Enrolment Growth in Chemainus and Crofton: Exploring Challenges and Options

Public Meeting Series
Part 1 – January 12, 2019
Part 2 – January 29, 2019
Part 3 – February 19, 2019

The Shape of Session #3

Welcome and introductions

At the last meeting (January 29, 2019), we:

- Reviewed the issues/challenges
- Shared key facts in order to inform productive collaboration
- Provided table talk time to gather more input and questions

The Shape of Session #3

Since our last meeting, we:

- Compiled, reviewed and organized the perspectives and posted the material on the district website
- Followed up on the question of renovating and reopening the Old Crofton Elementary School
- Sought information regarding other experiences with Grade 7-12 or Grade 6-12 schools

The Shape of Session #3

Today's conversation is intended to allow opportunities for sharing perspectives and having deeper discussions to identify:

- What matters to students, parents, staff and the Board?
- What are the possibilities and challenges related to either of the two viable options (portables or re-configuration)?

Alternative Facilities – Options That Aren't Viable

We have previously covered the issue of relocating a grade(s) to St. Josephs, Mount Brenton and Somenos Elementary schools and removed them as viable options. Questions arose about Old Crofton as a solution.

Old Crofton Elementary has deteriorated to the point that renovation costs would be similar to building a replacement school. There is significant value in the land.

Old Crofton Elementary

What Priorities Emerged from Table Talk and On-Line Questions/Comments?

During the first two meetings, these major themes emerged regarding what matters to parents and students:

- Educational programing
- Relationships
- Safety
- Students with special needs
- Supporting community growth/long range planning

Educational Programing

Issues identified by parents in this area:

- Preserving the components of an elementary education program if the students relocate to the secondary school
- Including opportunities for play and age-appropriate playground equipment
- Desire to hear success stories from around the Province where a grade reconfiguration went well for students
- Opportunities for students to be involved in extracurricular activities
- Elective opportunities
- Desire to see how the students would be housed in the secondary school

Relationships

Issues identified in this area:

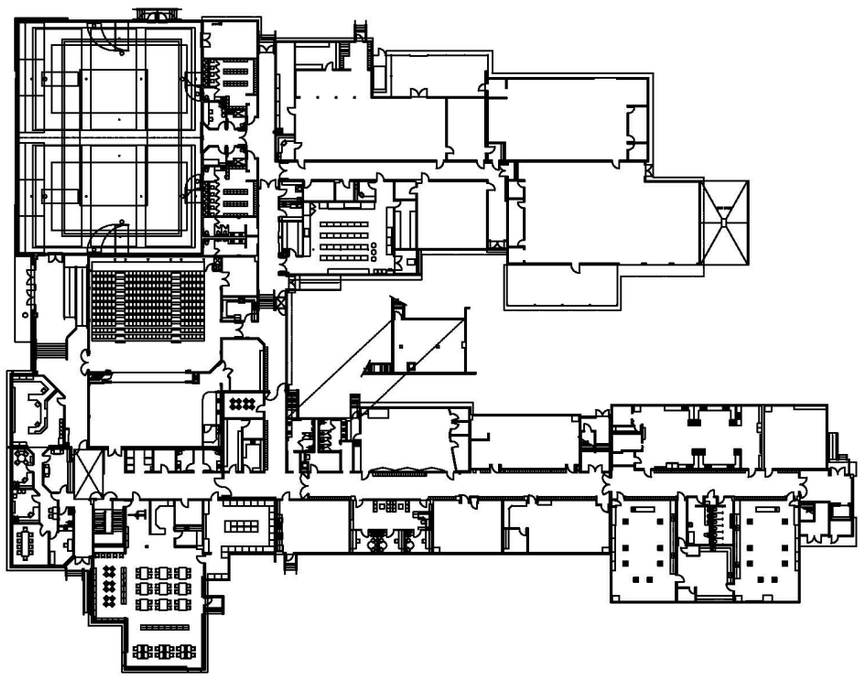
- Current traditions
- Grade 6 & 7 students are used to socializing with and being leaders for younger students
- Preserving relationships between students, staff and students, and parents and staff
- Preservation of parent involvement

Safety

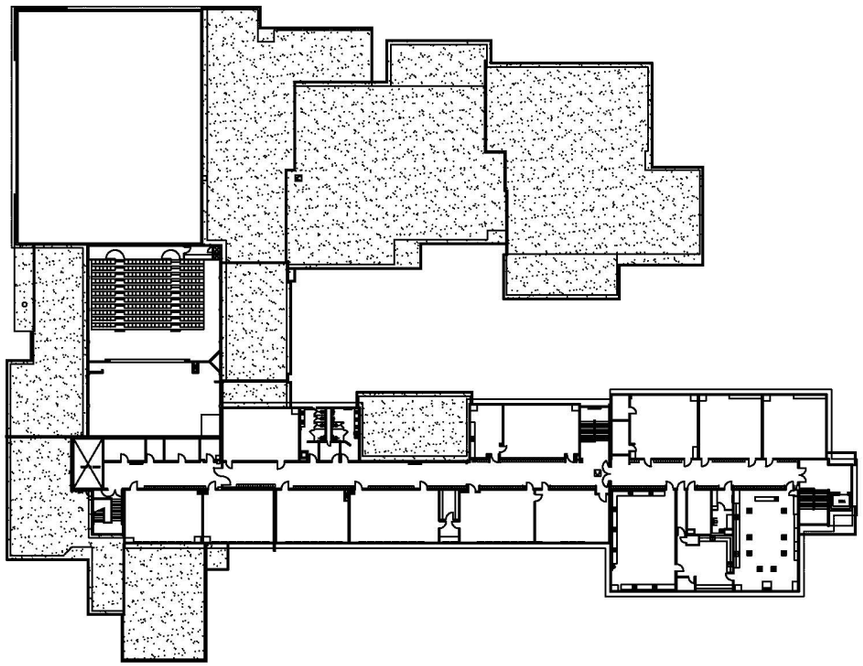
Issues identified by parents in this area:

- Older students mixing with younger students
- The practical challenges involved in separating the secondary-aged students from elementary-aged students in bathrooms and on the school bus
- How will supervision be handled at the secondary school or at the elementary schools if additional portables are added?

Chemainus Secondary

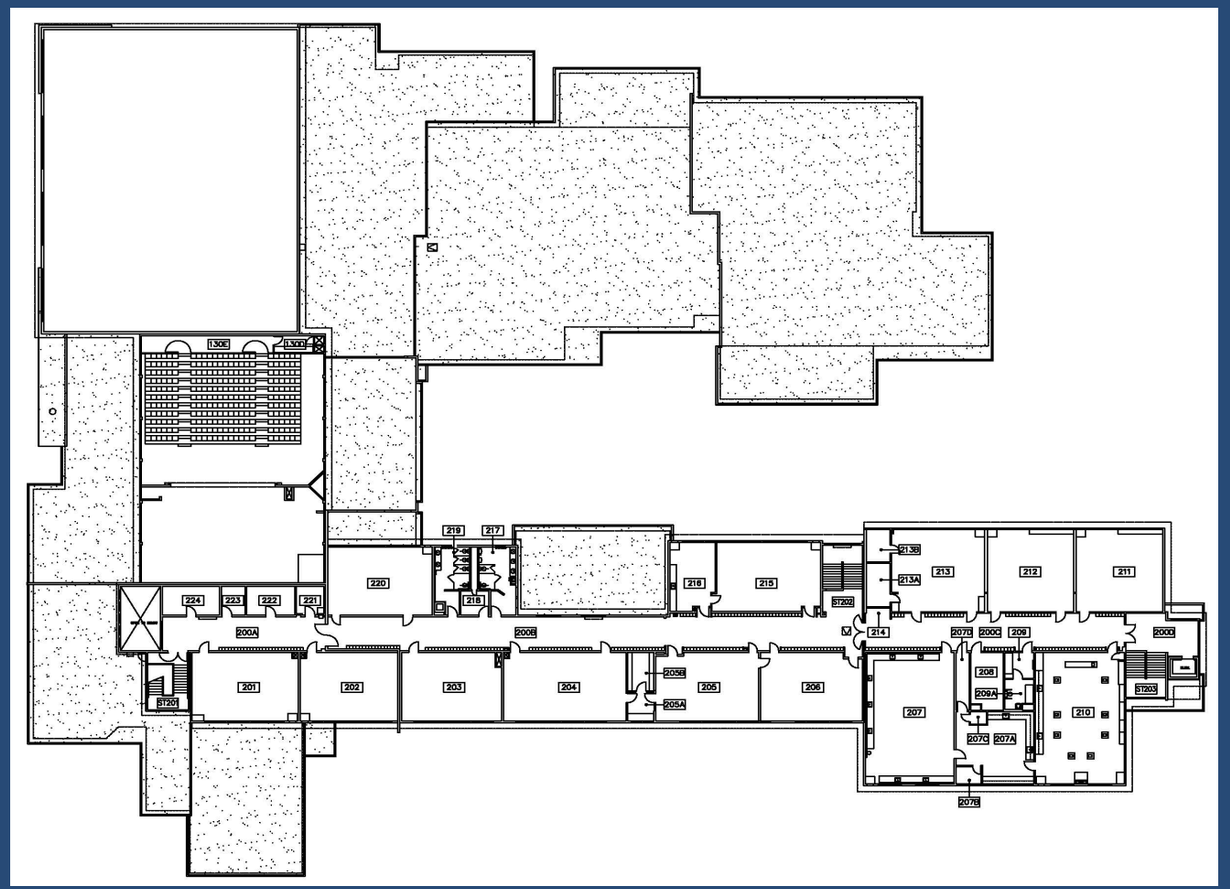


MAIN FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

Chemainus Secondary – Second Floor



Chemainus and Crofton Community Conversation

Students With Special Needs

Issues identified by parents in this area:

- Ensuring adequate supports at the secondary school
- There is a need for sufficient time to prepare students for a transition to a new school

Supporting Long-Term Community Growth

Issues parents identified in this area:

- Desire to start the process to have a new school in the future
- Recognition that portables are a short-term solution
- Comparison costs of portables to potential secondary renovation costs and busing
- What program enhancements or reductions will occur as a result of reconfiguration or increased use of portables?
- Local and regional population growth with school capacity challenges to deal with the increasing numbers of young families

Table of Costs to Continue the Portable Model in 2019/2020 vs. Moving Grade 7's to Chemainus Secondary

Item	Chem. Elem K-7	Crofton Elem K-7	7's Move to Chem Sec	Description
Incremental Transportation	$0	$0	$0	There is adequate room on current bus routes to accommodate the 7's
Incremental Portable Acquisitions	$0	$200,000	-$480,000	3 portables can be moved from Chem Elem to other areas of the District if the 7's move to Chem Sec. This will save the District $480,000 in future portable acquisitions
Playground Acquisition	$0	$0	$0	$105,000 could be available through the new Provincial Playground Fund for Chemainus Secondary
Renovations	$0	$0	$10,000	Minor renovations will be required at Chemainus Secondary
Net Option Cost (Savings)	$0	$200,000	-$470,000	By recapturing 3 portables from Chemainus Elementary and avoiding the cost of 1 portable at Crofton, the District will avoid $670,000 in costs in 2019/2020 if the 7's move to Chemainus Secondary

Table of Costs to Continue the Portable Model in 2019/2020 vs. Moving Grade 6 & 7's to Chemainus Secondary

Item	Chem. Elem K-7	Crofton Elem K-7	6 & 7's Move to Chem Sec	Description
Incremental Transportation	$0	$0	$80,000	An additional bus route would be required in order to transport both the grade 6 & 7's to Chem Sec. This would be accomplished within the existing bus fleet.
Incremental Portable Acquisitions	$0	$200,000	-$640,000	4 portables can be moved from Chem Elem to other areas of the District if the 7's move to Chem Sec. This will save the District $640,000 in future portable acquisitions.
Playground Acquisition	$0	$0	$0	$105,000 could be available through the new Provincial Playground Fund for Chemainus Secondary
Renovations	$0	$0	$20,000	Minor renovations will be required at Chemainus Secondary
Net Option Cost (Savings)	$0	$200,000	-$540,000	By recapturing 4 portables from Chemainus Elementary and avoiding the cost of 1 portable at Crofton, the District will avoid $740,000 in costs in 2019/2020 if the 6 & 7's move to Chemainus Secondary

As the Board Considers its Options, the Following Issues are Central:

- Change to unfamiliar/unknown situations
- Rumours of “high school culture”
- Short-term vs. long-term thinking and planning
- Trust and accountability for commitments
- The schools have strong and proud traditions
- Timelines for action are short

Short-Term = Continued Portable Acquisition

- Previous meetings have demonstrated that additional portables can be added to the sites over the next five years
- Portables at our elementary schools while there is space at the secondary schools will not allow the District make a business case to the Ministry of Education for a new school to serve the Crofton and Chemainus communities
- At $200,000 a unit (delivered and serviced) educational services will be reduced to pay for the portables

Long-Term = Utilization of Chemainus Secondary

- The Ministry **will only** consider a business case for a new school when all of the existing space in a community has been utilized
- The Board is responsible for making a decision that is sustainable and best directs limited education funds to services for students in the local communities and throughout the district

Discussion Time/Table Talk

- ***Regardless of the option that the Board chooses, how do we ensure that next year is a successful one for the students?***

Next Steps

- ***Prior to the beginning of the budget development process for the next school year, the Board will make a decision on the strategy for managing enrolment growth in the Chemainus and Crofton communities.***
- ***A Special Open Board meeting is being planned for February 27, 2019.***