
For immediate release

17 October 2019

District launches School Catchment Consultation Process

Comox Valley, B.C. – Comox Valley Schools is commencing an important boundary catchment consultation process beginning 4 November to address pressure points while aligning student placement with school capacity in the school district.

The Board of Education is seeking input from the community on important considerations when re-evaluating catchment boundary changes to balance registration with the space availability at specific catchment schools in the District.

Due to increasing enrollment and limited space, some schools are operating near or above capacity with no additional room or viable options to expand, while other schools have space and are not projected to grow. With enrollment projections expected to climb over the next 10 years the Board is acting now to address the growing student population in the Valley.

“A growing student population, which we have experienced for three consecutive years, is good news for the District as it brings increased funding for public education. However, it does impose pressures on school capacity,” shared Tom Demeo, Superintendent of Schools. “It’s really important for our community to understand that they play a critical role in addressing student population growth. Together, the Board, staff and the community can shape final decisions on school catchments, which best reflects the needs of our students and families.”

The District began a pre-consultation process last spring. At those meetings the community shared with us that in order to help the District with this decision they needed accurate enrollment numbers and a few initial ideas of how to address the overcapacity issue. We designed our consultation process with these requests in mind.

The consultation process will be conducted in two rounds of discussions with each of the school communities where enrollment pressures or concerns exist. The purpose of the Round 1 consultations is to share information and data with the community and to explore ideas, which will address the enrollment problems in some of our schools. Parents will be invited to give some of their own ideas and provide feedback on the data and information presented. All the feedback will be collected and used to formulate options for the Board to consider.

Round 1

LOCATION	DATE	TIME
Royston Elementary	Monday, November 4 th	6:30 p.m.
Cumberland Community School	Wednesday, November 6 th	6:30 p.m.
Miracle Beach Elementary	Tuesday, November 12 th	6:30 p.m.
Huband Park Elementary	Wednesday, November 13 th	6:30 p.m.

Round 2

LOCATION	DATE	TIME
Royston Elementary	Wednesday, November 27 th	6:30 p.m.
Cumberland Community School	Thursday, December 5 th	6:30 p.m.
Miracle Beach Elementary	Tuesday, December 3 rd	6:30 p.m.
Huband Park Elementary	Wednesday, December 4 th	6:30 p.m.

Participants should be prepared to engage in table discussions. If more consultation sessions are required they will be scheduled, with ample notification given to the community to attend.

In addition to the scheduled public consultation sessions, the District has launched an online survey. The survey is available at http://bit.ly/SD71_BoundaryCatchmentSurvey.

Participants can also contribute to the process by following the topic and engaging in the discussions on Place Speak. Visit <https://www.placespeak.com/en/topic/6260-school-boundary-catchment-consultation/> to register and follow the discussion.

Based on input and feedback gathered from the survey, forum and the consultation process, the District senior staff will be able to develop options and recommendations, which will be presented to the Board of Education for a final decision in early 2020.

-End-

For complete details visit <https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/schoolcatchmentconsultation/>

Media Contact

Mary Lee

Manager of Communications , Comox Valley Schools (School District 71)

mary.lee@sd71.bc.ca

(250) 334-5500