



Memorandum to the Board of Education

Regular Meeting

FROM: Peter Dubinsky, Superintendent
DATE: March 15, 2023
SUBJECT: Southern Zone Facilities and Transportation

For Information

Introduction

As the district sees growth in both Burton and Nakusp, cross-district enrolment, class size limits, and bussing ridership capacity have become areas of focus. Low enrollment at Edgewood and the number of students who are transported out of that community to attend both Burton Elementary and Nakusp Elementary are also a concern. The following information is to assist the Board in understanding the current situation.

Background/Information

- In June 2020, the intermediate classroom at Edgewood Elementary (EES) was closed and the teacher (.5 FTE) was moved to Burton Elementary (BES). The total teacher FTE at BES was expanded from 1.5 – 2.0 to accommodate an intermediate (grade 4 – 7) classroom. At the time those decisions were made, there were 13 students at BES and three intermediate students were redirected from EES to BES. The district provided bussing for those students to attend BES.
- As a result, primary siblings of those three intermediate students also left EES to attend BES.
- Since then, BES has grown to 46 students and EES is currently at two students.
- The primary classroom at BES is in “remedy” with 22 students (two students over the class size limit of 20 per BCTF agreed maximum – 22 is the Ministry maximum)
- Many students who reside in Edgewood, Fauquier, and Burton communities attend Nakusp Elementary (NES) The district provides bussing for students residing in Edgewood to BES, NES and NSS.
- In the Eastern Zone, no bussing is available to NES or NSS.
- NES’ primary class sizes have grown and are near capacity in 3 out of 5 classes.



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Bussing Information

- Edgewood:
 - Grades K-7 = **11** students leaving Edgewood
 - 4 going to NES (1 Primary, 3 Intermediate including 2 grade 7's)
 - 7 going to BES (1 Primary, 6 Intermediate)
 - Grades 8 – 12 = **14** students leaving Edgewood to NSS
- Fauquier:
 - Grades K-7 = **23** students leaving Fauquier
 - 14 going to NES
 - 9 going to BES
 - Grade 8 – 12 = **11** Students to NSS
- Burton
 - Grades K-7 = **3** students leaving Burton for NES
 - Grades 8 – 12 = **15** students leaving Burton for NSS
- The Fauquier route bus picks up students who take the ferry from West side of Arrow Lake at Arrow Transfer and by the time it gets to BES there are 64 students on board.
 - 16 of these students get off at BES leaving 48 on the bus, of which 19 attend NES and 29 attend NSS.
 - By the time the bus gets to NSS there are 68 students on board, of which 40 attend NSS and 28 attend NES. Currently, the bus from Fauquier to Nakusp is almost at capacity with a combination of elementary and secondary students (3 to a seat for younger students and 2 to a seat for older students)
 - This bus is an 81-passenger bus at 3 per seat and a 54-passenger bus if 2 per seat. This bus currently has 40 secondary students with more secondary students coming in the next two years.

Bussing Drive Time for Students

- EES to BES = 1 hour 2 minutes
- EES to NES/NSS = 1 hour 34 minutes
- BES to NES = 32 minutes
- Bus leaves EES at 7:18am
- Bus returns to EES at 4:32pm



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Enrolment Projections

- EES:
 - 2023/2024 = 5 students grades K-4
 - 2024/2025 = 6 students grades K-5
 - 2025/2026 = 7 students grades K-6
- BES
 - 2023/2024 = 50 students grades K-7
 - 2024/2025 = 52 students grades K-7
 - 2025/2026 = 46 students grades K-7
- NES
 - 2023/2024 = 183 students grades K-7
 - 2024/2025 = 175 students grades K-7
 - 2025/2026 = 169 students grades K-7

Considerations/Recommendations

- Develop a catchment policy and protocols.
- Develop a cross-district enrolment policy and protocols.
- Develop protocols for cross-district enrolment and bus registration to manage a potential over-crowding situation at BES and bus ridership from Fauquier to Nakusp.