

Wildflower School & REACH Program Facilities Planning

Discussion & Analysis

Prepared for: March 9, 2021 Operations & Finance Committee and Board Meetings



This document provides a discussion and analysis of various facilities options for Wildflower Nelson and REACH, presented for consideration at the March 9, 2021 Operations & Finance and Board Meetings.



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Executive Summary

School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) has prepared this discussion and analysis to guide its decision-making as to what facilities would be best suited for Wildflower Nelson and REACH, to address an existing and projected capacity utilization issue in the Nelson Family of Schools at the Central Building. The following options are presented for consideration by the Board, from which the Board could choose more than one:

- **Option A:** REACH and all Wildflower Grades K to 9 remain at Central, and:
 - **Option A1: Wildflower Enrolment Capped.** The space available for Wildflower and REACH in the Central Building is maintained as is with 7 classrooms – 6 used by Wildflower and 1 used by REACH = 136 operating capacity.
 - **Option A2: Capacity Expansion: Central Building stage area is converted into Classroom.** Adding one classroom = operating capacity increase of 25, for a total of 161 operating capacity.
 - **Option A3: IT space converted into a Classroom.** This adds one further classroom = operating capacity increase of 25. In conjunction with Option A2, this would result in adding two classrooms = operating capacity increase of 50, for a total 186 operating capacity.
- **Option B:** Wildflower Middle School (Grades 7 to 9) moves to Trafalgar campus, reducing by 75 the projected number of students in Central Building for 2021-2022.
- **Option C:** REACH program remains at Central Building or moves to Trafalgar or another non-SD8 building.
- **Option D:** REACH moves to L.V. Rogers.

Facilities Details: Central, Trafalgar & L.V. Rogers

The following chart shows the range of FCIs, Deferred Maintenance obligations, and Capacity Utilization for each school in the Nelson Family of Schools:

	Central Building	Trafalgar	L.V. Rogers
Built:	1908	1924	1956
Classrooms:	6	25	29
Auxiliary rooms*:	4	10	12
Operating Capacity**:	136	575 (2021:625)	725
Student Enrolment (HC):	159 Students REACH = 9 Wildflower = 150 (2021:183) -Elementary = 102 (2021: 108) -Middle = 48 (2021:75)	405 (2021: 535)	685 (2021:571)
Capacity Utilization:	117%	70% (2021: 86%)	95% (2021: 79%)
Facilities Condition Index:	0.34	0.54	0.27
Deferred Maintenance:	\$2MM	\$9.6MM	\$7.5MM

*Auxiliary Rooms: Non-instructional spaces, e.g. Strong-Start, Learning Centre, Gym, Media/Tech, Counselling, Offices, Library, Cafeteria, Multi-purpose Rooms, Special Education Classrooms, Play Areas, Storage.

**Operating Capacity: Kindergarten classrooms = 19, Grades 1-3 = 21, Grades 4-12 = 25.

Enrolment Projections: Wildflower Nelson & REACH

Wildflower School - Nelson

The following table shows the 2021-2022 enrolment projection for Wildflower Nelson:

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
Headcount	10	10	13	18	16	18	23	25	25	25	183

Wildflower has student intake at Kindergarten, Grades 2 or 3, and Grade 7. These multiple intakes result in an increase in the number of students per grade with each successive level. The pattern is that by Grade 7 there are approximately 25 students per grade. For Grades 2-6, the average number of students cannot exceed 22, so the intermediate Grades 2 – 6 have a maximum of 88 students in four classrooms. The maximum number of students is 27 per middle school grade.

Wildflower School – Nelson enrolment would be expected to be maintained at around this total level of enrolment for the foreseeable future. This assumes that families continue to wish their middle-school aged students attend Wildflower instead of Trafalgar.

Therefore, Wildflower School requires a total of eight (8) classrooms. Currently, there are only six (6) classrooms available for Wildflower in the Central Building.

REACH Program

Enrolment projections for the REACH program are for approximately 7 to 12 students in 2020-2021, in line with enrolment for the past few years. The highest enrolment seen was four years ago with 22 students. In any case, the REACH program needs one (1) classroom = operating capacity of 25.

Recommended/Proposed Resolutions of the Board

Based on an in-depth review of facilities options and in-depth consultations with families, partner groups, Trustees, and other members of the public, as well as a review of options as summarized in the Pros and Cons Chart attached hereto as Appendix A, Staff are recommending/proposing the following resolutions to the Board for consideration:

Proposed Resolutions:

THAT commencing the 2021-2022 school year, the REACH program be located at L.V. Rogers campus;

THAT commencing the 2021-2022 school year, the Wildflower School grades K-6 be located at Central Building;

AND THAT commencing the 2021-2022 school year, the Wildflower School grades 7-9 be located at Trafalgar campus;

School District No. 8 - Kootenay Lake				
2021 Facilities Plan - Wildflower School & REACH program Options				
		Wildflower School Options		
		Option A1	Option A2+A3	Option B
Decision Factors	Board Goals & Values	Wildflower Enrolment Capped - Limit: six (6) classrooms, with approx. 136 students / seven (7) classrooms, approx. 161 students if current REACH classroom was available to Wildflower	Capacity Expansion at Central Building - Convert Stage Area to Classroom - Convert Tech Space to Classroom	Wildflower Middle School moves to Trafalgar Campus
Pros:				
Learning Environments	Goals: Learning & Organizational Excellence Values: Educational Success	Wildflower K-9 in single building		A new, larger space for Wildflower Middle school, with three proper classrooms in close proximity to one another.
Community	Goals: Relationships & Engagement Values: Resiliency & Engaged Citizenship	May help to nurture students social-emotional well-being by being in a smaller, exclusive community. Sibling relationship may be easier to maintain if both attending same school.		Opportunity to grade students to a larger, welcoming community Opportunity for Wildflower staff to revision and update the way the program operates
Pedagogy	Goals: Learning & Relationships Values: Educational Success, Creativity & Imagination	Preserves the existing "pedagogical philosophy" as is, i.e. including a contained, full-school, multi-age environment. Wildflower Middle School grades and Intermediate grades can participate more easily in co-educational activities.		Aligned with Ministry of Education, SD8, TMS and Wildflower value of inclusion. Preserves Wildflower's pedagogical philosophy, including: -Maintains multi-age Grade 7-9 environment -Same 3-year relationship with same teacher -Same parent integration in school
Educational Opportunities	Goals: Learning Values: Educational Success, Engaged Citizenship, Resiliency, Creativity & Imagination	N/A	N/A	Wider array of options for middle year students, including: -Sharing of specialty teachers to expand programming for students. -Additional educational opportunities, larger gym, outdoor play space, drama room/theatre, French immersion grades 6 – 9, foods, music program grades 6 – 9, outdoor ed, shops, makerspace, woodworking, visual arts, textiles, digital literacy and computational thinking, robotics, drones, extra-curricular sports, fly fishing, archery, musical theatre, coding, technology, bike rebuilding program, industrial weight room, boys program, exchange and travel program at gr 9, international education, full library) -Aboriginal Education program
Cons:				
Learning Environments	Goals: Learning & Organizational Excellence Values: Educational Success	N/A	Still not sufficient operating capacity for both REACH program and Wildflower Nelson Grades K-9 Expanded classrooms at Central Building not ideal, substantially inferior to standard SD8 classrooms, including those that would be provided at Trafalgar campus under Option B. Stage area and tech space classrooms will not be available for September, 2021.	N/A
District Service Delivery	Goals: Learning & Organizational Excellence Values: Educational Success	N/A	Moving tech space diminishes the ability of to securely delivery IT services across the District in the long-term -Network is currently centered at Central and at Nelson collocation, steps from Central building -In short-term, there would be significant impacts on delivery of IT services, including phone systems upgrade and preparing devices for September, 2021.	N/A
Community	Goals: Relationships & Engagement Values: Resiliency & Engaged Citizenship	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pedagogy	Goals: Learning & Relationships Values: Educational Success, Creativity & Imagination	N/A	N/A	Is a different version of the attachment-based school model. Multi-age environment would be reduced to Grades 7-9 from a larger section of primary, intermediate and middle school grades. -Less potential for integration of intermediate and middle school grades (WMS students would still be able to visit Wildflower intermediate students) Some potential for conflict between MoE/Board/SD8/Trafalgar Middle School values of inclusion and Wildflower values of a small, inward-looking community.
Educational Opportunities	Goals: Learning Values: Educational Success, Engaged Citizenship, Resiliency, Creativity & Imagination	Educational opportunities for WMS student limited; curriculum not progressing, remains similar to an elementary-style	Educational opportunities for WMS student limited; curriculum not progressing, remains similar to an elementary-style	Concern that WMS would eventually dissolve if it is moved to Trafalgar.

School District No. 8 - Kootenay Lake			
2021 Facilities Plan - Wildflower School & REACH program Options			
Decision Factors	Board Goals & Values	REACH Program	
		Option C	Option D
		REACH at Central Building, Trafalgar or to a non-SD8 building	REACH moves to LV Rogers
Pros:			
Learning Environments	Goals: Learning & Organizational Excellence Values: Educational Success	Would continue to provide a separate space, which may be more comfortable for some students. If Central Building, nothing additional is required.	Improved classroom space in larger facility.
Community	Goals: Relationships & Engagement Values: Resiliency & Engaged Citizenship	All services , including outside agency supports from MCFD, Nelson Community Services, Nelson Food Cupboard, Nelson City Police, S.H.A.R.E./Our Daily Bread, Ankors, Options for Sexual Health, Cicada, the Women’s Centre are accessible	
Pedagogy	Goals: Learning & Relationships Values: Educational Success, Creativity & Imagination	N/A	Aligned with Ministry of Education, SD8, TMS and Wildflower value of inclusion. Wolf Pack will remain the Wolf Pack Opportunity to re-vision, and re-create a REACH program with improved grad rates and educational outcomes.
Educational Opportunities	Goals: Learning Values: Educational Success, Engaged Citizenship, Resiliency, Creativity & Imagination	N/A	If REACH is moved to LVR, a wide array of options for students. : -All regular courses and electives available at L.V. Rogers -ATLAS program, Mountain Biking, Rugby -YTT Dual Credit Program and other trades programs. -Foods, Culinary Arts, and Cafeteria programs, Commercial kitchen and an excellent teaching kitchen -2 gyms, weight room, tennis courts, field space, pickleball courts, basketball, close access to the Rail Trail, walking, hiking, cross-country skiing -Close to Selkirk College’s facilities – climbing gym, gymnasium, weight room, plus its Professional Chef Training program
Cons:			
Learning Environments	Goals: Learning & Organizational Excellence Values: Educational Success	Any of these three options are less well-suited and well-equipped facilities than L.V. Rogers.	N/A
District Service Delivery	Goals: Learning & Organizational Excellence Values: Educational Success	N/A	N/A
Community	Goals: Relationships & Engagement Values: Resiliency & Engaged Citizenship	Any of these three options have either minimal community or less well-suited community for inclusion with REACH program than L. V. Rogers.	No longer a separate space.
Pedagogy	Goals: Learning & Relationships Values: Educational Success, Creativity & Imagination	Grad rates and educational outcomes could be improved.	N/A
Educational Opportunities	Goals: Learning Values: Educational Success, Engaged Citizenship, Resiliency, Creativity & Imagination	Educational opportunities for REACH students are limited to what can be provided in a stand-alone setting.	N/A