



BACKGROUNDER

**TO: Board of Education
Open Meeting**

**FROM: Kevin Futchner
Secretary Treasurer**

DATE: 2017.03.14

RE: Cataline Elementary School – Road Safety Review

Since the major reconfiguration of schools that occurred in 2014, the Board of Education has experienced a change in traffic flow patterns at several schools.

Cataline Elementary School is the third school to be reviewed. District Staff has identified issues with the current traffic flow patterns of busses and regular vehicular traffic, safety and operational issues, around Cataline Elementary School. Last Spring, the Board of Education approved, through the Annual Facilities Grant Plan, to make improvements to the bus loop at Cataline Elementary School. The following process has occurred:

Step 1: Identify the Issue - COMPLETE

The school, along with the Facilities and Transportation Department, have identified issues with the current bus loop and traffic flow at Cataline Elementary School. These issues have been brought to my attention.

In an attempt to completely understand the issues and to begin the discussion of an improvement plan, district staff have met with the Cataline School staff and also with Transportation Department staff to identify and discuss possible solutions.

Step 2: Board Approval in Principle - COMPLETE

In this case, the Board must approve the plan to spend the Annual Facilities Grant. The Board recently approved the AFG spending plan, which included improvements to the Cataline Elementary School bus loop. This approval does not approve the actual plan for the changes; just that recommended changes are required.

Step 3: Develop a Plan for Consideration – IN PROGRESS

District Staff is now in the process of developing a feasible plan to improve the traffic flow. The feasibility study comprises of practicality, structural and financial considerations. Any input from staff should firstly flow through the school principal or through the CCTA and/or IUOE as appropriate.



Step 4: Board Approval of the Plan – FUTURE REQUIREMENT

The Board of Education is required to have final approval on any significant modifications to sites and facilities. (Policy 7220 Site Development). Once District Staff has a completed feasible plan, it will be presented to the Board, at an open meeting, for approval. At this point it would be the Board's prerogative to seek additional stakeholder and/or public input regarding the proposed site plan.

It should be noted that there was some preliminary concerns addressed by the PAC, one student, and a few SD27 employees regarding the proposal of relocating the bus loop away from the current parking facilities to north of the school. The concern was the reduction of the treed area and that it may affect the learning environment in relation to outdoor education opportunities. Initial discussions with senior educational officials is that, although the treed area will be reduced, it will not be eliminated for the whole property and there should not be an impairment for education.

District Staff have engaged the services of ICBC (at no cost to the Board) to prepare a formal Road Safety Review and make recommendations to address the safety and operational traffic issues at Cataline Elementary School. (the report is attached). It is noted that the 09 November 2016 ICBC report substantiates and endorses District Staff's initial recommendation.

Recommendation:

It is therefore recommended that the Board of Education approve, in principle, the plan to relocate the Bus Loop to the north side of Cataline Elementary School and redesign the two current parking lots to create a safer traffic pattern to meet the operational needs of the school. It is further recommended that the Board engage in a public consultation process that seeks input from the school, the school community, and the City of Williams Lake.

Final adoption of any plan would then be presented to the Board with the appropriate logistics and budget presented.

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