



The Board of Education of School District No. 83

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: The Board of Education
FROM: Donna Kriger, Superintendent
RE: Salmon Arm School Configuration

DATE: January 21, 2025

Background

During the 2023-24 school year, the Board of Education directed senior leadership to conduct information and feedback sessions related to the configuration of Salmon Arm urban and rural feeder schools. Upon conclusion of those meetings which were held during December 2023 to April 2024, the Board of Education passed a motion that Salmon Arm urban and rural feeder schools would move to a K-7, 8-12 grade configuration.

In November 2024, the Board of Education passed a motion to adopt a two secondary school model within the community of Salmon Arm. At that time, the Board directed senior leadership to proceed with work related to catchment boundaries, a transition plan to accomplish the reconfiguration, and a plan outlining the feeder system for each of the two secondary schools.

A common theme over the last twelve months has been that the reconfiguration process is complex with no perfect solution. Though there is no way to please all students, staff, and members of the community, there is agreement that the reduction of school transitions will allow for stronger relationships between students and staff, increase students' sense of belonging, and be beneficial for students with diverse abilities, children and youth in care, and Indigenous students.

Information

1. Transition Plan

The transition plan for reconfiguration will be accomplished over a three-year period. This will allow adequate time to carry out minor renovations at JL Jackson, Salmon Arm Secondary, and Shuswap Middle School. It will also provide sufficient time for the Human Resources department to work alongside both the North Okanagan Teachers Association (NOSTA) and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE 523) to solve the staffing implications resulting from reconfiguration.

The three-year transition plan is as follows:
Secondary School Transition

JL Jackson Secondary (JLJ)	Salmon Arm Secondary (SAS)
2025-26 (New catchment areas will take effect for all secondary students in grades 9-12.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 9 to 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Grade 8's from 2024-25 will attend grade 9 at JLJ from SMS and rural feeder schools. A cohort of grade 9 students from 2024-25 who will be entering grade 10 and live in the catchment assigned to JLJ will remain at JLJ for the remainder of secondary school. A cohort of grade 10 students from 2024-25 who are entering grade 11 in 2025-26 who live in the JLJ catchment will remain at JLJ for the remainder of secondary school. All French Immersion students in grades 9, 10, and 11 will attend JLJ. 	2025-26 (New catchment areas will take effect for all secondary students in grades 9-12.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 10 to 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cohort of grade 9 students from 2024-25 who would have historically stayed at JLJ for grade 10 and who live in the SAS catchment will transition to SAS for the remainder of secondary school. A cohort of students who were in grade 10 at JLJ during 2024-25 and who live in the SAS catchment will transition to SAS for the remainder of secondary school. <i>ALL grade 11 students from 2024-25 who attended SAS will remain at SAS to be the final "single" graduating class in June 2026.</i> French Immersion students entering grade 12 in 2025-26 will be the last class of French Immersion at SAS.
2026-27 Grade 9 to 12 (Catchment areas in effect) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incoming grade 9 students who live in the catchment areas assigned to JLJ will attend JLJ for secondary school. A cohort of JLJ grade 9 students from 2025-26 who live in the JLJ catchment will attend JLJ for the remainder of secondary school. Students in grade 10 & 11 who attended JLJ in 2025-26 will continue to do so as they move up a grade. All French Immersion students in grades 9-12 will attend JLJ. 	2026-27 Grade 9 to 12 (Catchment areas in effect) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incoming grade 9 students who live in the catchment areas assigned to SAS will attend SAS for secondary school. A cohort of grade 9 students who attended JLJ in 2025-26 but who live in the SAS catchment will attend SAS for the remainder of secondary school. Students attending SAS in 2025-26 will continue to the next grade in 2026-27.
2027-28 (Catchment areas in effect) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 8 to 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students in grades 8-12 who live in the JLJ catchment will attend JLJ. All grade 8-12 French Immersion students will attend JLJ. 	2027-28 (Catchment areas in effect) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 8 to 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students in grades 8-12 who live in the SAS catchment will attend SAS.

Urban Elementary School Transition

BASTION (BAS)	HILLCREST (HIL)	SOUTH BROADVIEW (SBR)	SHUSWAP MIDDLE (SMS)
2025-26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> remain K – 5 (no changes) 	2025-26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> remain K – 5 (no changes) 	2025-26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> remain K – 5 (no changes) 	2025-26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> remain Gr. 6 – 8 (no changes)
2026-27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First year of K-6 English configuration K-5 Early French Immersion 	2026-27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First year of K-6 configuration 	2026-27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First year of K-6 configuration 	2026-27 (no catchment) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Gr.7, 8 Early French Immersion Gr. 6 & 7 Late French Immersion Gr. 6 & 7 Grade 8 French Immersion
2027-28 (new catchment areas will take effect for all new enrolling students moving forward) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First year of K-7 configuration (English only) 	2027-28 (new catchment areas will take effect for all new enrolling students moving forward) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First year of K-7 configuration 	2027-28 (new catchment areas will take effect for all new enrolling students moving forward) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First year of K-7 configuration 	2027-28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First year of early French Immersion K-7 Late French Immersion Gr. 6 & 7

Salmon Arm Rural Elementary Feeder Schools

NORTH CANOE (NCA)	SALMON ARM WEST (SAW)	SOUTH CANOE (SCA)
2025-26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> remain K – 5 (no changes) 	2025-26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> remain K – 5 (no changes) 	2025-26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> remain K – 8 (no changes)
2026-27 (no catchment changes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First year of K – 6 	2026-27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First year of K – 6 	2026-27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remain K – 8 (no changes)
2027-28 (no catchment changes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First year of K - 7 	2027-28 (new catchment changes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First year of K - 7 	2027-28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First year of K – 7

Salmon Arm Rural Elementary Feeder Schools

North Shuswap (NSH)	RANCHERO (RAN)	SILVER CREEK (SCR)
2025-26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> remain K – 8 (no changes) 	2025-26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> remain K – 8 (no changes) 	2025-26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> remain K – 8 (no changes)
2026-27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> remain K – 8 (no changes) 	2026-27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> remain K – 8 (no changes) 	2026-27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> remain K – 8 (no changes)
2027-28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First year of K – 7 	2027-28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First year of K – 7 	2027-28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First year of K – 7

Carlin/Sorrento Schools

CARLIN (CAR)	SORRENTO (SOR)
2025-26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> remain K – 8 (no changes) 	2025-26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> remain K – 5 (no changes)
2026-27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> remain K – 8 (no changes) 	2026-27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First year of K – 6 (grade 5 students from the previous year will remain at Sorrento)
2027-28 (new catchment areas will take effect for all new enrolling students moving forward) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First year of K – 7 	2027-28 (new catchment areas will take effect for all new enrolling students moving forward) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First year of K - 7

2. Catchment Implications & Cross Boundary Requests Impacting Elementary School

The district is working to ensure that students currently enrolled in any of the Salmon Arm rural or urban elementary schools who are impacted by changes in catchment will be able to continue at the school they are currently enrolled in. Bus routes will be changed to accommodate the new catchment boundaries and therefore the district will be unable to provide transportation to students who are attending school outside their catchment.

The district is anticipating possible enrollment pressures at Bastion Elementary in 2026-27 and to alleviate this pressure, it may be necessary to move Grade 5 French Immersion to Shuswap Middle School a year earlier than planned.

Registrations for the 2027-28 school year involving new Kindergarten students or students new to our district will be required to attend the Salmon Arm urban or rural feeder schools based on the catchment boundaries which take effect for that school year. Kindergarten students or students new to the Carlin/Sorrento area will be required to attend the school in their catchment area as of 2027-28 school year. As was previously mentioned, bus routes will be changed to accommodate the new catchment boundaries and therefore the district will be unable to provide transportation to students who are attending school outside their catchment.

Current cross boundary students will also be allowed to stay at their current elementary school with the cross-boundary process and procedures remaining as they are.

3. Catchment Implications for Secondary School

Students who live within the following school catchment areas will attend the Secondary School associated with it. The exception will be during the 2025-26 school year: all grade 12 students will attend

Salmon Arm Secondary and all students in grade 9 will attend JL Jackson. In 2026-27, students entering grade 10 will attend the secondary school associated with the catchment area in which they reside.

JL Jackson Catchment Areas	Salmon Arm Secondary Catchment Areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hillcrest• North Canoe• Ranchero• Silver Creek• French Immersion Students (Program of Choice)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bastion• Carlin• North Shuswap• Salmon Arm West• South Broadview• Sorrento

Catchment Area Maps

Maps for the new catchment boundaries will be made public by the end of day on Wednesday, January 22, 2025.

Summary:

Information meetings will be held with staff and parents from each school over the next several months. The Superintendent will be in contact with school principals to arrange a suitable date and time. With catchment boundaries having an immediate impact on secondary school staff and students, these meetings will be prioritized and conducted in the immediate future. It is important to understand that catchment boundaries are ever evolving and need to be responsive to enrollment fluctuations caused by growth or decline in populations or programming. As a result, the district over a period of time may be required to alter the boundaries in response to population changes that occur.

The reconfiguration process has been very laborious but rewarding. It has relied on the expertise of many individuals who have been extremely invested in the work. I wish to express immense gratitude to the leadership team (district and school) who have dedicated many additional hours to the process.

To the many students, staff, parents, and stakeholders who participated in one or more of the thirty-seven reconfiguration sessions during 2023-24, I wish to extend my gratitude. Your feedback was valuable and was given thoughtful consideration.

I am both grateful and proud to work for a Board of Education who is committed to ensuring the students in our district are “empowered to become confident, curious, and caring individuals who are provided with the necessary conditions to thrive in their learning, relationships, and community.”

Recommendation:

“That the Board of Education approve the transition plan for reconfiguration as presented.”

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Kriger
Superintendent of Schools