

Craigflower/Shoreline Open House Meeting – Questions and Answers
Greater Victoria School District No. 61
January 21, 2021

1. Who did these demographic projections?

The school district works with a third party called Baragar Systems. The organization specializes in interactive enrolment projections and provides future projections, which take into consideration birth rates, age range of population and other demographic factors.

2. What kind of capacity are you looking at for the new combined school?

If the Board were to proceed with a combined K-8 configured school, the expansion would create a 700 seat school for students.

3. If amalgamated, of the 700 seats, how many would be for English vs. French students?

Given current student enrolment in the catchment pathways, the split between middle and elementary would be approximately half English and half French Immersion.

4. If there is a K-8 configuration how do you plan to manage the age difference and different behaviors of the students when you have such a wide age range?

This could be managed in various ways. One possibility is to create two schools within a school that could share amenities. The middle and elementary students could be in separate areas of the schools, and could have separate break times, however, could share common space such as a library.

5. If Craigflower is at 50% now, and you went with option 1, is there a reason not to add Fr. immersion to Craigflower to expand the offerings in west Victoria?

If the K-8 school required a 700 seat school, and 50% of the population would be elementary that means Craigflower would need to accommodate 350 elementary students. Craigflower's current operating capacity is 219 students. In order to reconfigure Craigflower as an dual track English/French school of 350 students, it would require an expansion.

6. What happens to the Craigflower school building if closed?

School closure and disposal of real property are two distinct and separate Board policies and procedures. The Board must first decide if it should close the school using the principles in the policy and the other considerations provided in the meeting. To discuss disposal options before a decision to close a school has been made, presupposes the Board has made a decision when clearly the Board is only in the information gathering stage of its school closure deliberations.

7. What happens to the late French immersion program at Shoreline if amalgamated?

This program would continue and may have the potential to expand.

8. Would Shoreline still function as a middle school for other feeder schools (e.g. Macaulay) if amalgamated?

Yes.

9. Do the budgets that you have already include a plan for these schools? Have you done the assessments to make sure that it is feasible to build an amalgamated school on the current site?

Through our Facilities Capital Planning staff, we have explored numerous seismic options, with option 2 being the recommended option in our Project Description Report (PDR) due to cost (business case), overall improvement for both schools' students in terms of safety, enrolment growth, and best likelihood of Ministry approval.

10. If there is a K-8 configuration how will you manage the amenities available at the school? Will a new gym be built? What about the school library? Will the home-economics rooms, woodshop and other exploratory rooms still be available? This is an important part of the middle school model.

The students would not be losing any amenities. If anything, there would be room for improvements in the expansion.

Shoreline was built to accommodate 400 students as a junior high school, now a middle school. If the new K-8 school is a 700 capacity school and 50% of the students are middle school students that equates to 350 middle school students. This means the "as built" Shoreline school for 400 students would not require any addition to the middle years exploratory areas like home-economics, woodshops, etc.

Since Shoreline was built as a junior high school, the gym space is sized appropriately when applying today's area standards for a middle school.

In terms of library and multi-purpose space expansion, additional space is being considered within the funding area standard constraints. If the project was supported and announced by the Ministry, the design team would be formed to discuss funding envelope and desired spaces/amenities within that budget. The design team is generally made up of district capital staff, architect, and stakeholders (school staff, parents etc.).

In addition to expansion considerations above, the K-8 option would come with Neighbourhood Learning Centre funding (NLC) which would incorporate childcare as a Ministry mandate, as well as visioning other amenities like a health hub, indigenous space and presence, and other community spaces.

11. What were Oak Bay High's numbers at when they got a new building? Can you provide what the FCI number was for Oak Bay High prior to the rebuild?

Projected enrolment at the time the Oak Bay Secondary School project was approved was 1,200 students. The school serves more than 1,200 students today. In addition, enrolment projections indicate that the local community will continue to see growth in the catchment for the foreseeable future.

FCI was not included in the Oak Bay Project Definition Report (not required at that time in history) and is not available historically in district records, nor Ministry data.

12. If the decision is made in Spring 2021, what would the timeline be for the change and remediation work? How long would construction take?

We expect that a Shoreline K-8 could be announced in March 2022 at the earliest. It takes 2-3 years from time of announcement to completion of construction to conclude a major capital project. This means Shoreline K-8 could open September 2024 or 2025.

13. If it is amalgamated does that mean portables?

The goal is not to create portables. Portables or learning studios may be used while the school is undergoing construction. The only other reason portables would be used is for multi-purpose space or classroom space if enrolment growth was larger than expected by the time construction was completed.

14. Why is there not a total rebuild for Shoreline considering that it has one of the worst lead in the water and asbestos everywhere. Also, I thought that I read somewhere that the ground the school on was not safe from a seismic perspective? Can you comment on these factors?

Both Craigflower and Shoreline require seismic upgrade, not only Shoreline. Both are identified as H1 high risk. The district's most recent lead report can be found here: <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/our-district/departments-services/facilities-department/lead-reports/>

It is not evidenced in the lead report that Shoreline's lead levels are any worse or better than any other School District No. 61 school.

The manufacture of most asbestos containing materials was banned in Canada in 1979, but many non-friable materials continued to be produced, stockpiles still exist and asbestos products can be found in buildings built into the early 1990s.

It is understood that relocating a rebuilt Shoreline onto the field for example, rather than an upgrade on its current site, is unwise given the soil/geological makeup of the soil/site because the existing sportsfield area sits primarily on weak marine sediments meaning that construction costs would be very high, as opposed to the current location, which is on mostly bedrock.

15. If these two schools are combined, there will be many more cars and more children/families navigating these roads. Are there any plans to improve this safety aspect? Bring back crossing guards? Install traffic lights?

We will continue to work with the Municipality of View Royal and discuss possible traffic solutions.

16. But what if there isn't enough funding for new gym space? Or all the additional amenities that are needed to accommodate those 700 students if there is a K-8 school?

The District works closely with Ministry capital planning staff to design a new school or expansion. There are various space allocations and formulas that are calculated depending on the configuration and enrolment of each capital project: Elementary, Middle, Secondary, K-8 and K-12. Presumably the design aid sheet for a K-8 school will determine whether or not existing multi-purpose or exploratory spaces are large enough in today's standards for a school population of 700. If not, then space would be added in the capital project.

17. I am wondering what the chances are that the seismic upgrades to Shoreline and Craigflower would be canceled again? We were in this position 5 years ago and had the go ahead and all plans were in place to have a complete rebuild.

The District was in a position to replace Shoreline a few years ago. However, when the Ministry reviewed the capacity utilization and found it to be roughly 60%, the Ministry did not see the business case (capital investment for the number of students in the space) and delayed the project.