



October 8, 2020

Dear Central Okanagan Public Schools Families and Staff:

We are writing to invite you to participate in a consultation process on the District's Long Term Facilities Plan. As one of the province's fastest growing school districts, this plan is critical as it will guide decision making and capital priorities for the next decade and beyond.

Also, to be addressed in the consultation process are two important issues that require decisions from the Board of Education for next school year.

Overcapacity issues at Kelowna Secondary School

Kelowna Secondary school is completely full. 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 takes 3-4 years after an approval to be in operation. Such an approval is also unlikely while the District has space for secondary students at Okanagan Mission Secondary School due to grade configuration changes.

Investigation of French Immersion program at the new HS Grenda Middle School

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

There has been interest in the community to investigate the possibility of offering Peter Greer Elementary students who are in the French Immersion program to be able to continue their program at HS Grenda Middle School, rather than the current option of Ecole Dr. Knox Middle School.

As staff and members of the community that use our schools, the Board of Education values your input as it contemplates these important and urgent decisions. As part of this process, the Board of Education will be providing multiple opportunities for you to be informed and heard. The District encourages all of its staff, parents and community members to review its comprehensive [consultation website](#) to find out more about the consultation process and information on the District's facilities, enrollment projections and challenges that it is striving to address in its updated plan.

The District wants to hear from all interested parties and has created three survey questions to collect community feedback on the overall plan and the two emergent issues. These surveys will be open until October 21 and will inform the recommendations presented to the Board of Education. Please click on the link to contribute your thoughts.

- Question 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 catchment areas to meet the present and future needs of the community?
- Question 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?
- Question 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?

Stay safe and be well.

Yours sincerely,



Moyra Baxter
Chairperson
Central Okanagan Public Schools

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