



## The Board of Education of School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap)

### BRIEFING NOTE

**TO:** Board of Education  
**FROM:** Donna Kriger, Superintendent  
**RE:** Salmon Arm School Configuration

**DATE:** 21 May 2024

#### **Background**

Since the board motion of November 2023 where district administration was directed to bring configuration options forward for consideration, there have been a total of 35 discussion sessions involving employee groups, school parent advisory councils, members of the public, parents/caregivers, students, and the principal/vice-principal leadership team. In addition to these face-to-face discussion sessions, the Board has received survey information from each of the forementioned groups.

#### **Issue**

All discussions to date have focused on revisiting the five options (E1 – E5) suggested in the 2019-2029 Long Range Facilities Plan with the addition of a sixth option which is a variation of E3 (K-7, 8-12 two secondary model) proposing a K-7, 8-12 three secondary school model.

Though there is a diversity of opinion contained within the public survey, the public face to face sessions demonstrated more alignment and agreement regarding the configuration options. The employee surveys and principal/vice-principal surveys indicate a preference to have the Board consider a K-7, 8-12 model along with the E5 option which was adopted “in principle” during the spring of 2021.

With current enrolment projections suggesting a softening of enrolment numbers, the space pressures faced in 2021 are no longer as significant. District leadership which includes principals/vice-principals and district leadership agree that a K-7, 8-12 model is the most “educationally and developmentally sound.” Parents/caregivers and principals from rural Salmon Arm feeder schools have indicated that they wish to have their children/students enter secondary school with students from urban Salmon Arm schools which would align all schools with a common configuration.

#### **Supporting Documentation**

1. Financial Information related to facility costs.

#### **For Consideration**

Recommendation:

“That the Board of Education rescind motion 179/2021: That the Board of Education approve Option E5 in principle, of the Long-Range Facilities Plan, for the Salmon Arm region.”



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School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap)**

**BRIEFING NOTE**

Recommendation:

“That the Board of Education direct senior leadership to further explore Option E3 from the 2019-2029 Long Range Facilities Plan along with a variation to that Option which would include a three secondary model.”

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Kriger  
Superintendent of Schools