



## Frequently Asked Questions

The purpose of this document is to answer questions received during the consultation period that can be addressed with a simple or straight forward response.

**Q. What was the enrolment at district schools since 2010?**

A. Below is the historical enrolment information by school for the period 2010 to 2015. This information shows that the majority of schools have declined since 2010. Osoyoos and Tuc-el-Nuit elementary have remained stable and Oliver Elementary has increased.

September	SOSS	OKF	OES	OSE	TEN	OSS	CPS	SESS	YL.ca-CE	YL.ca-DL	YL.ca-ALT	Total
2010	491.63	93.00	305.00	316.00	219.00	269.50	195.00	388.00	14.88	42.75	32.00	2366.75
2011	489.00	118.00	309.00	317.00	217.00	281.38	198.00	377.13	20.38	43.63	24.00	2394.50
2012	479.81	120.00	300.00	319.00	200.00	283.38	177.00	393.13	11.63	58.63	20.00	2362.56
2013	472.19	144.00	317.00	308.00	217.00	265.25	168.00	386.63	9.38	50.13	20.00	2357.56
2014	462.56	120.00	303.00	314.00	221.00	250.25	172.00	378.44	3.13	55.88	10.00	2290.25
2015	448.19	104.00	331.00	317.00	214.00	230.88	158.00	359.88	0.00	59.88	0.00	2222.81

**Q. What is the grade by grade enrolment at each school?**

A. Below is the enrolment of each school by grade. This information shows lower enrolment numbers at the elementary grades than the secondary grades which indicates that declining enrolment will continue for the next several years.

OLIVER	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Southern Okanagan Secondary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	81	82	88	101	90	442
Oliver Elementary	41	28	47	41	41	47	54	41	0	0	0	0	0	340
Tuc-el-Nuit Elementary	16	22	40	35	30	20	34	16	0	0	0	0	0	213
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>90</b>	
Okanagan Falls Elementary	11	8	24	11	24	8	13	7	0	0	0	0	0	106
<b>Total with OKF</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>90</b>	

OSOYOOS	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Osoyoos Elementary	38	37	49	37	35	36	50	40	0	0	0	0	0	322
Osoyoos Secondary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	48	41	42	53	231
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>53</b>	

SIMILKAMEEN	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Cawston Primary	31	32	28	32	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	152
Similkameen Elem/Secondary	0	0	0	0	0	37	34	40	47	46	50	43	58	355
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>58</b>	

**Q. How will the board respond to the budget suggestions coming from the public consultation process?**

A. The Board will review the public budget suggestions as part of their 2016/17 budget process. The board has until June 30 to adopt their 2016/17 budget and will consider all recommendations during that process.

**Q. What is the process for the April 6 board meeting where the board will vote on the closure recommendations and will the public be able to address the board?**

A. The April 6 meeting is a special meeting of the Board of Education to discuss the two school closure recommendations. There is an opportunity for the public to speak to an item on the board agenda during "Public Forum". Public forum is generally limited to thirty (30) minutes as per Bylaw No. 26 "Public Participation at Board Meetings." Individuals wishing to speak during public forum complete a form prior to the start of the meeting and submit it to the secretary treasurer. The Board will then discuss the recommendations. There is a further opportunity for the public to address the board at the end of the meeting during "Question Period".

**Q. Is it possible for the Town of Osoyoos to raise additional taxes to support the schools in Osoyoos?**

A. This is an area that is the responsibility of the Town of Osoyoos. The amount of school tax is set by the provincial government; not the school district. Currently the Town collects school taxes and remits them to the provincial government. The provincial government then determines the funding available to school districts and distributes funding in accordance with a funding formula.

**Q. What are the savings from the shared positions of secretary treasurer and director of facilities?**

A. The annual savings from sharing the two positions with School District No. 74 is \$146,000. These savings come from \$140,000 in salaries and benefits and expenses of \$6,000.

**Q. Why have district administration supplies and services increased since 2010?**

A. Not all of the increases are district costs; some are related to school expenditures. Expense variances between 2010 and 2015 include:

- elementary school photocopier \$9,500
- increase in software costs for financial systems \$42,500
- printing costs - used to charge to each school but now paid from district budget \$14,600
- meeting furniture for training room in annex \$10,000
- increases in insurance, postage, advertising, bank charges, telephone \$16,500
- SOSS cafeteria losses after fire \$14,300
- purchase of district vehicle to reduce km charges \$37,000

**Q. Where did the funding for the network leaders come from?**

A. The network leaders' structure was funded by the elimination of the assistant superintendent position, reduction and reallocation of assistant superintendent and superintendent budgets, and a teacher staffing allocation.

**Q. Why can't the School Board Office in Oliver be sold to generate revenue to apply to the deficit?**

A. The school board office is on crown land and the disposal proceeds would be retained by crown.

**Q. The savings from eliminating the sexual health contract district wide would be approximately \$50,000- \$60,000 – is this correct?**

A. The sexual health contract has been eliminated effective June 30, 2016 at a savings of \$20,000.

**Q. What would be the process to establish a 4-day week and would it save \$500,000 per year?**

A. The school calendar legislation outlines the required consultation process and the school district must comply with the legislation. The dollar savings due to a 4-day week have not been calculated at this time, however, School District No. 51 has indicated an annual savings of \$212,000 with a majority of the savings coming from custodial and student transportation.

**Q. How many senior administrators do we have?**

A. The district's senior administration team includes the superintendent, a half-time secretary treasurer and a half-time director of facilities. The assistant superintendent position was eliminated in the spring of 2015.

**Q. How many principals and vice-principals are in the district?**

A. The district has 9 school principal and 6 vice principal positions. The principal and vice principal positions have a total teaching allocation of just over 5 full time equivalent teaching staff. This means that even if 5 principal or vice principal positions were eliminated; the district would have to hire 5 teachers at a cost of \$465,000 to cover the principal teaching time. There is also one principal of Student Services who has responsibilities for special education services.

**Q. How will the new timetable at OSS impact the capacity of the school?**

A. The new timetable will not change the capacity of the school, nor will it increase staffing to the school because both are based on head count number of students.

**Q. The district has said that \$4.765 million in facility upgrades for mechanical, electrical, structural and plumbing would be necessary for that facility if it were to remain operational as a secondary school, but not necessary if it were to convert to a K-9 school. Why is this?**

A. The \$600,000 is to renovate the school to accommodate K-9 students. The \$4.765 million is for capital systems upgrades that will be required regardless of the structure of the school if it remains open.

**Q: How does the closure of OSS resolve the financial problems?**

A. The closure of a school will not resolve the financial problems but will assist in reducing the board's annual operating expenses for 2016/17 and in future years. There is also maintenance and repairs cost avoidance.

**Q: What is the source of the funding for this \$674,000 expenditure?**

A. The board would be required to fund the \$674,000 from their annual facilities grant received from the Ministry of Education.

**Q. Why is there a capacity of 700 students at SOSS when it was previously 550?**

A. When the school was being renovated the tech and music buildings were not included in the totals because they did not require any renovations. Those spaces account for 175 new spaces that were not part of the original 550 capacity. The Ministry of Education has recently reviewed the SOSS floor plans and confirmed the number of 700.

**Q. What are the network leaders and how are they funded?**

A. Network leaders are teacher leaders situated in schools across the district. Their purpose is to work with classroom teachers on innovative teaching practices to improve student achievement and engagement. Seventy-one educators in our district are involved in ongoing work with the networks.

**Q. Why isn't the board considering the option of closing Tuc el Nuit Elementary?**

A. For 2016/17, elementary schools in Oliver will have a combined enrolment of 547 students. This is projected to decrease over the next few years provided no additional students arrive; however, it will still be over, or close to, the 500 student enrolment mark. Having this many students in Oliver Elementary School will result in educational challenges for students including the displacement of 5 early learning programs along with other programs such as fine arts that use a classroom. Staff did not recommend reconfiguring SOSS to an elementary-secondary school. This would not increase options for secondary students.

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Updated March 16, 2016  
School District No. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen)