

# INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

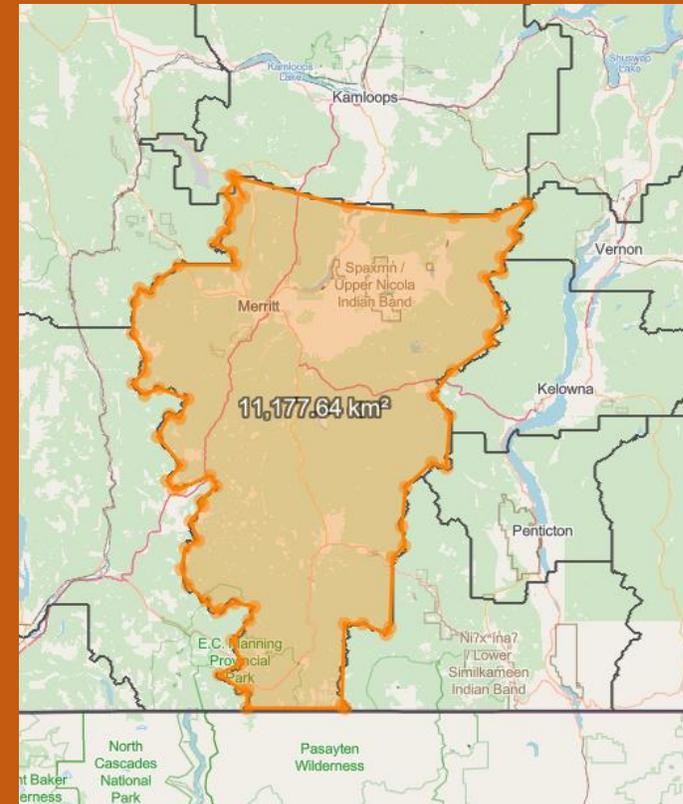
## Prioritizing Programs and Services for Our Students



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We humbly recognize and acknowledge that we learn, teach and work on the traditional unceded territories of the Nt̓eʔkepmx and Syilx people, and we acknowledge our Metis communities and their contributions to the Aboriginal ways of being and knowing.

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# What We Heard from the Fall Consultation:

1. If it is not your child or children's school that is potentially closing, based on the numbers and economic realities, it is logical to close a school to maintain services.
2. Students, staff, and parents from the schools facing potential closure wish to remain in their own building.
3. The school administrator makes a difference and if the students need to move, parents would like to see the administrator transition with the students.
4. Students are also bonded with their support staff and teachers. If the school staff can move to the new location, it would support the transition.
5. Catchment reassignment could displace families.
6. A primary and intermediate model (like Princeton) would be difficult for families with multiple children (more pick-ups and drop offs).
7. Coldwater Indian Band and Upper Nicola Indian Band both want their students to stay together. If Central closes, these First Nations would need to designate a new school of choice.
8. Students want to stay with their friends rather than being split up into different schools.

# Scenario One: No School Closure

- The Board will need to cut \$477,000 in Year One
- Bussing and catchment remain the same.
- Cuts will come from staffing:
  - 2.0 FTE – Literacy and Numeracy Coaches
  - 2.0 FTE – Counselling
- Approximately \$480,000 in savings (depends on grid placement)



# Year Two of Cuts

- An additional \$399,000 in cuts to Staffing:

Cut 0.76 FTE – Counselling – We will be at the Collective Agreement Ratio – \$ 91, 200

Cut 6.84 FTE of Educational Assistants - \$307, 800

- These cuts assume our enrollment projections hold.



## Scenario Two:

Central Elementary Closes

French Immersion Program moves to Diamond Vale

Central moves to Collettsville School

- One administrator cut; They will be offered a teaching position in the District. There will be a shuffle. This will most likely displace a teacher at the bottom of the seniority list. Approximately, \$171,120 in savings
- We hear you about moving the Administrator with the students.
- A School Secretary Position will be eliminated. We have a bumping clause by seniority in our contract. Saves approximately \$54,000
- Custodian – eliminating a partial position – Approx. \$38, 565 and another \$23, 240 in supplies.
- Reduction in Prep Teacher FTE – Better economies of scale; approximately 0.3 FTE = \$36,000
- Enrollment Projection at least one FTE reduced - \$120,000



# Scenario Two Cont'd

| Collettsville (Formerly Central Students) |     |
|---|-----|
| Projected Population                      | 181 |
| Kindergarten                              | 19  |
| Grade 1                                   | 18  |
| Grade 2                                   | 25  |
| Grade 3                                   | 28  |
| Grade 4                                   | 14  |
| Grade 5                                   | 20  |
| Grade 6                                   | 26  |
| Grade 7                                   | 31  |

| Diamond Vale – Dual Track |               |                        |
|---------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Projected Population      |               | 238                    |
|                           | English - 131 | French Immersion - 107 |
| Kindergarten              | 15            | 15                     |
| Grade 1                   | 15            | 15                     |
| Grade 2                   | 11            | 6                      |
| Grade 3                   | 22            | 15                     |
| Grade 4                   | 17            | 12                     |
| Grade 5                   | 16            | 19                     |
| Grade 6                   | 13            | 10                     |
| Grade 7                   | 22            | 15                     |

Assumptions – French Immersion remains stable; Upper Nicola and Coldwater choose Collettsville as their school of choice; projections hold.

# What does enrolment redistribution look like if Collettsville relocates to Diamond Vale and Central moves Collettsville?

- Redistributing enrolment from Collettsville and closing Central would bring the District's utilization capacity to 88.3% or 74 vacant seats.
- Currently capacity utilization is 57% at Collettsville, 46% at Diamond Vale, and 63% at Central.
- Diamond Vale as Dual Track would put Diamond Vale's capacity at between 87% to 90% and closing Central puts Collettsville capacity at 84% to 93% for the next three years based on projections.

# Bussing

- Collettsville becomes the bussing hub
- One transfer bus to Diamond Vale for rural French Immersion students
- Playgrounds will remain in place at this time in the event of reopening
- Portable equipment and resources will be moved



## What happens if students withdraw from French Immersion?

- Enrollment must be viable to continue running the program. Most likely triple and quadruple splits if enrollment dips significantly.
- Existing staff transferred to other schools, either Elementary or Secondary.
- Where do French Immersion Students go if returning to their neighbourhood schools:
- 8 – NC; 27 – DV; 21 – Bench; 19 – MC; 40 – CV
- All 81 students currently out of catchment are returned to their neighbourhood schools to make room. No grandfathering.
- New Transfer requests will need to be submitted. Bench and Colletville would be closed to transfers under this scenario.



# Deferred Maintenance

Rental income will help offset the \$2.3 million of capital upgrades within the next 10 years and a further \$1.8 million in 10-15 years at Merritt Central.

Bench modernization/remodel (top capital plan project) would be more viable from the Ministry's point of view.

Maintenance will have more time and resources for repairs and projects at other schools.

This is option increases utilization capacity.

# Scenario Three: Collettsville Elementary Closes French Immersion Program moves to Diamond Vale

- One administrator cut; They will be offered a teaching position in the District. There will be a shuffle. This will most likely displace a teacher at the bottom of the seniority list.
- We hear you about moving the Administrator with the students. Approximately, \$171, 120 in savings
- A School Secretary Position will be eliminated. We have a bumping clause by seniority in our contract. Saves approximately \$54,000.
- Custodian – eliminating a partial position – Approx. \$38, 565 and another \$23, 240 in supplies.



# Scenario Three Cont'd

## Diamond Vale – Dual Track

- Projected Population - 238

English - 131

French Immersion -107

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| • K- 15      | K- 15      |
| • Gr. 1 – 15 | Gr. 1 – 15 |
| • Gr. 2 – 11 | Gr. 2 - 6  |
| • Gr. 3 –22  | Gr. 3 - 15 |
| • Gr. 4 – 17 | Gr. 4 - 12 |
| • Gr. 5 – 16 | Gr. 5- 19  |
| • Gr. 6- 13  | Gr. 6 - 10 |
| • Gr. 7 - 22 | Gr. 7 - 15 |

Assumptions – French Immersion remains stable, projections hold.

# What does enrolment redistribution look like if Collettsville relocates to Diamond Vale?

- Redistributing enrolment from Collettsville would bring the capacity utilization to 73.6% or 199 vacant seats across Merritt.
- Currently capacity utilization is 57% at Collettsville and 46% at Diamond Vale.
- Diamond Vale as Dual Track would put Diamond Vale's capacity at between 87% to 90% for the next three years based on projections.

# Deferred Maintenance

Merritt Central will require \$2.3 million of capital upgrades within the next 10 years and a further \$1.8 million in 10-15 years.

Closing Collettsville avoids \$1.1M in near-term capital upgrades but shifts all future investment to Merritt Central.

Long-term costs will remain high as Merritt Central continues to age, requiring ongoing major investments beyond 15 years.

This is the most expensive option.

## Scenario Four:

### Collettsville Closes; The French Immersion Program moves to Central. Central becomes dual track.

- One administrator cut; They will be offered a teaching position in the District. There will be a shuffle. This will most likely displace a teacher at the bottom of the seniority list.
- We hear you about moving the Administrator with the students. Approximately, \$171, 120 in savings
- A School Secretary Position will be eliminated. We have a bumping clause by seniority in our contract. Saves approximately \$54,000
- Custodian - eliminating a partial position - Approx. \$38, 565 and another \$23, 240 in supplies.



# Scenario Four Cont'd

| Merritt Central – Dual Track |               |                        |
|------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Projected Population         |               | 288                    |
|                              | English - 181 | French Immersion - 107 |
| Kindergarten                 | 19            | 15                     |
| Grade 1                      | 18            | 15                     |
| Grade 2                      | 25            | 6                      |
| Grade 3                      | 28            | 15                     |
| Grade 4                      | 14            | 12                     |
| Grade 5                      | 20            | 19                     |
| Grade 6                      | 26            | 10                     |
| Grade 7                      | 31            | 15                     |

Assumptions – French Immersion remains stable

# What does enrolment redistribution look like if Collettsville relocates to Merritt Central?

- Redistributing enrolment from Collettsville would create a large school population of 288 at Merritt Central.
  - Currently capacity utilization is 57% at Collettsville and 63% at Merritt Central.
  - Merritt Central as Dual Track would put Merritt Central's capacity at between 86% to 90% for the next three years based on projections.
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## Classroom Availability Per School

- Diamond Vale has 17 classrooms total with only 7 currently used.
- Merritt Central has 16 classrooms total with 10 being used.
- Collettsville has 10 classrooms plus portable with 6 being used
- Consider need for Strong Start, Welcome and Support rooms.



# Other Considerations, Assumptions or info

- Bussing hub would remain at Central if Central stays open but no bussing is available if student is within walk limit of school
- Assume FN will move to Collettsville as school of choice if Central closes otherwise will stay at Central
- Assume enrolment projections hold

# What does enrolment redistribution look like?

- Ignoring the enrolment at Merritt Bench Elementary, the other elementary schools have a combined capacity utilization rate of 58.5%
- Redistributing enrolment from **Collettsville** would bring the capacity utilization to 73.6% or 199 vacant seats.
- Redistributing enrolment from **Central** would bring the capacity utilization to 88.3% or 74 vacant seats.

# Moving Costs

## Furniture Relocation

Desks, chairs, tables for classrooms, staff room, and office

**Estimated cost: \$2,600**

## Library and Technology Materials

Library books and shelving moved

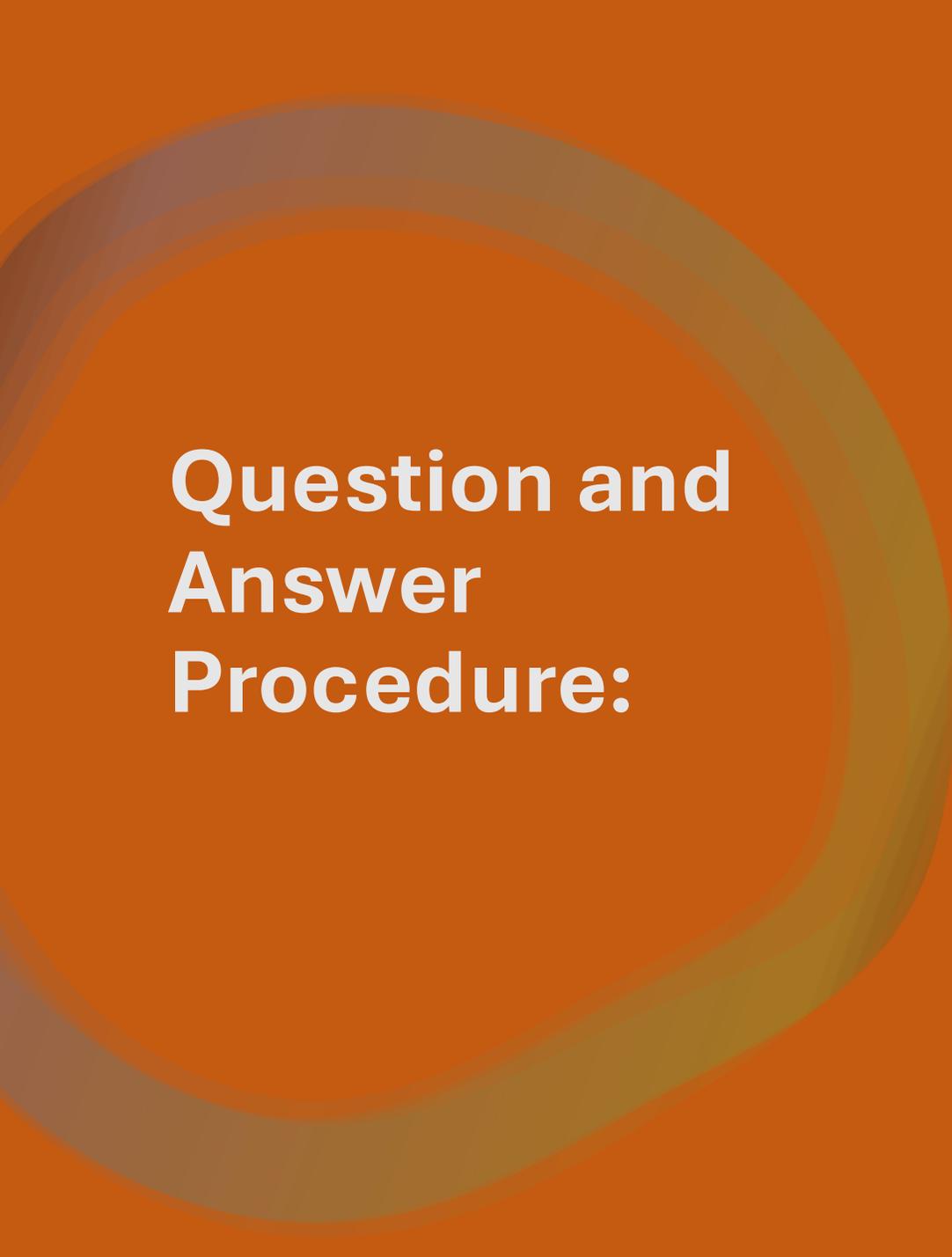
**Estimated cost: \$1,780**

## Packing & Logistics Support

Teachers pack personal belongings; district supports school-owned items

**Boxes, tape, and minor supplies**

**Estimated cost: \$1,780**



# Question and Answer Procedure:

To ensure that all voices are heard and that the meeting is a safe space for all:

- 1) Please be respectful in your asking your questions.
- 2) Please come up to the microphone and state your first and last name as well as community you live in, which school you are representing, whether you are a staff member, parent, concerned citizen, and/or speaking on behalf of (needed for the minutes.)
- 3) Each person may only ask one question at the microphone to allow time for all questions.
- 4) You may come up to the microphone again after others have asked their questions.
- 5) Questions and Responses will be limited to 2 minutes.



**Nicola  
Similkameen  
School District**

## School Closure Website Page and Online Feedback

- We have a dedicated webpage on our District Website:
  - Under “Our District,” you will see “School Closure Process.”
  - This page will house the Questions and Answers documents.
- We have also set up a dedicated email: [schoolclosure2025@sd58.bc.ca](mailto:schoolclosure2025@sd58.bc.ca)
  - Both feedback and questions can be submitted to this email.