



"Together We Learn"

EXPLORING A FRENCH IMMERSION MIDDLE SCHOOL OPTION FOR THE WESTSIDE

**GLENROSA MIDDLE SCHOOL
October 15th, 2013**



MEETING OVERVIEW

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INTRODUCTIONS

- **Staff**
- **Trustees**



BACKGROUND/BOARD MOTIONS

A District French Immersion Review process took place in 2010/2011. The following are excerpts from a Motion passed by the Board of Education on January 12, 2011 with relevance to this meeting:

Motion 11P-004

1. THAT: The Board continue to support the early French Immersion program model and not add a late French Immersion program option at this time.
2. THAT: The Board maintain the French Immersion program in a dual track setting.
3. THAT: The Board consider no specific District action relative to the secondary years French Immersion program at Kelowna Secondary School at this time.



BACKGROUND/BOARD MOTIONS

Motion 11P-004 continued:

4. THAT: The Board consider no specific District action relative to the middle years French Immersion program at KLO Middle School at this time.
6. THAT: The Board consider no specific District action relative to the French Immersion program at George Pringle Elementary School at this time;
AND THAT: Reconsideration of the delivery of French Immersion on the Westside take place in the future with consideration of a middle school French Immersion program on the Westside.



BACKGROUND/BOARD MOTIONS

In 2012 the Board of Education engaged in a comprehensive process that culminated in the development of a Long-Term Facility Plan. The following French Immersion related motions were passed:

June 13, 2012 - Motion 12P-091

“THAT: The French Immersion middle school program be decentralized to provide greater accessibility to French Immersion middle school students in outlying areas of the District, provided that the program is sustainable in terms of enrolment, location, form and cost.”

November 28, 2012 - Motion 12P-104

Westside Area:

“4. Create a middle French Immersion Program at Glenrosa Middle to sustain GMS enrolments and provide greater accessibility to students in the language program, providing it is sustainable in terms of enrolment, location, form and cost.”



CURRENT DEMOGRAPHICS

FRENCH IMMERSION ENROLMENT GEORGE PRINGLE (GP) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (as of September 30, 2013)

Kind.	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	TOTAL
40	43	34	31	31	28	27	234



CURRENT DEMOGRAPHICS

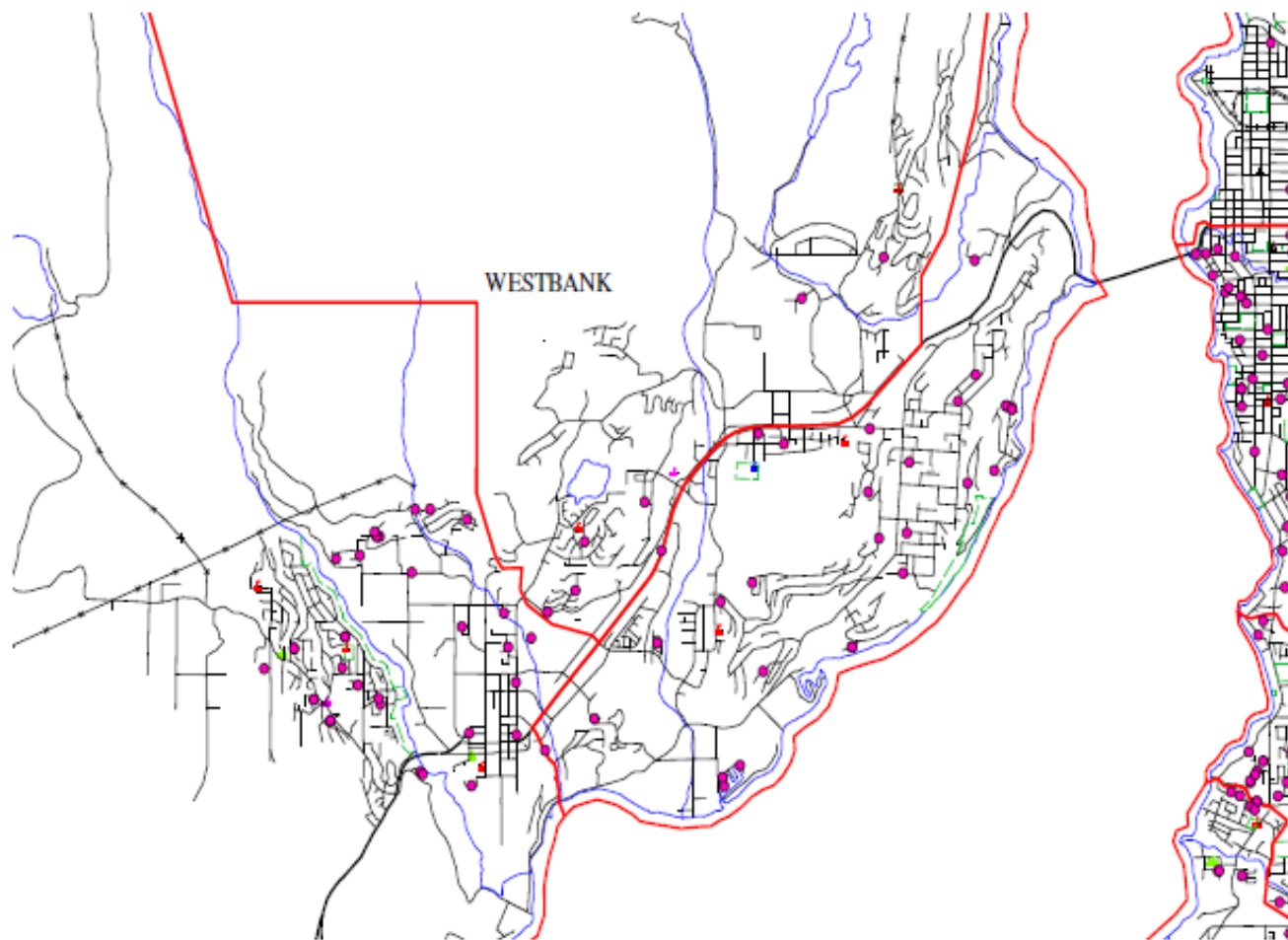
WESTSIDE STUDENT ENROLMENT IN FRENCH IMMERSION AT KLO (KLO) MIDDLE SCHOOL - 2012

Home Elementary Catchment	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Shannon Lake/ Rose Valley	3	3	2
George Pringle/ Glenrosa Elem/ Helen Gorman/ Peachland	9	17	8
Chief Tomat/ Hudson Road	9	11	8
TOTAL:	21	31	18
KLO TOTAL FI ENROLMENT	154	142	149



CURRENT DEMOGRAPHICS

KLO FI





THE MIDDLE SCHOOL IMMERSION PROGRAM

Courses currently offered in the Middle School French Immersion Program are:

- Français Langue (French Language) 7, 8, 9
- Sciences Humaines (Social Studies) 7, 8, 9
- Mathématiques (Math) 7, 8, 9
- Sciences Naturelles (Science) 7, 8, 9
- PE 7, 8

*based on available staffing



BC GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS DUAL-DOGWOOD

- Graduation Requirements Order (Ministry of Education)
....to graduate with a Dual-Dogwood, a student must successfully complete the following:
 - Français Langue Seconde – Immersion 11
 - Français Langue Seconde – Immersion 12
 - at least 1 or more 4 credit Grade 11 or 12 course offered in French
 - English Language Arts 11
 - English Language Arts 12
 - as well as meeting the total credit requirements for graduation



FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS TO DATE

- Expressions of interest in the possibility of a Westside Middle School French Immersion Program
- Strong interest in establishing a second French Immersion Elementary School Program closer to the bridge



CHALLENGES

Challenges associated with establishing an FI Middle School Program at Glenrosa Middle School:

- Availability of qualified FI teachers
- Increased costs
 - at a time of budget challenges, the cost of operating a dual track school is higher than single track (i.e. resources and the operating of '2 schools within a school')
- Challenges in transitioning to a new program with limited enrolment (GPE currently has 28 students in grade 5 and 27 in grade 6)
- Should existing Westside FI students attending KLO be directed to attend GMS if a program is created there?



OTHER RELATED CHALLENGES

Factors that will have to be considered as part of this process, include:

- Potential space challenges at KLO in the future
 - Dorothea Walker's phased-in FI program will have grade 7 students feeding into KLO for the 2015/2016 school year (there are currently 22 grade 5s in French Immersion at Dorothea Walker, but the cohorts get larger in subsequent years)
- Transportation
 - FI is a program of choice
 - If your neighbourhood school offers the FI program, transportation is available for eligible riders.
 - Transportation is a parent responsibility for students registered in a FI school outside their catchment area.
 - Parents often carpool, and students utilize city bus routes.



GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. If given the option of a FI Program at GMS, would you have your children attend?
2. If we mandated that the Westside FI Middle School Program was at GMS would you keep your children in FI? (ie. If KLO was capped in the future.)
3. What other key questions or concerns should staff be considering prior to making a recommendation to the Board of Education?



DECISION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Next Steps:

- Letter to be sent to all parents of FI students at GP (K-6)
- Letter to be sent to all parents of French Immersion students from the Westside who attend KLO (grade 7 students)
 - Requesting their response to an on-line survey
- Recommendations to the Planning and Facilities Committee in January of 2014



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Q & A