



## ***School District 59 (Peace River South)***

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### **Recommendations to the SD # 59 Board of Education**

To: SD # 59 Board of Education

Re: Amalgamation of SPSS/CMS

From: This series of recommendations is respectfully submitted to the Board of Education for School District # 59 from the Amalgamation Study Group for CMS and SPSS (This group included input from Teachers, Parents, Students, School Administrators, Support Staff, and Senior Staff).

Our guiding Principle in developing these recommendations was: To develop a concept - school that would provide students with a variety of pathways, that would permit them to plan their individual graduation paths, beginning as early as grade 8 or 9.

#### **Basic Design:**

Recommended design features for the grades:

- Grade 8's stay on Central campus and grade 12's stay on South Peace campus as both groups require continuity in their programming. This is not intended to be an "absolute" rule that would exclude students who wish to develop exceptional programs, rather it is intended to recommend a general practice based on advice provided to us during our research;
- Retain the Core 8 program at CMS campus.
- Campus names remain the same as they are named, being able to use existing mascots, team names and so on. There would be an overall managing school developed that would assume ownership of both campuses:
  - (eg:) Dawson Creek Secondary School with 2 campuses: South Peace campus and Central campus.

#### **Year one (September 2010):**

The Superintendent:

- Would establish a common administrative structure to serve both campuses;
- One Principal and one budget;
- Clerical staff determined for the campuses;
- Vice Principal's assignments and administration/teaching times are decided. VPs are assigned to each campus in consultation with Principal;
- A seniority plan is developed for staff within the larger combined school.

The Principal:

- In year one a common bell schedule (and tone if possible) is established between campuses;
- Preparations would be made to have a common timetable developed for the Spring of 2011;
- The communication technology to students and staff would be synchronized so that TV's, phones, announcements are common to both campuses;
- The PACs/SPCs are joined, with an equal numbers of parents (preferred) representing each of the campuses;
- A particular focus on transition issues within the school and departments would be a priority (eg; instructional continuity between the grades);
- Newsletters would be developed to inform parents and students about the plan for amalgamation;
- We suggest that an exemplar (pilot) is developed to show the possibilities for new 8-12 options/pathways in the first year, to invite others to do the same;
- Make additional time or resources available for planning and development within departments in preparation for the 2 campus 1 staff model.

**Year two (September 2011):**

The Principal:

- Fully moves the staff and promotes school culture as the two campuses, one staff model of operating;
- Establishes departments, department leaders and sets priorities;
- Tasks department leaders to explore multiple 8-12 pathways;
- A common timetable between campuses is developed and implemented;
- A transportation strategy is developed for movement of students;
- An invitation would go forward to explore the development of a school within a school (eg: Arts Academy);
- Common School Plan as well as vision/mission statements are developed going into 2012;
- Again, make additional time and/or resources available for planning and development within departments in developing the school vision.

**Year three (September 2012):**

The Principal:

- Invites expansion of the options within the grades 8-12 pathways;
- Identifies skill sets and desired subject areas for traditional and non-traditional course options;
- Invites and support courses/program development that is supported by student interest.

**Going Forward:**

- Focus on sustaining options while also putting students first;
- Reduce systemic and cultural barriers to a minimum within the 8-12 school;
- Develop flexibility and offer flexible programs;
- Consider longer lunch to accommodate inter-campus travelers.

**Recommendation:** That the Board receive this report for information.