

VSB Preferred School Size Working Group

Working Group Meeting #1

February 10, 2020

Objectives

- Confirm context and terms of reference for Preferred School Size Working Group
- Confirm proposed PSS Working Group process/ approach
- Preliminary review and discussion of information gathered to-date
- Identify additional questions re: areas of consideration
- Clarify next steps including additional information needs, homework and subsequent meetings

Proposed Agenda

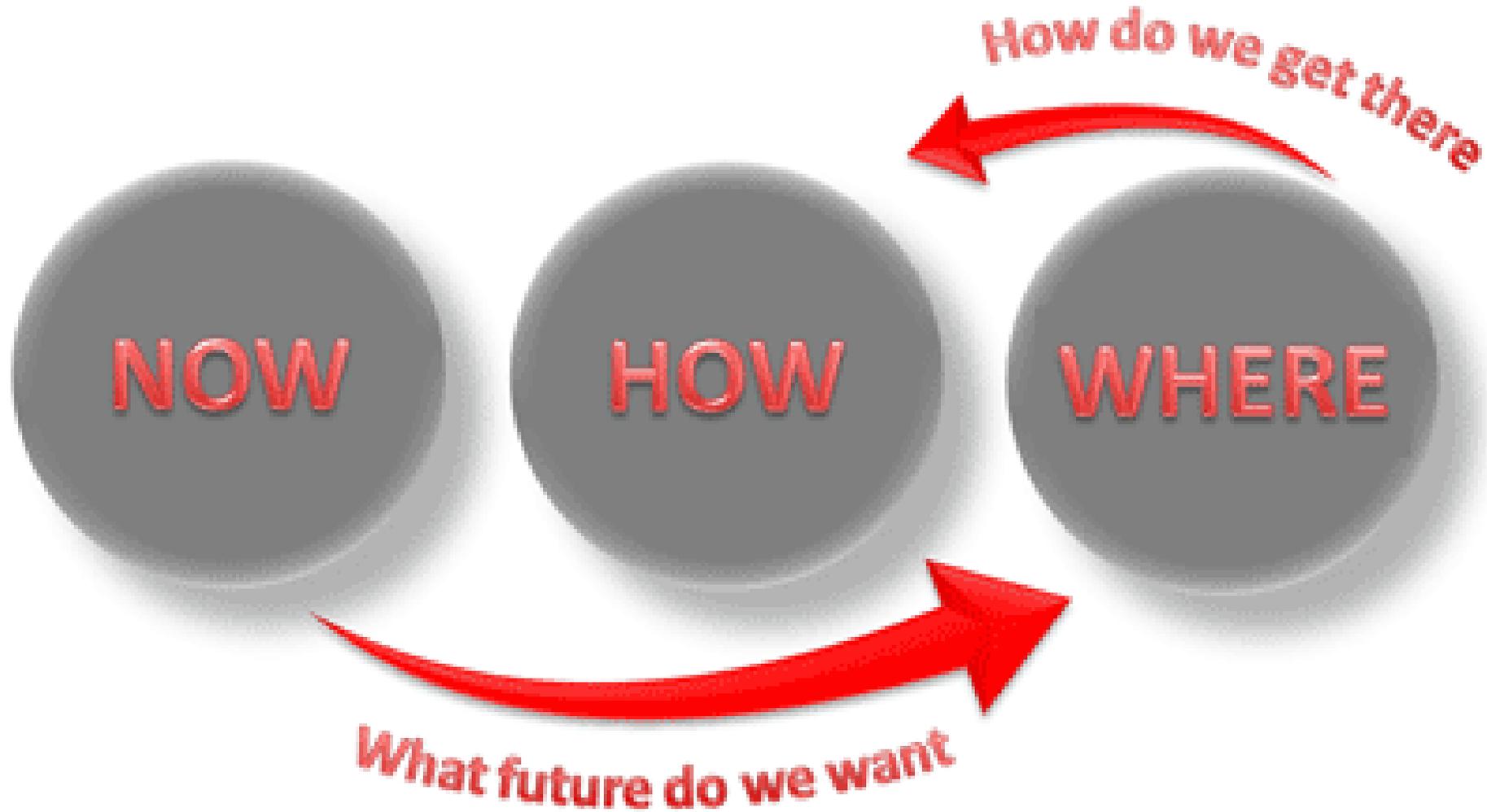
- 3:45 – 4:00 Welcome, Introductions, Agenda and Ground Rules
- 4:00 – 4:30 Background, context and Terms of Reference
- 4:30 – 5:15 Review and discussion of information gathered to-date
- 5:15 – 5:40 Break
- 5:40 – 6:40 Elementary and Secondary Sub-Group Discussion
- 6:40 – 7:00 Report back and discussion
- 7:00 – 7:15 Summary, homework and next steps



- Everyone has wisdom
- We need everyone's wisdom for the wisest results
- Everyone will hear and be heard
- There are no wrong answers

- Confidentiality
 - A safe environment for open and respectful dialogue.
 - The only thing that leaves the room are our agreements at the end.

Planning – the 3 big questions



Overview



Context – How did we get here?



Relevance – How could the outcomes of PSSWG process impact educational planning?



Current Status – with respect to school size, where are we now?



Future Status – where are we headed?



Seismic Program – How could outcomes of the PSSWG process influence the SMP?



Looking outward – research and practice

Guiding Principles from 2019 LRFP

- Improve the overall safety and quality of facilities.
- Plan for innovative learning environments that promote student engagement, student inclusion, and the delivery of diverse high-quality programs.
- Effectively use school District resources and facilities in alignment with long-term financial and sustainability goals.
- Work towards a future where all students wishing to attend their catchment school have the option to do so.
- Sustain and strengthen our relationships with the City of Vancouver, and community partners to facilitate the delivery of services to the broader community.

Recommendation from LRFP

- *That the District establish guidelines on preferred student population size with the goal of determining appropriate ranges of school size to inform planning decisions.*

Educational Planning Decisions



Enrolment management used for full schools



Maximize enrolling space

Use all available enrolling space

Interior renovations

Add portables to site



Adjust the number of students eligible to attend

District Program Locations

Adjust catchment boundaries



Major capital projects

Educational
Program
Reviews

French Program Review

Special Education
Program Review

Planning Considerations Identified in LRFP



Preferred School Size

- An educational rationale for preferred school size guidelines will facilitate effective, evidence-informed and transparent planning decisions

Preferred School Size Working Group (PSSWG) Terms of Reference and Process Overview



PSS Working Group – Overall Purpose

To review, consider and discuss educational and fiscal criteria, examine current practices and draft guidelines for preferred school population sizes for VSB elementary and secondary schools.

PSS Working Group – Guiding Principles

The PSSWG's work will be guided by a student-centred approach and align with the 2018 Long Range Facilities Plan Guiding Principles:

- Improve the overall safety and quality of facilities. Plan for innovative learning environments that promote student engagement, student inclusion, and the delivery of diverse high-quality programs.
- Effectively use school District resources and facilities in alignment with long-term financial and sustainability goals.
- Work towards a future where all students wishing to attend their catchment school have the option to do so.
- Sustain and strengthen our relationships with the City of Vancouver, and community partners to facilitate the delivery of services to the broader community.

PSS Working Group – Objectives

- Review relevant research and current practices in other Canadian school districts
- Examine a variety of considerations and factors related to school size

PSS Working Group – Deliverables

- Draft guidelines for preferred school population sizes for VSB elementary and secondary schools.
- Incorporate Working Group findings and draft guidelines in a report and present to VSB Senior Management and to VBE Facilities Planning Committee in October 2020.

PSS Working Group – Membership

- Vancouver Secondary Teachers Association (VSTA) - 2
- Vancouver Elementary School Teachers Association (VESTA) -2
- Vancouver Association of Secondary School Administrators (VASSA) -2
- Vancouver Elementary Principals and Vice Principals Association (VEPVPA) -2
- District Parents Advisory Council (DPAC) -2
- Vancouver District Student Council (VDSC)- 2
- VSB District staff from:
 - Educational Planning and Student Information
 - Employee Services
 - Facilities
 - Learning Services
 - Student Services

PSS Working Group – Resource support

- Carmen Batista – Associate Superintendent – Employee Services
- John Dawson – Director, Educational Planning and Student Information
- Aaron Davis – Director of Instruction, School Services
- Rosie Finch – Director of Human Resources, Employee Services
- Mette Hamaguchi – Director of Instruction, Learning Services
- Adrian Keough – Director of Instruction
- Anne Lee, Educational Planning and Student Information
- Jim Meschino – Director of Facilities Planning and Development, Operations, Maintenance and Construction
- Michael Ross – District Principal – Educational Planning
- Shehzad Somji – Assistant Secretary Treasurer
- Chris Wong – District Principal – Educational Planning

PSS Working Group – Your Commitment

- Attend all Working Group meetings
- Represent the membership of your organization or constituency
- Keep your constituency informed of Working Group discussions
- Gather input from your constituency and bring this input to Working Group meetings.

Note:

- Strive to be inclusive of the array of perspectives within your constituency when participating in Working Group discussions

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION



	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. We will seek your feedback on drafts and proposals.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work together with you to formulate solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

PSS Working Group – Our Commitment

- This Working Group will:
 - Work together through a consultative process as defined in the IAP2 Spectrum
 - Seek consensus through an informed, inclusive and transparent process that considers stakeholder needs and concerns.
- Stakeholder feedback will be incorporated in the draft and final reports.
- Working Group members will have an opportunity to review the draft report and any dissenting opinions will be documented.
- Governance: The Chair of the Working Group will be John Dawson, VSB Director of Educational Planning and Student Information.

PSS Working Group – Meetings & Timeline

- Number of meetings proposed to be a maximum of 5. Dates and number to be finalized at the first meeting on February 10, 2020.
- Meetings proposed to be on a monthly schedule and held at Education Centre, 1580 West Broadway, Vancouver.
- Meeting time proposed to be 3:45 pm to 7:15 pm. Meetings may conclude earlier subject to agenda.
- It is anticipated that findings and recommendations will be reported at the Facilities Planning Committee meeting in October 2020.
- Meetings will follow International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) practices and may include opportunities for break out group discussions and development of additional input through survey, interview or focus group work.

PSS Working Group – Communications

- Meeting Agendas, Meeting Minutes and relevant materials for Working Group members to review will be posted on [Preferred School Size Working Group](#). Membership will be notified in advance of meetings when new materials have been added. Notification date to be confirmed at conclusion of each meeting.

Preferred School Size Working Group – Meeting Schedule

Date	Meeting	Focus
February 10	PSSWG Meeting #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intro, overview, process agreements, base case, research, etc.
March 9	PSSWG Meeting #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School Organization and Staffing Considerations• Student Programs and Services
April 20	PSSWG Meeting #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seismic Mitigation Program Considerations
May 20	PSSWG Meeting #4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial and other considerations
May 21 – June 4	Survey and Focus Groups	
June 15	PSSWG Meeting #5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirm findings
October 2020	Presentation of PSSWG Report to FPC	

PSS Working Group – Proposed Approach

- Engagement structure
 - 5 working group meetings – Elementary and Secondary sub-groups
 - May-June – Focus Groups/ Survey
- Road Map
 - Today – introduction, overview, process agreements, base case, research, etc.
 - Next meetings – topic-based (with subject matter experts) – Elementary and Secondary Sub-Groups
 - March – School Organization & Staffing Considerations, Student Programs & Services
 - April – Seismic Mitigation Program Considerations
 - May – Financial and other considerations
 - May-June – Focus Groups/ Survey
 - June – Confirm findings
 - Build our report as we go

Discussion of Preferred School Size Working Group Terms of Reference



School Sizes in VSB – Current State



Considerations for Discussion - Themes



Current and Future range of school size



Seismic Program



Current Practices and Research



School Organization and Staffing



Student Programs and Services



Financial Considerations

Elementary School Overview – Type



Total of 89 elementary Schools



11 Annexes



78 Elementary Main Schools

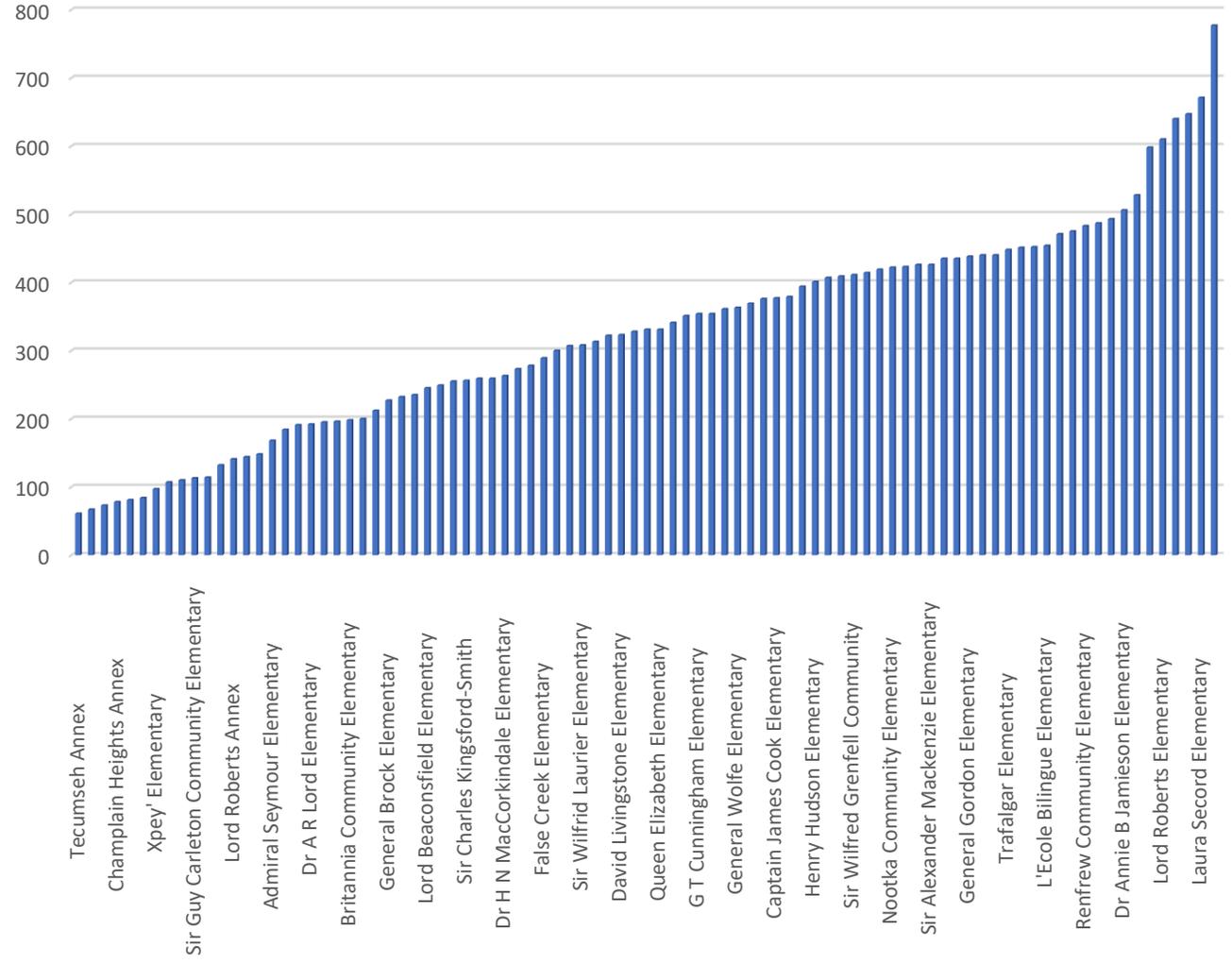
Elementary School Program Overview

Regular (English) Program – Defined catchment within District

District Programs – District is the catchment

- French Immersion
- Montessori
- Indigenous Focus
- Fine Arts
- Mandarin Bilingual

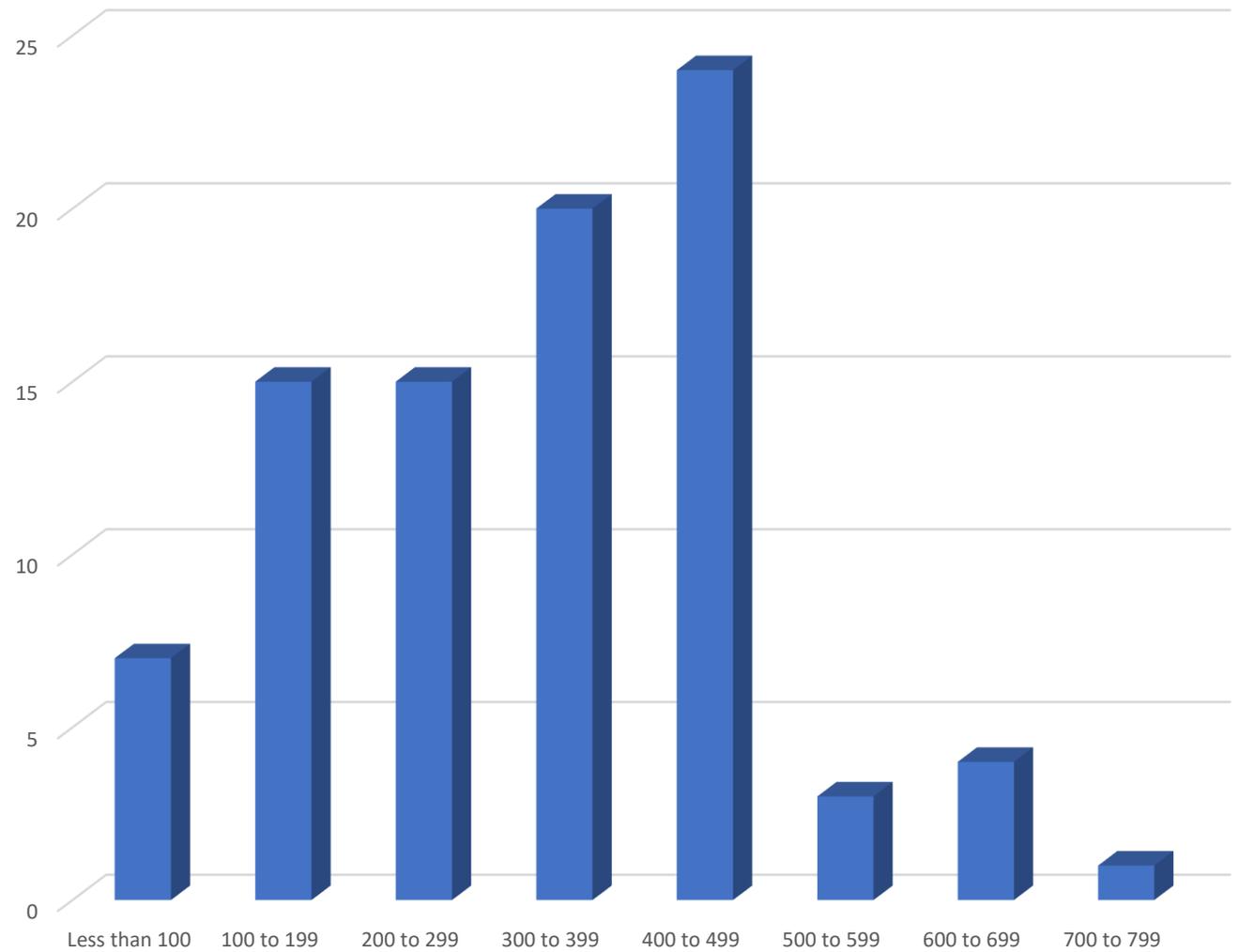
Elementary School Headcount-Range



Elementary Size Frequency

Size Range	Frequency
< 100	7
100 to 199	15
200 to 299	15
300 to 399	20
400 to 499	24
500 to 599	3
600 to 699	4
700 to 799	1

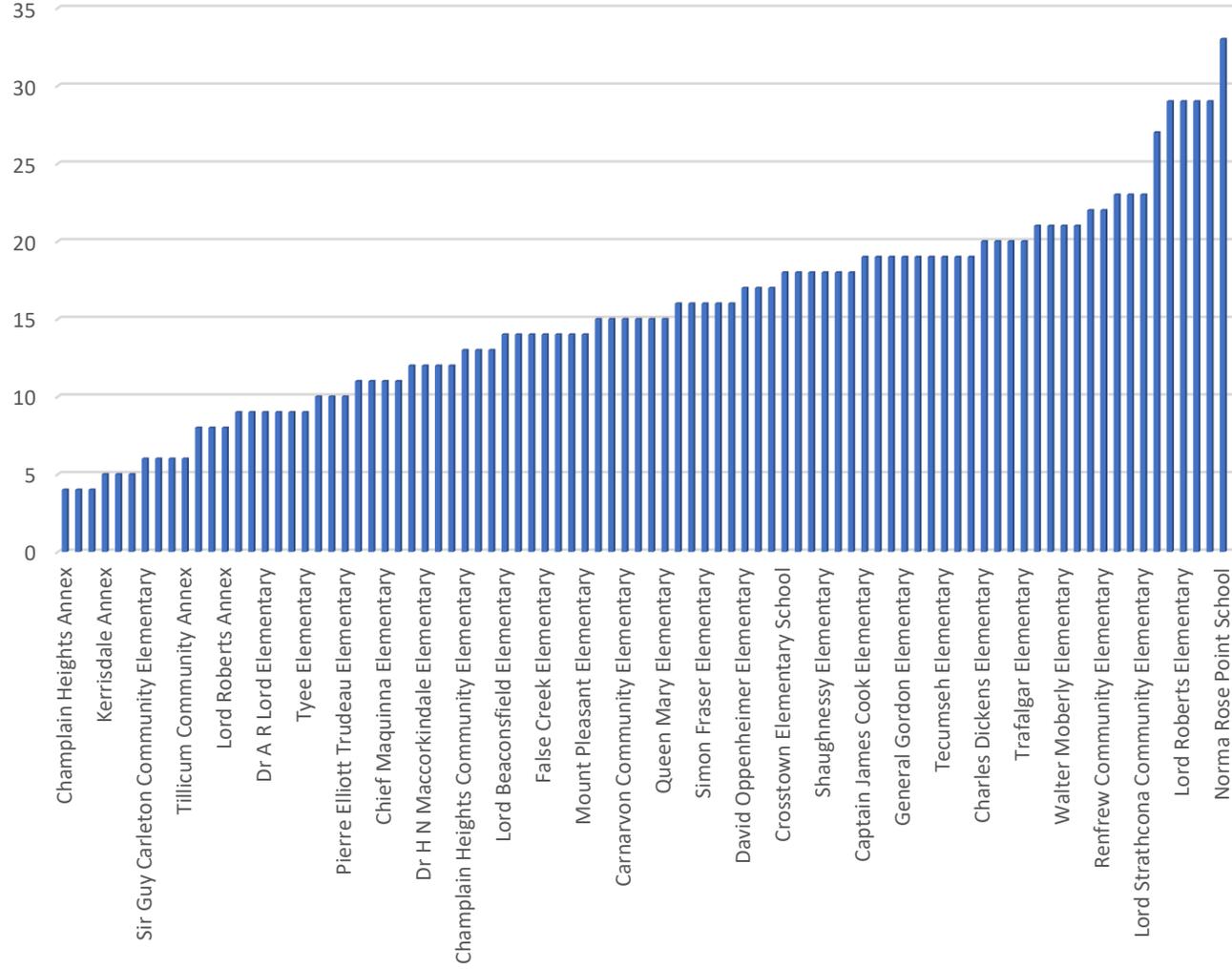
Elementary Size Frequency



Elementary
Number of
Divisions

Number of Divisions	Frequency
4 to 9	20
10 to 14	21
15 to 19	29
20 to 24	13
25 to 29	5

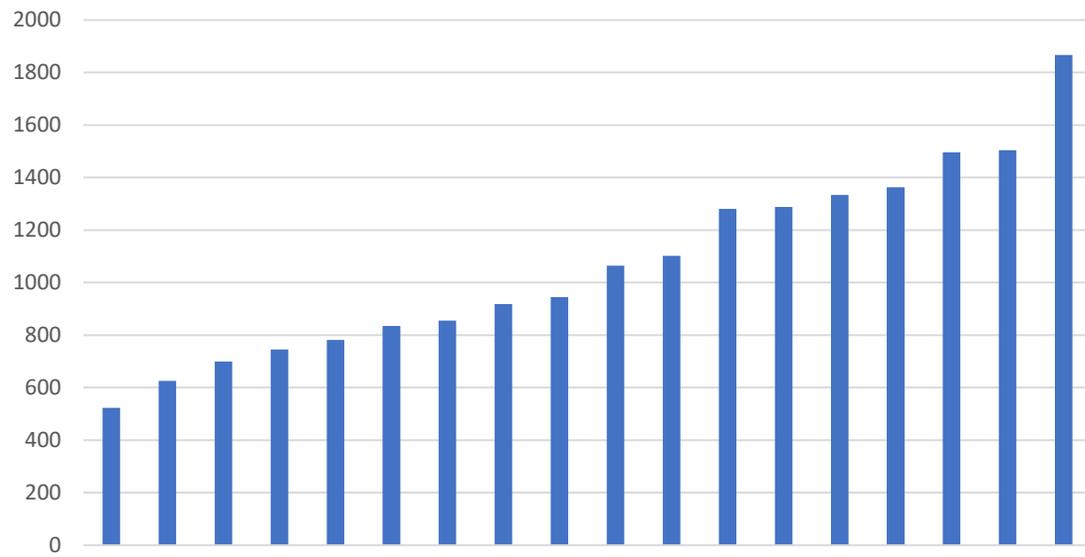
Elementary Number of Divisions



Secondary School Size – BC Residents

Number of Students	Number of Schools
Less than 800	5
800 to 999	4
1000 to 1199	2
1200 to 1399	4
1400 to 1599	2
More than 1600	1

Secondary School Size - Residents

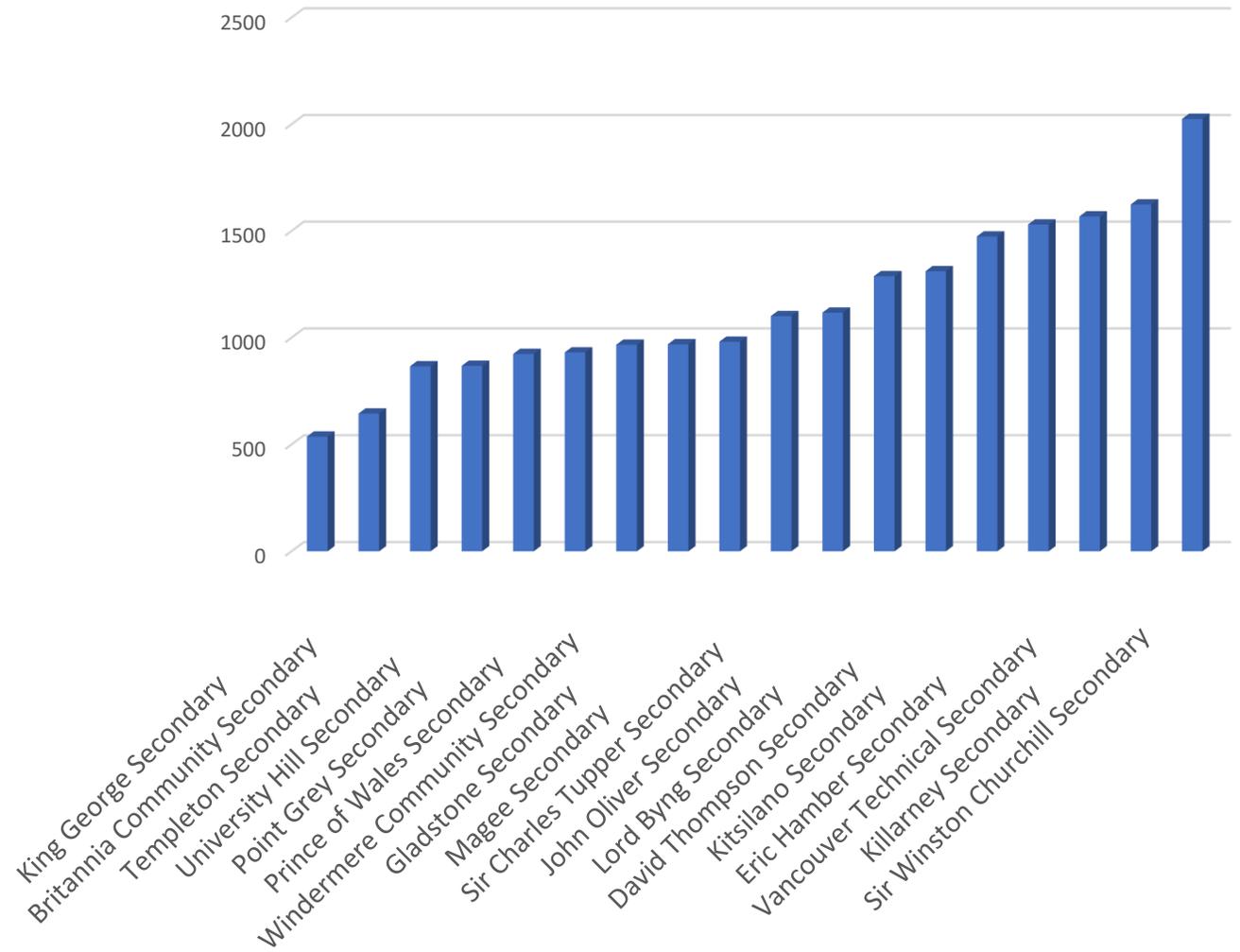


King George Secondary
Britannia Community Secondary
University Hill Secondary
Point Grey Secondary
Prince of Wales Secondary
Templeton Secondary
Magee Secondary
Gladstone Secondary
Windermere Secondary
Sir Charles Community Secondary
John Oliver Tupper Secondary
Lord Byng Secondary
David Thompson Secondary
Kitsilano Secondary
Eric Hamber Secondary
Killarney Secondary
Vancouver Technical Secondary
Sir Winston Churchill Secondary

Secondary
School Size –
Including
International

Number of Students	Number of Schools
Less than 800	2
800 to 999	7
1000 to 1199	2
1200 to 1399	2
1400 to 1599	3
More than 1600	2

Secondary School Size – Including International



General Trends

- Overall Enrolment Decline – Stabilizing
- Intensifying disparity in capacity utilization

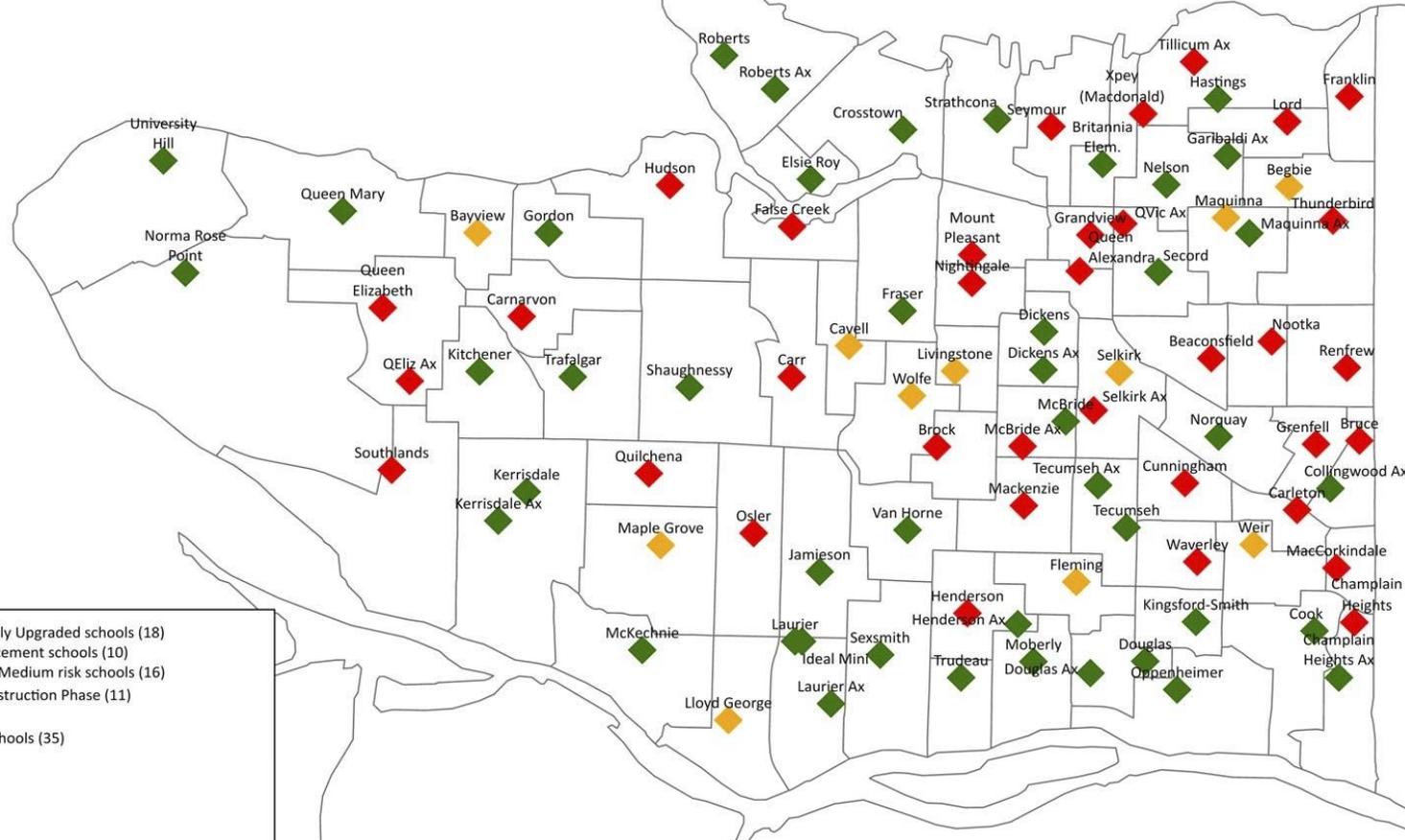
Future Status

Based on reliable short, medium, and long-term enrolment forecasting

Seismic Status

Elementary School Buildings

- District program schools are excluded for a number of reasons. The excluded schools are Jules Quesnel, Tennyson, L'Ecole Bilingue, and Tyee. They do not have catchments and are all seismically safe or on their way.

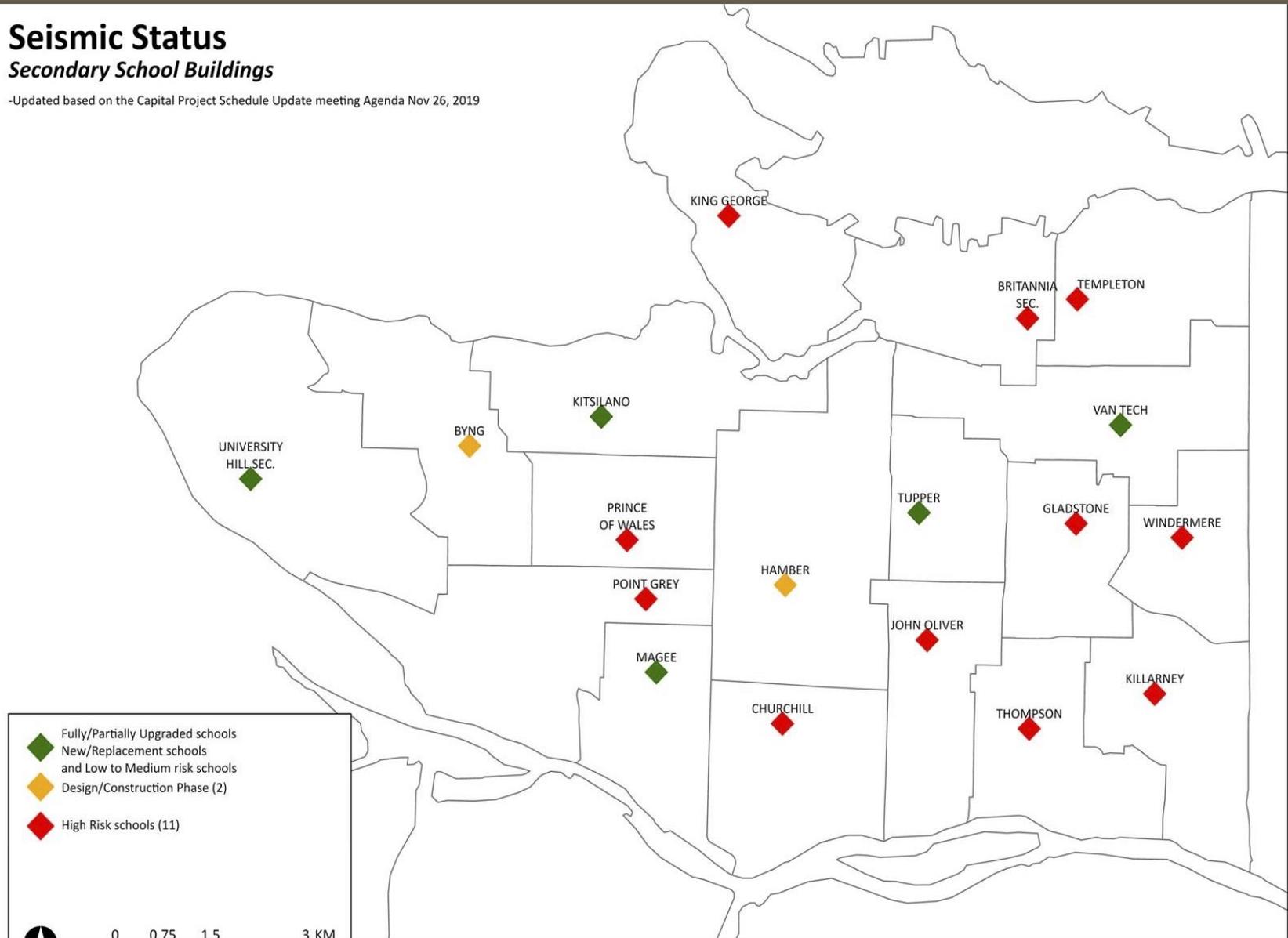


Seismic
Mitigation
Program –
Elementary

Seismic Status

Secondary School Buildings

-Updated based on the Capital Project Schedule Update meeting Agenda Nov 26, 2019



Seismic
Mitigation
Program -
Secondary

Current Practices and Research



Guidelines, Goals and Targets
from BC and other Canadian
school districts



Relevant research

Local or
Canadian
context
Recent

School Districts - BC

North Vancouver

- Elementary – target 200-450
- Secondary – goal is to cap at 1500

Richmond

- Secondary – goal is 1100-1200 (200 students per grade)

Surrey

- Elementary – cap at 600

School Districts – Other Provinces

Toronto

- Elementary (minimum 2 classes per grade) target of 500
- Secondary target minimum 1000

Edmonton

- Elementary minimum 225-250, target 350 – 500
- Secondary minimum 800-900, target 1000-1200

School Size Summary

- Metro Vancouver

Elementary School Size Average = 355

Secondary School Size Average = 1164

- Vancouver

Elementary School Size Average = 326

Secondary School Size Average = 1068 (BC Residents)

Secondary School Size Average = 1151

- Average school size in the VSB is similar with other jurisdictions
- Range of school size is larger than other comparable jurisdictions

School Size Research - Themes

Explores Relationship between:

- School size and school connectedness
- School size and student outcomes
- School size and economic efficiency

School Organization and Staffing

- School Organization - the process of determining which students will be placed in which divisions (elementary) or scheduled into which courses (secondary).
- School Staffing – the process of determining the staff allocation for schools

Student Programs and Services

- Programming and Choice - programming describes the courses available for a student to choose for their educational program
- Inclusion and student services - ensuring that all students are supported to participate in age appropriate regular classes

Seismic Mitigation Program (SMP)



Mandate is to ensure that there are seismically safe schools to accommodate enrollment (Assume 50, 000 students)



Target for completion is 2030 – program is very active



Provincially funded program



Board has option to enhance Seismic Project funding provided by the Provincial Government

Seismic Mitigation Program – Projects Options

Usually 3 options are studied in detail

- Seismic Upgrade – structurally upgrade the current structure
- Replacement – build a new school to replace the old one
- Partial Replacement – partial upgrade with some new building

SMP – Three Important Understandings



The Provincial Government funds the low-cost project option



The SMP does not fund school expansion



The cost of replacing or upgrading a secondary school is about \$100M

Financial Considerations

The basic enrolment funding allocation is the same for each student (\$7468)

Cost per student of operating schools varies significantly

Discussion – Base Case

- Need clarification?
- Anything you want to learn more/ need more information about?
- Anything that stands out for you?
- Anything missing?



Dinner Break

Please be back at 5:40 PM



Key Question – reminder

Thinking about enrolment (number of students) at elementary and secondary schools, what range of preferred school size (enrolment) would enhance the student learning experience?

PSS Working Group – Proposed Approach

- Engagement structure
 - 5 working group meetings – Elementary and Secondary sub-groups
 - May-June – Focus Groups/ Survey
- Road Map
 - Today – introduction, overview, process agreements, base case, research, etc.
 - Next meetings – topic-based (with subject matter experts) – Elementary and Secondary Sub-Groups
 - March – School Organization & Staffing Considerations, Student Programs & Services
 - April – Seismic Mitigation Program Considerations
 - May – Financial and other considerations
 - May-June – Focus Groups/ Survey
 - June – Confirm findings
 - Build our report as we go

Elementary and Secondary Sub-Group Discussions



Sub-Group Discussions – What do you want to know?

- What other considerations do we need to explore?
 - Are there any topics missing?
 - Are there other topics you want to know more about?
- Other questions or concerns?
- Looking ahead to March 9
 - What else do you want to know about ***School Organization & Staffing Considerations, Student Programs & Services***
 - Think of questions to be explored in preparation for this session.

Elementary and Secondary Sub-Groups

Elementary School Group – Dorli Duffy

Megan Davies, VEPVPA

Matt Carruthers, VEPVPA

Anne Miller, VESTA

Amanda Hillis, DPAC

Michael Rossi, VSB District Principal –
Educational Planning

Mette Hamaguchi, VSB Director of Instruction
– Learning Service

Rose Finch, VSB Director of HR

Jim Meschino, VSB Director of Facilities

Anne Lee, VSB Educational Planning and
Student Information

Adrian Keough, VSB Director of Instruction –
Educational Programs

Secondary School Group – Susan Rhodes

Angie Haverman, VASSA

Bernie Soong, VASSA

Jonathan Zhu & Ricky Huang, VDSC

Terry Stanway, VSTA

Treena Goolieff, VSTA

Karen Tsang, DPAC

Chris Wong, VSB District Principal – Educational
Planning

Aaron Davis, VSB Director of Instruction – School
Services

Carmen Batista, VSB Associate Superintendent –
Employee Services

Shehzad Somji, VSB Assistant Secretary
-Treasurer

John Dawson, VSB Director of Educational
Planning and Student Information

Report Back and Large Group Discussion



Preferred School Size Working Group – Meeting Schedule

Date	Meeting	Focus
February 10	PSSWG Meeting #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intro, overview, process agreements, base case, research, etc.
March 9	PSSWG Meeting #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School Organization and Staffing Considerations• Student Programs and Services
April 20	PSSWG Meeting #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seismic Mitigation Program Considerations
May 20	PSSWG Meeting #4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial and other considerations
May 21 – June 4	Survey and Focus Groups	
June 15	PSSWG Meeting #5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirm findings
October 2020	Presentation of PSSWG Report to FPC	

Next Step – March 9, 2020

PSSWG Meeting #2

Meeting Objectives:

- Updates since February 10
- Presentation re: ***School Organization and Staffing Considerations*** and ***Student Programs and Services*** by subject matter experts
- Discuss above considerations in elementary and secondary sub-groups
- Confirm next steps

Next Steps



- Prepare meeting summary of February 10 PSSWG Meeting #1 and post on [Preferred School Size Working Group](#) along with PowerPoint presentation.
- Next PSSWG Meeting – Monday, March 9, 2020, 3:45 – 7:15 PM
- Homework
 - Working Group members to communicate progress to constituencies and bring additional information to next meeting