

## Q&A

### “Restructuring 2010”

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#### Introduction

The following questions and answers have been prepared to assist parents and the community in understanding the spring consultation processes that will consider:

1. Potential closure and consolidation of a limited number of elementary schools.
2. Potential consolidation of alternate programs through reconfiguration and possible relocation and closure.
3. Preliminary research into the potential restructuring of elementary French Immersion.

## Q&A

### Potential closure and consolidation of a limited number of elementary schools

#### ***How will parents be represented in the consultation process?***

Parents will be represented in the consultation process through their respective Parent Advisory Council and by the North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council. Representatives will be selected from individuals who indicate their interest to the Executive of these partner groups.

#### ***The Ministry of Education has indicated they are interested in providing pre-school programs as part of its mandate. If schools are closed and consolidated will you have space when you need it for Full Day Kindergarten and pre-school classes?***

The Board of Education will continue to plan for the implementation of Ministry initiatives to ensure that adequate space remains available within the School District. The School District submits a Capital Plan on an annual basis to ensure that future enrolment needs are being addressed.

#### ***Why is a school that is nearly full, and well-established in the community, on the list of possible closures?***

The School District needs to consider the space available within all schools and how to use this space most efficiently to preserve funds for instructional purposes. When reasonable space is available in neighbouring schools, the School District needs to consider how best to use this space to reduce operating costs to preserve funds for instructional purposes.

## Q&A

### **Potential consolidation of alternate programs through reconfiguration and possible relocation or closure**

***Many of the alternate programs have created unique, caring environments for the students that attend them. How is it possible to close, consolidate or move these programs and still preserve the culture and specialized attention these students need?***

The consultation process will look closely at the cultural components that contribute to the success of our alternate programs. The representative Working Group will consider how the school community will be affected, and priorities for respecting and maintaining highly-valued components of the programs, even if locations and organizational structure are to change.

***If programs were relocated to areas currently not served by public transit, what can be done to ensure students have transportation to school?***

Any component of a relocation plan would consider transportation needs, and barriers to accessing the location. If transportation/transit is an issue, the consultation process will identify it as a priority for further consideration and potential solutions.

***How will parents be represented in the consultation process?***

Parents will be represented in the consultation process through their respective Parent Advisory Council and by the North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council. Representatives will be selected from individuals who indicate their interest to the Executive of these partner groups.

## Q&A

### Elementary French Immersion Consultation

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

Contrary to what has been reported in the local media, 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.

***How will parents be represented in the consultation/research process?***

Parents will be represented in the consultation process through their respective Parent Advisory Council and by the North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council. Representatives will be selected from individuals who indicate their interest to the Executive of these partner groups.

***Why is the Board having these discussions at this time? Why is this consultation necessary?***

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.

***What are some of the considerations the Board must weigh when planning for the future accommodation of District-wide FDK and French Immersion?***

Some of the questions that will be examined through research and consultation are:

*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 positives, 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.

***What are the potential gains to the NVSD from single-track schools?***

Potential benefits associated with single-track schools include an enhanced immersion language experience greater opportunities for the efficient organization of classes (i.e. fewer combined grade classes) for instructional purposes.

***Which school/schools have been discussed as possibilities to offer French-only?***

Between now and the end of the 2010 school year, research and consultation is focused on the feasibility of changes to the delivery model of the elementary French Immersion program. No school locations have been identified to offer French-only. Should the feasibility study determine interest in considering a single-stream school, the Board of Education would have to provide further direction for consideration in the 2010/2011 school year.

***Should a school become French only school, would you be looking to phase out the English stream gradually over time?***

Please note that there is no proposal at this stage to implement a French only school at any location. Should any school be considered for a French only school, a gradual 'phase out' would be one possible approach that would achieve the benefit of allowing students to continue at the school until they complete their elementary program.

***During the preliminary research phase, could students graduating in 2010/11 be impacted?***

No. The focus of the preliminary research is on the elementary level only.

***How will the possible closure of a school affect the recent expansion of French Immersion at Windsor Secondary?***

None of the schools named for consultation around possible closure offer French Immersion and decisions for these schools would not impact the program offered at Windsor.

***Will the consultation address staffing shortages for French Immersion?***

The purpose of the consultation is to consider the delivery model for providing elementary French Immersion—it is not a staffing review. Our School District attracts many teachers interested in teaching in the French Immersion Program. We also proactively recruit qualified French Immersion teachers from universities across Canada.