

## Alternate Programs

*Question: could you please clarify the purpose of the future configuration of alternate programs?*

**Answer:** the consultation regarding the consideration of the future configuration and delivery of alternate programs to best address the needs of students and support student achievement will include discussions related to program locations, or relocations, co-habitation (shared use of a facility), a reconfiguration of the delivery of the program and potential closure.

This consultation process will serve as an opportunity to build upon the strengths of each of the alternate programs and to continue to improve our ability to meet the needs of our students in a sustainable manner.

## Elementary French Immersion

*Question: is the Board of Education proposing to introduce a single stream French Immersion (all French) school next year as part of the budget process?*

**Answer:** contrary to what has been reported in the local newspapers, there is no proposal by the Board at this time to create an all French school and no financial savings have been identified regarding elementary French Immersion and the budget development process. The purpose of the consultation for elementary French Immersion this year is to conduct preliminary research into program delivery.

The implementation of the Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) program in all schools by September 2011 will present challenges for the School District in a number of our French Immersion schools due to the need for additional classroom space.

In order to provide for Full Day Kindergarten, questions have been raised for our consideration related to the issue of limited space.

- Should our Early Immersion program start at Grade 1 (or later) so that all children can be accommodated in their neighbourhood school for Kindergarten?
- Should we introduce French Immersion Kindergarten at other schools to address the space issues for FDK?
- Should we add portable classrooms to our French Immersion schools?
- Should we consider the introduction of a single stream French Immersion program?

There are various methods of program delivery that would also be discussed in the consultation process. Options for consideration include: a) dual track/early Immersion, b) single track/early immersion, c) dual track/late immersion, d) single track/early and late immersion, and e) dual track/ early and late immersion.

Each of these options would be given consideration, identifying the positive, minuses and interesting ideas associated with each of the delivery models. Observations and input provided through the representative Working Groups will help inform the preliminary research. The Board will take this research into consideration before making any decision regarding changes to the elementary Immersion program for September 2011.

## **Elementary Schools: Potential School Closures**

*Question: what are the criteria used to consider the selection of schools for potential closure?*

**Answer:** the criteria used for the selection of schools for consideration for potential closure are provided within Appendix A of the Budget Challenge 2010 Outcomes report presented at the Public Board Meeting of January 19 and posted to the [School District's website](#).

*Question: has the Board considered all elementary schools in determining the selection of schools for consideration for potential closure?*

**Answer:** The Board has considered all elementary schools. Appendix C of the Budget Challenge 2010 Outcomes report presented at the Public Board Meeting of January 19, and posted to the school district website as provided above, includes the Criteria Summary by school.

*Question: what is the status of the Capital Plan request for a replacement school to be built at Seymour Heights to accommodate the student population of Blueridge, Seymour Heights and Plymouth?*

**Answer:** the Board of Education approved its Capital Plan in May 2009 identifying its second highest priority as the replacement of Seymour Heights School through the consolidation of Blueridge, Seymour Heights and Plymouth into one new school. The Board of Education is committed to continue to pursue approval of this replacement project.

The Ministry of Education is expected to report on the status of capital project requests in the late spring of 2010. The replacement of Argyle Secondary due to its seismic condition, remains the number one priority for the Board.