



Collettville Consultation Summary

October 28, 2025

8 Tables

1	What further information would be helpful to understand the funding formula or the options we have, including potential school closures?
	• What are the infrastructure costs of each school? • What are the work orders for each school? • What would be the catchment area for dual-track CV? • What would it look like to have kids pay to use the bus? • Administrative costs – 2019 vs 2025 • What does CLC need to be run out of facility? • FSA for FIM, the impact of them on graph • How and why was CV chosen
	• Admin office salary • Cost of running SCIDES and SBO • Cost to run DV. • Size of library/office • Cost to fix MC. • Cost of the school closure process • Com numbers not jiving. • How many families homeschool in NSSD? • What are the Literacy and Numeracy rates at CV? • Class size information for each school
	• What are the admin costs for SD leadership? • How does “right sizing” start at the SBO? How do we compare to other districts? Two superintendents? • What % of the budget is spent on teachers and EAs compared to other districts? • Buying “Caraolia” ???; better for budget and getting best costs. • What are the budgets for scenarios offered? • Are there other scenarios being considered? Will you consider other suggestions? • Why are other schools not being suggested? • If no schools are closed, what are other options? • What are the catchment numbers for all CV students? How many live in the CV area? • What is the impact on staffing if everyone moved? Do staff lose jobs? SST? Librarian? Custodian? • How many students from Upper Nicola and Coldwater? • What is the long-range vision? Max out at all schools? New school?

	• Sell or rent? • Does CMS count in the capacity count? • Would Late Entry FIM be considered to increase enrollment?
	• What is the cost of operating Kengard? • Would selling a building help? • Has the per-student funding by the province improved? • Why is DV not being considered for closure?
	• More information on the costs of other schools • Possibility of French pre-school for enhanced enrollment • Dollar comparison chart needed with more specific breakdowns; less vague and more transparent. • Why not sell more properties; combine CLC and SCIDES into a new building • Can SBO move into another building with space to save on costs? • Need more information on actual classroom spaces. • Need more information on catchment areas; are they being redrawn, and will they be enforced?
	• Want numbers from all schools; the pie chart is not readable. • What other budget items have been considered? • Admin costs at Board Office; 58% increase for staff member, Assistant Superintendent? Have these costs been looked at? Why not? • Why do we have an Assistant Superintendent? • What programs and services are we talking about? • What specifically will the savings provide? • What are your plans to implement dual track? • What is the revenue from CMS? • Before and after school programs in vacant spaces? • Registration numbers? • What is the cost of SCIDES? • What are we doing to maintain SCIDES? • How would you balance dual track at CV? • What services would be impacted in scenarios? • Transparency – how will this impact kids? • What is the maintenance on an empty school? • Literacy and numeracy numbers – how does CV compare? • How many kids in CV have IEPs? • Harm reduction – psychological harm to kids? • What will the impact of catchments be? • Age/health/state of each school i.e.: ERMI tested? • Strategic directions – use CV as a pillar, as it meets all the goals.
	• Why did the Board only consider the two schools? Why not DV or Bench? • FAQ says there were many options, what were they?

	• Show parents how the distribution of kids would look if a school closure played out. • Where are kids going if they are not going to public school? • How is the District planning for a smooth transition for special needs children? • When will parents be informed of boundary changes? The earlier the better especially for FIM. • Has the District considered converting parts of schools for other uses? Ie: childcare • Concerns for grade 7s moving for just one year. • Is there a risk that parents will move their kids to Lower Nicola because they do not like DV? • What are the amounts of EAs at each school? Will this be decreased? • Will the public get a summary of all these table discussions? Meeting minutes? • Is there a map of school boundaries? • If the bands choose a new school of choice, when will parents know as this will affect boundary changes? • Transparency on how the District will support student who have to transition. • Dollars should go to front line staff, not admin at Board Office • Why do we need seven trustees? Why not five? • Can we start a new program at CV; Outdoor Ed to attract band member kids? • Has the Board talked to the city about public transit getting kids to schools, DV for example
	• Request for looking at bussing as a budget solution. Want data about ridership and attendance. Look at cost recovery despite Board saying that it would not be considered. Is there another funding source for bussing. • What is the plan to use the money potentially saved, where will that money go? • What is the plan to keep culture if CV becomes dual track? • How would library be handled? • What is the cost of this consultation project? • Why aren't CMS and Kengard being sold? • Could FIM be moved to CMS? • Why isn't Bench being looked at? • Who is responsible for budget advocacy to Ministry? • Need more clarity on pie graph about schools in power point. • Are there additional FIM grants and funding available that could be used to keep a school open?
2	If there is a dollar left on the table, where should the money be spent?
	• Would not answer.
	• Did not answer.
	• Loaded question, not answering.

	• Services and resources/staffing/maintaining buildings. • Staffing/buildings/services and resources. • Services and resources/buildings/staffing.
	• Staffing and services are the same/ maintaining buildings.
	• 40% staffing / 40% services and resources / 20% buildings.
	• Tough question to answer; this does not help to answer.
	• Would not answer without knowing how other dollars are being spent. • Poorly worded question. • How are funds already being spent in each of these areas?
3	What are the pros and cons of each scenario? 1. CV closes, FIM moved to DV, and the school is dual track. 2. MC closes, students move to CV, DV and NC through catchment reconfiguration. 3. MC closes, FIM to DV and MC to CV
	1. <u>Cons:</u> DV library is the smallest in the district, how would you fit both languages? Lose connection/community of French culture. <u>Pros:</u> None given. 2. <u>Cons:</u> Cultural “shift”; need more info on how that shift would be made for FIM. <u>Pros:</u> Saving money on upgrades that MC needs – 4.1 million. 3. <u>Cons:</u> Why does FIM have to move if Centra is closing? Why upset all? The MC population will not fit in the CV, according to the slide. If dual track, then more English kids may be there.
	1. No empty classrooms Quality of the DV kitchen? Keep the French coordinator? 2. Moving of the resources budget for staff Dual track Indigenous and French possibility?
	1. <u>Cons:</u> The library is too small. Librarian with French. Dual track challenges. Impact on DV school culture? Limit the growth of the program, limit inclusiveness. Losing the identity of FIM. Parents have put time and money into the playground.

	Mental and emotional health around transitions. How will this be managed? Recess and lunch, enough playground. <u>Pros:</u> CV community stays together. New friendships? Principal and vice principal? 2. <u>Cons:</u> The worst option impacts so many different schools. Splitting up is a huge challenge. <u>Pros:</u> Closer to the catchment school. Evens out capacity situations. 3. <u>Cons:</u> Cost savings worth it? <u>Pros:</u> Students kept together. Long-term capital costs less by closing MC.
	1. Keep FIM program. 2. No objections to dual track; already established FIM culture is easier to keep. 3. Makes the least sense, unnecessarily disruptive.
	1. DV is older and less modern; in flood plane and dikes are still suspect. - Is there enough space to have both tracks? - Will there be enough space to grow FIM program? - How would the schedule work? - What would transportation look like? - Challenges for families with transportation and a lack of busing. 2. If bussing kids, it will be easier. - Dual track could be an option, but concerns over space. - Move primary to one school, intermediate to another for space. 3. NO. - More kids displaced. - Costs higher to move multiple schools. - Loss of school community. - Signage would need to be bilingual.
	1. No Pros - Con is that the culture and integrity of the FIM will diminish completely. 2. No Pros - The con is the culture. 3. No Pros - The con is the culture.
	1. Cons

	May have less supports for FIM students. How do school cultures merge into one?
	1. Cons One person would move away from Merritt before doing this, DV neighbourhood and students are rougher. Families would homeschool over SCIDES. No criticism of teachers at DV, but DV may not be as attractive to CV parents. Pros CV kids would get to stay together as a group. French admin possible? 2. Cons Does not make sense from a class size perspective. Pros Good for CV kids to stay together. 3. Cons Displaces many kids. CV not safe to walk through; no sidewalks or shoulders
4	What should be the top three priorities in our new Strategic Plan? • Did not answer • Did not answer • Staff wellness at SD 58 is the biggest employer in Merritt. Recruit and keep staff. Building staff culture. Professional growth. • Health and Safety. • Responsiveness to data; identify needs to allocate resources effectively. • Connection to school. • Like the three goals: Enhancing student well-being and engagement; keep students at the forefront. Literacy and Numeracy continue to be prioritized; bridge the gaps and put resources into these important areas. Social emotional status. • This is not the time to talk about the Strat Plan; the mood is not right. • Would not answer.
5	What do you encourage the Board to consider in addition to the options provided here? • Cost of consultant? • What if parents pull out of FIM and go to catchment schools? • Funding formula for FIM and declining enrollment once diminished will severely impact funding; what funds are allotted to Indigenous students at CV?

	• Have we considered more counsellors during this time? Mental health support is not adequate. • Past practice has proven that we cannot do. • Dual track; have you considered Thompson and Okanogan? • How much will Bench need in repairs, and what is their projection?
	• Available funding for FIM?
	• Parents' connection to CV passed down to kids – pride. • Stereotypes of DV a hard sell • Adding more bussing to any scenario is a positive • Will closing MC cause kids to go to band school? • Another scenario: Indigenous Immersion dual program at CV. • Could CV go to MC? Improve bussing? • Primary and Intermediate schools like Princeton; MC primary to CV, MC intermediate to DV. • Bring CLC/SCIDES to CV/MC/DV; sell CMS. • Figure out another way to get bussing paid for. • Increase revenue by bringing government programs into schools (daycares). • Expand a culturally appropriate curriculum across all classrooms, (can not read), staff to support.
	• All scenarios make it feel like there is no room for growth in FIM. • Concerns that any moves will lead to anger between schools. • Better/efficient use of money. • FSA should be bilingual. • If designations have increased, how can we make cuts. • Review of District staff; feels top heavy. How do we compare to other Districts and how do we compare to 20 years ago? Why has it changed?
	• Provide another scenario that keeps FIM intact. • If dual track is implemented, what is the future of FIM? • Principal is well-loved and respected at CV. • Future engagement: improve information sharing, open for questions for 10 to 15 minutes so people feel heard.
	• Selling some non-school assets possible?
	• All three scenarios break up friend groups. • Would like to bring back grade 7 band, bussing, and counselling. • What about moving kids to CMS or Kengard • Central is old but is in a good location. • Worry that kids will have to walk five kms. • Cost of this consultation is concerning. • Budget consultation, voices were not heard. • Moving FIM may kill the program or cannot replace what is at CV.

	• Want transparency in process which included sharing these comments to public. • What about keeping k to 3 and 4 to 7 together?
	• Consider CV dual track with k to 3 MC at CV and 4 – 7 MC kids at DV. • If we close school, will we have more? • Have you taken flood and COVID into account? • Take bussing cost recovery back to the table. • What are expenses at Bench expected to be for 10 to 15 years? • Consider bussing all of PSS kids to MSS for school, only an hour away. • Consider selling District assets. Leasing buildings, rent to programs. • What does it cost to keep CMS open vs closing a school? • Would like catchment area data. • Sidewalks are a concern for walking. • What are the plans for expanding Fim and hiring teachers? • How do we use the 7500.00 per FIM student? What would that look like in a dual track school? • City expects 350 jobs to come with families; city concerned that two million is given to shelter. • Please deliver these messages carefully and compassionately. • Concern about accuracy of website messaging shared.