

**KITCHEN TABLE TALK FEEDBACK**  
**SEPTEMBER 2, 2009 – BCSS & GFSS STAFF**  
**TABLE 1**

**Topic 1 – Course Options**

- Common timetable challenging due to historical comfort with current timetable. Preference of each staff for the current system.
- Offering courses between jointly between the two secondary schools – specialty areas
- Does quality of education/instruction suffer for the students who are enrolled via distance?
- Itinerant specialists – positive if it works for the individual teaching and provides additional options for the students.
- Bus students to other location for specialty areas

**Topic 2 – School Configuration**

- Small school – rural grant available for those small schools. Please discuss or share conversation around the cost of school configuration - does the cost savings occur? Is there a cost savings?
- Provincial guideline – 10 for a
- Board very committed to the human factor – Beaverdell or Greenwood losing their school would pull the heart out of the community.
- Keep a school in each community when configuration must happen.
- Midway to Greenwood – A school must stay in Greenwood.
- When does a small school diminish the opportunities for children? Is there research in this area?
- K-12 school? Cost ?? Bussing the younger children into Midway from from the outer limits? Are the direct routes that would decrease transportation time?
- Boundary Central as a s 7-10 school and have grade 11-12 go to GFSS on Bus?

**Topic 3 – GFSS Configuration**

- Philosophically Grade 7's are too young to be with the grade 12 students.
- School within a school format may be needed
- Middle school philosophically is better than having 7 in high school or 8 in elementary – Is space a problem for having a middle school in Grand Forks?
- K- 6 in WBES / GES, CLES, Perley, Hutton k-6 and 7-12 in all secondary schools.

**Topic 4 – Leasing MCFD space within the school**

- Yes – the Glanville Centre has provided a very successful example of this working in our community.

**Topic 5 – All-Day Kindergarten**

**Format Feedback**

- Add the point form Topic items from powerpoint to hand out – nicely summarized and missing from the booklet

**KITCHEN TABLE TALK FEEDBACK**  
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**TABLE 4**

**TOPIC 1 – Variety of Course Selection**

- Common timetable not a viable option. GFSS timetable would have to conform to BCSS timetable because:
  - singleton blocks at BCSS are set – GFSS may have the flexibility of several blocks of one subject
  - common daily block rotation could work but important to align courses
- Shared courses could be built outside of the timetable (late bus) would be the option (after school). Morning would not be feasible as many BCSS students travel 1.5 hours already.
- Shared specialists between schools – could work – cost of travel?
- Sharing specialists occurs already.
- Other options – a reduction in L.D. courses or have these outside the curriculum.

**TOPIC 2 – Declining Enrolment**

- Possibly Beaverdell could merge with Big White? Negative – putting primary kids on bus.
- Beaverdell – not an option as Big White part of our district and parents want kids educated on the ski hill (integration with skiing/outdoor education activity)
- Amalgamate Midway and Greenwood. Viable option yes but upgrades would have to occur, also would lose funding.
- K-12 school 2014. Could add on to BCSS – not rebuild due to \$\$\$ issues. Might cost more to re-configure than rebuild.
- Many districts have K-12. Lots of long bussing of primary elementary kids
- Could all elementary students go to WBES and leave BCSS as secondary?

**TOPIC 3 – GFSS Declining Enrolment**

- GFSS 7-12 school – viable option
- One area of GFSS could be a middle school and could be sectioned off (grades 7-9)
- GFSS/BCSS both grade 7-12 – could but not necessarily
- Might work if elementary schools amalgamated into one school – there would be room for the 7's at BCSS.

**TOPIC 4 – Community Use of School**

- Definitely should be considered – is developing now
- Good use of space
- Other outside agencies, etc. could use school on Fridays. Bussing issue in the west.
- Not much \$\$ effect in total.

**TOPIC 5 – All Day Kindergarten**

- Too long
- Not student focused or with student well-being in mind
- Childcare - \$save by parents at the cost of effect on students
- Making one a primary and one an intermediate - disruptive
- Eliminate grade 7 – would make room in building
- Was done at west end with Greenwood and Midway

- Grade 7 move leaves more room for kindergarten at elementary schools. Cost would be lower than other options.

**High Point**

- A good first step could be integrating the grade 7 students into both secondary schools. This is a logical move that would:
  - level out enrolment levels
  - leave room at elementary facilities for all-day kindergarten
  - be less costly than many strategies (there is room at secondary schools already)
  - cause parents and community to understand through a smaller, less disruption that there may be a need to consider K-12 at a later time

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**TABLE 8**

**TOPIC 1 – Variety of Course Selection**

- No jobs stay put
- Protect investment
- Big change may keep or hurt numbers
- People choosing to stay (now)
- Alternate courses to offer (ie Physics – 1 time)
- Technology (IChat, Skype, etc.)
- Barrier – Tech, Spec
- Maybe students (new concentration) want to learn distance
- Year-round schooling (teach/go to school) 2 or 3 semesters
- Issues with staffing
- Community activities to offset courses (ie figure skating, hockey, dance)
- Specialty schools (dance, baseball, hockey, cycling, etc.)

**TOPIC 2 – Declining Enrolment**

- Money driving everything
- Dollars and sense scenario
- Is full capacity of school most feasible
- New K-12 school in place of all older schools?

**TOPIC 3 – GFSS Declining Enrolment**

- High school under 400 (60% capacity)
- Location isn't an issue
- 7-12 less impact on elementary School
- No cost savings but does offer more courses
- 4 schools – GFSS/Perley, BCSS/WBES, BWCS
- Should be driven by education not money
- English 12 in last semester
- AP courses?
- Not feasible to offer Calculus with 3 students

**TOPIC 4 – Community Use of School**

**TOPIC 5 – All-Day Kindergarten**

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**TABLE 7**

**TOPIC 1 – Variety of Course Selection**

- Human resources sharing
  - Departments (Semester 1 in one school, Semester 2 in another)
- Having a voice (unity) saying this is not possible
  - Teachers, Admin, Community – keeping this going at what COST!
- Running split classes (quality of education)
- Time given to different courses – do we need to follow prescribed number of minutes?
- Courses offered outside of the timetable

**TOPIC 2 – Declining Enrolment**

- Merging schools, re-structuring grades
- CLES – bussing them into town
- Nike idea

**TOPIC 3 – GFSS Declining Enrolment**

- GFSS 7-12?
  - capacity
  - every idea has a large set-up cost
  - too big of an age gap
- Closing off sections for the uses (Board Office, Fred Walker, Tech Dept./other agencies)
- Perley 6-8 with access to our facilities
- Specialty people being shared between schools – Music, Fine Arts, P.E., I.T.
- BCSS/west looking at the same thing
- Things need to be reversible

**TOPIC 4 – Community Use of School**

- ACI/DLC – Give that to MCFD
- What type of clientele?
- Leasing space
  - corporate sponsorship
  - shops

**TOPIC 5 – All-Day Kindergarten**

- All-day kindergarten – what is rationale
  - Discontinue StrongStart centres
  - Bad idea such as “dual entry” – 1992
- Japanese typhoon model – “put your head down. . . . let it pass”

Equity of cuts across the board.

## **Highlights**

- Sharing human resources (specialties) between schools
- Elective area BCSS/GFSS GFSS/Perley
- School configuration
  - More agencies
  - Set up costs to do that
  - Clientele
- All-Day Kindergarten
  - Japanese typhoon theory
  - Large voice to “stop smoothing things over”

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**TABLE 6**

**All of these ideas etc. are based on declining enrolment. What contingency is there if it doesn't continue to decline we don't know. Dollars for options.**

**TOPIC 1 – Variety of Course Selection**

- Common timetable for two schools – not workable – the numbers make it difficult – having to run splits – just can't seem to make it happen.
- Can work in other places it seems but not here.
- Technology is an issue too.
- Success of online courses isn't great, lots of drop-out failure.
- Problem of kids not taking a full load of classes – can we encourage kids to take full loads.
- Get more money out of the kids we already have here in the building.

**Sharing Specialists Between Schools**

- Contract issues will come first. Be dealt with as a forced transfer etc.
- BDTA will not support any reduction in working conditions for members. Lots of talking to do – it is a possibility but work to do.

**Itinerant Specialists at Elementary? – Been done – could be done on a greater basis.**

**Other**

- Have kids sign up for programs so the courses in the program suit the kid.
- Creative timetabling
- Two specialty schools in the District
- Create a “school within a school” for GFSS

**TOPIC 2 – Declining Enrolment**

- Should Beavercreek merge with West Boundary
- Makes sense but what about all-day kindergarten – such a long day
- Probably not
- Midway/Greenwood – this would be a benefit for the kids – move them to Greenwood
- K-12 at BCSS – would need a grant to add on to BCSS as it is not suitable right now
- Do not close the schools in the west and build K-12 at BCSS. What a waste.
- Could be done – but would cost way too much
- Changes have to be made – status quo

**TOPIC 3 – GFSS Declining Enrolment**

- GFSS 7-12 – this is contingent on other things like close CLES, move the K-6 to other schools
- Why is this an option? How does this help?
- Again, status quo will not be good enough

**TOPIC 4 – Community Use of School**

- What space?
  - CLES Full
  - Perley Full
  - Hutton Full
- What space? Only if the 7s go to GFSS/BCSS

- We have to weigh money making vs what is best for kids educationally
- All-Day K will fill up space pretty quick

**TOPIC 5 - All Day Kindergarten**

- Do we go to Primary/Intermediate
- The feeling is that the way the topics have been laid out that there seems to be an agenda

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**TABLE 3**

**TOPIC 1**

<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• kid can stay in own community</li> <li>• may expand course offerings</li> <li>• may keep teacher as a monitor off-site</li> <li>• getting all schools to get specialist services or courses (Music, Counselling)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• loss of teachers – less teachers/less school community</li> <li>• motivating and monitoring online learners, who is watching kids, what about struggling learners</li> <li>• changing BCSS from microblock to GFSS timetable or vice versa</li> <li>• cost of technology to deliver</li> <li>• who is responsible for ensuring</li> <li>• mileage costs?</li> <li>• who would do that?</li> <li>• travel from home</li> </ul>
<p><b>Question?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are other small districts doing?</li> <li>• Is long-distance bussing to GFSS a solution – most felt not an option – parent will opt out of district.</li> </ul>	

**TOPIC 2**

- #3 Will we have capital building money for a new school?
- #1 Beaverdell school is the heart of the community and community services. Highly supportive community for Beaverdell school.
- #2 Ask about merging of the West Boundary community – hard to speak to

**TOPIC 3**

- #1 Keep specialist teachers  
Do grade 7 have different timetables  
Do we want grade 7 girls around older boys?  
Parents will not like it
- #2 Can we just close a wing of the schools as they are re-configured  
What about a middle school (model 7 – 9), a high school (model 10-12)

**TOPIC 4**

- If at GFSS, we would have to section off a part?
- What about adults who are afraid to enter high school?
- Pro: Kids in Care idea – services integrated with facilities. Immediately
- Introduce families (parents) need help to Family Services intake by hand
- Be careful about agencies

## TOPIC 5

<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High school students courses interacting with intermediate students at Perley</li><li>• Older child leadership in school</li><li>• Primary kids off highway</li><li>• Efficient concentration of resources</li><li>• Concentrating grade level teachers all in one school for planning, mentoring, sharing</li><li>• Kids and families will adjust</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Primary kids and intermediate kids of same family split between two schools</li><li>• Will a sense of school community be as strong as kids only in school for 3 - 4 years</li></ul>

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**TABLE 2**

**TOPIC 1**

- technology is a challenge – problems in technology always surface, teacher needs to be tech. savy
- no direct instruction for student in from of a computer
  - hands on (ie labs?)
- specialties
  - keep specialty but teacher stretched
  - good for kids – qualified teacher
  - if teacher is driving – give them additional prep time
  - singletons already drive timetable
  - cons – distance, roads, times, not for everyone
- shared specialist between everyone elementary and secondary especially second language
- look at international school status to boost P.E. enrolment

**TOPIC 2**

- merge Beaverdell with West Boundary Elementary
  - no problem
  - carpool
  - k's on a bus with older students
- K-12 in one school an issue for primary
- 7-12 BCSS? or 7, 8, 9 school
- Midway 7-12, Greenwood K-6, not feasible to fix Midway Elementary
- K-12 absolute last resort **unless** 10-12, 7-9, K-6 with separate bell schedules and space with only shared fields, auditorium, library, gym
- close schools – communities usually close

**TOPIC 3**

- GFSS 7-12 (grade 7 exposed to grade 12 – parent concerns) not a good idea
  - can they have a separate timetable?
- lease some space? – adult ed

**TOPIC 4**

- no problem with leasing space to provide more services on site
- K-4 Hutton, 5-7 Perley and use extra space; 8-12 GFSS

**TOPIC 5**

- nice to have a primary school – less influence from bigger kids
- give upper elementary more freedom

**Suggestions**

- more money breakdown for those who don't know – need to look at financial side of things
- make sure parents have info ahead of time
  - hard copies available
  - make a separate handout for parents

- p1 with bullets from Kitchen Table Talk in newsletter

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**TABLE 5**

**TOPIC 1 – Variety of Course Selection**

- Not sure if blended timetable is feasible
- Shared specialist – interesting
- Part-time teaching
- Technology for classroom

**TOPIC 2 – Declining Enrolment**

- One school in Rock Creek – K to 12 or 4 to 12

**TOPIC 3 – GFSS Declining Enrolment**

- Community fostering should be encouraged. Bring kids into community.

**TOPIC 4 – Community Use of School**

- Look at relocating School Board Office to GFSS Library
- Sell Board Office building
- Sell real estate

**TOPIC 5 – All Day Kindergarten**

- Same grade level teachers at one school
- Pure class grades