



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 Configurations

DATE: 21 November 2023

Background

In March 2019, the Board of Education contracted Cascade Facilities Management Consultants Ltd. To conduct a School District Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP). Within the written report provided to the Board, Section 1.3 reads “note that the LRFP is a facilities plan, not an educational study of the appropriate grade structure of schools, the appropriate placement of district programs, nor the viability/desirability of neighborhood schools. The plan is a framework to guide the district in rationalizing its long-term facilities usage and to support future capital plan submissions to the Ministry of Education.”

During January 2020 to March 2020 the LRFP became a catalyst for school reconfiguration conversations and public consultation sessions. In June 2021, the Board of Education passed a motion “to approve Option E5 in principle, of the Long-Range Facilities Plan, for the Salmon Arm region.”

The Salmon Arm Ad Hoc Working Committee held a few working sessions during the 2021-22 school year before the decision was made to pause the work of the committee until a new Strategic Plan could be completed.

Issue

According to new Baragar projection data, the enrolment pressures which once existed in Salmon Arm appear to have changed. What remains a significant concern is the number of transitions students in the Salmon Arm area must experience.

Recommendation

“That the Board of Education direct administration to bring forth reconfiguration options for the Salmon Arm area schools.”

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Kriger
Superintendent of Schools