

Questions from Boundary Review Board Meeting June 19/2019

South Park

1. Please indicate where the new boundary lines for South Park will be drawn as it is projected to be over enrolled and how does this impact enrollment at Sir James Douglas?

We were awaiting the most up to date projections from Baragar before reassessing whether this will be necessary. We have since learned that South Park is not projected to be over enrolled.

2. Could you please explain why the “walkability” distances are preventing your from recommending the South Park PAC proposal but yet the proposed Sir James Douglas catchment is very similar to the size of other catchments around the district and the current walkability from downtown core to George Jay is the same as in the proposed South Park PAC, Sir James Douglas catchment?

Our recommendation is based upon aiming for optimal “walkability” and consideration that the other walk route referred to does not take students directly past, or adjacent to, a school site owned by the District.

3. Has the review team reviewed the alternate proposal presented by the South Park PAC? Could you explain why the option has not been considered if it does a better job of addressing capacity at George Jay?

We have reviewed the alternate proposals presented, and the Boundary Review Team maintains that the three alternatives provided in our Phase Three “What We Heard” Summary Report remain the most viable.

4. Is there capacity at James Bay, Sir James Douglas and Margaret Jenkins (+ South Park historical student numbers to ensure all students who live in this area have access to a catchment if South Park remains a district wide school?

We believe that maintaining South Park as a district wide catchment is possible in the short term. However, if there is significant enrolment growth in the downtown core, this may not be sustainable.

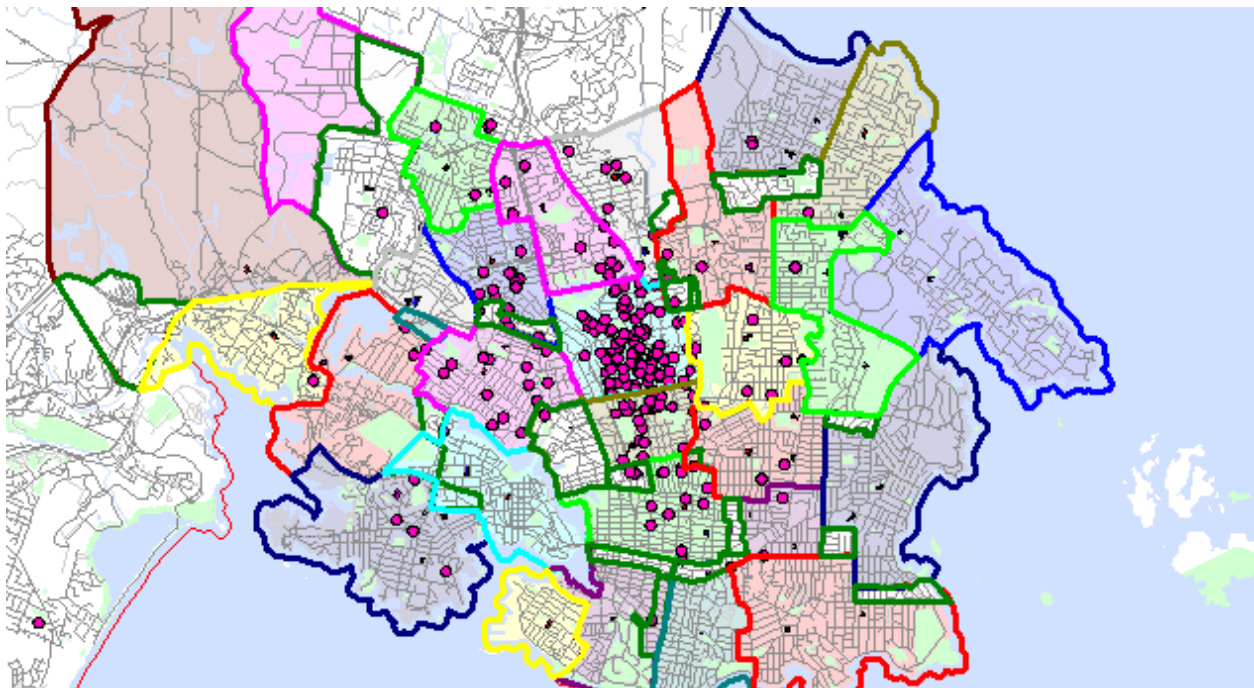
Macaulay

1. Can you please further explain the shift in the Macaulay catchment to move the new neighbourhood to Vic West? Also, please explain how this neighbourhood will be consulted?

Consultation took place at Macaulay on Tuesday May 14th, 2018. The proposal shifts a small north eastern portion of the Macaulay catchment to Craigflower. Parents suggested that the district did not do enough to address the number of students in the Macaulay catchment at the May 14th consultation. This was reviewed, and the boundary review team responded by addressing the catchment boundary between Macaulay and Vic West.

Cloverdale

1. Could the District create a map that shows where Cloverdale students live, like what was shown for South Park?



Francophone District

1. Where are the answers to the written questions the Ecole Beausoleil parents submitted at the last boundary review meeting? We found out about this via media Phase 3.

Answered at the June 19, 2019 meeting.

General

1. George Jay proposed boundary change: What I heard “Catchment reduction of about 25%”. Is the assumption that this change will offset the capacity of the proposed developments in the area?

Answered at the June 19, 2019 meeting.

2. Have you looked at the change in communities near your borders to see if your district needs to give them to Langford or Saanich?

Yes we have looked at all communities. Our boundary review focused on our current school district and no consideration was given to decreasing the size of our district.

3. If you took out the portables of schools that can't use its facilities properly how many students would not be able to attend school?

We heard through community feedback to work with the current portables that are on select sites. As a result, we did not make this determination.

4. Is it enough to have a new school open? Students need the spaces no matter what your costs will be. The cost of not giving children that space will cost more in later years.

The boundary review summary recommends the re-opening of two school sites to serve SD61 catchment students – the former Richmond Elementary and the site that houses the school on Bank Street and the former Sundance Elementary. Additionally, the boundary review recommends future consideration of re-purposing SJ Willis and the former Lampson Elementary as neighbourhood schools.

5. What good is it to fill a school? Is it healthy to have children that can't have access to fundamental spaces? Will it be stressful for teachers to have no place to take children needing relief? Will you lose staff?

The boundary proposal's presented aim to right size catchment correlated to the size of the school and to the number of catchment students living in the catchment. This in turn will help to address space issues we are experiencing in our schools.

6. If four/five years you have seen an increase of students why has it taken this long to address it? Please take a look at all schools for where students come from for the last 4 years, so you have a basis to know what the children of SD61 have been doing not just South Park.

Answered at the June 19, 2019 meeting.

7. How many years do you predict it will take to actually see this “right-sizing” take effect? District –wide in an impactful way?

Answered at the June 19, 2019 meeting.

8. Was this upcoming school year’s (2019-2020) enrollment higher than projected/predicted and if so by how many FTEs and is it possible to share which schools saw higher enrollment?

We believe to grow by close to 500 students from this year to next year. Verification of this data is not yet possible as we rely on ministry data and many of our new kindergarten registrations do not yet have a personal education number that in turn will provide us with accurate data.

9. If Cloverdale is granted a move, how long would it realistically take? Will we lose our community & momentum while we wait?

The timeline will be dependent on a number of factors difficult to predict, but we do not foresee an opportunity to move before 2025.

10. I see the proposed boundaries but I keep hearing / reading about pathways. Which has priority?

Home addresses connect families to an elementary, middle and secondary school catchment. By virtue of this, families will have a catchment pathway connected to their home address.

Siblings

1. Can the board explain how the sibling priority motion being proposed has any benefit (or offers any hope) to current families? These schools will be full and at a 3.5 will not get in.

2. How does the sibling priority 3.5 actually make a difference to the lives of those families affected by the significant changes made by the boundary review?
3. What advice do you have for me, when explaining to these young families, that the promise of sibling priority that enticed them to come has now been eliminated before their oldest child has even finished Kindergarten?
4. Sibling priority: why 3.5 and not 2.5??

For the 2019 – 2020 school year every non-catchment sibling requesting a transfer to an older sibling's non-catchment school was accepted. This is also our historical trend. All non-catchment siblings have previously been accommodated. The number of families with younger siblings impacted by a change in boundary is much smaller the total number of district wide non-catchment sibling requests. The proposed boundary changes also right size populations to the school capacities. In addition to these factors, Priority 3.5 provides a higher priority than the current non-catchment sibling priority for families impacted by a change in a school boundary. Although we cannot guarantee assurance that these families will be able to keep siblings together, we are very confident as a result of the factors mentioned above, that families impacted by boundary changes will be accommodated.

Margaret Jenkins / Lansdowne

1. When many families switch from French to English to favor a safe route to school and attend Monterey, will there be room for them then? Or will those in the Bank Street catchment take up all the free space at the school?

Answered at the June 19, 2019 meeting.

2. Has it been considered to change Lansdowne "South Campus" to F.I 6-8 so that it's actually a school and not a single grade, one-year back stop? And is this is a long term solution (one-year) or would it change to something else eventually?

Answered at the June 19, 2019 meeting.

3. Given the need to use Richmond School to accommodate overflow from Lansdowne is it more cost –effective to adding resources (i.e. Portables) to Monterey to accommodate a French stream?

Answered at the June 19, 2019 meeting.

4. Will there be room for all the EMUS students at Monterey who switch from French to English? When should we switch or apply for transfer?

Answered at the June 19, 2019 meeting.