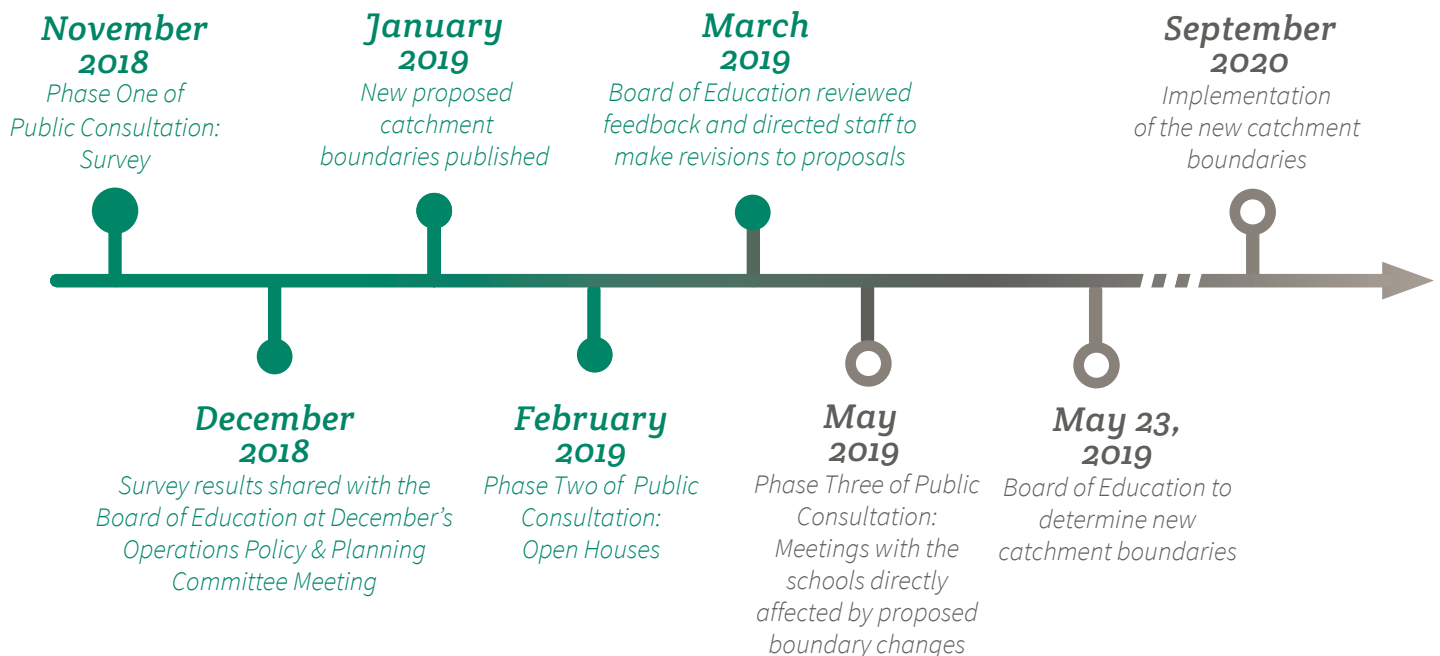
Introduction

The Greater Victoria School District is reviewing catchment boundaries due to increasing student enrolment and limited space in some of its schools. The District last reviewed catchment boundaries approximately 20 years ago. Since then, there has been considerable growth in the Greater Victoria region and a significant increase in the District's student population. In the past four years, the District has seen nearly 1,000 additional students register in its schools. Some schools are full and long-term projections indicate a steady increase in the student population over the next 10 years. The District is proposing school boundary changes to alleviate capacity constraints in its facilities and balance enrolment across the entire District to prepare for future enrolment pressures.

In the Fall of 2018, the District started collecting input from the public to help inform the process of reconsidering school boundaries. The District heard from more than 5,100 community members through the Catchment Boundary Review Survey. The feedback collected helped to inform the District's guiding considerations, as well as, highlight important factors for families and specific neighbourhood considerations. In January, the District proposed school boundary changes and consulted with the public for feedback. It hosted open houses and collected input online to ensure parents, guardians, staff and members of the public had the opportunity to participate.

Since hearing from the community, the Board of Education has directed staff to make revisions to its proposal. Now the District is proposing a set of new recommendations that will affect some school boundaries. The District will directly consult with the school communities affected by the proposals to look for solutions to move forward.

Where Are We in the Process?





SD61 Catchment Boundary Review

Overview of Proposed Changes

Introduction of three new elementary catchment boundaries (South Park, Cloverdale, Bank St.) to address population density in the core area of Victoria and Southern Saanich.

The District would no longer offer Elementary Schools/Programs of Choice.



The Quadra Elementary catchment would be reduced through the creation of a Cloverdale boundary.



The current Oaklands Elementary boundary would be reduced. The former portion is proposed to become the Bank St. School catchment.



The facility on Bank St. would open up as an elementary school in 2020. Bank St. School would be a single-track school. Students in this catchment who wish to enroll in French Immersion would attend Margaret Jenkins.



The northeast section of Sir James Douglas would be expanded to incorporate the northwest section of Margaret Jenkins. A small southern portion of Margaret Jenkins will become part of Sir James Douglas to accommodate families near Central to become part of the catchment pathway. This would limit walking and travel distances to school.



The James Bay Elementary and Sir James Douglas catchments would be impacted through the creation of a South Park catchment for the James Bay and Beacon Hill area, and portions of Victoria's downtown core.



George Jay's catchment would become smaller with the introduction of the Bank St. and South Park catchments and changes to the Quadra catchment.



The catchment area that was described as Victor would become the Bank St. catchment, expanding into the Willows catchment and part of the current Oaklands catchment. This will reduce enrolment pressures at Willows.



Willows catchment would increase in the north but reduced in the southern portion. The Lansdowne slope would become a part of the Willows boundary.



Margaret Jenkins would assume the southern portion of the Willows catchment by a few blocks, reducing enrolment pressures at Willows.



The southern portion of Torquay Elementary catchment would become part of the Hillcrest catchment.



The proposed catchment boundaries would be implemented in 2020 and will be in alignment with the District's student enrolment priorities.





SD61 Catchment Boundary Review

Overview of Proposed Changes continued...

Reopening of Richmond Elementary as a middle school South Campus for Lansdowne. The intention is for Richmond to serve the Grade Six cohort.



Adjacent boundaries between Quadra, Doncaster, and Braefoot would be incorporated into the Braefoot school boundary.



The Tillicum catchment would be reduced through the creation of an expanded catchment for McKenzie and an adjusted catchment for Quadra.



The Northridge catchment would be expanded to include a small portion of McKenzie's catchment.



The northwest boundary of Strawberry Vale would be expanded to incorporate the eastern portion of Eagle View.



Small changes would be made to the Lake Hill and Braefoot boundaries to better realign these areas with improved walk routes.



A small portion of the Macaulay catchment would be added to Craigflower's catchment.



The Thetis Vale area of View Royal would become part of the Eagle View catchment.



A small portion of Shoreline that is north of the Gorge would feed Spectrum instead of Esquimalt High.



Revisions to school catchment pathways:



- » English Doncaster students would transition to Mt. Douglas.
- » Students at Oaklands and Bank St. would become a part of the Oak Bay Family of Schools.
- » Rogers Elementary students would transition to Glanford Middle then continue to Reynolds Secondary.
- » South Park would transition students to Central Middle then Vic High.
- » Cloverdale would transition students to Cedar Hill then Reynolds Secondary.
- » Quadra students would transition into Lansdowne then Vic High
- » French Immersion Margaret Jenkins students would transition into Lansdowne then Oak Bay High.

**Please note that some proposed changes may require additional consultation at specific schools in the future.*

The proposed catchment boundaries would be implemented in 2020 and will be in alignment with the District's student enrolment priorities.





SD61 Catchment Boundary Review

Enrolling In New Proposed Catchments

The District understands the importance of keeping siblings together at their neighbourhood school. In the event a family's catchment changes while a student is enrolled and a sibling is still waiting to register, there will be three options available to families:



1

The student enrolled can stay in their current school until the next school level transition (elementary to middle, middle to secondary);

2

If a student is enrolled in a school where the catchment boundary changes, then the student can apply for a transfer to their new catchment school;

3

A new incoming student can apply for a transfer to attend the same school their older sibling(s) attends and would receive a non-catchment sibling priority. The District will give special attention to sibling transfer requests and will facilitate these requests as space permits.

Students that are currently enrolled will be allowed to remain in their currently assigned schools until the next school level transition. New student registrations in 2020 would need to register at their new catchment school. The District's current student enrolment priorities will continue to apply to all registrations.

The District prioritizes catchment students registering at their catchment school and limits the number of student transfers to ensure that there is enough space available for students who reside in the catchment. The District will continue to facilitate transfers where it determines there is space available at the requested school.

For student enrolment priorities visit:

www.sd61.bc.ca/parent-student-resources/registration/student-enrolment-priorities/

Proposed School Catchment Pathways

Proposed English Program Catchment Pathways

Esquimalt Family of Schools					
Elementary School		Designated Middle School		Designated Secondary School	
Macaulay	○	➔	Rockheights	○	
Victoria West	○				
Craigflower	○	➔	Shoreline		○
View Royal	○				
				➔ Esquimalt High	



SD61 Catchment Boundary Review

Proposed English Program Catchment Pathways, continued...

Lambrick Park Family of Schools

Elementary School		Designated Middle School		Designated Secondary School
Hillcrest	○	Gordon Head	○	Lambrick Park Secondary
Torquay	○			

Mount Douglas Family of Schools

Elementary School		Designated Middle School		Designated Secondary School
Campus View	○	Arbutus	○	Mount Douglas Secondary
Frank Hobbs	○			
NEW Doncaster	○	Cedar Hill	○	

Oak Bay Family of Schools

Elementary School		Designated Middle School		Designated Secondary School
Margaret Jenkins	○	Monterey	○	Oak Bay High
Willows	○			
NEW Bank St.	○			
NEW Oaklands	○	Lansdowne	○	

Reynolds Family of Schools

Elementary School		Designated Middle School		Designated Secondary School
Braefoot	○	Cedar Hill	○	Reynolds High
NEW Cloverdale	○			
Lake Hill	○			
NEW Rogers	○	Glanford	○	



SD61 Catchment Boundary Review

Proposed English Program Catchment Pathways, continued...

Spectrum Family of Schools		
Elementary School	Designated Middle School	Designated Secondary School
Eagle View	Colquitz	Spectrum Community
Marigold		
Strawberry Vale		
Tillicum		
NEW McKenzie		
Northridge	Glanford	

Victoria Family of Schools		
Elementary School	Designated Middle School	Designated Secondary School
George Jay	Central	Victoria High
James Bay		
Sir James Douglas		
NEW South Park		
NEW Quadra	Lansdowne	





SD61 Catchment Boundary Review

French Immersion

The District will continue to review the Program of Choice - French Immersion on an annual basis to maximize the number of available seats that the program can offer parents and students.

The District's Early French Immersion Program continues to be in a growth phase with new incoming cohorts at George Jay Elementary. The proposed changes connected to the boundary review are school catchment pathway changes to ensure program viability in future years.

The proposed changes to French Immersion catchment pathways are reflected below.

Proposed Early French Immersion Program Catchment Pathways (Kindergarten or Grade 1 Entry)

Elementary School		Designated Middle School		Designated Secondary School
Macaulay	○	Shoreline	○	Esquimalt High
Marigold	○			
NEW Margaret Jenkins	○	Lansdowne	○	Oak Bay High
Willows	○			
Campus View	○	Arbutus	○	Reynolds Secondary
Doncaster	○	Cedar Hill	○	
George Jay	○	Central	○	Victoria High
Sir James Douglas	○			
NEW Quadra	○	Lansdowne	○	

Late French Immersion is a third entry point into French Immersion (Kindergarten and Grade One being the first two) that the District offers. It is a District Program of Choice that is reviewed annually.