



A Public Engagement session was held at Colonel Irvine School on April 20, 2016, to provide information on schools impacted by new school openings and to collect feedback on the opportunities for using additional space in schools to best meet the learning needs of students, families, and the community. Approximately 60 people attended this engagement and were asked to provide feedback on opportunities developed in collaboration with system principals. Please note: some comments were omitted due to their inflammatory nature.

General Comments:

- Bring back foundational building blocks of education rather than keep exploring so many specialist schools (+1+1+1+1 additional support)
- Planning staff (Linda) was very helpful

- Thank you to your team. This is not an easy task to tackle!
- Idea: organize so that change can always be announced ahead. People can accept change better if time is given to make personal choices. People make big life decisions based on schools, transportation, child care. For example: Bus route announcements in August is very very stressful
- Have CBE have more parent input rather than CBE employees make decisions to benefit themselves
- More emphasis on Public learning
- No driving on Deerfoot
- Less busing
- Demographics must be considered when pooling students who live across the city from each other.
- Longer term, C-train may open up opportunities for inn'r'd enrollment
- The greenline and HP Golf course redevelopment mean lots of change. Is the CBE connected to these being conversations?

Language and Non-Language Alternative Programs:

- For K-4 or 6 don't have language alternative programs, maybe when kid has roots in the language but not otherwise USE LOCAL PUBLIC Schools
- If an alternative program (TLC) is thriving in its current location, and has greater numbers than the regular program, it should remain at the current location and not be relocated
- TLC in Evanston
- They "suck" students away from local schools
- Add a non-language alternative program to Area II that doesn't currently exist, such as science or Montessori
- Science school in the NW would be great
- Consider an athletic or sports school alternative program at the jr. or high school level
- Huge waitlists for alternative program schools in inner city. ie) Langevin. Science school

- Add more specialty programs to inner city schools! ie) Rosedale school lost second – language (French) in the 2015/2016 school year
- I think the alternative programs are diluting focus & from the quality of generalized public education. Leave Alt programs to private system
- Why mix 3 programs at one school? (ie Colonel Irvine with Mandarin, regular and TLC). Separate alt and regular (splits resources to focus)
- (Alternative Education) In order to sustain a school system that ensures every child received an education that teaches reading, writing and arithmetic it appears that the number of options is too burdensome to the CBE. Especially at the elementary level, we need to take a very close look at stream lining the options
- High demand/long wait lists for Montessori and science programs – add capacity in Area II
- Increase alternative programs decrease sense of community as more neighborhood kids go to school in different programs
- Consider keeping alternative programs together. Why mix multiple programs in one school (ie: Colonel Irvine). Focus on one program and do it well instead of dividing students and resources
- Consider adding a science non-language alternative to Area II
- Make one set of schools k-12 in each area for alternative programs ONLY
- My child attends the National Sport Academy at SPB. It is my understanding that there are difficulties with scheduling 3 programs at the school, and the NSA is being phased out over the next 2 years. It would be perfect to put the current program (NSA as it currently runs) at a school with more room that only houses one program. i.e. Simon Fraser or HD Cartwright. There is so much interest and passion for this program with over 40 children in application status next year (39 – gr 7's, 1 gr. 8's, 1 gr. 9)
- Consider having an alternative program at Col Macleod to keep it open as community school (similar to Stanley James AJA/DHH)
- Crescent Heights/Renfrew needs a junior high sch. They should not have to bus to one outside the community. Consider expanding science program at Langevin to C. McLeod for 7-9 grades
- Idea: expand Langevin Science school to gr 12 and take the science school to Colonel Macleod from 9-12 or 10-12
- Next 2-3 years how Crescent Heights HS will provide optional program. Same as this school year? Do students has to give up some option/after school sports program?
- Idea: Some high enrollment programs could be expanded. Science, Montessori.
- Stanley Jones Division II kids suffer from all the attention AJA girls get and feel unfairly treated so a new school / space would be good for them
- Keep Mandarin language program at Highwood/Colonel Irvine.
- Consider Mandarin language program for high school at James Fowler
- Language alt programs
- Consider moving alternative programs to James Fowler (e.g., TLC & Mandarin, etc.)
- TLC for high school plz, with its programs as a whole
- Are alternative schools really necessary for kids k-6? As they won't go to local schools
- Alternative programs are not really necessary for k-6

- I would really love to see another arts focused school (jr high) close in this area (II)
- Would a decrease in alternative programs increase utilization at community schools and decrease transportation issues?
- NW schools (Evanston) have farther bus rides than TLC or Alt programs.
- TLC or Alternative to bus farther

High Schools:

- Do not reduce AP options @ Crescent Heights when TLC students are no longer bussed there
- Add robotics to CHHS
- Potential IB program
- With the LRT built in the future, Fowler might be an attractive centre for trades and other courses
- Do Not reduce AP options at Crescent Heights High School or will lose more kids. Is school of choice for some because of strong AP and sciences
- A public high school is needed in Northern Hills 70,000 + residents and no high school
- Is there enough student pop to justify the number of high schools in north central Calgary?
- Make Irvine or SJAM designated school
- ABE or Dief for high school
- More Kincora's designation to CHHS
- Build a high school in Northern Hills. Approx. 70,000 residents and no public high school. Long overdue
- Evanston and surrounding communities **DESPERATELY** need a middle school and high school. Look at the population explosion in the communities!
- Can we make Simon Fraser as the Evanston middle school 5-8 or 9? Then gr 9-12 for high school. If boundaries change for high schools, thought needs to be given to the transport of kids via public transit. We have heard stories of kids having to take multiple bus routes to get to or from school.
- Cres. Heights – possibly expand to 9-12
- Idea: Utilize the newly vacant space at Crescent Heights high school to accommodate Grade 9 (make Crescent Heights high school grade 9-12). This will create more space at Rosedale school where there is limited space currently.
- Consider having Crescent Heights High School grades 7-12 for community kids
- We are concerned about the high school change of designation. Will the CHANGE be one of FORUM/discussion when the time comes? Or will the decision be made without us? Will we have a choice of high schools based on programs?
- We live in Coventry and we LIKE our designated high school Crescent Heights. We want to stay there
- I am concerned that the bussing will be a challenge for high school students. They cannot be going on 2-3 buses (transit) just to get to school.
- Appreciate the middle schools to Grade 9. Gives students chance to be leaders before high school

- Nelson Mandela is opening in Sept. and will impact programs offered in James Fowler due to significant decreases in school population. My son is designated to Fowler and I had to make a choice to submit a transfer application or not. I was asked to provide justification for my choice based solely in the availability of programs. ie specifically if a program is currently offered at James Fowler that I could not ask for a transfer for that program. So without knowing what programs will be offered I could not make an informative decision. This is not transparent and put parents in a significant disadvantage.
- Consider making Crescent Heights a jr./sr. high for local kids
- James Fowler is losing population and going through huge reno. Please make sure it becomes designated school for the specialties that all the \$ are put into
- Understand the value of James Fowler reno and how to utilize those investments as we predict declining enrollment? (Specialty designation)
- Diefenbaker is slowly sinking and will be in dire need of repair. Send students to Fowler which offers a plethora of courses

Other Opportunities:

- James Fowler's anticipated vacancies could be minimized by trades, adult learners
- Renting gyms to sports / arts groups
- CBE could sell downtown location and work out of underutilized schools. any business looking for efficiency would consider this
- James Fowler is an excellent learning centre. Make it an adult centre for trades or an alternative programs for trades
- Kindergarten childcare is very hard for families. Before and after care helps enrollment, especially when people are allowed to go to schools out of zone. People out of zone provide their own transportation so it should be encouraged.
- More child care spaces in schools for parents even partner with local preschools for after preschool care at inner city schools
- More before and after school care and opening enrollment to broader communities. This worked for Sunnyside School
- Idea: Child care can really increase enrollments
- Consider before and after school care in schools (Alex Munroe). Keep in mind the potential density increases of green LRT line
- Utilize schools as resource centres e.g. summer math programs or camps
- James Fowler could be an excellent centre of learning for trades – either an adult learning centre or alt high school for trades
- Use extra space (potentially) to make room at schools for before/after care (most parents work – that is reality)
- Before and after school care
- It would be nice to have schools with daycares attached for parents with kids at multiple ages not just before and after school care

Unique Setting:

- James Fowler's anticipated vacancies could be minimized with special needs learners
- Use one school for special needs kids and resource appropriately

Community Schools:

- I've seen several comments that North Hills has no school which I understand is #8 or 9 on the priority for a new school. Maybe Fowler can be their designated school until a new one is built
- Consider upcoming transit lines and proximity to existing schools when thinking of new options for classes and opportunities for Fowler
- Bring a ECE program (Early Childhood Education) to CBE schools for preschoolers to attend pre-kindergarten as opposed to parents paying private preschools or Montessori schools
- Please consider keeping Evanston kids to one school after grade 4; i.e. 5-8, 9-12 middle/high
- Idea for Colonel Macleod. Take Division II from Stanley Jones and expand the Alice Jamison and increase AJA costs to parents. Another idea take all of elementary to Colonel Macleod and turn Stanley Jones into an Alice Jamison k-9
- Idea: many people from high enrollment areas will drive to low enrollment if they are allowed
- Can walking kids have priority over special programs in terms of if schools are too full?
- Expand role of school bldgs + fields in communities to keep / improve facilities for long term re-growth of communities
- Operationally, can we consider closing down lower population schools and asking these kids to bus to the suburbs?
- Please ensure enough population of regular program kids at junior and senior high schools to allow for proper "socialization". If you get ostracized from a small group, you don't have many option for friends/friend groups
- No Colonel McLeod – Queen E better
- Please consider putting more focus on building strong communities instead of dividing kids between many
- Focus more on needs of community students in schools rather than out-of-bound bussed in students. Will get more community involvement / volunteering this way
- Review boundaries for Northern Hills Schools. Current designated schools don't reflect changes in population
- Look at changing school boundaries. Look at putting close community schools together in the best building
- Please consider the distance and route from the home community to these schools. Bus rides for kids to these schools should avoid higher risk roads. ie Deerfoot
- Transportation of students. This seems to be a problem that shouldn't be. Kids should go to schools in their own communities, especially at the elementary level. I live in Highwood and see at least 5 families heading to Rosemont every day for the last 5 years. I have raised this issue several times. The principal at Rosemont sold many of these parents on the Reggio Emilia approach in K and off they went. My granddaughter went to Highwood playschool with most of these kids. We ended up at Cambrian same philosophy used there.
- Transportation of students from new areas. Developers of new communities should be footing the bills for transporting students to existing schools. This needs to be addressed now before more communities are built. Why does city council not demand supplemental funding by developers for transportation?

- Idea: Let students go where they want regardless of address. If there is space and if they offer their own transportation. Do not limit students based on address
- Don't forget about updating/upgrading facilities at the inner city schools. ie. Rosedale school (k-9) bathrooms are so old they don't even have mirrors!
- Do whatever it takes to keep North Haven open
- K-6; 7-9; 10-12 grade configurations. Keep the "little people" with "little people".
- Use Simon Fraser as the designated middle school for Evanston, and Churchill as the designated high school
- There are 359 middle school aged kids in Evanston! We clearly need a middle school ASAP!
- Prefer k-6 over 4/5-9
- Grade 5 too young for middle school
- Keep school Cohorts together, k-12
- Please review boundaries in Country Hills (north of golf course) for jr. high and high school designation. My grade 6 student is one of only 5 kids designated to Colonel Irvine. All the remaining students and her peers go to SJM. Goes to jr high without peers and has a longer bus ride. Population in community is in decline. Allow Country Hills kids to combine with peers to a logical jr. high and senior high
- Keep cohort group together, k-12
- Build schools first and then the community will follow
- Maintain community programs and ensure (for junior and senior high school) that there are two or more classes per grade to keep population high enough for "socialization" benefits
- Maintain community keeps it thriving programs.
- Align grade configurations across system
- Keeping communities together Evanston/Cambrian to Colonel Irvine
- Redesignate the boundaries of James Fowler to allow more students to attend from the north Calgary regions to offset the catastrophic drop in student enrollment. Move some student from Diefenbaker to James Fowler
- Why not close inner city schools that are basically empty and bus out the few remaining students to the suburbs where the majority of school – aged kids live instead of bussing in so many kids from the suburbs to inner city schools? This could potentially save tons of money, even if modular had to be added on to some schools.
- Kids in communities that are in close proximity (Evanston, Kincora, Sage Hill) should be grouped together in schools and moved together.
- It would be nice to have a designated junior and senior high school in community with at least 50% (or more) regular program
- Would have been nice to know about student pop impacts at James Fowler when choosing program
- Interested to see how options will also be affected going forward
- Please try to ensure the regular program and spaces don't suffer because of the amount of other options offered
- Reconfigure boundaries so more kids have an option to walk to school or face a shorter bus commute
- Change boundaries

Early Learning:

- Offer full day kindergarten as an optional fee for service program at Andrew Sibbald. Schools in St. Albert do it for \$300/mo. Would attract many families
- Bring in Early childhood education programs into CBE schools to increase school enrollment so parents who choose preschools don't have to pay privately

Other Comments:

Note | the Calgary Board of Education is not responsible for and does not have the authority to change the following: funding or organization of school districts in the province, city/provincial tax levies, or school construction funding (when and where schools are built)

- Lease excess field space for public / private use. eg. family friendly housing