



**Central Okanagan
Public Schools**
Together We Learn

**Central Okanagan Public Schools
OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT**

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Date: March 9, 2020

Robert Miles
OCP Project Planner
City of Kelowna
1435 Water Street
Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 1J4

Dear Mr. Miles,

SUBJECT: OCP Review

The City of Kelowna has requested as apart of the OCP review, for the Central Okanagan Public Schools (SD23) to provide updated information with respect to SD23's historical, current and projected capacity and enrollments for schools. Also provided to the City was information on facilities planning with respect to facility needs of SD23 over the next 20-30 years based on current demographic trends.

School planning is cyclical depending on the neighbourhood residential unit turnover, generally from couples downsizing to young families moving into the unit. In order to project enrolments and school facility needs, SD23 considers a variety of influences such as, the number of new residential units in areas, the number of births in an area, educational programs offered at the schools, the number of schools in the area, transportation options available, families travel habits to work as well as school and extra circular activities. If any or one thing changes, the ten year projection could trend from over capacity schools to underutilized schools or vise versa. In collaboration with the local governments to understand the variety of influences, enrolment projections and facility assessments are completed to inform the Board's decision process. SD23 reviews the influences to develop a plan for future capital needs.

The enrolment projection provide the basis to develop and update the District's 10-year Long Term Facility Plan (LTFP). The comprehensive LTFP helps guide decisions for staff and the Board as well as forms the basis for all investment decisions by the Ministry of Education. The LTFP provides a rationale and business case for capital projects that may be proposed as part of the District's Five Year Capital Plan submission to the Ministry. The investment made in the School District provide added value to the community as schools provide an active hub for neighbourhoods.

The School District staff and the City's planning staff over the years have continued to collaborate with each other to identify school potential schools sites for new development in Area Structure Plans and the OCP land use map. This work has developed opportunities to have school sites incorporated into developments such as The Ponds Neighbourhood and Kettle Valley. School have been built in these neighbourhoods to accommodate the growing population that has developed over the last number of years.

The growth scenario that has been developed for this recent OCP review is focused growth in the urban core. This growth may create challenges for SD23 to find suitable sites for new schools to accommodate the potential student population in the areas. SD23 and the City planning department have engaged in discussion regarding population growth, enrolment projections, areas of concern regarding schools and potential school site needs. Through the discussions with City staff, the focused areas for potential growth were identified around Bankhead Elementary School and Kelowna Secondary School. These schools are currently at their capacities and with the challenge to acquire new school sites in an urban area that may accommodate a school's facility needs, expansion of the land use designation adjacent to the current school sites should be considered.

Accommodation and expansion of school in the urban core must consider the need for school amenities such as play space, parking, pick up/drop off areas and other transportation options to and from schools. Land acquisition for schools in the urban core may be different then in a new suburban neighbourhood development. If the focus is for the population growth to be in urban cores and families are to be included in this vision, retention of schools is integral to maintaining the attractiveness, vitality and viability of core neighbourhoods. The variety of housing that is suitable choice for families in the urban core should also be accompanied by amenities that are attractive for families and schools with their site amenities help improve a neighbourhood's attractiveness. Once a school is built, the neighbourhood becomes yet more attractive.

The identification and designation for potential school sites to accommodate the population growth is important for school planning. The collaboration with the local government regarding new schools or school additions provides the support for future funding from the Ministry of Education to accommodate a School District's future growth issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the review of the OCP and allowing the School District to have a voice in this process. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the writer at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,



David Widdis
Planning Manager

Copy: Ryan Stierman, Secretary Treasurer
Mitch Van Aller, Director of Operations