

# MANDARIN BILINGUAL PROGRAM RELOCATION

## Public Engagement Report



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## 1. OVERVIEW

The District currently offers an elementary [Mandarin Bilingual choice](#) program at Jamieson Elementary for Grade 4 to 7 students.

Due to the growth in the Jamieson catchment area, the Mandarin Bilingual program was reduced from five classrooms to four to accommodate in-catchment Jamieson students. If the Mandarin Bilingual program is not relocated, it will likely be phased out over time in order to accommodate the students who live in the Jamieson catchment area.

There continues to be a high demand for Mandarin Bilingual and the District is committed to ensuring the ongoing viability of the program. By relocating this choice program from Jamieson to Trudeau Elementary, it is able to return back to five classrooms, which allows for a stronger and more robust program.

Trudeau is a seismically safe school and has sufficient space to accommodate the Mandarin Bilingual program. Trudeau will phase in the choice program over four years, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year.

## 2. ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The District is committed to providing clear, open and honest information about the relocation. District staff listened to feedback from both impacted school communities as well as the broader parent community regarding the implementation process.

The District informed parents and shared details about the program move through a District-wide parent letter, survey and two public information sessions.

The purpose of these engagement activities was to:

- Promote community awareness of the Mandarin Bilingual program move and the District's rationale
- Provide an opportunity for feedback on the implementation process
- Identify community interest in the Mandarin Bilingual program

### 2.1. Parent Letter

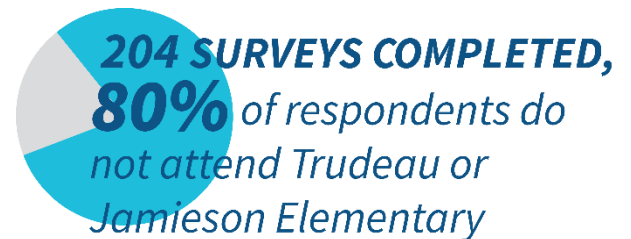
On December 5, 2019, a letter about the program move was sent to all parents in the District with children in grade four or younger. Approximately 28,540 parents received this information. A copy of the letter can be found in [Appendix A](#).

## 2.2. Survey

A parallel 5-minute survey was launched and distributed through the parent letter. The aim of the survey was to gauge parent’s interest in enrolling their children in Mandarin Bilingual. The survey was open for comment from December 5 to December 20, 2019. Refer to [Appendix B](#) for the survey questions and results.

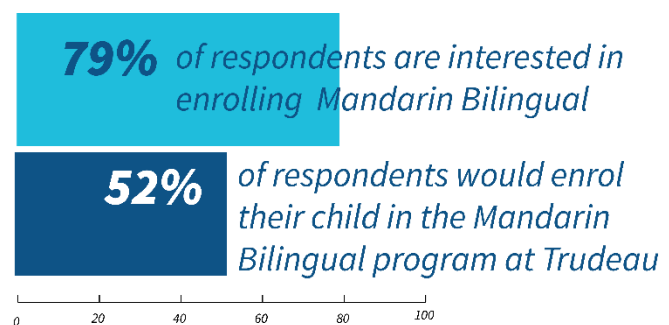
### 2.2.1 Survey Outcomes

In total, 204 parents completed the survey. Approximately 80 per cent of those respondents have children attending an elementary school other than Jamieson or Trudeau. In fact, the majority of parents have children in Grade 3 who are not enrolled in Mandarin Bilingual. This would align with the program’s application entry age, when most parents would begin to consider enrolment into the program.



Many parents believe there are several benefits to attending the Mandarin Bilingual program. The top benefit (81 per cent of respondents) was to enhance future career opportunities for a multilingual workforce and society.

Overall, 79 per cent of parents who participated in the survey are interested in enrolling their child in the Mandarin Bilingual program. Moreover, 52 per cent would enrol their child in the Mandarin Bilingual program at Trudeau. This indicates a strong interest in the program and supports the District’s decision to continue and grow the program when funding and resources are available.



Parents were also given the opportunity to provide additional comments through an open-ended question. Nearly 80 responses were received. All comments were reviewed by District staff and categorized into overarching themes, which are illustrated in the following chart. The top three themes that emerged were:

- 1) To expand the Mandarin Bilingual program to other schools (27 per cent)

- 2) To express support for the program (20 per cent)
- 3) To communicate concerns about moving the program to Trudeau (14 per cent)

<b>Theme</b> % of total response (No.)	<b>Samples of recurring verbatim comments</b>
<b>Would like to expand the program to other schools in the District</b> 27% (20 comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“I think it would be great to have more Mandarin Bilingual programs in Vancouver and would love to know what parents need to do to help support this.”</i></li> <li>• <i>“This program should be expanded to include more schools and spots. There is a high demand for all choice programs, including this one.”</i></li> <li>• <i>“It would be great if there are more schools offering this program beyond Trudeau”</i></li> <li>• <i>“There are not any bilingual Mandarin elementary programs in my catchment and current locations are not viable. PLEASE EXPAND THE PROGRAM across the district; many parents are interested in enrolling!”</i></li> </ul>
<b>Support the Mandarin Bilingual Program in general</b> 20% (16 comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“I feel learning a second language particularly Mandarin is a very important language given the increase number of Chinese immigrating to Canada. In addition it would increase work opportunities as well...”</i></li> <li>• <i>“As I mentioned before, I would love for my son to Continue his mandarin education in Vancouver.”</i></li> <li>• <i>“I think this programme is good ask my child to learn new language and new culture!”</i></li> <li>• <i>“Thank you for your commitment to language learning.”</i></li> </ul>
<b>Concerns about moving the program to Trudeau</b> 14% (11 comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“Already have a sibling at Jamieson so do not want to separate them”</i></li> <li>• <i>“We are thinking of enrolling to the Mandarin Program at Jamieson Elementary over Trudeau Elementary because Jamieson is closer to our place.”</i></li> <li>• <i>“As part of the Jamieson community, our strong preference is to stay there and not have to relocate our daughter to another school that we are unfamiliar with.”</i></li> <li>• <i>...“I’m living in Jamieson catchment and it’s a lot of difficulties that we have to accommodate on the commute if we have to send the kid for that program. I strongly against this decision unless there is a fairly good reason behind the move”</i></li> </ul>

<p><b>Location of Trudeau is not ideal</b> 10% (8 comments)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“We can’t get to Trudeau Elementary. Jamieson is close to the skytrain...”</i></li> <li>• <i>“Trudeau is quite possibly the most difficult school to get to from other neighbourhoods. It is not easily accessible by transit. It is very difficult to get to from the west side.”</i></li> <li>• <i>“VSB should offer this on both sides of the city, not just the east side.”</i></li> <li>• <i>“If the mandarin bilingual program moves to trudeau, vancouver west side schools will not have any bilingual programs.”</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Questions regarding the transition to high school</b> 4% (3 comments)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“I would like to know about the impact on Eric Hamber’s Mandarin program as a result of this move to Trudeau.”</i></li> <li>• <i>“I would like to know if the program will continue at Eric Hamber or elsewhere”</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Would like to see language programs for other languages.</b> 4% (3 comments)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“I would rather have the option to enrol my child in Spanish.”</i></li> <li>• <i>“Would like a stronger presence with Spanish in the school districts.”</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Questions about the Jamieson strings program</b> 4% (3 comments)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“Jamieson has a wonderful strings program. Not sure if Mr. Copitts will teach at the new school Trudeau.”</i></li> <li>• <i>“Will there be a required strings music part now that it is at Trudeau Elementary?”</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Lack of childcare at Trudeau</b> 4% (3 comments)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>...“our excellent after school program is located onsite at Jamieson. We waited 3 years to get into before and after care. Will there be such a program at Trudeau elementary and a guaranteed spot for Jamieson students transferring over?”</i></li> <li>• <i>...“ even if we wanted to enroll our child at Trudeau, we would not be able to since Trudeau does not have before and after school cate program like the one at Jamieson.”</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>General questions about the program</b> 4% (3 comments)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“Is it on first come first serve basis, and would like to know more about the program.”</i></li> <li>• <i>“Obviously, there is a concern that there will not be enough spaces for students wishing to enter the program in grade 4. This doesn’t seem to be addressed in your document. Can you please tell everyone how this will be done? A lottery? Any priority process?”</i></li> </ul>

The remaining themes each had two comments or less, which included:

- Concerns about Mandarin Bilingual tied to the Chinese government (2%)
- Opposed to a Mandarin program in general (2%)
- General comments (2%)
- Teacher recruitment concerns (1%)
- Undecided about enrolling in Mandarin Bilingual at Trudeau (1%)

Refer to [Appendix C](#) to view all verbatim comments.

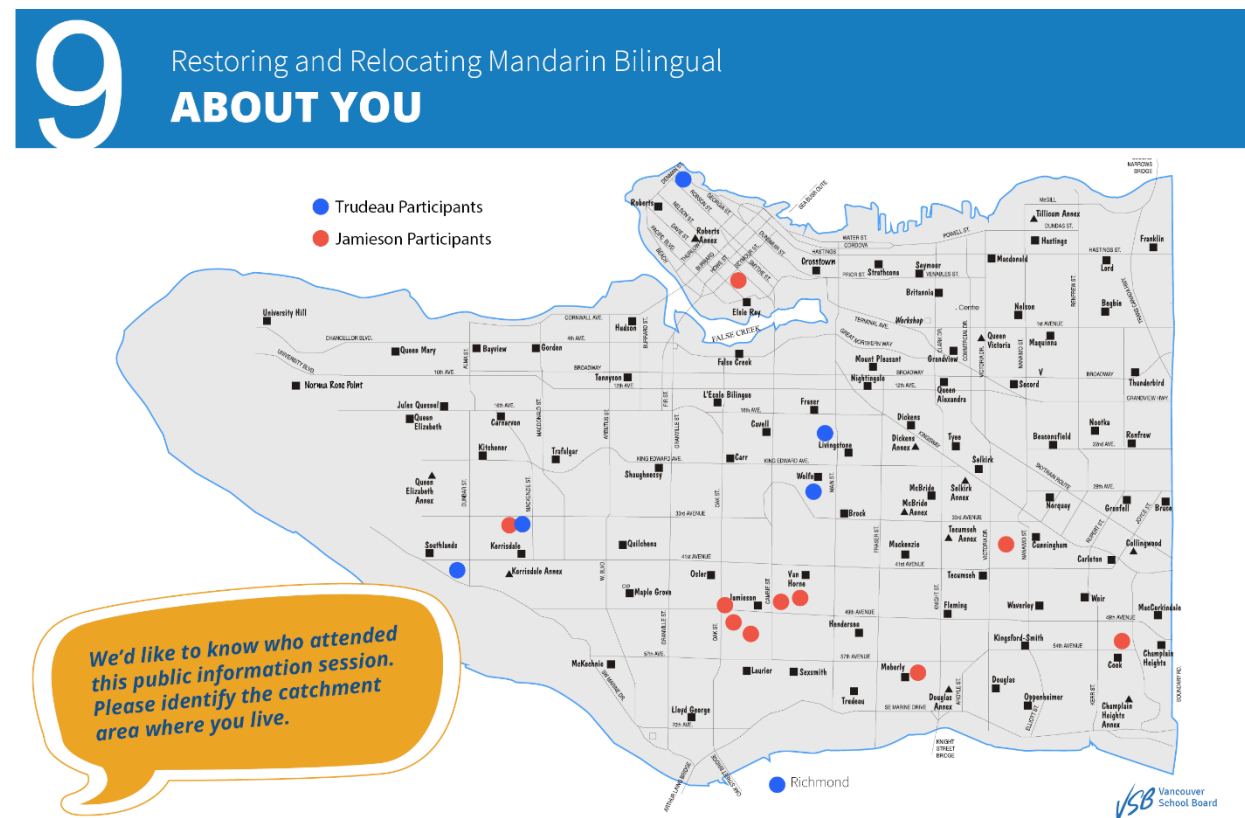
### 2.3 Public Information Sessions

Two information sessions about the Mandarin Bilingual program move took place on January 8, 2020, at both Jamieson and Trudeau Elementary schools. Both information sessions ran from 2:30-5:00 p.m. Attendees could drop-in between this time to view the display boards, ask District and school staff questions and provide their feedback in person. Refer to [Appendix D](#) to view the full set of display boards.

#### 2.3.1 Information Session Outcomes

Approximately 15 people attended the Jamieson information session and another 13 attended the Trudeau information session, totalling 28 people.

To better understand who was interested in the program, attendees were asked to identify their catchment area. The following map shows parents from across the District are interested in Mandarin Bilingual. In fact, one parent traveled from Richmond to attend the event.



Parents were also given the opportunity to provide additional comments after reviewing the display boards. Six comments were received from Jamieson and seven were received from Trudeau. District staff transcribed, reviewed and categorized all comments into overarching themes, which is illustrated in the following chart.

<b>Theme</b> % of total response (No.)	<b>Samples of recurring verbatim comments</b>
<b>Positive comments on the information and implementation process</b> 23% (3 comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“Very informative. Thank you for the clarity.”</i></li> <li>• <i>“Thank you for the consideration on the rollout”</i></li> </ul>
<b>Questions regarding childcare at Trudeau</b> 23% (3 comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“What options do I have for childcare at Trudeau?”</i></li> <li>• <i>“Is there childcare?”</i></li> </ul>
<b>Teacher recruitment concerns</b> 23% (3 comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>...“As a parent, I would support inviting the current Mandarin teachers to apply for the new position [at Trudeau] to promote a smooth transition to the new location. I am aware it is their decision to apply and may not want to move from this current wonderful school [Jamieson] but it would show appreciation and support for all they have done. Thank you for your consideration.”</i></li> <li>• <i>“I also would like to know how VSB will address the shortage of Mandarin educators to ensure the success of their program, regardless of whether at Jamieson or Trudeau.”</i></li> </ul>
<b>Expanding the program</b> 10% (2 comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“Grade 4 is too late for students to pick up a language and to be able to read and write.” The Norquay program should be expanded to give kids a better chance in their younger years.</i></li> <li>• <i>“Can the percentage of Mandarin [students] increase to 50% [of the school]?”</i></li> </ul>

The remaining themes each had one comments, which included:

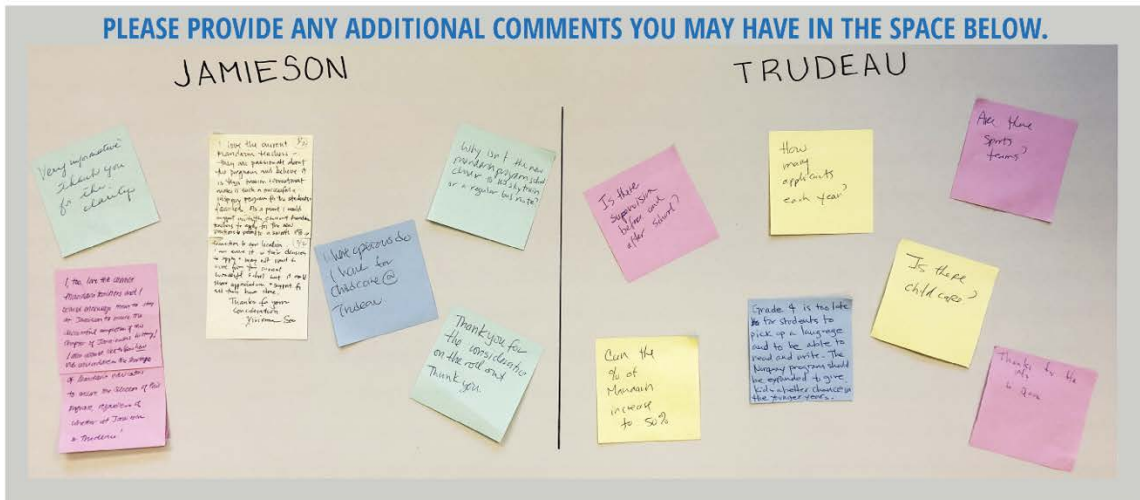
- Question about sports team at Trudeau (8per cent)
- Location of Trudeau not close to transit (8 per cent)
- The number of applications received for the program (8 per cent)



Refer to [Appendix E](#) to view all verbatim comments from the public information sessions.

# 10 Restoring and Relocating Mandarin Bilingual COMMENTS

We are committed to providing clear, open and honest information about this change and will listen to feedback from you about the implementation process.



### 3. NEXT STEPS

The District would like to thank all parents and staff who participated in the engagement activities related to the Mandarin Bilingual program move. Your feedback has helped inform the implementation process and supported the District’s decision to move the program.

This report will be posted on [govsb.ca/mandarin](https://govsb.ca/mandarin).

In terms of next steps, the Mandarin Bilingual program at Jamieson will stop intaking new students beginning September 2020. Trudeau will begin enrolling Grade 4/5 Mandarin Bilingual students in September 2020. Current students will continue their Mandarin Bilingual program at Jamieson until they complete Grade 7. For more information, about the program move, visit [govsb.ca/Mandarin](https://govsb.ca/Mandarin) or refer to [Appendix F](#) for frequently asked questions.

## APPENDIX A: PARENT LETTER



Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you may be aware, applications for elementary choice programs are being accepted until January 31, 2020. More information about each program can be found on our [website](#).

Before applications are reviewed, we would like to update you about a change to one of the choice programs.

The District is relocating the [Mandarin Bilingual choice program](#) from Jamieson Elementary to Trudeau Elementary and will restore the program to five classes. This change will occur over the next four years.

The District is committed to ensuring the long-term viability of this important choice program. Currently, the District offers an elementary Mandarin Bilingual program at Jamieson Elementary for Grade 4 to 7 students. Due to increased population in the Jamieson catchment, the Mandarin Bilingual program was reduced from five classrooms to four to accommodate in-catchment Jamieson students. Given increased enrolment in the Jamieson catchment, the District projects that if the Mandarin Bilingual program is not relocated the program will continue to decline in enrolment, until it is no longer viable.

### ***Why not take Mandarin Bilingual students over Jamieson catchment students?***

Students living in Vancouver are entitled to enrol in an educational program provided by the District. As such, the District prioritizes the enrolment of in-catchment students over children who reside outside of the catchment, including those enrolled in choice programs.

### ***Why Trudeau Elementary?***

Moving to Trudeau will maintain the Mandarin Bilingual program, as well as restore the program to its original size of five classrooms. Trudeau is within 3 KM (10-minute drive) from Jamieson and has the space to accommodate five classrooms of Mandarin Bilingual students. Students would also be in a seismically safe school, similar to Jamieson.

### ***What does this mean for students?***

The Mandarin Bilingual program at Jamieson will stop intaking new students beginning September 2020. Trudeau will begin enrolling Grade 4 Mandarin Bilingual students in September 2020. Current students will continue their Mandarin Bilingual program at Jamieson until they complete Grade 7. Below is a table detailing the transition timeline from Jamieson to Trudeau.

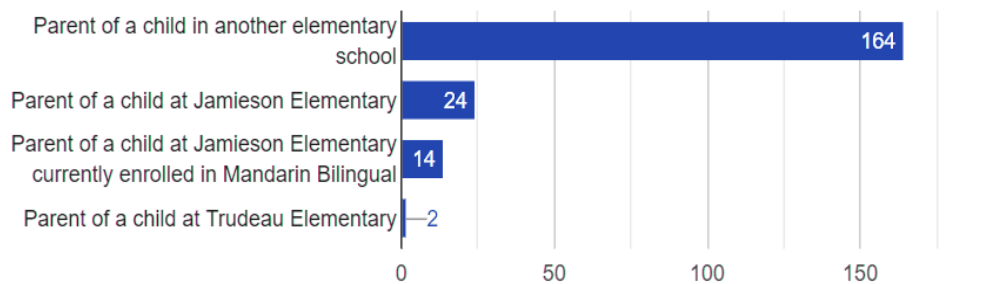
*Students in Mandarin Bilingual program*

	Jamieson Elementary	Trudeau Elementary
School year: 2020-2021	Grades 5, 6, 7	Grade 4
School year: 2021-2022	Grades 6, 7	Grades 4, 5
School year: 2022-2023	Grades 7	Grades 4, 5, 6
School year: 2023-2024	n/a <i>*Program fully phased out</i>	Grades 4, 5, 6, 7 <i>*Program fully phased in</i>

## APPENDIX B: SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

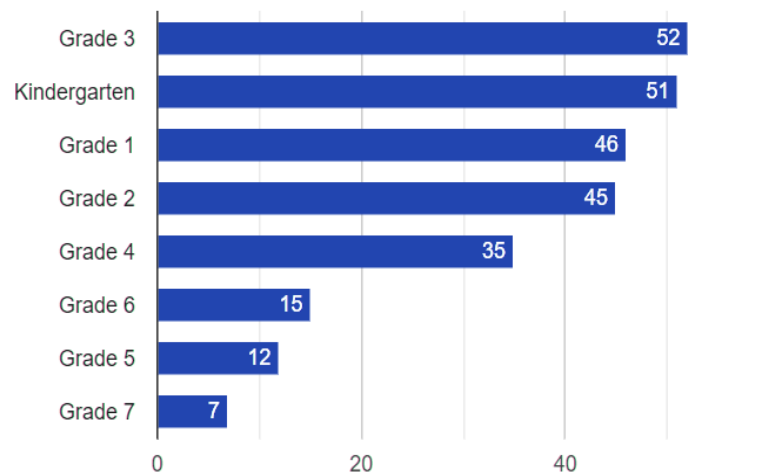
1. Please identify yourself (please check one) ^

**"Parent of a child in another elementary school"**: chosen by 164 user(s) (80%)



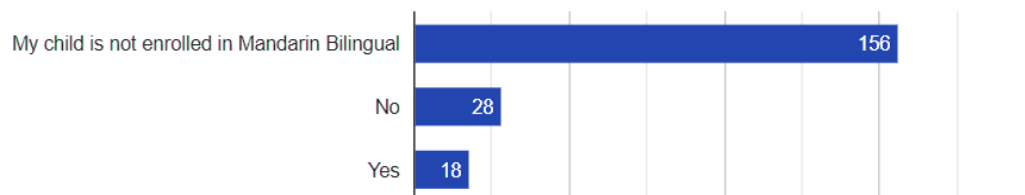
2. What grade is your child(ren) in currently? (please check all that apply) ^

**"Grade 3"**: chosen by 52 user(s) (26%)



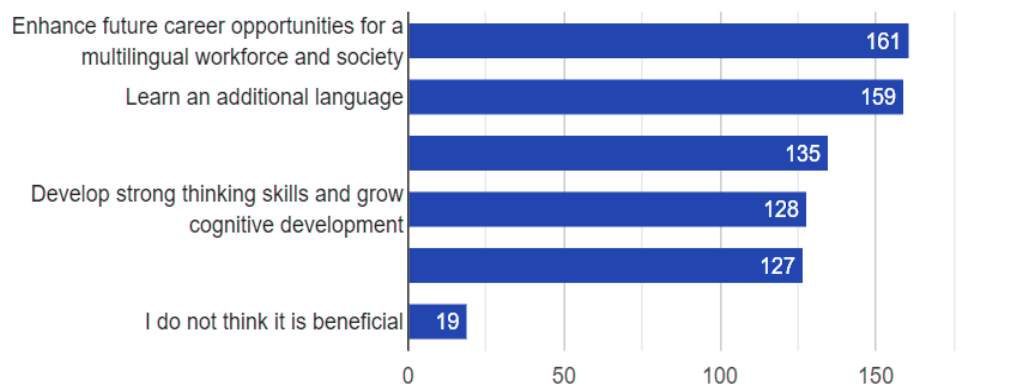
3. If your child currently enrolled in the Mandarin Bilingual program, do they have siblings not yet enrolled in Mandarin Bilingual? ^

**"My child is not enrolled in Mandarin Bilingual":** chosen by 156 user(s) (77%)



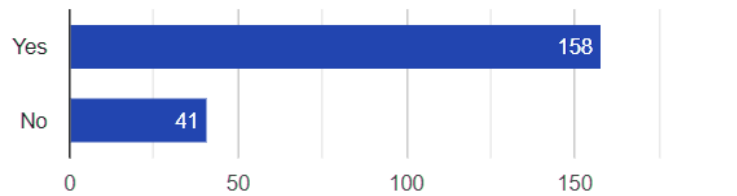
4. Why is the Mandarin Bilingual program beneficial to your children's education (please check all that apply) ^

**"Enhance future career opportunities for a multilingual workforce and society":** chosen by 161 user(s) (81%)



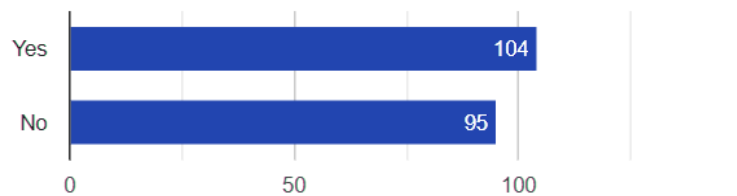
5. Are you interested in enrolling your child in the Mandarin Bilingual program? ^

**"Yes"**: chosen by 158 user(s) (79%)



6. Would you enrol your child in the Mandarin Bilingual program at Trudeau? ^

**"Yes"**: chosen by 104 user(s) (52%)



## APPENDIX C: SURVEY VERBATIM COMMENTS

- “Please expand these types of programs in other elementary schools.”
- “We would like our school open to Chinese learning class.”
- “I'd like to have the Mandarin Program in all schools in Vancouver”
- “I think it would be great to have more Mandarin Bilingual programs in Vancouver and would love to know what parents need to do to help support this”
- “My children are currently enrolled at Norquay EMB program. I hope that the number of Mandarin courses will increase to 3-4 in highschool. Also the EMB program at Trudeau should start at K just like at Norquay”
- “It would be very beneficial to have greater availability of language programs, both geographically distributed across the city, as well as other creative forms of second and third language instruction that do not include only full immersion programs. It would also be beneficial to begin second and third language instruction earlier.”
- “Why not consider to have two elementary schools offering mandarin program? I tried to enrol my kid into mandarin program for K, her position on the waitlist is close to 200! It is not choice, but lottery.”
- “Currently schools offering Mandarin are too far, would be great to see this program at more locations.”
- “Need more schools in the south eastern area. Trudeau is too far for any catchment for us.”
- “This program should be expanded to include more schools and spots. There is a high demand for all choice programs, including this one. I believe they should be all expanded to meet the growth of the city and the demand for these programs.”
- “If there is demand for the program, it would be nice to see it offered in other parts of the city as well.”
- “it would be great if there are more schools offering this program beyond Trudeau.”
- “I would like to see an ongoing enrollment through all grades from 4 to 7. I have been hearing of declining enrollment within the grades and they are never filled so for those who got stuck on the waiting list especially those within a few away from getting in should be able to get in to the later grades. I have addressed this when my daughter was trying to get into the Norquay elementary and she didn't get in but was first on the waiting list. In later years I hear classes where kids were dropping out. But not filling in the space. My daughter and I would have loved the opportunity to get in. with this whole transition between Jameson and Trudeau, I feel more kids were left out because the board couldn't address any shortcomings.”
- “There are not any bilingual Mandarin elementary programs in my catchment and current locations are not viable. PLEASE EXPAND THE PROGRAM across the district; many parents are interested in enrolling!”
- “Please consider expanding this program to two locations in Vancouver - interest is incredibly strong!”
- “I love to have more Mandarin program in the future at other schools. It is very beneficial for the kids to learn the language spoken by majority of the population in the world.”
- “I am a parent of a child that attends Graham Bruce Elementary school and would like to have the Mandarin Bilingual program there. I currently have my child enrolled in private Mandarin school outside of VSB.”
- “It would be great if there was a mandarin bilingual program closer to our home in the Cambie / Mount Pleasant / Main st area.”

- “As a parent who attended Jamieson elementary in the 80's and now have 2 kids in Annie B Jamieson, I am very upset about the decision to move the Mandarin program to Trudeau Elementary. My older child is in the Mandarin program (grade 6) and my younger child was excited to enter the program in Sept 2020. I have made many sacrifices to have my kids attend Jamieson (which is outside my catchment) solely to be in the Mandarin program and to be informed half way through their elementary school life that I have to split up my kids if I want both to bi-lingual program is very upsetting. The reasoning that there are more kids in the catchment does not make sense since we've been told over the years that enrollment had been declining. Why can't we expand the program to other schools vs taking it away?”
- “Grade 4 is too late to start language. Your Mandarin bilingual programs should start earlier.”
- “I fully support this movement specially children and families with this background will benefit. Parents and guardians will be more involve in children’s education because its easy for them to understand the lessons in Mandarin.”
- “I think Mandarin is very helpful because we live in Vancouver!”
- “I feel learning a second language particularly Mandarin is a very important language given the increase number of Chinese immigrating to Canada. In addition it would increase work opportunities as well. I have moved to BC from Alberta and I am surprised for the lack of mandarin bilingual programs compared to what they have in Alberta. Having been born and raised in Alberta I didn’t have much exposure to my culture until I have been enrolled in the Bilingual program. I am proud to say I am a graduate of the Chinese bilingual program. I have found immense value it in in my personal and professional career. I really hope my son is able to be accepted into the program. Thank you!”
- “I currently have a child in grade 6 Mandarin program at Jamieson. I also have another child currently in grade 2 whom i would like to enroll in the Mandarin program starting in grade 4.”
- “I think the program is great and I have friends with students at Norquay, but we're happy with French Immersion at Trafalgar. Great instruction, nurturing environment. I'm not planning on moving my kids at this time.”
- “I am A Canadian Chinese, for leaning Mandarin is very important for us. Thanks”
- “As I mentioned before, I would love for my son to Continue his mandarin education in Vancouver.
- “We would have been interested in this program if our kids were not already in a French immersion program.”
- “I think this programme is good ask my child to learn new language and new culture! My child was born in CANADA, but grow up I Chinese family. If he enroll this programme, it is beneficial for his future life for sure!”
- “Any additional language learning opportunities are advantageous to public school curriculum.”
- “Our child is in Early Mandarin Bilingual at Norquay. We don't know if it will be the right fit for our two younger children or not. We would love to have the option to choose Trudeau for Mandarin Bilingual (not early).”
- “It is great”
- “Absolutely interested in this program. And any other ones that are available via VSB.”
- “Thank you for your commitment to language learning.”
- “Even though Trudeau is a pain to get to from where we live, I might just put her in it if she got picked in the lottery.”
- “It would be great”
- “Prefer for it to stay at Jamieson as we live near Jamieson”
- “We were planning to enroll our daughter in the Mandarin Bilingual program at Jamieson Elementary, but now I wonder why Jamieson is the school being affected by VSB choices. We've had multiple Principal changes and now the removal of the program which made Jamieson our school of

choice. I feel its rather unfair for families with children that were about to enter the Mandarin Bilingual program at our current school. It's too short notice and it's in the middle of the school year. With all the changes happening, Jamieson is losing its presence and prime choice for families moving into the area. Then, in the near future, we have cutbacks to look forward to at Eric Hamber Secondary.”

- “Please keep the Mandarin program at Jamieson! It will promote more diversity in the school than the current predominantly Chinese speaking backgrounds”
- “We moved to a place close to Jamieson and enrolled our daughter to Jamieson in order to attend the Mandarin program in Sep. 2020. We are very disappointed to find out the Mandarin program is being switched to another school. Our daughter as well as many other kids will lose the opportunity to learn a new language.”
- “Already have a sibling at Jamieson so do not want to separate them.”
- “We are thinking of enrolling to the Mandarin Program at Jamieson Elementary over Trudeau Elementary because Jamieson is closer to our place.”
- “honestly I prefer study in Jamison”
- “As part of the Jamieson community, our strong preference is to stay there and not have to relocate our daughter to another school that we are unfamiliar with.”
- “Given that we have been at Jamieson since K, it would be unlikely for us to transfer our child over to Trudeau at grade 4 for the Mandarin immersion program. Would prefer if there is a way to continue to expand Jamieson to accommodate the program here. Thanks.”
- “My son is really excited for the Mandarin program and is in gr. 3. I am a single parent and it is very difficult to have 2 drop offs and pickups. I would like Jamieson to consider taking in the last batch of students for gr. 4 Sept 2020 so that they can stay with their friends at the same school. My son is also in the Jamieson Strings program and both children have excelled in their studies and in music. The school has been one of the most important stable environments for my kids since the divorce. I do not want to take my son to a different school. I specifically chose Jamieson because I knew the music and language would help me kids cope with the divorce. We have a strong network and community there and my children and I need it. Thank you”
- “I don't understand the reason why Mandarin program has to be moved to a different elementary. I'm living in Jamieson catchment and it's a lot of difficulties that we have to accommodate on the commute if we have to send the kid for that program. I strongly against this decision unless there is a fairly good reason behind the move. Please organize a public hearing.”
- “We can't get to Trudeau Elementary. Jamieson is close to the skytrain, so both my husband and I can coordinate school dropoff and pickups from home and work. We're sad for us that there is no mandarin educational opportunity for kids on the westside or downtown, and honestly it seems short-sighted.”
- “Mandarin Bilingual takes students from across the city. Trudeau is quite possibly the most difficult school to get to from other neighbourhoods. It is not easily accessible by transit. It is very difficult to get to from the west side. It is not easy to get to from the east side. Please consider a more central location like near King Ed, 33rd or 41st.”
- “We live downtown so that would be far too great of a commute to Trudeau”
- “This will be a challenge for our family as the school is far. We currently attend Carnarvon and wish Mandarin Immersion was offered closer.”
- “It very hard to make a decision on this. Jamieson was the ideal school with both Mandarin and Strings for which there is now a choice that needs to be made. Furthermore, after school care is not available from Trudeau for Walking School Bus to Langara YMCA which limits a working parent from having a full work day. Although the drive is 10 minutes away, it is actually 20 minutes extra in community time 2 times per day for pick up and drop off and in a direction opposite to where most



in the workforce would be working (namely Downtown). I think the shock factor comes from the lack of notice and the abrupt nature of this change without first consulting those who are in the existing program and/or those leading up and looking forward to taking the Mandarin program at Jamieson. There are now 2 East Side schools with this benefit and none on the West Side of Vancouver.”

- “Mandarin immersion is a crucial program given Vancouver's cultural makeup and position in the world economy as a Pacific Gateway. VSB should offer this on both sides of the city, not just the east side. I would like to give my children this opportunity, but should not have to drive 30 minutes to take my child to elementary school.”
- “The Mandarin Bilingual school is far from my school catchment, but I feel strongly that there should be more schools that offer this choice closer to the downtown core. My child is already in Grade 1 and I have to think for her future and the opportunities that would be best.
- “If the mandarin bilingual program moves to trudeau, vancouver west side schools will not have any bilingual programs.”
- “I would like to know about the impact on Eric Hamber's Mandarin program as a result of this move to Trudeau.”
- “I would like to know if the program will continue at Eric Hamber or elsewhere. I have a child enrolled in the mandarin bilingual program at Norquay Elementary but the older child was not accepted in kindergarten. I would like both children to have the same opportunity to learn mandarin. Are you looking at the possibility to combine both programs to one location? Norquay and Trudeau are quite far from one another.”
- “I’m curious if the highschool continuation of the mandarin program at Trudeau will still be at hamber? Or are there plans to move that too?”
- “I would rather have the option to enrol my child in Spanish.”
- “Would like a stronger presence with Spanish in the school districts.”
- “Why not French? We are below Canadian elementary schools for French.”
- “Jamieson has a wonderful strings program. Not sure if Mr. Copitts will teach at the new school Trudeau. The PAC committee is also very strong in supporting the children’s needs. Overall, it’s a very good school and with good teachers and dynamic. Not sure if we will sacrifice the mandarin immersion program for the culture of the school and the extra programs that are being taught. For example, strings.”
- “Will there be a required strings music part now that it is at Trudeau Elementary? And if so, is Mr. Colpitts moving there?”
- “Would there be a strings program for future mandarin program kids at Trudeau?”
- “The 2 reasons we chose Jamieson Elementary was because of the Mandarin program and the school community. Having to uproot my child in grade 4 for Mandarin, away from friends and teachers he knows is devastating. In addition, our excellent after school program is located onsite at Jamieson. We waited 3 years to get into before and after care. Will there be such a program at Trudeau elementary and a guaranteed spot for Jamieson students transferring over?”
- “A primary reason we enrolled our child at Jamieson was to give her the opportunity to enroll in the Mandarin program. It was already extremely disappointing when we learned that entrance to the program had been changed to a complete lottery system (with no assessment as to English skills) and now devastating to learn of the entire relocation of the program.....both completely without any consultation with parent, which is absolutely unacceptable. Now, even if we wanted to enroll our child at Trudeau, we would not be able to since Trudeau does not have before and after school care program like the one at Jamieson. What are working parents to do”
- “Wondering if there is a before and after school care at Trudeau? My son is currently in Grade 6, currently enrolled in the Mandarin Program. He will finish the Program at Jamieson next year. I am

concerned for the new program at Trudeau as it has been difficult recruiting and retaining experienced Mandarin teachers at Jamieson for the past three years. I hope that the Program at Trudeau will be able to attract qualified, competent and motivated teachers to ensure the Program's success. The Jamieson Program has been substantially watered down in the last several years and the quality of mandarin instruction has definitely suffered. This has a direct affect on the Mandarin experience these same students will have if they plan to continue Mandarin at the highschool level, ie. Eric Hamber.”

- “I am opposed to any programme that has ties to China’s government. The propaganda and security concerns are my reasons why. If not, I think any immersion programme is wonderful”
- “I don't know if it already does, but no funding for such programs should come from the government of China.”
- “English and French language should be enforce in Canadian country, not any language, most of all in the school in order to avoid discrimination for other nationality.”
- “Chinese is not one of Canada's official languages, and we should not be using taxpayers' money to fund Chinese-language education. If anything, taxpayer money should be used to fund Indigenous language education for all BC school children”
- “Wish traditional Chinese characters are taught in the program”
- “Is it on first come first serve basis, and would like to know more about the program”
- “Obviously, there is a concern that there will not be enough spaces for students wishing to enter the program in grade 4. This doesn't seem to be addressed in your document. Can you please tell everyone how this will be done? A lottery? Any priority process? Thanks.”
- “Now I live near UBC, and I want to live in the west Vancouver in the coming years when my children study in Vancouver. Thank you!”
- “They will be in the phase out at Jamieson so will not need to enrol at Trudeau.
- “We are undecided at this time whether we would enroll our son in Mandarin Bilingual when the time comes, it would depend if he shows interest and aptitude towards the language and be open to changing schools. We attended the Mandarin Bilingual info session in Fall 2019, but decided not to enter the choice application for it as other choice programs were of more interest to us (Montessori, French Immersion).”

## APPENDIX D: PUBLIC INFORMATION DISPLAY BOARDS

# 1

Restoring and Relocating Mandarin Bilingual

## ABOUT THE MANDARIN BILINGUAL PROGRAM



- » Mandarin Bilingual is a District Choice program currently offered at Jamieson Elementary for students in grades 4 to 7.
- » Introduced in Vancouver 25 years ago
- » The curriculum is taught in English, except for Mandarin Language Arts.
- » Develops Mandarin oral communication skills along with reading and writing skills using Chinese characters.

# 2

Restoring and Relocating Mandarin Bilingual

## BENEFITS

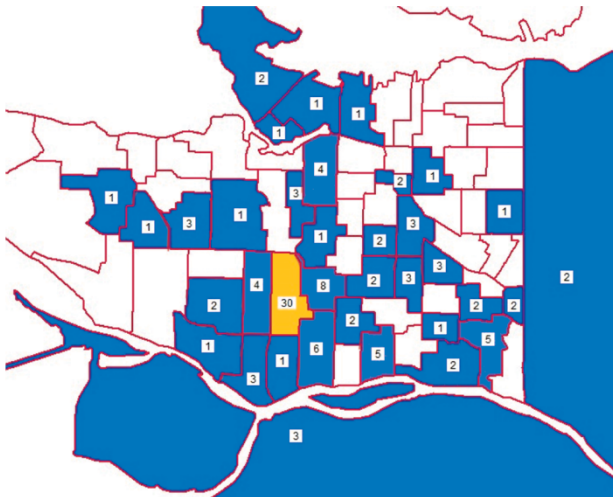


### Benefits

- » Enhances future career opportunities for a multilingual workforce and society
- » Helps students connect and learn about another culture to form a broader world view
- » Inspires curiosity toward multilingualism and cross-cultural travel opportunities
- » Develops strong thinking skills and grow cognitive development

# 3 Restoring and Relocating Mandarin Bilingual

## CURRENT DEMOGRAPHICS



Most students attending Mandarin Bilingual at Jamieson are not from the school's catchment area.

- Students attending the Mandarin Bilingual program not in the Jamieson catchment
- Students attending the Mandarin Bilingual program in the Jamieson catchment

# 4 Restoring and Relocating Mandarin Bilingual

## CURRENT SITUATION



The number of students at Jamieson is nearing capacity. There is ongoing growth in the Jamieson catchment area.

Facilities at the school are maximized. The school does not have enough classroom space to enrol additional in-catchment students to meet projections.



Jamieson has already reduced the intake of Mandarin Bilingual students from five classrooms to four to accommodate in catchment Jamieson students, in alignment with District's enrolment procedures and priorities.

As the English in-catchment population grows, the Mandarin Bilingual program will slowly start to phase out, until the program is no longer viable.



# 5 Restoring and Relocating Mandarin Bilingual

## MAINTAIN AND RESTORE MANDARIN BILINGUAL



There continues to be a high demand for Mandarin Bilingual across the District.

**79%** of parents who completed the Mandarin Bilingual survey (from Dec 5 – 20, 2019) indicated they are interested in enrolling their child in the Mandarin Bilingual program.

**To meet this demand and:**

- 1 Continue the Mandarin Bilingual program**
- 2 Accommodate in-catchment students at Jamieson**
- 3 Address the space constraints at Jamieson**

**The District will relocate the program from Jamieson to Trudeau starting in September 2020, phased over four years.**



# 6A Restoring and Relocating Mandarin Bilingual

## RELOCATION DETAILS



Recognizing change can be difficult, the District will relocate the Mandarin Bilingual program through a **phased approach**.

This will **allow current Jamieson students to complete their elementary Mandarin Bilingual program at the same school** and provide stability for the students and their families.



# 6B Restoring and Relocating Mandarin Bilingual RELOCATION DETAILS



### For Mandarin Bilingual students at Jamieson:

The Mandarin Bilingual program at Jamieson will stop intaking grade 4 students beginning September 2020. Current Jamieson students will continue their Mandarin Bilingual program until they complete Grade 7.

### For Mandarin Bilingual students at Trudeau:

Trudeau will begin enrolling Grade 4 Mandarin Bilingual students in September 2020. The program will be fully phased-in by school year 2023-2024

### Students in MB program

SCHOOL YEAR:	JAMIESON ELEMENTARY	TRUDEAU ELEMENTARY
2020-2021	Grades 5, 6, 7	Grade 4
2021-2022	Grades 6, 7	Grades 4, 5
2022-2023	Grades 7	Grades 4, 5, 6
2023-2024	n/a *Program fully phased out	Grades 4, 5, 6, 7 *Program fully phased in

**Note:** Students in the Mandarin Bilingual program can choose to continue their studies at Eric Hamber Secondary, this will remain unchanged whether students attend Mandarin Bilingual at Trudeau or Jamieson.

# 6C Restoring and Relocating Mandarin Bilingual RELOCATION DETAILS: SIBLING PRIORITY

During the **Jamieson Mandarin Bilingual phase-out period**, the following enrolment priorities will help families with children already attending the Mandarin Bilingual program.



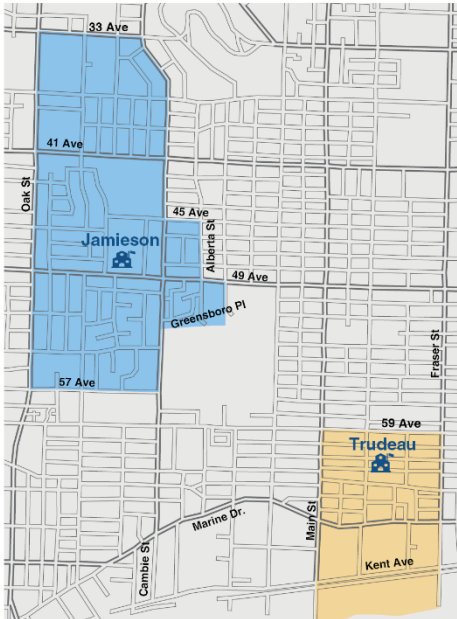
These enrolment procedures provide parents the opportunity to keep their children together at one site during school hours.

During the **Trudeau Mandarin Bilingual phase-in period**, the following enrolment priorities will apply to Mandarin Bilingual applicants:



# 7

## Restoring and Relocating Mandarin Bilingual **WHY TRUDEAU?**



### Why Trudeau?

- » Moving to Trudeau will maintain and restore the Mandarin Bilingual program back to its original size of **five classrooms**
- » Trudeau **has the space** to accommodate five classrooms of Mandarin Bilingual students
- » Trudeau is **within 3 KM** (10-minute drive) from Jamieson
- » Similar to Jamieson, Trudeau Elementary is a **seismically safe school**

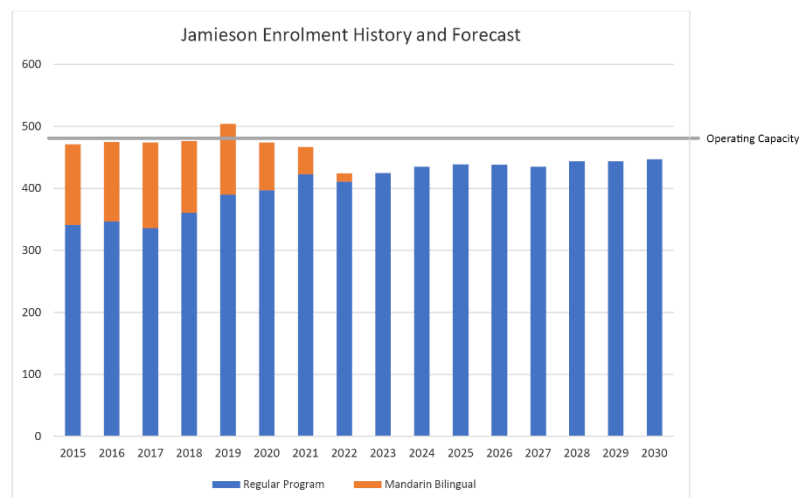
### Benefits to Trudeau:

- » Contributes to the **vibrant school community**
- » **Maximizes** enrollment
- » **Increases culture and language opportunities** for students and teachers

# 8A

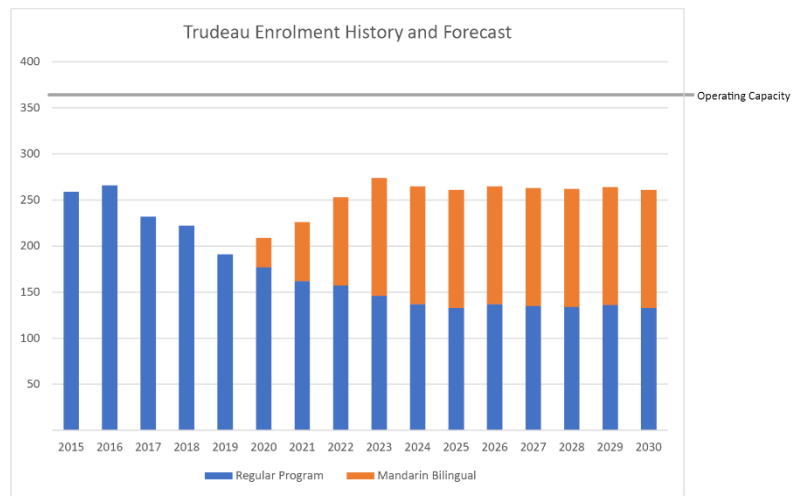
## Restoring and Relocating Mandarin Bilingual **JAMIESON ENROLMENT**

As regular program enrolment continues to increase, there **will not** be sufficient space to keep a Mandarin Bilingual program at Jamieson.

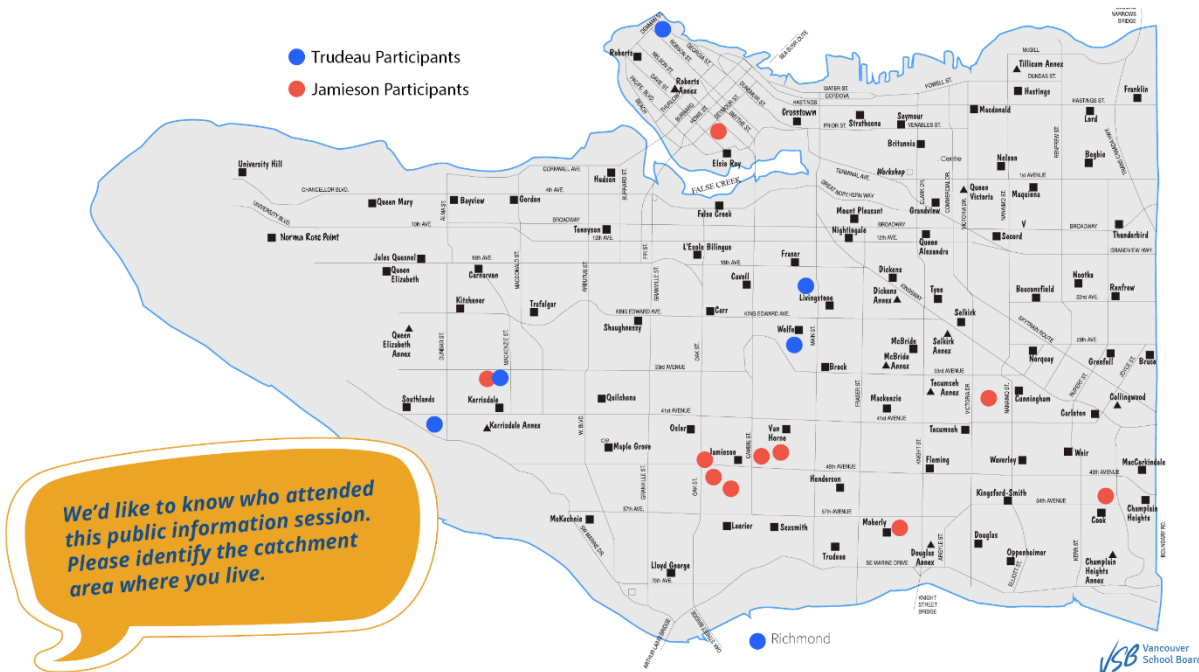


# 8B Restoring and Relocating Mandarin Bilingual ENROLMENT AND FACILITY USAGE

As regular program enrolment continues to increase, there **will be** sufficient space to have a Mandarin Bilingual program at Trudeau.



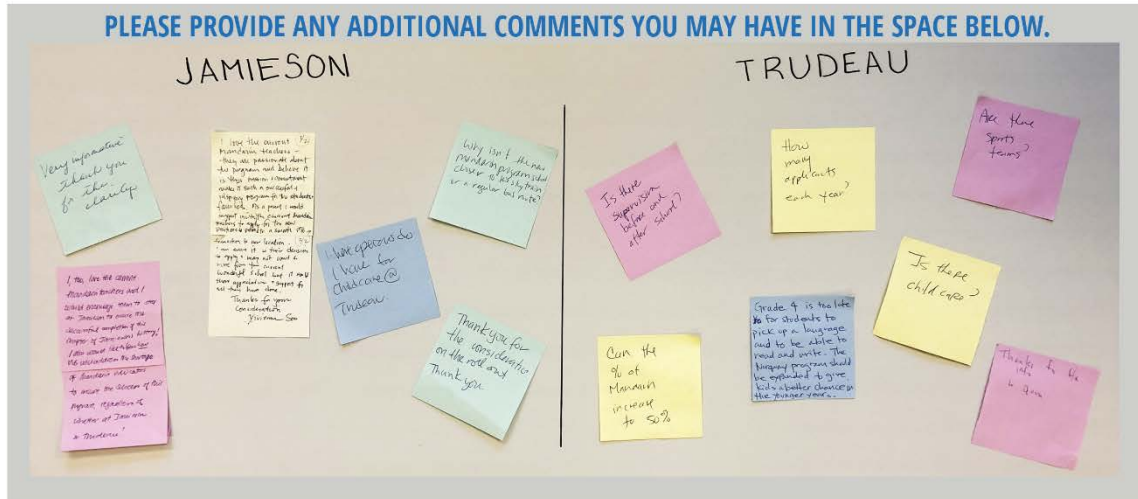
# 9 Restoring and Relocating Mandarin Bilingual ABOUT YOU





# 10 Restoring and Relocating Mandarin Bilingual COMMENTS

We are committed to providing clear, open and honest information about this change and will listen to feedback from you about the implementation process.



# 11 Restoring and Relocating Mandarin Bilingual THANK YOU



**Thank you** for taking the time to learn about the Mandarin Bilingual program move.

We are committed to providing clear, open and honest information about the changes and will listen to feedback from you and both impacted school communities about the implementation process.

**A feedback report based on your input will be available in spring 2020.**

## APPENDIX E: PUBLIC INFORMATION VERBATIM COMMENTS

### Comments from the Jamieson Public Information Session

- “Very informative. Thank you for the clarity.”
- “Thank you for the consideration on the roll out. Thank you.”
- “Why isn’t the new Mandarin program school closer to the SkyTrain or a regular bus route?”
- “What options do I have for childcare at Trudeau?”
- “I love the current Mandarin teachers – they are passionate about the program and believe it is their passion and commitment that make it such a successful and inspiring program for the students and families. As a parent, I would support inviting the current Mandarin teachers to apply for the new position to promote a smooth transition to new location. I am aware it is their decision to apply and may not want to move from this current wonderful school but it would show appreciation and support for all they have done. Thank you for your consideration.”
- “I, too, love the current mandarin teachers and I would encourage them to stay at Jamieson to endure me successful competition of this chapter of Jamieson’s history! I also would like to know how VSB will address the shortage of Mandarin educators to ensure the success of their program, regardless of whether at Jamieson or Trudeau”

### Comments from the Trudeau Public Information Session

- “How many applicants each year?”
- “Can the percentage of Mandarin [students] increase to 50% [of the school]?”
- “Is there childcare?”
- “Is there supervision before and after school?”
- “Thanks for the information”
- “Are there sports teams [at Trudeau]?”
- “Grade 4 is too late for students to pick up a language and to be able to read and write. The Norway program should be expanded to give kids a better chance in the younger years.”

## APPENDIX F: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### 1. How will enrolment into the Mandarin Bilingual work as the program phases out of Jamieson and into Trudeau?

The District wants to maintain and restore the Mandarin Bilingual program. To do so, we will relocate the program to Trudeau Elementary, phased over four years.

Current Jamieson students will continue their Mandarin Bilingual program until they complete Grade 7. This means, as the Mandarin Bilingual program phases out at Jamieson, the Mandarin Bilingual program at Trudeau will grow.

A phased approach will allow current Jamieson students to complete their elementary Mandarin Bilingual program at the same school and provide stability for the students and their families.

Trudeau will begin intaking Grade 4 students into the Mandarin Bilingual program starting in the 2020-2021 school year. The program will be fully enrolled at Trudeau by September 2023.

Below is a table detailing the transition timeline from Jamieson to Trudeau.

#### *Students in Mandarin Bilingual program*

	Jamieson Elementary	Trudeau Elementary
School year: 2020-2021	Grades 5, 6, 7	Grade 4
School year: 2021-2022	Grades 6, 7	Grades 4, 5
School year: 2022-2023	Grades 7	Grades 4, 5, 6
School year: 2023-2024	n/a <i>*Program fully phased out</i>	Grades 4, 5, 6, 7 <i>*Program fully phased in</i>

### 2. Why not take Mandarin Bilingual students over Jamieson catchment students?

Students living in Vancouver are entitled to enrol in an educational program provided by the District. As such, the District prioritizes the enrolment of in-catchment students over children who reside outside of the catchment, including those enrolled in choice programs.

### 3. Why Trudeau Elementary?

Moving to Trudeau will maintain the Mandarin Bilingual program, as well as enable the District to restore the program to its original size of five classrooms. Trudeau is within 3 KM (10-minute drive) from Jamieson and has the space to accommodate five classrooms of Mandarin Bilingual students. Students would also be in a seismically safe school, similar to Jamieson.

### 4. What are the benefits to Trudeau?

Adding more students to Trudeau will create a more vibrant and full school community. In addition, adding a District language program will increase culture and language opportunities for students and teachers to be incorporated as part of the school culture.

Studies have shown that learning an additional language at an early age can:

- Enhance future career opportunities for a multilingual workforce and society
- Help students connect and learn about another culture to form a broader world view
- Inspire curiosity towards multilingualism and cross-cultural travel opportunities
- Develop strong thinking skills and grow cognitive development

**5. Why didn't you choose a school closer to the west side?**

The Mandarin program is a District program available to all students on the east and west of the city. The District would consider adding additional programs in the future should we be able to meet the demand for Mandarin teachers. Currently, there are more students attending public school on the east side of the city.

**6. Why didn't you choose a school closer to transit?**

The Mandarin Bilingual program is a District Choice program. As such, students choose to attend this program instead of their regular catchment school. District data shows that students come from all around the city to attend Mandarin Bilingual at Jamieson. The District anticipates the same geographical enrolment when the program moves to Trudeau.

**7. Why isn't there childcare at Trudeau?**

A childcare program is not offered at Trudeau and families have never requested to have one at the school. That said, there are multiple daycare facilities nearby, within a 10 to 15-minute walk from the school.

**8. Which secondary school will Mandarin Bilingual students attend?**

Students in the Mandarin Bilingual program can choose to continue their studies at Eric Hamber Secondary, this will remain unchanged whether students attend Mandarin Bilingual at Trudeau or Jamieson.

**9. Will there be enough space at Trudeau to accommodate the Mandarin Bilingual program?**

The District prioritizes its space use for enrolling classes and Trudeau has the capacity to intake additional enrolling students. Currently there are five classrooms not being utilized for enrolling space, instead they are being used as resource or storage rooms. Furthermore, projections show that even after adding the Mandarin bilingual program, the school will continue to be under operating capacity by about 75-100 students (see Display Board 8A).

**10. What will happen to the strings program at Jamieson? Does Trudeau have a strings program?**

The Jamieson strings program is a school-based program and resides at Jamieson. The District recognizes the program plays a vital role in the Jamieson school community. The space for the program will not be impacted by this move. All intermediate students at Jamieson will continue to participate in the school the program.

For Trudeau, music is offered as part of the curriculum, a standard for all elementary classrooms.

**11. What will happen to the Mandarin Bilingual teachers at Jamieson, will they move to Trudeau?**

Similar to any job, teachers have the option and freedom to apply for other job postings as they wish. The new Mandarin Bilingual teacher at Trudeau will be assigned as per the post and fill process outlined in the collective agreement with the teachers' union.