



**Central Okanagan
Public Schools**

Together We Learn

NEWS RELEASE

CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS KICKS OFF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ON LONG TERM FACILITIES PLAN AND EMERGENT ISSUES

October 8, 2020

KELOWNA, BC – At the October 7, 2020 Planning and Facilities Committee meeting, the District kicked off the consultation process to revise its Long Term Facilities Plan.

Last updated in 2012, the Central Okanagan School District prepares a Long-Term Facilities Plan to guide its future decision-making for the next decade and beyond. It also creates the plan to provide the critical context for discussions with the Ministry of Education regarding requests for capital funding consideration and to provide a consistent organized approach to capital priorities. Without such a Plan, the District would be in jeopardy of not being able to justify the facility requests it submits as part of the regular 5 Year Capital Plan process.

The District is currently in the process of updating its Long-Term Facilities Plan due to the significant growth that it is experiencing and will be conducting a public consultation process to develop a plan that ensures its school buildings reflect the future K-12 educational needs of the community.

As part of this process, the District will also be consulting on two emergent issues that need to be addressed for next school year:

Overcapacity issues at École Kelowna Secondary School

École Kelowna Secondary School has seen a 6% increase over the past 3 years. There is a projected increase of 2% next school year and 10% over the next 3 years and the school does not have any more classroom space or the ability to add portables to accommodate additional students.

The District has requested a new high school in its 5 Year Capital Plan, however this will not be a solution for the emergent capacity issue as a new school, after Ministry approval, takes 3-4 years to complete. Such an approval is also unlikely while the District has space for secondary students at Okanagan Mission Secondary School.

Investigation of French Immersion Program at the New H.S. Grenda Middle School

HS Grenda Middle School is scheduled to open for the 2021-22 school year and will be operating in its first year as a grade 6 and 7 program.

There has been interest in the Lake Country community to investigate the possibility of offering a middle school French Immersion Program at H.S. Grenda Middle School. Currently, Lake Country French Immersion students travel to Ecole Dr. Knox Middle School to continue in their program.

The District encourages all of its staff, parents and community members to review its comprehensive [consultation website](#) to find out more about the District's facilities, enrollment projections and challenges that it is striving to address in its updated plan.

The [timelines](#) for the process were approved at the September 30, 2020 Public Board Meeting and provide the community with multiple opportunities to be heard as the Board contemplates difficult decisions that must be made.

The District wants to hear from all interested parties and has created 3 surveys to collect community feedback on the overall plan and the two emergent issues. These surveys will be open until October 21, 2020 and will inform the recommendations presented to the Board of Education.

- Survey 1: [Feedback on overall plan](#)
After reviewing the District's current facilities situation, what are your thoughts, solutions and concerns that the school district may take under consideration for facilities and boundaries to meet the present and future needs of your school community?
- Survey 2: [Feedback on Kelowna Secondary School](#)
After reviewing the District's current facilities situation, what are your thoughts, solutions and concerns that the school district may take under consideration to ensure Kelowna Secondary enrollments do not exceed the capacity of the school for next year and beyond?
- Survey 3: [Feedback on French Immersion Programming in Lake Country](#)
After reviewing the District's current facilities situation, what are your thoughts, solutions and concerns that the school district may take under consideration when evaluating the feasibility of a French Immersion program at HS Grenda Middle School?

For comments, please contact:

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