



# *dialogue*)))

CBE Area V - Schools Impacted by New Schools Openings

Lake Bonavista School

**Session Notes and Evaluation**

October 20, 2016

This summary of the feedback from the Lake Bonavista School engagement session on the Area V Scenario opportunities, challenges and other questions and comments was compiled and summarized by Stantec Consulting Ltd.

November 2, 2016



**Number of Attendees:** 36

**Affected School:** Lake Bonavista School

### **Scenario 1 Discussion**

#### **OPPORTUNITIES**

- More funding if more students attend the school and programs
- Possibility to grow and accept more students to the programs offered at the school
- Andrew Sibbald into Montessori programs allows students opportunities to grow in the program.
- Opportunity for students to make new friends and expand
- The physical spaces are updated and better at Sibbald, i.e. playground and gym.
- Students would have their own classroom at Andrew Sibbald, and have only one class in one room. (more space).
- Allows for growth of Montessori program (more space)
- Bigger space provides more room for students
- Keeping a close eye on students is easier in smaller space and area with similar age groups.
- Identifying student expectations for behavior is important regardless of space.
- This changes means we are not turning kids away from a great program.
- The new space can allow Andrew Sibbald to get a dual track program (regular and Montessori).

#### **CHALLENGES**

- It is stressful to move students.
- Walking distances change for the students in the community.
- If program moves, could be a problem with increasing distance to MAPSS- bridge funding for Montessori to close the gap in what is provided by the CBE. Money needs to be allocated to each school.
- Extent to growth may be limited by available funding, not just available space.
- If specific programming staff don't move with the students or program, continuity is lost and the program will lose meaning.
- The regular program at Andrew Sibbald won't be able to integrate properly with the Montessori program.

### **Scenario 2 Discussion**

#### **OPPORTUNITIES**

- Bigger program and more students will allow expansion for Grade 7's and 8's.
- Many students can continue to walk to school.



- K-6 expansion could be great for Andrew Sibbald programming and utilization of space.
- As long as staff are kept with the program/students they move, this transition could be smooth.
- K-6 at Andrew Sibbald provides opportunities for parents to choose grouping at having their children join junior high later with same cohort.
- Gives students and cohorts room to grow, will be good for the community to have more children with roots.
- If class size/culture etc. stay the same in the bigger facility it will be a positive move for the students.
- It will be good to have a regular K-6 program at Lake Bonavista that includes the community again.

### **CHALLENGES**

- Like that the school is small, moving locations would grow class sizes, etc.
- Gym is extremely small
- Many students will need to be in one classroom.
- Lose home area program for Lake Bonavista.
- The walk zones and boundaries make it hard to be accepted for some students if moved.
- The schools will still be cramped and oversubscribed.
- Many choose the program because of proximity to their homes and neighborhoods; like the small class sizes and if the school/program moves both of those values no longer exist.
- We have not been informed enough or given enough information to make a decision on what's best.
- Families have moved to Lake Bonavista to attend the Montessori school.

### **Other Questions and Comments**

#### **GENERAL QUESTIONS**

- When will all the roll-out and implementation be completed by?
- Can we have more information on enrollment, school capacities and projected enrollment?
- Is Nickle impacted by these changes? What happens to Nickle?
- Have the discussions for R.T. Alderman's happened?
- If we are currently at Lake Bonavista in Montessori, so Montessori Boundaries stay the same or do walk zones change?
- Do teachers and staff move with the students to stay consistent?
- Can we see the feedback from both Lake Bonavista and Andrew Sibbald to see both perspectives, could be helpful to understanding differences and how the decision has been reached and scenarios have been developed up to now?
- We want a Montessori program regardless of location, can this be ensured?
- Can area directors come to these meetings and be present? How are they using this feedback? Are they using it correctly for their decision?
- How are these answers going to get back to us? Will we see the answers in the decisions?
- Will there be leasing opportunities in Andrew Sibbald?



- Recommendation/ Scenario #3: Andrew Sibbald has Montessori (K-4) and Regular (K-4); Lake Bonavista has Montessori (5-9)- this allows expansion and addresses capacity issues.
- When will we know the decision in detail? Dates? Will we have enough time to prepare the students and allow for more transition and input of the students affected?
- Registration periods end in February so it could be too late to decide if they are moving their children to a different school if the decision comes in March. Can registration periods be changed to accommodate affected families? Can the decision be made prior to registration period?
- Will there be an open house for the Area Director and other decision makers answer our questions? The current process (and not getting answers) is frustrating. Can the answers to these questions be given before the next engagement session?
- Is there an option for students to choose between Andrew Sibbald and Lake Bonavista regardless of their current program with this move? Will they be given first priority?

### SCENARIO 1

- How would bussing be offered/affected? Would there be Partner routes?
- Would bell times change?
- Can Andrew Sibbald get a dual track program with these changes? (Regular program/Montessori). Do the numbers work for this scenario?
- How does/will the fundraising dollars get split/allocated? That money belongs to the students that helped provide it/worked on those initiatives.
- Will the equipment move with the students that fundraised for it? Will this be ensured to happen?
- Is there a name change with the location/program changes?
- Is this a physical change or just a change in culture?
- Which components of the Staff will change, which ones will remain the same?
- Are there amenities? What are the differences in services between the 2 schools?
- Do all groups have to be in scenario #1 or #2 or can a combination of both be reached?
- Do school and business hours remain the same with this change (both students and administration staff)?
- Is a tour of Andrew Sibbald possible for the students and parents that will be transferred there? This will help with transition and get a sense of the space for both kids and parents.
- Would any students from outside Area V be attending the program?
- Would class sizes still be small or would they expand?
- Can we have more information about the sizes of the schools to inform the decision? Are there comparisons to be made or just putting more students where they won't fit in a few years?
- How do the school staff feel? Can we have the details?
- Would students have the same amount of learning space if moved?
- How many students will be added before more teachers and staff are hired?
- How many students are currently on the waitlist for this program?
- What is the anticipated growth of the program? Will current students still have the space to be in the program after these changes? How long until there is no more space left for future students?
- Is it important to grow the Montessori program.



- Will we need to do more fundraising if larger space is required and more students are added to the program? We will need more families to contribute to the efforts.

## SCENARIO 2

- Would the bussing and walk zone eligibility be reviewed and changed to accommodate parents affected?
- What will happen to the Montessori students after Grade 6? Will the Montessori program expand (i.e. Junior high)?
- Can we open a K-9 option for Montessori for continuum (Scenario #3)?
- Recommendation: Instead of accepting 100+ students into the Montessori Program, go conservative in order to expand grade levels for the program (Scenario #3).
- Is the demand for Montessori down compared to other programs? Has this been considered in the project calculations?
- Is the cost of bussing being considered in the calculations? Are there considerations for the fees parents will need to pay for any increases/decreases to the current cost?
- Is Andrew Sibbald more convenient for parents that drop their kids off? Will they review drop off/pick up policies to be more flexible?
- Will teacher to student ratios at the new school increase or decrease? What if the program grows? Is there capacity to support?
- Will there be more classrooms available or will class sizes be impacted?
- Will Lake Bonavista students get the first opportunity to enroll in the regular program before the other students? Currently this family is driving their kids to a different school and the home range would mean they could attend Lake Bonavista instead.



## Participant Engagement Evaluation

Lake Bonavista School – Host Location: October 20, 2016

- Lake Bonavista School

Number of participants in attendance: 36

Number of evaluations completed: 25

To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements:

**P1) I was encouraged to share my thoughts and/or feedback during this engagement.**

**24** Agree  **1** Somewhat Agree  **0** Somewhat Disagree  **0** Disagree  **0** Not Applicable

**P2) I was able to ask questions and learn about the opportunity for input/feedback prior to my participation in this engagement.**

**19** Agree  **2** Somewhat Agree  **2** Somewhat Disagree  **1** Disagree  **1** Not Applicable

**P3) I had the information I needed to participate in a meaningful way.**

**7** Agree  **8** Somewhat Agree  **4** Somewhat Disagree  **6** Disagree  **0** Not Applicable

**P4) I was able to provide input on the best way for me to share my thoughts and ideas.**

**14** Agree  **10** Somewhat Agree  **0** Somewhat Disagree  **1** Disagree  **0** Not Applicable

**P5) I clearly understand all of the factors being considered in the decision making process and which of these factors I can and cannot influence.**

**10** Agree  **7** Somewhat Agree  **4** Somewhat Disagree  **4** Disagree  **0** Not Applicable

**P6) My input was documented as part of the engagement process.**

**23** Agree  **2** Somewhat Agree  **0** Somewhat Disagree  **0** Disagree  **0** Not Applicable



**P7) What did you like most about this engagement? What did you like least about this engagement?**

**Comment: 16      No Comment: 9**

- Needed decision makers at the engagement
- Smaller size attendance
- Separate groups
- I liked the structure
- I did not like how our questions were not immediately answered. It made for a frustrating experience overall
- This was very frustrating! We received no answers to any of our questions or concerns. Someone representing CBE should have been part of this “forum” to answer our concerns
- Liked most: the opportunity to participate and gain information
- Liked least: lack of information
- The coordinators kept the group engaged. They were not equipped with more information that lead to selection of scenario
- Lack of basic information about the physical amenities of the schools to be able to facilitate discussion (i.e., school capacity, number of classrooms, etc.)
- Very well moderated!
- Very well moderated
- Thank you for this thorough process
- A great way to have the scenarios explained – thanks
- The environment
- I like that everything was talked about
- Breaking up into 2 small groups, helped to have everyone get some airtime
- Was a fair minded open approach that respected everyone’s thoughts
- Would have liked to know our school admin’s opinions
- Would have been nice to share the session with Andrew Sibblad parents
- Needs more discussion