

Staff Report



April 16, 2024

To Board of Education (Public Meeting)

From Ray Velestuk, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

Re **Barrowtown and Semá:th Elementary Schools – Middle/Secondary Catchment Review**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board of Education realign the Barrowtown and Semá:th Elementary catchment areas to be part of the W. A. Fraser Middle/Yale Secondary catchments, effective for the 2024-2025 school year, and

FURTHER THAT all current students residing in the Barrowtown and Semá:th catchments be given choice to continue attending the Abbotsford Middle/Secondary catchment or attend in the W.A. Fraser Middle/Yale Secondary catchment.

BACKGROUND:

On March 5, 2024, a public meeting was held at Semá:th Elementary School with the Barrowtown and Semá:th catchment parents. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the potential for changing the middle/secondary catchments from the Abby family to the Yale family of schools. This was instigated by a request from the Barrowtown PAC to change catchments to the Yale family going forward. The presentation from the meeting is attached for your information.

Following that meeting, a survey was sent to all parents in these catchments requesting additional feedback. There were 12 responses received from Barrowtown with 100% in agreement to the change. There were 62 responses from Semá:th with 79% in agreement with the change.

It is recommended that both catchments be realigned to the W.A. Fraser Middle/Yale Secondary catchment effective for the coming school year and that all current students attending Abbotsford Middle/Secondary and their siblings be grandfathered at Abbotsford Middle/Secondary, and that all current students from K-5 at Barrowtown and Semá:th Elementary be provided a choice to attend either the W.A. Fraser Middle/Yale Secondary or the Abbotsford Middle/Secondary catchments. Priority for transportation services will be given to students attending the W.A. Fraser Middle/Yale Secondary catchment, however transportation services will be provided to the students choosing the Abbotsford Middle/Secondary catchment.