

# Mount Benson Elementary

Consultation Presentations

April 15, 2008

Presenter: David Murchie

# Summary – Past

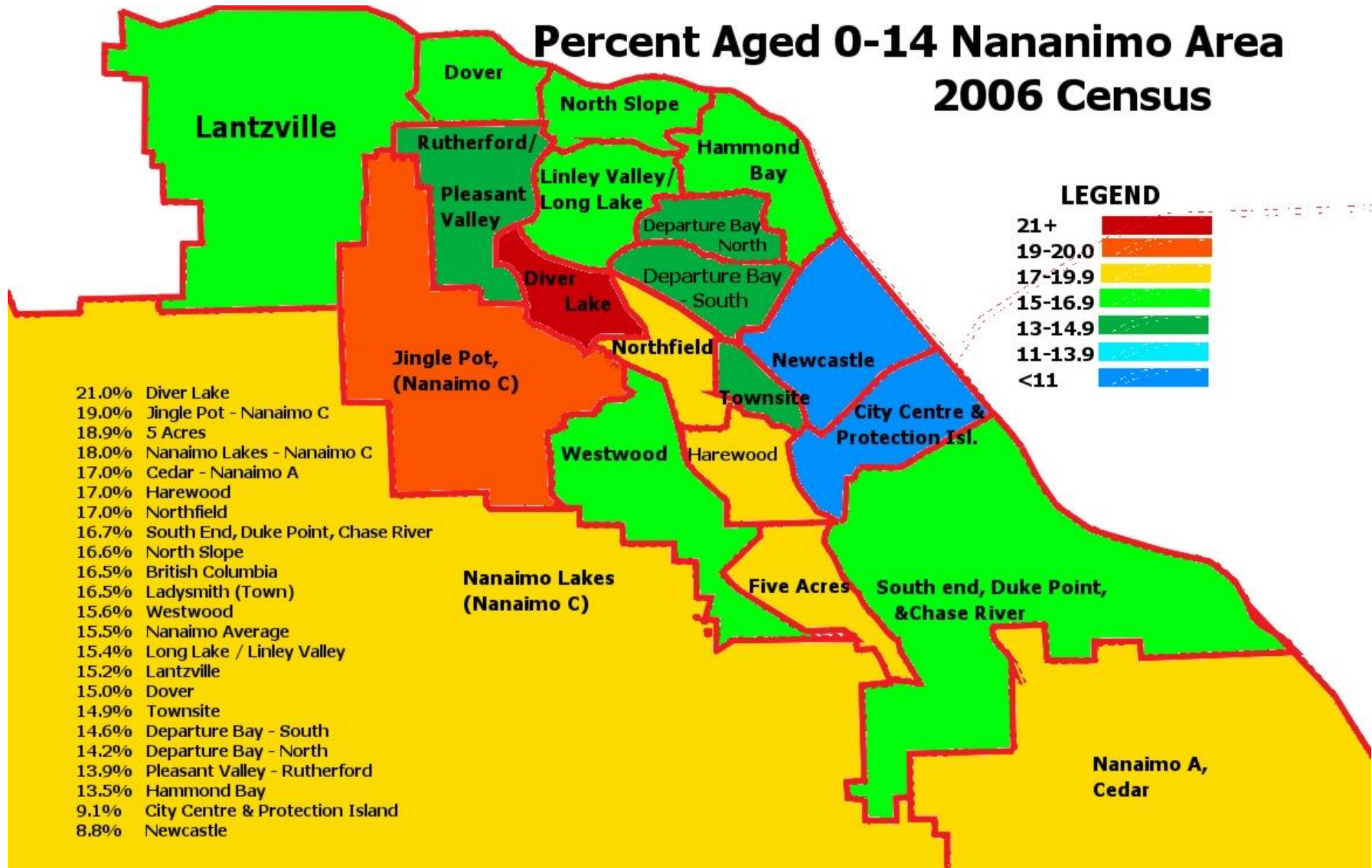
- BC's oldest operating elementary school site.  
(133years)
- Vision has kept it at Centre of Community

# Present

- Still an optimal school site
- 21% of neighbourhood under 15
- Too many kids in Catchment for School's size.
- 7% enrolment growth since September
- New Students are mostly Albertans

# Oldest School Site / Youngest Neighbourhood

## Percent Aged 0-14 Nanaimo Area 2006 Census



# Future

- Districts Enrolment will go up
- Mount Benson Site will still be optimal.
- Mount Benson will need to expand

# School Size

- International Trends are for Smaller Schools.
- Average USA Secondary school is under 800 students.
- Governments and National Organizations of Administrators recommend Secondary schools with a Maximum size of 600.
- 2-3 Elementary for each Secondary School.

# School Size – Discussion Needed

- School size needs discussion
- Optimal school size policy requires community input
- All stakeholders need to provide input, not just Administrators.

# Elementary Size Costs

Money often determines size.

District funded per student.

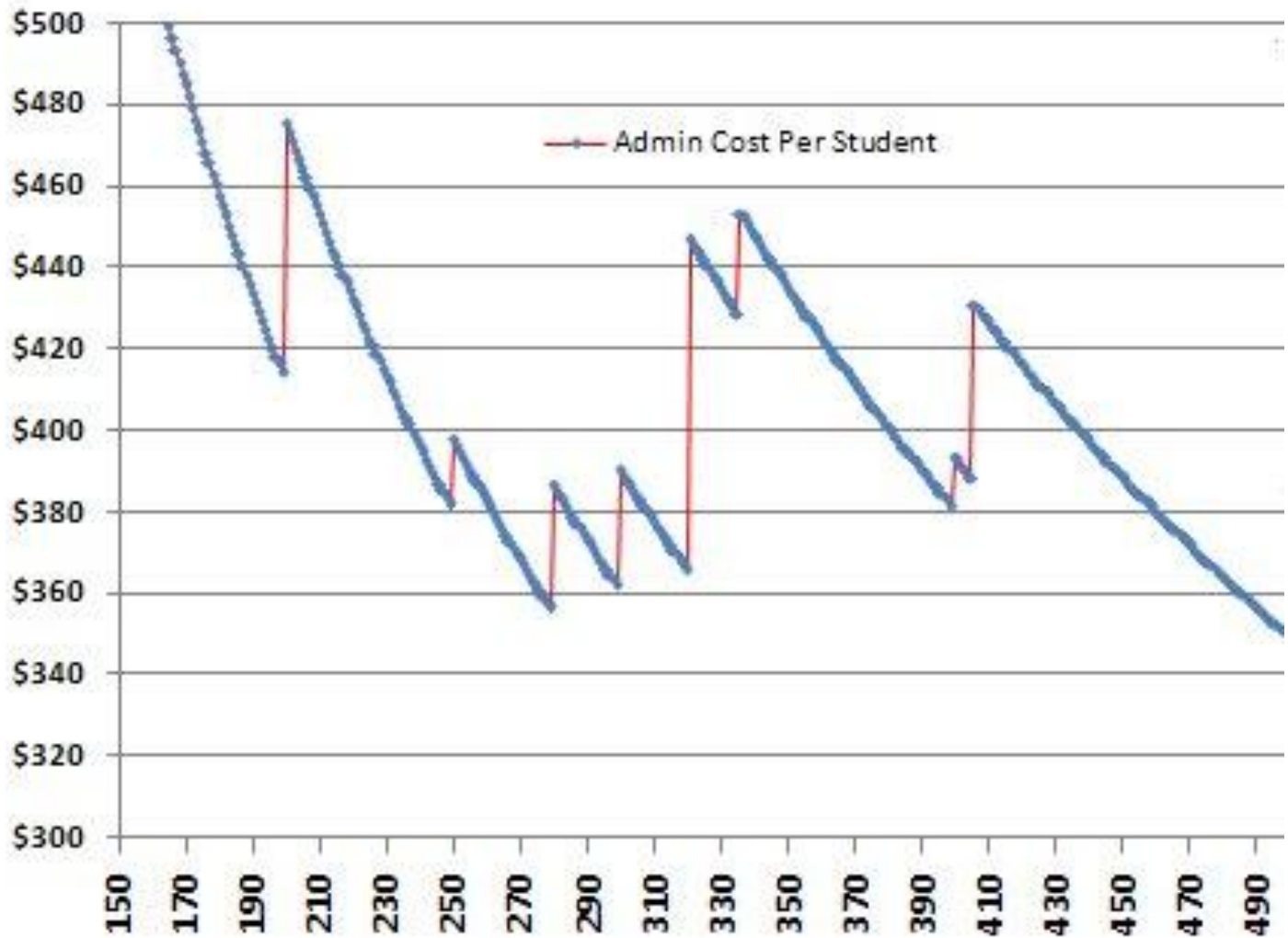
Example of per student funding.

# Administration Staffing

## SD68 Staffing Formula

School Administration	
Student FTE	Formula Admin
50-149	0.500
150-199	0.650
200-249	0.750
250-279	0.800
280-299	0.900
300-320	1.000
321-335	1.100
336-405	1.200
406-499	1.400

## Admin Cost Per FTE Students



# Elementary Administration

- School of 279 has lowest FTE costs. (Uplands)
- Schools over 319 Cost \$20k-\$30k a year more for administration.
- Optimal School size: 160-319

# Facility Report Impact

- Facility Reports target 25 elementary schools.
- Most elementary schools over 319FTE by 2016
- Formula staffing: costs go up.
- All schools require Vice Principals
- Number of school go down, Costs go up.

# School Size vs. Neighbourhood

- Parents want Neighbourhood schools
- Size is dictated by Neighbourhood density.
- City Densification will increase School size.
- Previously successful large schools, were also neighbourhood schools.

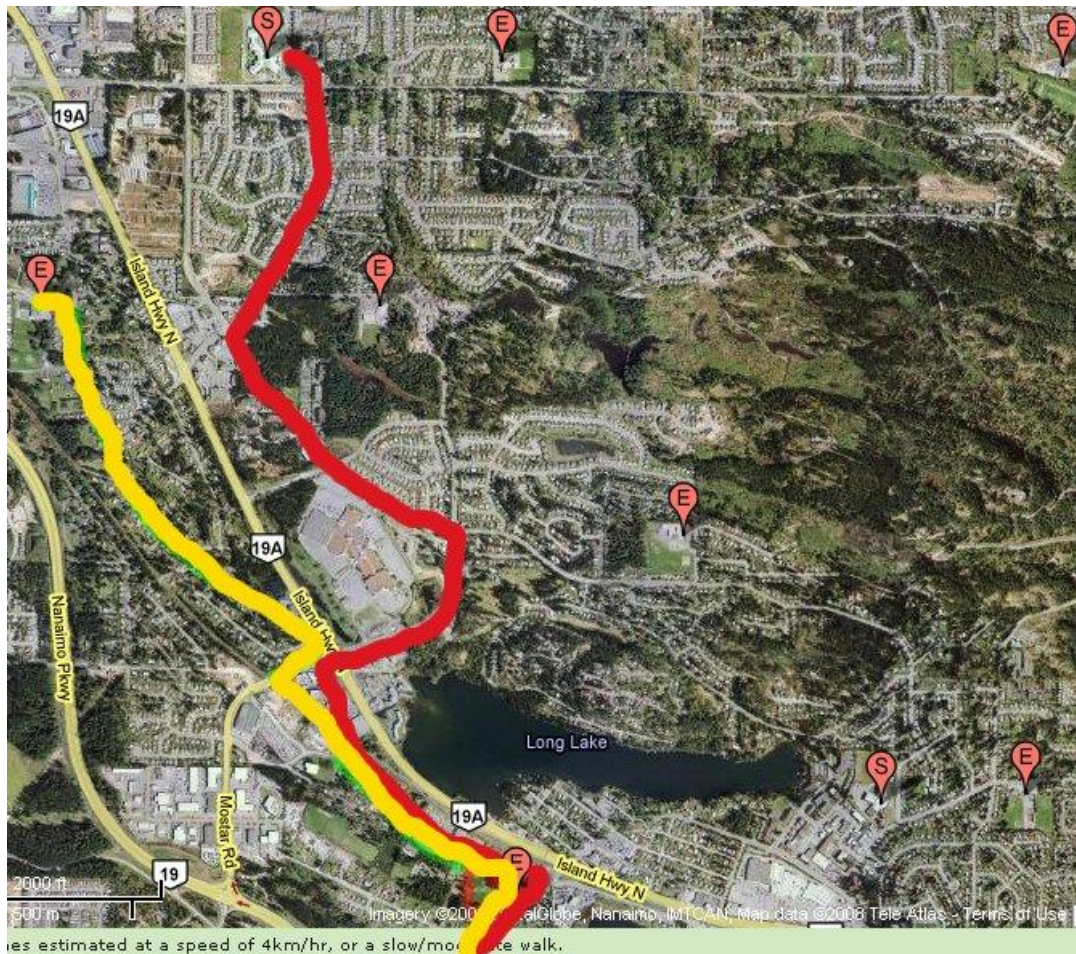
# Community Catchments

- Catchments should be aligned along neighbourhood boundaries.
- Creating large schools with arbitrary catchments does not result in the same school experience.

# Large Catchments

- Some Families by Mount Benson 4.1km from Pleasant Valley  
(If using crosswalks and sidewalks)

# Yellow = 4.1km (Compare Frank J. Ney)

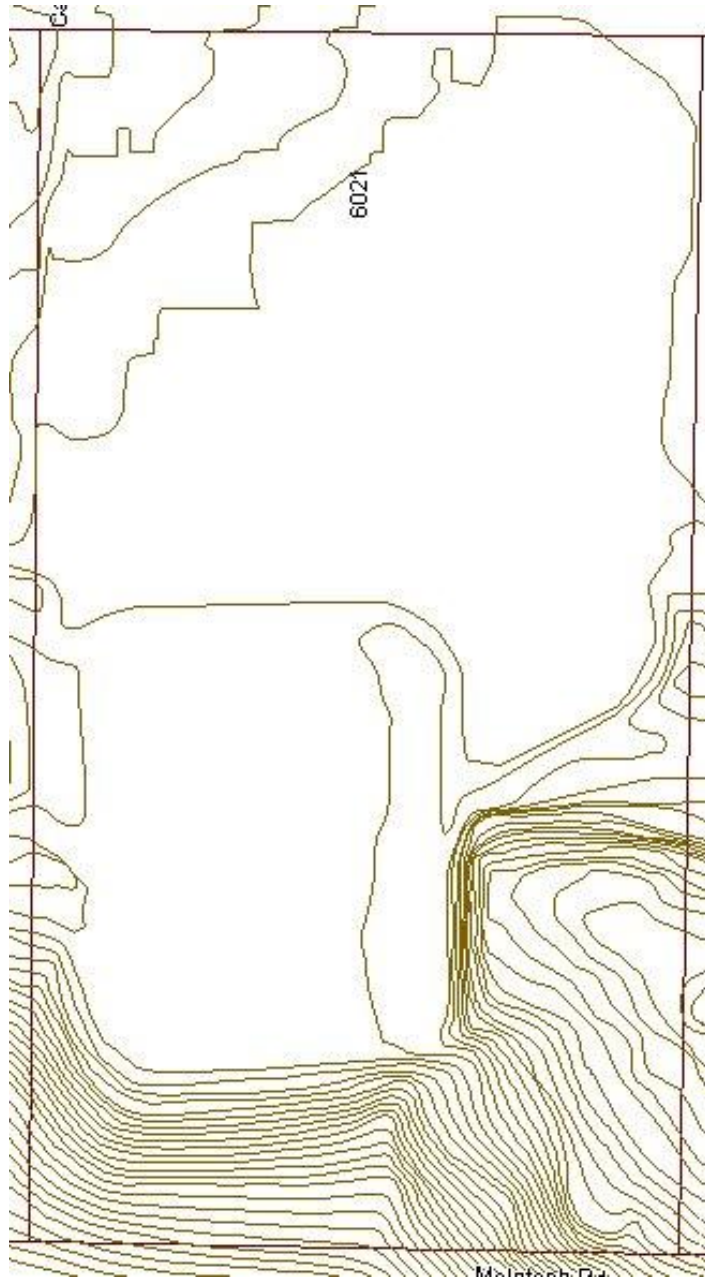


# Site Size / Playfields

- Ministry set requirements on Playfield and site size.
- Most sites fall short.

# Good Sites Hard to Find





Not Flat

# Small Playfield = Limited Use



# Another Example

- Large Frank J. Ney site Playfield is below Ministry Standards.
- Site is large.
- Long lot with waterway limits usable space.
- Intermediates use nearby City Park Fields.

# Working For SD68

- Use Standards to the Advantage of Students
- Facility Plans should focus on preserving best sites.
- Use Ministerial Requirements to our advantage, not to our disadvantage.