

March 10, 2021

ITEM 2.3

TO: Facilities Planning Committee

FROM: J. David Green, Secretary Treasurer
Michael Rossi, District Principal Educational Planning

RE: Kindergarten Enrolment: Full School Overview

Reference to Strategic Plan:

Goal # 4: Provide effective leadership, governance and stewardship.

Objective: Effectively utilize school district resources and facilities.

INTRODUCTION:

The District has a consistent process and timeline for Kindergarten applications. The priority registration period to apply for Kindergarten is open from November 1 to January 31. All children who have applied by January 31st are entered into a priority draw process which results in an ordered list for school registration. This year, there are 13 schools that are 'full' meaning that they have insufficient classroom space to accommodate all the catchment students who have applied. The District follows the processes outlined in AP300 to waitlist and place children that cannot be accommodated in their catchment school at nearby schools. The purpose of this report is to provide further details about Kindergarten enrolment procedures and current waitlist numbers at full schools.

This report is for information only.

BACKGROUND:

Waitlists

For several years, there have been full schools in the District that have insufficient physical space to accommodate all catchment applicants. As a result, some children are waitlisted and placed at a nearby school. The number of students who are on wait lists has increased in recent years. Two factors have contributed to the growth of waitlists:

- Restoration of class size provisions has resulted in smaller class sizes due to not being able to have K/Grade 1 split classes. Full schools therefore now accommodate fewer students.
- The population of school aged children has continued to increase in the Downtown core, West End, Kitsilano, False Creek, Olympic Village, and North Cambie corridor.

Enrolment Management

The District implements enrolment management practices at identified full schools with the goals of maximizing catchment enrolment and providing timely and transparent communications to families.

On February 18, 2021, families of kindergarten applicants at full schools and District programs were notified of their enrolment status. At that time, there were 344 students that were on waitlists at their catchment school. The number of students on waitlists at this time of the year is very dynamic and typically declines as families accept offers of Choice Program placement. Some families choose independent schools for their children, and some families move to another part of the city or leave the school District. Regardless of what program or VSB school or independent school a student attends, they retain their place on the catchment school waitlist until the family has been offered a placement at their catchment school, informs the school they no longer wish to be on the waitlist, or moves out of the District.

NEXT STEPS:

As schools are organized for September 2021, staff will be determining where there is available space at nearby schools to accommodate students requiring placement from full schools. Through the waitlist letter that parents received on February 18, parents were notified that there would be placement information provided by April 16, 2021.

CONCLUSION:

The Kindergarten enrolment process, waitlisting, and placement process and timeline will unfold as explained in this report. The District endeavors to communicate with timely and clear information as schools are organized for the next school year.

This report is provided for information.