

École Kwantlen Park Secondary – Consultation on Enrolment Management Strategies

OCTOBER, 2016



Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Executive Summary.....	2
1.0 Introduction	3
2.0 Option Development	4
3.0 Community Engagement Process	4
4.0 Community Feedback	5
4.1 Feedback Statistics	5
4.2 Survey Results	5
4.3 Community Forum Feedback Summary.....	6
4.4 Inter-A Program Written Response	8
4.6 Key Themes	8
5.0 Next Steps	9

Executive Summary

Kwantlen Park Secondary has a Ministry of Education assigned capacity of 1,200 students (at an average of 25 students per class) and a functional capacity of close to 1,300 students (at an average of 27 students per class). The school is home to two Choice Programs, French Immersion and Inter-A. As of September 2016 the school has a population of 1,530 students in the following programs:

- Regular Program = 1,124
- French Immersion = 224
- Inter-A = 183

Kwantlen Park is expected to continue to grow particularly with the continued development of Surrey City Centre. Two other secondary schools in the area, Queen Elizabeth and L.A. Matheson, have a combined 700 spare seats compared to Ministry of Education capacity and almost 900 compared to functional capacity. Before new permanent space at Kwantlen Park is considered, the District must first look to manage enrolment within existing facilities.

Therefore, the Surrey School District has been investigating a range of options to balance enrolment around the three schools. The full list of options can be found in Appendix A. Options one through four are as follows:

1. Move Inter-A to Queen Elizabeth
2. Move Inter-A to L.A. Matheson
3. Move Old Yale Road to feed Queen Elizabeth
4. Move Old Yale Road to feed L.A. Matheson

The main themes coming out of all community engagement efforts can be summarized as follows:

- A level of concern with all “feasible” options presented;
- Concerns regarding the distance to school increasing;
- Concerns regarding the impact on a potential Inter-A move, specifically, the possible reduction of students and the quality of the program;
- Questions around physical space – Kwantlen has purpose built space, cost to moving, don’t want to be isolated from school;
- Concerns regarding the sustainability of the options presented and what future catchment or program location changes may be require.

This feedback, along with any additional factors impacting the decision, will be considered in the fall by the Program and Facilities Planning Committee. The committee will bring forward its preferred option to the October 20, 2016 Board of Education meeting for information. Executive Committee will then consider all options and the community feedback prior to bringing forward a final recommendation for approval by the Board of Education at their November 17th, 2016 meeting.

1.0 Introduction

Kwantlen Park Secondary has a Ministry of Education assigned capacity of 1,200 students (at an average of 25 students per class) and a functional capacity of close to 1,300 students (at an average of 27 students per class). The school is home to two Choice Programs, French Immersion and Inter-A. As of September 2016 the school has a population of 1,530 students in the following programs:

- Regular Program = 1,124
- French Immersion = 224
- Inter-A = 183

Kwantlen Park is expected to continue to grow particularly with the continued development of Surrey City Centre. Two other secondary schools in the area, Queen Elizabeth and L.A. Matheson, have a combined 700 spare seats compared to Ministry of Education capacity and almost 900 compared to functional capacity. Before new permanent space at Kwantlen Park is considered, the District must first look to manage enrolment within existing facilities.

Therefore, the Surrey School District has been investigating a range of options to balance enrolment around the three schools. Eight options were outlined to the community with options one through four being described as more feasible than options five through eight. The options were:

1. Move Inter-A to Queen Elizabeth Secondary
2. Move Inter-A to L.A. Matheson Secondary
3. Move Old Yale Road Elementary to feed Queen Elizabeth Secondary
4. Move Old Yale Road Elementary to feed L.A. Matheson Secondary
5. Move French Immersion to Queen Elizabeth Secondary
6. Add additional temporary space (portables)
7. Move to an extended day
8. Build an addition

2.0 Option Development

The District's Programming and Facilities Planning Committee (PFP) developed a range of boundary and program location options considering the following:

- Alignment with Board of Education policy
 - Policy 9200 – School Catchment Areas
 - Regulation 9200.1 – School Catchment Areas
 - Policy 9320 – Registration and Placement of Students
 - Regulation 9320.1 – Registration and Placement of Students
 - Policy 6700 – Management of Portable Classrooms
- Current enrolment
- Projected residential development and enrolment growth
- Input from school Administration

Although eight options were presented, options one through four were conveyed to the community as being more feasible than other options explored. The full list of options can be found in Appendix A. Options one through four are as follows:

5. Move Inter-A to Queen Elizabeth
6. Move Inter-A to L.A. Matheson
7. Move Old Yale Road to feed Queen Elizabeth
8. Move Old Yale Road to feed L.A. Matheson

3.0 Community Engagement Process

Given the potential for recommended changes to significantly impact existing students and future students at Kwantlen Park, a community engagement process was developed to engage with those potentially impacted. The following is a summary of the community engagement efforts:

- PlaceSpeak website – information and survey (online and paper)
- Community Forum at Kwantlen Park Secondary
- Communication and engagement with Principals
- Notice of proposal and survey forms distributed by schools (Kwantlen Park and elementary feeder schools)

Community engagement efforts were focused around information sharing, presenting options, providing clarification and seeking feedback.

4.0 Community Feedback

4.1 Feedback Statistics

- PlaceSpeak – **1,598** views and **234** connections
- Survey Feedback – **277** survey responses
- Community Forum at Kwantlen Park Secondary
 - April 19, 2016 –approximately **250** attendees
- Emails, comments and questions through the Capital Plan email address
- Formal response to proposals from Canadian Parents for French – Surrey Chapter

4.2 Survey Results

Survey responses were received from parents and students in Kwantlen Park and feeder schools. Of the 227 respondents, 164 were parents/students/staff of Kwantlen Park and 27 were parents/students/staff of Old Yale Road. The remainder of respondents were associated with other elementary feeders or area secondary schools.

A summary of feedback on options one through four:

Re: Option 1 and 2

- Distance to school for those in Inter-A is increasing
- Does not solve capacity issue on its own, more or larger changes will need to be contemplated
- Opinion that Kwantlen Park has the best reputation of area secondary schools
- A program move represents a challenge to Inter-A families
- Kwantlen Park has a purpose built space for Inter-A and renovations will be required if program is reallocated
- Belief that the Inter-A program will not survive the move, many students will elect to stay at Kwantlen Park (further reducing the impact of the change)
- Concern that Inter-A will be segregated in the move. Particular reference was made to the potential of being placed in the Annex at Queen Elizabeth
- Inter-A is the easiest program to move as it begins in Secondary and operates more independently
- Regarding moving to Queen Elizabeth, 30 respondents explicitly expressed that they like the idea of Option 1 and 56 were against it
- Regarding moving to L.A. Matheson 11 respondents explicitly expressed that they like the idea of Option 2 and 53 were against it

Option 3 and 4

- Distance to school increases for Old Yale Road families, more so with a move to L.A. Matheson move
- Represents a challenge for Old Yale Road families (a number of whom are in vulnerable socio-economic situations)
- Does not disrupt existing Kwantlen Park families because of grandfathering
- These options allow Inter-A and French Immersion remain at Kwantlen Park
- Does not solve capacity issue on its own, more or larger changes will need to be contemplated
- Regarding moving to Queen Elizabeth, 31 respondents explicitly expressed that they like the idea and 16 were against
- Regarding moving to L.A. Matheson, 10 respondents explicitly expressed that they like the idea and 8 were against

4.3 Community Forum Feedback Summary

On April 19, 2016 an evening Community Forum was held at Kwantlen Park Secondary and approximately 250 students, parents and staff were in attendance. The following is a summary of feedback/questions at the forums:

Re: Choice Programs

Overall

- Strong loyalty to current schools. Choice Programs (Inter-A and French Immersion) add to the vitality and strength of Kwantlen Park Secondary (academically, athletically and to the general well-being of the student body)
- Concerns regarding distance to schools increasing for all options proposing a catchment or program move
- Questions regarding who will be grandfathered and sibling registrations post change implementation
- Where in a new school would the Choice Program be located?

Inter-A

- Specific questions about what an Inter-A program move might look like – required renovations and cost of renovations. Kwantlen Park has a purpose made space for Inter-A.
- Inter-A program, although somewhat independent, is incorporated into the schools. Concerns were expressed over being segregated from the rest of the school if it moves to Queen Elizabeth
- Comments from Inter-A families that moving French Immersion would actually free up more space as they take electives

- Concerns about the community engagement process – in particular knowing that this proposal was being considered a year prior without adequate engagement
- Opinion that many Inter-A families would choose to stay at Kwantlen Park if the program was moved.
- Concerns over whether staff will move with the program
- Inter-A Program operates independently from school so would be more suitable to move than French Immersion
- A belief that District staff do not understand the Inter-A program

French Immersion

- Opinion that French Immersion is the Choice Program being singled out across the district (Woodward Hill and Salish Secondary) and shouldn't always be up for relocation or reduction
- French Immersion Program should stay because families choose the program in Kindergarten and Grade 1 knowing where they will go to secondary school. Inter-A program starts in secondary school
- Moving French Immersion would have a larger impact on capacity relief than Inter-A

Re: Catchment Change

- Concerns regarding distance to school increasing and whether that might impact attendance
- Many families have students in both elementary and secondary school. Old Yale Road and Kwantlen Park are next to each other for easy accessibility to families
- Neighbourhood students should not be displaced for the sake of Choice Programs remaining as per Board of Education policy
- Was the option of moving elementary schools other than Old Yale Road examined?

Re: Other Solutions/Comments

- The school will eventually need additional capacity and should be built now
- Continue to add portables as required
- Questions around out-of-catchment enrolment in the regular program at Kwantlen Park
- What is the projected enrolment for Kwantlen Park and the elementary feeder schools?
- Some acknowledgement that something needs to be done, but that, in general, no option seems favourable

4.4 Inter-A Program Written Response

The School District also received a formal written response on behalf for Inter-A program. A summary of the letter is as follows:

- Rumours regarding the program move have been around for a long time prior to any formal communication
- The Community Forum was not the format some were expecting (would have liked to have been part of formatting options)
- That District staff do not understand the program and should have spent more time visiting the program
- Believed that the numbering of options to be a ranking
- Believed some information presented was not factual (eg. recalled District staff saying Inter-A would free up elective space at Kwantlen Park Secondary)
- Would like the school to expand, not to be a victim of its own success
- Estimate that 50% of the Inter-A student would stay at Kwantlen Park and not move with the program, reducing the capacity relief and increasing pressure on elective spaces at Kwantlen Park
- Outlined social-emotional impact of moving this program
- Outlined the risk to community connections and partnerships the program currently fosters
- Concern expressed that the learning spaces in a new facility would not be adequate
 - Kwantlen has a purpose made space for Inter-A
 - Kwantlen has a super-lab which Inter-A can use
 - Concern over a new location not being integrated with the school (for the students and teaching staff's benefit)
- Moving Inter-A comes with a cost

4.6 Key Themes

The main themes coming out of all community engagement efforts can be summarized as follows:

- A level of concern with all “feasible” options presented;
- Concerns regarding the distance to school increasing;
- Concerns regarding the impact on a potential Inter-A move, specifically, the possible reduction of students and the quality of the program;
- Questions around physical space – Kwantlen has purpose built space, cost to moving, don't want to be isolated from school;
- Concerns regarding the sustainability of the options presented and what future catchment or program location changes may be require.

5.0 Next Steps

In the fall of 2016, PFP staff are reviewing the feedback from this community engagement process and will also give consideration to:

- Any changes in pace of development/enrolment trends. The School District is working with the City of Surrey to re-examine the unit projections for high growth areas, like Surrey City Centre
- Other social, educational or socio-economic factors that need to receive further consideration

The feedback, along with any additional factors impacting the decision, will be considered in the fall by the Program and Facilities Planning Committee. The committee will bring forward its preferred option to the October 20, 2016 Board of Education meeting for information. Executive Committee will then consider all options and the community feedback prior to bringing forward a final recommendation for approval by the Board of Education at their November 17th, 2016 meeting.