

Comments and Questions organized by school (when possible).
Approximately 21 attendees (non-school district employees)

- Opening remarks by Mark re: Phase Three Consultation
- Powerpoint and history of consultation process.

General

- **Does the board have the information they need to know what the numbers of families are? What does the grandfathering piece look like? Is it going to happen and how will they decide? People would be more than happy to offer that information if a direct consultation request approach was taken.** *[Mark: reliance on long-term projections, 3rd party data, census data. Not yet completely extrapolated to get the predictions right yet. The board is not yet talking about grandfathering, but they are hearing about the demand from the public consultation piece.]*
- **Extrapolating from data is not the same as asking the public directly about it.**
- Positive feedback from residents at the Lansdowne and Middowne pocket and they feel really appreciative that they can now have their students at Willows. They really appreciate that the district is listening after the public spoke their minds. A thank you!
- Concerns around wanting Vic High or Oak Bay to stay depending on population and transfer requirements. Is it always about family of school instead of catchment?
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Lansdowne

- Mother of student attending Lansdowne asks that SD61 commits to additional consultation with parents who are impacted by the “social experiment” of the grade 6 cohort. How will you make it awesome here at Richmond? How can it be comparable to Lansdowne in terms of success? *[The impact of fewer students at a school is remarkable. We know what 800 looks like in one building. We know what 680 looks like. You lose the relationships and common prep time. But that many numbers makes things extremely challenging - Sean.]*
- If three schools are now feeding to Lansdowne (EMJS, for example), couldn't this contribute to a loss of the middle school experience as well? *[Try to prevent the overcrowding issue at Central, which would otherwise approaching 700; SJ is also too far out].*
- Will this grade 6 campus be able to offer all of the same learning amenities as the main Lansdowne campus? Worried about being able to make the middle school experience work on a remote site. *[Everything yes, except for woodshop; we will need lots of consultations in order for that grade 6 campus to work in a way that works best for kids.].*

- Mother of first-year grade 6 cohort really hopes that Sean is still the principal to see this through because of his articulation of the vision.
- Was there ever a concrete option when dealing with this grade 6 proposal? Were there alternatives proposed? *[Mark: SJ wasn't realistic, Artemis with the portables, adding a wing on Lansdowne was considered, but through consultation with educators about the impact, they weren't ideal.]*
- How does Sean envision the division of administration between two campuses at Lansdowne? *[Sean: I envision going back and forth between the building, possibly with an additional administrator in each building]* *[Mark: Perhaps an admin follows the cohort based on consultation]*
- How will the late immersion program be maintained? How will that work out in terms of numbers? How many incoming divisions or advisories do you anticipate coming into the school, particularly with late FRIMM? *[Sean: around 10 divisions. 6 ENG, 1 LFRIMM, 3 EFRIMM].*
- Was there a discussion about the pros and cons of splitting the cohort vs. splitting up English and French immersion? What was the FRIMM review like? *[Sean: The diversity at Lansdowne is one of the school's strengths and essential to the culture.]* *[Mark: single track wasn't considered in this review due to logistics, etc.]*
- John Stubbs is K-8 FRIMM, has anyone talked with them about it?
- What are the logistical challenges around upgrading Richmond before student get here? The school is empty this year, so can't we do it? *[Braefoot will be here, for one thing. And also the Ministry approval process takes time as well, so it's difficult to adjust the timing, especially with all the other students]*
- The grade six cohort could be so good for all of the complications that happen at that age and a chance to build community in that space, according to an attendee that works with youth. There's a chance to feel things out, build culture and community and head into the fray of a larger middle school together.
- Initial reaction to hearing about Gr 6 cohort is about the community piece at a dual-track school? Will there be intermingling between the FRIMM and ENG classes in this already-divided grade six cohort? *[Sean: sports, exploratories, already mix up. Not just confident about the potential success, but actually excited.]*
- Could there be another late immersion opening up at Lansdowne? *[Sean: once the decision was made, a discussion could happen.]*

"Bank Street"

- Mother of son will be part of the BSS, concerns about splitting up the children between elementary schools (children are currently at Willows for FRIMM). Concerns about the splitting up of kids. Can you speak to the sibling transfer process. *[Priority access to schools is not part of the immediate process right now, but Mark describes the details about consultations that have to do with grandfathering students and other theoretical impacts with the families involved. The good news: there might be some wiggle room with the reduced capacity at schools.]*
- Can you also speak towards prospective culture at the BSS? Will students have access to all of the same extracurricular things going on in such a small school

space? [Nadine - prospective principal - could speak to how they are going to build that school culture, but she wasn't there.] [Sean: every school is going to feel a little bit different, and there are benefits to having more students and benefits to having fewer students] [Ken: there are economies of scale, but things aren't better or worse - just different.] [Diane: describes her experience as a VP in different sized schools]

- What's the number projected for K-1(or K-1-2) at BSS? Has that been thought about? [Mark: that will be put into the FAQ to avoid citing an incorrect number?]
- Is the intent for Bank St. to eventually go to K-5 eventually? [Yes, but it will ramp up, unless there was a sudden influx of 9000 people in the area, etc.]
- Would students be required to go from BSS to Monterey as opposed to Lansdowne without special application? [In this circumstance, Monterey would be their catchment, but there would be an opportunity to transfer, with a higher priority compared to students completely out of catchment.]
- **Parents really want after-school care and child care and are worried about getting that if she elects to send her students to go to their neighbourhood school (BSS/Sundance). Would after school care be available? Son is currently at Oaklands (K) and daughter will start in 2021 where there is limited after-school care. Given the availability of after-school care at BSS/Sundance, it would be ideal (neighbourhood school). It would need to be there at 2020 when the school opens.**
- What are the allocations looking like for the BSS when it comes to upgrades given the age of the building? [Richmond currently can function as a school, though BSS needs upgrades and funds will also need to be allocated from both seismic and other school functionality upgrade funds.]
- Will the BSS upgrade be guaranteed or will there be a similar process for Vic High, where demolition might be considered? What would you do [Mark: it should be part of the public and community consultation unless there are "bad bones" and the building needs to absolutely go. It's also too early to say around Bank St. at this point.]

Oaklands

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Willows

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George Jay

-

Margaret Jenkins
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•

Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the situation and timeline for Richmond seismic upgrades? Where is it slated in terms of priorities? <i>[Minimum of 5 years before Richmond gets upgraded. Campus View example. Code has become more strict. Final report will be posted soon about seismic for the sake of transparency.]</i>• Is there a lot of empty space at the high schools for down the road when all of these kids reach high school level? <i>[Requested additional seats as a part of the Vic High upgrade; people in the catchment should be fine and there isn't an anticipated complication with catchment population at Oak Bay or Vic High, out of catchment is a different story.]</i>

* please consider how families who live near Vic High will be impacted by having their children have to travel far to Oak Bay. Could there please be a "grandfather clause" to prioritize transfer for those students.

* If space would allow for it, please consider opening a second late session program at Lonsdowne if a Sixth Campus Opens. I already know of 8 families interested among my daughter's friends (currently Grade 3/4), but without older siblings and so we all assume it's not going to be an option.

* please note that Oaklands Elementary had a musical tonight of all Grade 3, 4, and 5 students. My attendance represents at least another 10 interested parent who felt they could not attend.

moving to

Background

We have one child in Willows, our 2nd is about to start at Willows in September, and our third will be going to kindergarten in September 2021. We have been living in rental accommodations in Oak Bay instead of buying while we waited for confirmation on the expected school boundaries and future catchment areas. We wanted to ensure all 3 of our children would be together at Willows. We didn't purchase a house until after the first sets of recommendations came out.

The first set of recommendations had had no impact on Willow's catchment. The second set of recommendations recommended some changes in the vicinity of Oak Bay Avenue, at the area of Foul Bay Road.

On April 23rd, we agreed to purchase a house on St Patrick Street, south of Windsor Avenue, north of McNeill Avenue, within the Willows catchment area. This was not within the area identified to change in Phase I or II. The latest proposed map was revised only in the final round. It removed our new home from the Willows catchment to Margaret Jenkins.

This unexpected shift was to address some feedback indicating that some "individuals were hoping to be put into the Willows catchment area". As per the final summary report: "Willows catchment would increase in the north but reduced in the southern portion. The Lansdowne slope would become a part of the Willows boundary."

None of the recommendations in the initial recommendations gave us any concern something like this would happen. In fact, your FAQ on the website specifically said: "Why are some catchments not being changed, e.g., Willows? One of our guiding principles was to try to limit the overall amount of change as part of the process." Even the Phase II report indicated any changes would only impact an area "on" and "at" Oak Bay Avenue.

The changes between the first and second and then the final recommendations have drastic consequences for our family. The impact of this shift was to effectively displace our third child from the Oak Bay community to be sent to Fairfield instead. The logistics of being able to get the 3 children to 2 different schools in 2 different communities is a nightmare. The walk from our home to MJ would include a major traffic artery that borders the 2 communities (Foul Bay Road). And even if we could sort the logistics for a while and the third transferred over time, when would a French space become available (which is our family's pathway), in the oversubscribed Willows catchment for our third child?

Our Complaint

We have several issues with the way the maps have been re-drawn:

1. **The revision of the north and south boundaries of the Willows catchment are a deviation from the guiding principle of the review process.**
2. **The lines do not appear to have been done in consideration of geographic distance to the schools.** Our south Oak Bay home was removed despite being closer to Willows than other homes that remain in the catchment. For example, the northeast boundary of the catchment is 2.5 km from Willows but only 1.3 km from Frank Hobbs. The new areas in the northwest of the boundary is closer to Oaklands than to Willows. The northwest corner of the Lansdowne slope is much further from Willows than our home.

3. **They do not appear to have any relevance to how oversubscribed a school is.** Willows is oversubscribed, yet the proposed changes allow other houses into the catchment while at the same time taking us out. Those houses are being moved from a catchment boundary where the core English program is undersubscribed (Campus View). This has been identified on the FAQs on the website. Our house is being moved to a school which I believe is over capacity (MJ).

We sincerely hope there is a way to accommodate everyone in Oak Bay with what they need / want. However, we do ask that you do re-think the southern boundary displacement as it will separate our family and move our youngest to Fairfield.

This is a hard job to be tasked with and we understand that you are doing your best to try to find the best outcome for all. Thank you for your time.

Kind Regards,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

Please Don't Break Sean.

Teachers come to Lansdowne due to his leadership. A 2 school campus will be even more work. Please treat him well.

Offering out of school care at Sundance from the very beginning is very important to my family.

It cannot wait until Bank Street is upgraded. This will be the difference between my family attending Sundance as our catchment school rather than continuing at Oaklands and transferring my daughter there in 2021.

We want to be at Sundance!

Also, please offer grade 2 at Sundance in 2020. Thank you!

Thank you for the
Lansdowne Rd/Middowne
pocket change!

It was a HUGE
safety issue and
divided our community-
but with the proposed
change we can safely
bike/walk to our
neighbourhood school
with our neighbours

😊



Thank you for making the
Lansdowne slope part of the
Willows catchment. We
are so appreciate to be included
in the catchment of our
neighborhood school.

Our safety concerns are
eased now. It just
makes sense.

Thank you,



Thank you for considering
Lansdowne Slope in the willows,
Monterey, OB. We are very
much a little community
that has been divided campus
view/willows. Walkable, safety
& community is very important
thank you

and hope that is approved

Thank you for listening to our concerns.

We are delighted to see the Lansdowne slope
in the willows catchment.

