



## SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.40 (NEW WESTMINSTER)

# Review of Locations for Programs of Choice October 2009

### Background

From time to time, it is necessary to review District programs and offerings to ensure that they meet the needs of students and families, that the District can support them adequately, and that they operate effectively and efficiently. It is important to ensure that these programs continue to meet the purposes for which they were established—meeting the needs of students. The Board of Education of SD No. 40 (New Westminster) is proud of the excellent quality of the French Immersion and Montessori Programs it offers in its schools. These programs have met the five pillars on which we determine viability of programs: there is a curriculum in place for them, they have shown depth of student numbers over time, we have teachers qualified to teach them, and we have had the financial capacity to manage them, with the assistance of federal funds for the French Immersion programs and the assistance of the Montessori Society for its program. The District will seek to maintain these programs and to improve them as it is able to do so. The current review is to be centred on the fifth pillar, space requirements, and the programs' accommodation in New Westminster schools as we go forward to fully implement the middle school model.

### Review Principles

At this time, the Board of Education has determined to review the location of programs of choice at the elementary and middle level. This review will operate under the following principles:

#### 1. Students First

- Programs shall be maintained and developed in ways that meet the needs and recognize the diversity of students. Timelines and transitions shall be cognizant of students' capacities and shall seek to minimize disruption.

#### 2. Time Frame

- Changes, if any, recommended by this review will take place no sooner than 2012, at such time as the School District has re-built John Robson Elementary School on its new site and built the new Westside Middle School on the current John Robson/Simcoe Park site.

#### 3. Funding

- No capital expenditures are available to accommodate location changes for programs of choice, that is, wings cannot be built on existing schools or existing schools re-configured to add programs of choice.
- Due to cost implications, no new programs of choice beyond French Immersion and Montessori are contemplated at this time.
- Resulting program configurations must be fiscally responsible for the District and the program. In part, this means that programs of choice should be located to optimize use of facilities. A review of costs of single, dual and triple track school costs would be useful in making sound decisions.

#### 4. Accessibility

- Currently, programs are offered in the east and west ends of the District for both programs. This eases access for families to the programs, reducing transportation issues. The results of the review should maintain or improve accessibility for families to the two programs of choice.

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**5. Sustainability**

- All programs require sufficient numbers of students to maintain vibrant classes and an active program. Programs must be located so that the programs are sustainable in terms of numbers of students.

**Review Process**

**1. Research Phase: September-October, 2009**

- District staff will develop projections of numbers for programs of choice, using both current and past year projections, and including the potential impact of all day Kindergartens in the schools.

**2. Input Meeting Phase: October-December, 2009**

- Meetings will be held in McBride, Spencer, Robson, Tweedsmuir and Glenbrook Schools to hear from the communities about the review principles and their experiences of the Programs of Choice in their schools. Trustee liaisons for each school would represent the Board.
- Additional meetings for similar purposes will be held in two central locations (NWSS and QMS) to gather input from schools without programs of choice in the District. Trustee liaisons for each school would represent the Board.
- Upon request, District staff will also address PAC meetings in any of the schools.

**3. Preparation of Recommendations to Board of Education: January, 2010**

- District Staff will prepare options for configuration of programs for the consideration of the Board of Education.
- Options for configuration of programs of choice will be revised with input from the Board of Education for community feedback.

**4. Consultation Meeting Phase: February-March, 2010**

- Meetings will be held in McBride, Spencer, Robson, Tweedsmuir and Glenbrook Schools to share proposed options and gather community feedback. Trustee liaisons for each school would represent the Board.
- Additional meetings will be held in two central locations (NWSS and QMS) to share options for configuration of programs of choice. Trustee liaisons for each school would represent the Board.
- Upon request, District staff will also address PAC meetings in any of the schools.

**5. Decision Phase: April 2010**

- Feedback from the community on the options will be shared with the Board of Education for their consideration and decision.

**Review of Locations for Programs of Choice Meetings (all meetings - 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm):**

<b>Meeting Locations</b>	<b>Dates:</b>
Richard McBride Elementary (Library)	October 21, 2009
John Robson Elementary (Library)	October 28, 2009
Herbert Spencer Elementary (Gym)	October 29, 2009
Glenbrook Middle School (Multi-purpose room)	November 2, 2009
Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary (Gym)	November 3, 2009
Queensborough Middle School (Multi-purpose room)	November 4, 2009
New Westminster Secondary School (Library)	November 5, 2009