



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73  
(Kamloops - Thompson)

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73 (KAMLOOPS-THOMPSON)**

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**PUBLIC COMMUNITY MEETING – INQUIRIES  
RE-OPENING OF WESTSYDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm**

**David Thompson Elementary School**

Meeting Name:	Community Consultation Meeting – Re-Opening of Westsyde Elementary School	
Meeting Date:	January 30, 2019	
	<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>
1.	Dan Laviolette – I just had a question about the catchment boundary. It looks like it was Pine Springs, not Sicamore. Could you clarify that?	<p>A. McDonald – You are correct. It’s Pine Springs on the west side of Westsyde Road and it’s the backyard of Sicamore on the east side of Westsyde Road. We try to put the lines through backyards, not down the middle of streets because if we use middle of streets, that means I’m on one side of the street, you’re on the other and we’re going different places.</p> <p>A. Sidow – If you go to our webpage, you will see the presentation provided to the Board, as well as this presentation, so you’ll be able to get a closer look at the map.</p>
2.	Jen Edgecomb – Thank you so much for that presentation, that was really great. I have a question about the pick-up and drop-offs. We’ve watched the challenges that happened at Westmount Elementary with pick-up and drop-off and now we are facing a school that’s going to be on Westsyde Road, with very little opportunity for safe pick-up and drop-off for little children on that street. The alternative is actually someone’s front yard, so I’m just curious, I know it’s going to be a smaller school to start but we anticipate growth so what is the expectation there? Safety is my number one priority.	<p>R. Schoen – that is a question that we’ll investigate for you.</p> <p>A. Sidow – I will interpret that as concern about the drop-off and pick-up area, looking for a response, so we will make sure that we do get back to you on that. Thank you for your question.</p>

3.	[Stacey Vair] – My Question is along the lines of what the previous speaker was saying just so far as in the speed limit in front of Westsyde Road. I'm just kind of wondering if we're going to be putting in a lower speed limit and how far out that's going to be on either side for that?	<p>A. Sidow – Good question.</p> <p>A. McDonald – That would be a City of Kamloops question. I have talked to the traffic department and advised them that this may be coming, so they were going to look at that. I believe there's a crosswalk with lights out in front of the Save-On Foods complex. They're going to make sure that is controlled properly. But, in terms of the school zone, I know that we are looking at that but it would be a City of Kamloops question.</p>
4.	[from floor] We're on Ida Lane and the semis coming flying down that road. For example, logging trucks, so that's a huge concern for us parents.	<p>A. Sidow – We're concerned too with the traffic. The challenges at Westmount certainly was well publicized. We will continue to work with the City around all matters that relate to student safety, but that piece is not within our control. We will continue to advocate, always, for the safety of our students. It's a very real concern and I appreciate it being addressed and raised here today.</p>
5.	[from floor] I actually had one more question, just about crosswalks as well. The catchment is going to be from Sicamore east. Again, this might be a question for the City, but is there a consideration of putting in another crosswalk on that side, because all these children coming from the river up, are going to have to cross at either Save-On Foods and/or at Sicamore and there's no other crosswalk on any other side so I'm wondering if that's something that's going to be addressed as well?	<p>A. McDonald – I think at this point what I'd say is that we'll bring these specific concerns forward to the City when we meet with them.</p> <p>A. Sidow - We share the same concerns.</p>
6.	Katie Larsen – I'm just wondering if you're going to keep the bus running that already currently brings kids from further out Westsyde Road to David Thompson?	<p>A. McDonald – Yes, that won't change. The only thing that will change is the elementary students will be at Westsyde</p>

		<p>Elementary and not David Thompson Elementary. The bus will still run.</p> <p>A. Sidow – If you think this is the right thing to do, it's good for the Board to hear that and it's good for us to hear as well. In general, we'd like to hear whether you think it's a good idea.</p>
7.	<p>Lisa Thompson – I'm wondering about kindergartens coming into David Thompson. I don't live in either of these catchments but there was no room when my son came to school, so I'm just wondering what does that look like? If I've got a 5-year-old coming in, obviously I want my kids to go to the same school. Does that impact my son who will be going into grade 5? Will he be asked to leave or will he get to stay?</p> <p>We are in the Arthur Stevenson catchment, but there was no space for my boy when we started, so the option was Westmount or DT. We picked DT. At that time, the Principal told me it's not a problem, when your daughter gets old enough it'll just naturally.... but here we are now, she's getting ready to register, what does that look like?</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	<p>R. Schoen – I just want to make sure I understand the question. You aren't in the Westsyde catchment but your older son goes to David Thompson?</p> <p>That's a fair question. That's actually outlined in our Transfer Policy and once an out-of-catchment child is in a school, the remaining siblings would have preference in the school.</p> <p>You're welcome.</p>
8.	<p>Christy Gauley – I am really excited about the prospect of having smaller schools for our kids and about what the entails for students, particularly students with some challenges in school, so I think that the smaller community is going to be really helpful to my kids, in particular, so thank you very much for this choice. I'm excited about it.</p>	<p>A. Sidow – Thank you.</p> <p>R. Schoen – Thanks, Christy.</p>
9.	<p>Christine Ony – I'm a parent at the school and also a CEA at David Thompson currently. There are some parents with children currently in grade 6, so they would be going into grade 7 next September. As a cohort, a lot of them have been together since Kindergarten.</p> <p>Is it possible, if there's such thing as a soft start to the split, where you go K-6, starting at Westsyde Elementary, leave grade 7 cohort here for their final year in elementary school and then ease that transition into the high school instead of tearing them apart for a year and then smashing them back together a year later? So, just wondering if that's a possibility or if we've thought about that to just make the impact on those older kids a little bit less?</p>	<p>R. Schoen – We'll take that under advisement.</p> <p>R. Schoen – One of the slides tonight showed that is one of the downsides of dividing up the population and that exact concern is going to happen. What we'll do is take it under advisement. Let's hear from the parents and try to do the right thing. If everybody stays at David Thompson we don't achieve the</p>

		<p>results we're trying to achieve, so we'll do the best we can.</p> <p>A. Sidow – It's a fair point, because kids would then have two transfers quite quickly and on to Westsyde Secondary so I hear your point. Thank you for raising that.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Damon Hebner – I actually had the exact same question. So, I'm the second person.</p> <p>[Approximately 10-12 people raised their hands with same concern as above]</p> <p>Just out of curiosity, would the catchment area for Arthur Stevenson change in this process? Because I heard that it was full already.</p>	<p>A. Sidow – Why don't we just have a show of hands. How many people are concerned about grade 7's being split and then having to transfer?</p> <p>Ok, that's significant in a crowd this size. Thank you for that feedback. We will take that under advisement. I saw probably about 10-11 hands.</p> <p>A. Sidow – No. We note that most of our schools are full, and that's our challenge and we have aging facilities, which we've maintained very well. We are in a growth phase, which is not something we anticipated would happen as quickly. It's happening more rapidly than we anticipated.</p> <p>Yes, this poses a challenge, but it's a much better challenge than declining enrolment. So, we will continue to look for solutions through our long term planning strategies and advocacy that the Board has been very active in doing in terms of new facilities.</p>

11.	<p>Stacey Matkkowski – I just want to say that I work for the school district and with the whole grade 6's going into grade 7, it's a concern of my son. When he first found out about it, he knows exactly where all his friends live and he realizes that none of his friends are moving to the new school. It's his real concern. Not mine, because I have to say I really support this opening of Westsyde Elementary and I wish you would have done it a few years ago, actually, because I live just down the street. So, it's a few years too late for me, I feel. But one concern we do have is sports teams. This year, my son plays volleyball and basketball and you reduce the numbers and then you're not going to have very many kids trying out. This year, too, they had a tough time with a couple of their sports teams, getting enough kids. That's kind of an issue. Just something to think about. I think it's really good, I think it's great. It's going to increase the value of the homes, the kids can walk to school etc. but I guess that's just another thing to think about, especially when you have two small schools.</p>	<p>A. Sidow – Thank you for that comment.</p>
12.	<p>Wade Shuster – Apart from some of the concerns I hadn't thought about such as speeding and crosswalks and the parking, which are all great concerns, I'm really excited that you're opening the school. I think it's great. I don't think students are getting what they need, being super stuffed and crammed like they are, so I'm super excited. One thing I had thought about as a concern when I first heard about it was the playground. I haven't been back behind there to really notice what the state of the current one is, but I know that's a huge importance to kids. So, I saw in the presentation that it had accommodation for the playground, but I'm hoping it's of the same standard that any others would be. Apart from that, I'm super excited.</p>	<p>A. Sidow – Thanks Wade.</p> <p>A. McDonald – So, as I mentioned, we would be replacing the old wood structure with a brand new structure and it will be to all the current standards.</p> <p>A. Sidow – It's a beautiful, large field too. I know the school's a little close to the road, but the play areas there are phenomenal.</p>
13.	<p>Clare Adams – I'm one of the grade 7 parents so that issue was something I was definitely going to raise tonight so that's good it's been well covered. But I really just want to applaud you on making a longer term decision for the benefit of the community. I think that clearly there's a lot of logistical operational things to work through. Consequences like the speeding zones and things I hadn't thought of entirely until tonight, but when you see how crowded this school is and you see the parking and drop-off in the morning and other things, it's definitely well needed and I'm not a fan of the portables. So again, I have huge support and I think that needs to be stated. Thanks.</p>	<p>A. Sidow – Thank you.</p>
14.	<p>Simon Griffiths – I'm just curious, I do support the proposal. It definitely seems like a good solution to the situation, given the growth forecast. I'm curious how the catchment area was decided upon and whether it was just basically the ratio of children that you would have to put into a school of a certain size, and that sort of thing.</p>	<p>A. McDonald – I believe it's pretty close to the way the catchment used to be back before 2006 and I know it was Pine Springs on the west side of Westsyde Road but I can't find anything for the east side of Westsyde Road. As a consequence, the numbers do work out quite well in terms of</p>

	<p>We live really close to Westsyde, but we actually will fall into the catchment for David Thompson, but presumably then that's just so many more kids that would be at David Thompson that would be at Westsyde so that's where the boundary's been put.</p>	<p>the proportions for the size of the schools, so there's really no magic to it.</p> <p>R. Schoen – The school district does have a transfer policy 300.1 and in the transfer policy it allows any person in the Kamloops School District to go to a different school if they wish, but generally schools do not accept transfers until the end of the first week of September. The thinking behind the policy has always been that we want to give access to school spaces to people in the catchment first, and if there's room then they let people in accordingly. So, if you are close and you'd rather walk this way or that, there is a policy for that request.</p>
15.	<p>Ryan Stewart – I am the General Manager of the Hamlets of Westsyde. Don't worry about the leaseholders that you have in the school, I'll take care of them, it's ok. I have lots of space and we are expanding. I just wanted to also say you guys are doing the right thing. The opening of Westsyde Elementary is perfect. I grew up in Westsyde, graduated from Westsyde Secondary and I'm glad to be a member of this community and to be one of the largest employers in Westsyde and to have two young children at home that can walk to school. 100% this is the right thing to do and I thank you very much for your dedication to this. Thank you.</p>	A. Sidow - Thank you.
16.	<p>Richard Sparrow – I just want to address the Board. I'm really behind this proposal. I have a daughter with exceptional needs, and so the proposal about having an LART room that's much larger is really going to affect our family because right now integrating our daughter into the classroom is very difficult because it seems she doesn't have a lot of space and there's a lot of overlap. So, I'm really behind this proposal. Like I said, with a daughter that has special needs, having more space is critical to her success. So, great presentation, thank you guys.</p>	A. Sidow - Thank you.
17.	<p>Jennifer Best – I know you guys talked about doing renovations and everything like that. I'm just wondering about fencing along the school lines. DT has fencing all around, I don't see any fencing there and it should be fenced, so that's just another concern. Just because it's on Westsyde Road, right there. It's a very big concern.</p>	A. McDonald – I don't have an answer for you. We'll take that under advisement and it's something we can look at. I know there's fencing along the entire

		<p>field that separates the field from the parking lot. It's something we can look at.</p> <p>A. Sidow – Thank you, that's a good point. Luckily, our Secretary-Treasurer is in attendance and hearing this too.</p>
18.	<p>Leni Reichor – I'm the parent of a grade 6 student here and I think re-opening the school is a great idea. Having said that, is there any consideration given to the possibility of doing things as one school? For example, the concern of the sports teams. It is hard to find enough students for some of the teams and on the other side, the volunteers to coach the students and especially in the transition period. Maybe the first one, two, even three years or longer the students are having one volleyball team, one basketball team and work as a certain Westsyde Area and have one team? For sports, mostly, but I'm also thinking about other things where the schools could work as one?</p> <p>I'm thinking even Parent Advisory Councils. We have a hard time finding volunteers for one PAC. For example, position of Treasurer. We need two now. It's challenging if we have suddenly two schools to find volunteers for both.</p>	<p>R. Schoen – that's a neat idea. I will take that and share that. My experience is that schools have a lot of school pride, the idea of combining may not be as amiable to them as it might be to us in the room. If you look at Brocklehurst Middle School, for instance, that has all the grade 7's from all of the north shore elementary schools, so it certainly is being done. Another challenge is not just the number of kids but the number of coaches. So, there might be some economy of scale if they combine, so that would be a principal and staff decision that we could certainly share.</p> <p>A. Sidow – It's a good point. Where we've been involved in transitions before like this in the past where schools have been divided or when we've amalgamated schools, anything you can do to ease the transition for young people creates a sense of safety and helps them move through that change. So, I would anticipate the principals would be aware of that but as Assistant</p>

		<p>Superintendent Rob Schoen said, we'll make sure that is made clear to them as well. It's a good point, thank you.</p>
<p>19.</p>	<p>Lindsay Santos – My question just has to be with the catchments and splitting the school up. If you find you're going to have equal numbers with grades, or if say, there's two grade 6 students and they get put in with grade 7's, if it's going to be like that there's going to be a lot of split classes.</p>	<p>R. Schoen – That's a great question. I thought someone might ask if there was going to be more split classes if we do this and so actually I had my secretary add up the number of straight classes and the number of split classes in the elementary division before we came. So, we currently have 382 classes in elementary across the district. 49% of them are split classes. At David Thompson right now, there's actually 10 split classes and 9 straight classes and it's just about the same right across the district. I would suggest, based on this, kids don't come in batches of 20, they come in batches of 27 or 31, so there's a full class and a split class. I would think that in both schools you'd have about half and half split classes and straight classes when all is said and done.</p>
<p>20.</p>	<p>Rochelle – I am a Foster parent. I have children coming and going in my home and if we have a long-term child would they be welcomed into the school if I wanted to enroll them in Westsyde Elementary or would they be declined?</p> <p>We are not in the catchment, but I am going to be doing a transfer because we are closer to Westsyde Elementary and I could walk my kids to school easier than I could here, so I will be applying for that.</p>	<p>T. Smillie – Yes, of course your children would be welcomed into the school in your catchment area. If your child then would like to transfer it would just be through the transfer policy.</p> <p>A. Sidow – If there are children with special considerations then of course those are a priority as well.</p>

		Thank you for the work you do.
21.	<p>Kim Babcock – I’m really happy about this change. I think it’s awesome. I do have some questions about the music program. There is one offered here and I know it’s a teacher that goes to different schools and I’m wondering if that would be something that Westsyde would be having or what would be going on in that regard for the children that have been doing that program?</p> <p>Yes, I’m talking about the Strings Program.</p> <p>I just have one more question, to do with technology. Will it be the same that’s here, with the whiteboards [smartboards] and laptops and all the stuff that’s currently at this school?</p>	<p>R. Schoen – There’s a music teacher, correctly, right now an itinerant teacher in David Thompson?</p> <p>That is a great question. We can look into that for you. That is an itinerant program that goes to more than one school, so that’s a fair question.</p> <p>Just so you know, Westsyde Elementary used to be the @KOOL building, so it had all the optic fibre installed that was used by the distance learning school.</p> <p>A. McDonald – I have to make the caveat that I’m not the Director of I/T, so I might speak out of turn, but what we’ve budgeted is everything that all of our other schools have, so it would be WiFi throughout, projectors, screens in every classroom, so it would be outfitted similarly to our other schools.</p>
22.	Christine Ony – I know there’s a budget for Westsyde Elementary to get new computers, lab, library, which is wonderful and great, and that’s how it should be. I’m just wondering if there is a budget for David Thompson to re-purpose some of the rooms that are currently classrooms, back into computer labs, music rooms and that sort of thing?	A. McDonald – At this point, we haven’t gotten that far. We need a decision from the Board that says this is going to go ahead and then once students and staffing are determined for following years, then the Principal of David Thompson would look at their needs and let us know what they think they need.

	<p>So, that a soft yes?</p> <p>That's a good segue into the next question. I'm also a member of the PAC at David Thompson and we've done a lot of fundraising over the years as a whole and we do quite well at it, if I don't say so myself. So, what happens to that money, how is that determined, is that up to the parents' advisory council? What does that look like?</p> <p>Also, there's assets that have been purchased as well, so do you have to look at all the purchases that David Thompson as a PAC has made, and split between the two schools or how does that work?</p>	<p>That's an in the future – yes, with an undetermined future date.</p> <p>R. Schoen – Could I just make one comment about the dividing of assets? When we have divided schools before, there's a lot of assets in the Parent Advisory Committees and the division of those assets between the new school and David Thompson is something to consider.</p> <p>R. Schoen – In my experience, PAC's I have found, almost without exception, are extremely fair and reasonable so, generally, yes, if there is \$10,000 and 40% of the students leave, for instance, \$4,000.00 would go to the new PAC and \$6,000.00 would remain.</p> <p>R. Schoen – I would suggest to you that you would need to look at the purchases, because often things that are purchased by PAC, things like I/T, google carts, and maybe projectors and so on, so forth, most of that is going to already be at Westsyde. So, it might not be necessary to move that over, given that it's going to be put in there already.</p>
23.	<p>Stephanie Morrison – I have Bumble &amp; Bean Daycare currently operating out of Westsyde Elementary school. First, I'd like to thank you for the consideration of perhaps allowing us space in one of the two schools. This is more of just a comment more than a question. I think for those concerned about maybe having an afterschool program in their school, it's a place where the children from these two schools can meet afterschool. I know there's a lot of anxiety with the kids about being</p>	<p>A. Sidow – Thank you. Great comments. We all care about children, that's why we're all here. We all want the best for our community and that means we</p>

separated from their friends, and so it's a place where they can play afterschool. We often don't get back to the school until about 3:00 pm, so it's not to impede on any of the activities within the school. We've been working quite closely with David Thompson, Arthur Stevenson, Westmount, Bert Edwards and the French school for the last 5 years and we do care about working as a partnership. It's a way to also provide new spaces for the almost 100 families on my wait list. We currently provide care for almost 100 families as well, 48 children a day. Westsyde is an outlying community with a huge need for daycare and so while we have found a new location that we're very excited about, having more space is a need. There's also not a lot of commercial space in Westsyde and so to have access to a school where the children already go, is a great asset. It's a way to provide a bit more funding for the school district as well, as a leasee. Again, just want to say thank you for considering the afterschool program and for Westsyde community as well for supporting it. We have found great support since finding out about the school re-opening in December, which was quite stressful. The community came out in bounds to support us, so again, I'm happy to say we are hopeful that we have found our new place, but love the idea of perhaps being able to open up more spots to all the children in need of childcare right now, for the afterschool program.

want the best for our children. Anything we can do to provide opportunities for increased child care spaces is something we're passionate about, too. I don't anticipate a problem, but there is a process and we look forward to a continued partnership.

Thank you all very much. It's always a pleasure to come to Westsyde. It's such a close-knit community, great folks, and it's been a pleasure to bring you what we believe is really good news. You've raised some really thoughtful questions and comments, which we will consider. Some things we haven't thought about, some we have, but we will certainly be responding to questions. Everything will be up on our website, as well as all of your thoughtful comments and questions. So, thank you for your time. I'd like to turn it over to our Board Chair for some closing remarks. Just to reiterate, the feedback period is open now until February 28<sup>th</sup>, and the decision will be made March 11<sup>th</sup> by the Board of Education. Thank you.

## **Closing Remarks –**

Chair Kathleen Karpuk - Thank you again to all our staff for the hard work that they've put into this. Thank you to Vice-principal Boyle for being here and opening up the school tonight for this and a big huge thank you to all of you for coming out and giving us the feedback. There are some things that we'll be thinking about as a Board when we make our decision, and your feedback is very helpful. Your comments will definitely give us some ideas to chew on as we go forward. Again, we'll welcome more feedback, so just send us an email, through our [www.SD73.bc.ca](http://www.SD73.bc.ca) website. We look forward to your feedback. It's been a pleasure to be out here this evening with you. Thank you very much.