

Long Term Facilities Plan: Middle Schools Update

School District #35 (Langley)
Board of Education Meeting
October 25, 2016

History of Middle School Programming

- 2008 HD Stafford
- 2009 Betty Gilbert
- 2014 Yorkson Creek
- 2019/20 New Willoughby Secondary School
(conversion of RE Mountain)

* Fundamental/Langley Fine Arts School

History of Middle School Programming

- 2013 Long Term Facilities Plan Recommendation #2 prioritized by Board of Education

“It is recommended that School District No. 35 (Langley) commences a stakeholder consultation process to discuss middle grades education with a potential follow-up process on middle grades configuration for the Brookwood, DW Poppy and Walnut Grove areas.”

History of Middle School Programming

- 2015 Previous Board of Education presentations
 - May: Kim Schonert-Reichl, UBC
 - June: Panel of Administrators
 - September: Panel of Teachers, Parents and Students

History of Middle School Programming

- 2016 District Committee formed (February)
(Superintendent Hoffman)

Staff Reports to Board of Education
(March/April/May)

Motion from May Board of Education Meeting:

“That the Board of Education requests that the staff host informational community meetings, in September 2016, on middle schools.”

Community Information Meeting on Middle School Programming

- October 2016
- 180 parents, teachers and administrators from across the District
- Kim Schonert-Reichl, UBC
- Panel of Administrators, Teachers, Parents and Students

Community Information Meeting on Middle School Programming

- Key Themes:

“Middle school model supports the children at this critically developmental age, likelihood that they will find an adult to connect with.”

“Loved the LSS student, he convinced me. I loved the empowerment of the choices they have at middle school. They have the opportunity to explore. Great that they have some choices. Having more choices is great.”

“As a parent and volunteer participant in the Yorkson Creek school community, I would recommend the middle school model to anyone who asks.”

“Fantastic opportunities yes ... but will the middle school in Walnut Grove have the same opportunities as others?”

Community Information Meeting on Middle School Programming

- Key Themes:

Another transition for students

Question if there is adequate professional development in support of this model for teachers

How will students be effected during the transition to this model?

Can't this model simply be implemented at elementary and secondary schools?

Community Information Meeting on Middle School Programming

- Going Forward:

“Elementary schools and secondary schools are doing bits and pieces of the pillars, but the structure of middle school covers it all.”

Economies of scale pose a significant challenge to provide the facilities, collaboration opportunities and staffing supports to enable these benefits to take place in a non-middle school configuration.

One parent stated *“Most parents I talk to are okay with the middle school system but are more interested in the next steps and how it will be implemented.”*

Recommended Motions

Recommended Motion:

“That the Board of Education supports the establishment of a District-wide middle school model as part of the Long Term Facilities Plan.”

Referred Motion R16/05/24-15:

“That the Board of Education approves that staff undertakes a consultation with the Brookwood, DW Poppy and Walnut Grove communities regarding the transition to a middle school model upon completion of the informational community meetings”.