

Re: Mount Benson Savings

Thank you for starting the process of refining the savings on Mount Benson Elementary school.

Using projections for 2016, and using Staffing formulas available, Mount Benson determined:

Secretarial

Coal Tye and Pleasant Valley secretarial costs would increase by an amount slightly larger than the secretarial position which would be lost at Mount Benson.

Administration

Both Coal Tye and Pleasant Valley would require an additional Vice Principal.

The change in staffing would result in one teaching position being converted taken up by the VP's.

Because of the difference between VP and Teacher salaries, actual administration costs would increase slightly even after deducting the salary of the displaced teacher.

Janitorial

Pleasant Valley currently has a fly crew which should not be necessary if their unused classrooms are sealed. Janitorial savings should be calculated using staffing levels which reflect the number of classrooms required, as opposed to current staffing.

Closing Mount Benson would result in keeping the Pleasant Valley fly crew, and also adding a fly crew to Coal Tye School. If the current North End fly does not have the capacity to add an additional school to their schedule, then the costs for the fly crews will be even higher as a new crew would need to be setup.

Busing

At least one family insisted that the walk from their house was farther than 4km, and they live on Jingle Pot Road.

Using available tools, the PAC determined that the Parent was correct IF safe sidewalks and crosswalks were used. If crosswalks are not used and the children walk the shortest possible route regardless of the sidewalk or crosswalk location, the distance is approximately 3.95km. These properties are currently being subdivided from 3 lots, into 30-50 lots, so the number of children being impacted will be considerable. (New roads will increase length of walk again.)

Dover is over 4.8km from many of the affected families as well.

A new bus route will be required, with two trips running from the Wellington Neighbourhood, one trip to PV, and a second Trip to Dover.

Rock City

As the district is probably already aware, Rock City will see an increase in enrolment as parents exercise

their right to school choice. Using formula staffing Rock City will also require a new Vice Principal which will cost approximately \$25,000 more.

Expansion Funding

Wellington Neighbourhood / Mount Benson Parents will be insisting that the Ministry of Education not reallocate Mount Benson's expansion funding, even if Mount Benson School was to be closed. SD68 needs to identify that the risk exists that the Ministry will listen to parents and require Mount Benson be reopened, and subsequently expanded, before monies are spent expanding Coal Tye.

I hope the above information is helpful in the staff updating the projected savings/costs of Mount Benson Elementary School. Mount Benson Parent Calculations indicated that no operational savings could be counted on, and there was a very likely chance that operational costs could increase.

Mount Benson Parents also feel that SD68 should not rely on Mount Benson's Expansion funding to pay for future projects at Coal Tye.