



# SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

## **Neighbourhood Learning Center Initiative Mount Baker Secondary School**

### **Phase One: Community Consultation Process Summary Report – July 2010**

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## **Mount Baker Building Committee**

Chris Johns, SD5 Trustee, Chairperson

Trina Ayling, SD5 Trustee

Chris Ellis, SD5 Trustee

Jan Gordon-Hooker, SD5 Trustee

Dan Hall, SD5 Trustee

Frank Lento, SD5 Board Chair

Bill Gook, Superintendent

Rob Norum, Secretary-Treasurer

Debra Empson, Principal, Mount Baker Secondary School

# CONTENTS

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<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>School Replacement Requirements</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Preliminary NLC Work</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Community Consultations</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Common Themes</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Next Steps</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Appendix</b>	<b>46</b>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Between January and June 2010 the School District No. 5 *Mount Baker Building Committee* undertook direct consultations with community organizations in Cranbrook to receive and solicit feedback on the District's initiative to replace Mount Baker Secondary School (MBSS) with a *Neighbourhood Learning Centre (NLC)* designation.

Trustees Chris Johns and Trina Ayling consulted with over fifty (50) individual community organizations representing Aboriginal, Arts & Culture, Business, Community Service, Education, Government & Affiliated Agencies, and Support/Outreach groups. The majority of the discussions involved face-to-face interviews.

The results of *Phase One: Community Consultation Process* identified the following themes/services that might be housed within a *Neighbourhood Learning Center*:

- Community information "Hub"
- Community Meeting Rooms
- Alternate Education/Dual Credit/Practicum/Business Experience
- Daycare
- Youth Centre
- Before & After Child Care
- Key City Theatre (KCT)
- Community Greenhouse/Garden
- Use of Recreational Facilities/Amenities
- Art Gallery/Access to Arts
- In-house Cafeteria/Eating Space
- Safety/Well-Being
- Aboriginal presence
- Support Diversity
- Green Space/Green Building

During the summer of 2010 the *Mount Baker Building Committee* will build upon this foundational work and develop terms of reference for *Phase Two: Community Engagement Planning Process* to start in the fall of 2010. A facilitator will be hired to manage a public engagement plan based on the findings of this report.

## INTRODUCTION

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Mount Baker Secondary School is 60 years old and includes a number of building additions completed over the years. The core structures are now showing their age. Compromised timber support beams, structural cracks on bearing walls and ceilings and an outdated HVAC system are just a few of the problems.

In the spring of 2009, School District No 5 (SD5) commissioned a Facilities Assessment which confirmed that Mount Baker was, at that time, at only 44% of its optimal status. Accordingly, the Board of Education designated the school as the number one school replacement priority for the entire District. The Board also advised the Ministry of Education of this priority in its five-year Capital Plan.

Starting in 2008 the provincial government also began to advise Boards of Education across the province that a school must become “welcoming places where people of all ages can access learning and community services...reflecting the needs and priorities of the children, families and community it serves.”<sup>1</sup>

The community school concept was renamed several times over the course of 2008 and into 2009, first being called a “community of learning” then a “Neighbourhoods of Learning” (NoL) and finally *Neighbourhood Learning Centres (NLC)*.

The SD5 Board of Education formally embraced this concept as part of a Mount Baker Secondary School replacement in early 2009 and immediately began investigating the challenges and opportunities that could come with a new high school integrating such things as early learning or child-care programs, space for non-profit organizations, health clinics, sports programs, family resource or seniors’ centres, industry training, and so on.

Our initial research determined that the *Neighbourhood Learning Centre* concept was not new. Community schools have been operating for many years in Saskatchewan, Alberta and even here in BC. One of the oldest examples is Britannia Centre in Vancouver, which was created in 1974 integrating a wide range of services including an elementary and secondary school, a senior’s centre, a teen centre, as well as fitness facilities and meeting rooms.

More recently, Revelstoke moved forward with not one, but two, *Neighbourhood Learning Centres*. A new elementary school will house an early

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.neighbourhoodlearningcentres.gov.bc.ca/>

learning hub and medical services. A new secondary school will include a 275 seat theatre and provide coordinated health services that include an on-site social worker, mental health services and substance abuse prevention.

It should be noted also that SD5 had experience in managing a community school of its own for a number of years. The former Muriel Baxter school site housed an alternate education program, a distance learning program, a daycare, and the school was also utilized by various community groups. Muriel Baxter was demolished in 2008 with the alternate and distance education programs moving into spaces in other school facilities.

Obviously, the most important facet of the *NLC* initiative is community consultation. According to the provincial government Boards of Education should “consult with community partners and organizations to find unique and innovative ways to design schools with community use in mind and create places where people have better access to educational and community services.”<sup>2</sup>

However, beyond this aspirational statement no *NLC* development templates or instructions were provided for Boards to meet this objective. Instead, Boards were left to develop their own consultation processes.<sup>3</sup>

This presented both opportunities and challenges for our District. While the lack of structure allows our District to customize our approach to meet the unique needs of our community, the broad scope required a substantial investment of Trustee and District time, staffing costs and resources to develop from scratch a process that will ultimately have to be accepted by both the community and the Ministry of Education.

The *Mount Baker Building Committee* began preliminary work around community consultations through 2009. Between January and June 2010 Trustees Chris Johns and Trina Ayling consulted with over fifty (50) community groups to receive and solicit feedback on the District’s initiative to replace Mount Baker Secondary School (MBSS) within a *Neighbourhood Learning Centre* designation. The results of *Phase One: Community Consultation Process* are included in the following pages.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.neighbourhoodlearningcentres.gov.bc.ca/>

<sup>3</sup> It should be noted that the Ministry of Education’s capital plan requirements for school replacement remained unchanged.

## SCHOOL REPLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS

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Before discussing our efforts around the *Neighbourhood Learning Centre*, it is important to understand the current school replacement requirements as set out by the Ministry of Education (MoE).

Each year Boards of Education across the province are required to submit a 5-year Capital Plan to the Ministry of Education outlining their respective priorities for capital investment. These plans must include each District's identification of which school building projects are considered a priority for replacement.<sup>4</sup>

Once a Board identifies a school for replacement, a Project Identification Report (PIR) is submitted to the Capital Management Branch of the Ministry of Education, defining a project's scope and assisting government in determining when Capital Project Funding for the project will be approved.

Under the Capital Project Funding Agreement, the Ministry is the funding authority and the Board of Education takes the role of owner and project developer. During school replacement, Boards are responsible for designing and constructing school buildings to specified standards as determined by the MoE.

The MoE provides comprehensive Capital Plan instructions to Districts that outline Capital Cost Drivers (i.e. enrolment changes, facility age and building condition, etc), Capital Plan timelines, submissions and budgets.

When planning for school replacement Boards of Education adhere to guidelines regarding everything from school area requirements (size) and site development to municipal by-law requirements.

School size is based on a number of variables including capacity (i.e. projected number of students), the function of each space (i.e. general instruction, specialized education shops such as industrial, home economics, fine arts, etc), locker and storage, circulation, washrooms, mechanical equipment, and so on. For example, general instruction space is usually around 80 m<sup>2</sup>, while an industrial shop could be as large as 275 m<sup>2</sup>.<sup>5</sup>

Based on current capacity utilization and function, it is possible that Mount Baker Secondary school may be approved at a lower total square meter size than exists currently. However, other Districts have been allotted up to 15% of separate additional space for *NLC* projects.

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<sup>4</sup> See [http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/departments/resource\\_man/capitalmanagement.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/departments/resource_man/capitalmanagement.htm) and <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/capitalplanning/>

<sup>5</sup> Ministry of Education, Province of British Columbia - Area Standards (01/2003)

## PRELIMINARY NLC WORK

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*"In concert with local governments, Neighbourhood Learning Centres will integrate neighbourhood needs with available capital resources and under-utilized spaces."*

- Premier Campbell, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010.<sup>6</sup>

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 the Mount Baker Secondary School Parent Advisory Council (PAC) sent the newly elected SD5 Board of Education a letter advising Trustees about a number of structural challenges in the school as well as a growing interest by many in the community around what was referred to as a "community of learning" (see Appendix 1a).

On January 7<sup>th</sup> Trustees Trina Ayling, Pat Casey,<sup>7</sup> Dan Hall and Chris Johns toured the school along with MBSS Administrators, PAC parent representatives, and MLA Bill Bennett. Discussion centered on safety issues, space issues, the Key City Theatre (which is physically attached to the high school), and other concerns – as well as a new "vision" for the school (see Appendix 1b).

On January 21<sup>st</sup> Trustees Johns and Ayling met with MBSS administrators, Tom Walkley, SD5 Manager of Facilities, and Gregg Brown of KMBR Architects Planners Inc. to discuss the Feasibility study Mr. Brown had been hired by SD5 to conduct (see Appendix 1c).

On February 6<sup>th</sup> the recently formed, parent-initiated MBSS Community Vision Committee held a brainstorming session at the Prestige Inn for what was now being referred to as a *Neighbourhoods of Learning* (NoL) initiative. Trustees Ayling, Hall and Johns, SD5 Superintendent Bill Gook and Secretary-Treasurer Rob Norum were in attendance.

Between February and May 2009 the MBSS Community Vision Committee:

- Hosted a follow-up brainstorming session and two design charrette workshops (i.e. working session of stakeholders to provide input into MBSS design and partnership ideals)

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<sup>6</sup> [http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2010PREM0024-000143.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010PREM0024-000143.htm)

<sup>7</sup> Sadly, Trustee Casey passed away earlier this year. Following a by-election Trustee Jan Gordon-Hooker took on her former position on the Committee.



- Requested SD5 forward to the Ministry of Education the MBSS Community Vision Committee's body of work, including its "mission document", eleven community support letters, supporter contact information and documents.

Between February and October 2009, the Board of Education passed the following motions:

- Appointed all Cranbrook Trustees and the SD5 Board Chair to be Trustee representatives on the MBSS Community Vision Committee
- To write a comprehensive letter to MLA Bill Bennett requesting further information on NoLs
- Establishing the *SD5 Mount Baker Building Committee* consisting of SD5 Trustees, Superintendent, Secretary-Treasurer and MBSS Principal
- Approving the Capital Project Amendment Bylaw indicating MBSS as the District's No. 1 priority school replacement
- Making an application to the MoE for MBSS Replacement as a pilot project under the designation of NoL (see Appendix 1e).
- Initiating on-going correspondence with the MoE (see Appendix 1f).

During this time SD5 Trustees also undertook the following initiatives:

- Attended all of the MBSS Community Vision Committee sessions and workshops
- Forwarded SD5's Project Identification Report (PIR) to the Ministry of Education
- Met three times as the *Mount Baker Building Committee*
- Met with MLA Bill Bennett to discuss NoL designation
- Maintained on-going correspondence with the MoE

Between November 2009 and June 2010 the *SD5 Mount Baker Building Committee*:

- Held ad-hoc *SD5 Mount Baker Building Committee* meetings and provided regular, monthly progress updates to the Board of Education
- Reviewed the Key City Theatre memorandum of agreement between the SD5 Board of Education and the City of Cranbrook

- Reviewed the lease agreement between SD5 and the *Key City Theatre Society* (KCTS)
- Appointed Trustee Ayling to sit as the SD5 designate on KCTS Board and to update and maintain ongoing communication between SD5 and the KCTS with regard to the *Neighbourhood Learning Centre* initiative
- Contacted, or were contacted by and met with fifty (50) community groups and organizations to receive input on the community's vision for a *NLC* in Cranbrook, including the City of Cranbrook, the KCTS, Aboriginal groups, the Cranbrook District Teachers' Association (CDTA) and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) (see Appendix 1g).
- Presented the SD5 *NLC* initiative's progress to the Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce, the Cranbrook Social Planning Committee and the City of Cranbrook's *Family and Communities sub-committee*
- Made a presented to Minister of Education, Margaret McDiarmid and MLA Bill Bennett on the SD5 *NLC* initiative and discussed SD5's work toward receiving replacement approval for MBSS within the designation of a *NLC*
- Met with representatives of the *Columbia Basin Trust* and the *Fraser Basin Council* to discuss future support for *Phase Two* of the public consultation process, the *Community Engagement Planning Process*
- Applied for and received a \$30,000 grant from *School Community Connections* for consultation and planning of a *NLC*
- Maintained on-going correspondence with community partner groups
- Maintained on-going correspondence with Cranbrook PACs
- Maintained on-going correspondence with the community of Cranbrook via media press releases
- Maintained on-going correspondence with the MoE and MLA Bill Bennett

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

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The community groups and organizations consulted during SD5's *Phase One: Community Consultation Process* are listed below by category<sup>8</sup>. A brief overview of the committee/organization is provided, as well as each group's feedback on the *NLC* initiative.

*Phase One* began with an initial list of twenty-plus groups and organizations identified by the parent-PAC initiated *MBSS Vision Committee*. As Trustees Johns and Ayling began consulting with these groups, other organizations and groups either contacted --or were referred to--them by another group or committee.

### **Aboriginal**

#### **College of the Rockies (COTR), Faculty Aboriginal Education**

Through the collaboration of an Aboriginal Education coordinator, *Aboriginal Students' Association* and *Aboriginal Advisory Committee* the COTR identifies and provides appropriate, relevant programming and support for Aboriginal people seeking further education or training.

Potential opportunity exists in expanding SD5's current partnership with the COTR around dual credit program offerings to Aboriginal students, especially those programs specific to Aboriginal culture or kinesthetic learning styles.

#### **Ktunaxa Nation Regional Social Governance**

The *Ktunaxa Nation Regional Social Governance Committee* is currently working collaboratively with a number of local government bodies and agencies, including SD5, toward a social services (health, education etc.) delivery model that will assist the Nation and Aboriginal people in achieving a number of identified social investment outcomes.

Currently engaged in research on services available to and needed by Aboriginal people residing in Ktunaxa traditional territory, the *Ktunaxa Nation Regional Social Governance Committee* recognizes that there may be potential for a *NLC* to provide evening and weekend access to facilities such as a community kitchen, inexpensive laundry facilities, recreational facilities and meeting rooms.

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<sup>8</sup> A community group or organization may fit into more than one category but will only be listed in one.

In addition, information and activities to help connect Aboriginal people to their culture, dental and vision screening services, elder outreach programs, access to computers and internet and a drop-in, friendship, youth or emergency centre would also be beneficial to the Aboriginal community.

### **Mount Baker Secondary School (MBSS), Elders in Residence Program**

Elders have integral roles and responsibilities within Aboriginal culture and are important within Aboriginal communities. The Elders in Residence program provides an inviting space in MBSS where Aboriginal elders are accessible to youth. Elders connect with youth to discuss both personal and cultural issues and are also available to work with youth on specific projects.

SD5 strives to provide all students with access to people, programs and resources that enable them to reach their full potential. The District also recognizes that many Aboriginal students may require different and/or additional resources than have been traditionally offered to students.

The Elders in Residence program envisions a *NLC* that provides a safe, non-judgmental environment where Aboriginal students, families and elders can provide support for one another and also access a continuity of Aboriginal history, culture and service information.

### **St. Mary's Indian Band**

St. Mary's Indian Band is based in the Kootenay District of BC and are part of the Ktunaxa Kinbasket Tribal Council. The City of Cranbrook resides in Ktunaxa traditional territory.

The Ktunaxa Nation shares a rich history and culture with both the land and the people of Cranbrook. Incorporating Ktunaxa art, language and culture more fully into the physical structure of a new MBSS *NLC* could increase community appreciation for and pride in persons of Aboriginal ancestry.

Interest was also expressed with regard to housing an on-site community information "hub" that includes a part-time Aboriginal presence and a safe, non-judgmental environment for Aboriginal students, families and elders.

## **Arts & Cultural**

### **Cranbrook & District Arts Council (CDAC)**

The Council supports youth in Cranbrook by displaying MBSS student art in its gallery and through its partnership with the *Cranbrook Rotary Club* in a project to raise funds for the establishment of a *Community and Youth Cultural Centre*.

Arts in our community could be further supported through a shared educational/community space for art instruction, rehearsal/performance areas, meeting rooms and art gallery space.

### **Key City Theatre (KCT) Society**

Key City Theatre is physically connected to MBSS. The Theatre was established via a joint venture between SD5 and the City of Cranbrook. The School District provided the land and an existing school gymnasium, and the City of Cranbrook provided funding to renovate the school gymnasium into the present KCT facility.

Throughout *Phase One: Community Consultation Process*, KCT was consistently identified as an important community asset.

While there are many potential logistical and administrative challenges around ensuring that the KCT is able to exist beyond the current MBSS building, there are also many opportunities to be explored around theatre location, size and community partnerships. The KCT Society is committed to exploring all options available to ensure the Theatre's future.

SD5 is in on-going communication with the KCT Society through Trustee Ayling, who currently sits on the *Key City Theatre Society* Board. SD5 continues to partner and consult with the KCT and the City of Cranbrook around the *NLC* initiative.

## **Business**

### **Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce**

On February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Trustee Ayling presented "*The ABC's in Neighbourhood Renewal*" to the Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce, which introduced Chamber members to some of the structural challenges Key City Theatre faces with the replacement of MBSS.

Trustee Ayling's presentation also highlighted information about the *NLC* concept and initiative and invited Chamber members to consider how local businesses might partner with SD5 in the development of a *NLC* (see Appendix 2a).

## **Community Service**

### **Big Brothers Big Sisters**

*Big Brothers Big Sisters*, in addition to providing one-on-one community and school-based mentoring and friendship to children aged 6 -16, provides a school-based group mentoring program for girls aged 12 – 14 called “Go Girls”. The program is designed to encourage physical activity, healthy eating choices and the development of positive self esteem.

A similar program, “Game On”, is an evidence-based mentoring program for boys presently being developed to address the physical activity, healthy eating, nutrition, self-esteem and communication skills of male youth.

An on-site community information “hub”, a part-time presence of *Big Brothers Big Sisters*, access to meeting rooms, gymnasium and a community kitchen located in the *NLC* could assist in youth mentoring sessions and activities.

### **Community Action Program for Children (CAPC)**

CAPC offers free drop-in programs for families with young children from birth to age six.

A *NLC* could support young families by providing a licensed daycare and child support programs with priority placement for young parents wishing to complete their high school Dogwood Diploma.

In order to support families with youth, it was suggested that a *NLC* could provide an inclusive youth centre that offers amenities like a pool table, ping pong, organized games etc. and an opportunity for bands to perform in the evenings.

Use of the school gymnasium and equipment storage space made available for community programs, a community garden and a cooking program could also support programs like CAPC.

As the parent of a MBSS student, Ms. Sinhart, who runs the CAPC program, also suggests enhancing the green space around MBSS with additional trees, benches and a courtyard. Providing a pleasant space for students to eat lunch as well as a designated “smoking pit” (similar to the one at the College of the Rockies) could

greatly reduce the number of student loitering in the street and Baker Street Mall.<sup>9</sup>

Providing climbing structures similar to the play structure at Parkland Middle School would encourage safe, appropriate physical activity for students.

### **Community Connections Society (CCS)**

The CCS sponsors a number of community programs including the new *Kootenay Child Health and Development Centre* and the *East Kootenay Supported Child Development Program* (EKSCD).

The EKSCD provides an outreach support service to children with developmental delays or disability aged birth to nineteen (19) who require extra support to participate in a child care program, become involved in their community and increase life skills.

A *NLC* could enhance many CCS-supported programs by providing a licensed daycare with priority placement for young parents wishing to complete their high school Dogwood Diploma, child support programs, before and after school care and an inclusive youth centre available evening and weekends, twelve months a year.

The CCS has experience with integrating various community groups into a single facility and indicated that housing an on-site community information “hub” staffed daily with access to information and/or personnel such as mental and sexual health, addictions, social work councilors, public health and employment opportunities etc. could be very beneficial to the community.

### **Community Harm Reduction**

Community Harm Reduction, a survey program across Canada, looks at useful and innovative programs and practices intended to increase public awareness and understanding of harm reduction strategies for increased physical and emotional well being.

A *NLC* could enhance the emotional well-being of our community by facilitating increased connection between students and seniors in our community by providing space for mentoring and the sharing of personal experiences in context to past historic local, national and world events.

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<sup>9</sup> However, we note that the Board of Education must still adhere to the Tobacco Control Act which states that in all BC schools (K-12) both public and private space be totally tobacco-free.

A stronger Aboriginal presence in both the physical structure of the *NLC* and the programs offered at MBSS could also enhance the emotional well-being of our community as could a youth centre inclusive of all youth in the community.

### **Cranbrook Boys and Girls Club**

For forty years the *Cranbrook Boys and Girls Club* has provided a safe, fun and supportive environment for children from all economic, cultural and social backgrounds up to the age of twelve.

Presently MBSS students can gain practicum experience in areas such as early learning and physical education. Providing increased opportunity for students to participate in this type of practicum experience could provide additional service to children in the *Cranbrook Boys and Girls Club* while accommodating more students wishing to gain practicum experience in these areas.

### **Cranbrook Community Social Planning Committee**

On March 8<sup>th</sup> Trustee Ayling presented to the *Cranbrook Community Social Planning Committee* on the *NLC* initiative.

The *Committee* works to increase community capacity and education about social planning and is in the process of creating a “clearinghouse” of community information and education. This process appears to share some similarity to the community information “hub” concept suggested for inclusion in the *NLC* by many community groups.

### **Cranbrook Early Child Development (ECD) Committee**

The *Cranbrook Early Child Development Committee* works to increase awareness of and participation in quality early childhood development services, increase community partnerships and improve services for young children and their families.

In advocating for quality early childhood development support and practices the ECD believes there is a need to provide "wrap-around" services and supports (i.e. services that address social issues related to family well-being) to youth and families, such as a community information "hub", a licensed daycare and child care support programs with priority placement for young parents wishing to complete their high school Dogwood Diploma. Before and after school care were also suggested.



The ECD committee, as a tenant at the Cranbrook Family Connections building, also identified a need to provide an inclusive youth centre available evening and weekends, twelve months a year.

In addition, the ECD committee believes families and students could benefit from access to a community greenhouse, kitchen facilities, gymnasium and meeting rooms housed within the *NLC*.

### **Cranbrook Family Connections (CFC)**

CFC is a multidimensional community hub that provides central access to a wide range of services including *Better Babies*, *ANKORS*, *Big Brothers Big Sisters*, *Options for Sexual Health* and the *Community Action Program for Children* (CAPC).

As an existing community hub, CFC is familiar with the many benefits of housing a number of diverse but complementary program offerings under one roof as well as some of the challenges this type of coordinated effort entails.

CFC has also identified some of the needs in the community that a *NLC* could potentially fill such as child support programs, licensed daycare with priority placement for young parents wishing to complete their high school Dogwood Diploma, before and after school care and an inclusive youth centre available evening and weekends, twelve months a year.

Additional opportunity lay in housing an on-site community information “hub” and making meeting rooms available to community groups in order to accommodate youth information sessions that deal with topics such as parent/teen conflict, date rape, bullying, home and dating violence etc.

A *NLC* that is open evenings and weekends could also provide a more welcoming educational environment for the SD5 Senior Alternate students and more flexibility as to when this program could be offered.

CFC would also like to ensure that the new MBSS/*NLC* retain as much “green space” as possible. This may entail providing a “storied” building with parking made available underground.

In addition, a designated “smoking pit” (similar to the one at the College of the Rockies) would provide students with a safer environment for smoking than “across the street” currently offers and reduce the likelihood of these students being exposed to “undesireable” people or practices.

### **Cranbrook Food Action Committee**

The *Cranbrook Food Action Committee* promotes activities in our community that support access to nutritious, safe, ecologically friendly foods while supporting our local economy.

Enhancing student learning and community health by providing students with opportunities to run and operate a greenhouse and root cellar, sell fresh produce to local businesses, use fresh-grown produce in the school culinary arts program and operating a food kiosk, sustaining a hot meals program and initiating a community-accessible kitchen was suggested.

Other ideas generated by the *Cranbrook Food Action Committee* include a sensory garden, observatory, art gallery, theatre, community meeting rooms, community information “hub” and youth centre.

### **Cranbrook Rotary Club**

The *Cranbrook Rotary Club* is an action-oriented service organization focused on increasing and improving sustainable community initiatives for the benefit of Cranbrook citizens.

A *NLC* available to the community evenings and weekends, twelve months a year was considered extremely beneficial to the citizens of Cranbrook. Specific uses identified by the *Cranbrook Rotary Club* include a daycare, before and after school services, and evening/weekend access to sports groups.

The *Cranbrook Rotary Club* also indicated that they may be able to provide support such as funding, fund-raising, grant writing or in-kind donations and word-of-mouth for this initiative.

### **East Kootenay Infant Development Society (EKIDP)**

The *East Kootenay Infant Development Society* (EKIDP) helps families with children who are at risk for developmental problems, have identified delay or a diagnosed disability. Trained professionals provide families with information on available services, child development and specific skills to help with a child’s progress. They are also a sponsor of the *Kootenay Child Health and Development Centre*.

Supporting young families through the provision of sustainable and flexible child care for young parents pursuing their high school education, developing a multi-purpose community centre for parent/child playgroups and providing after school and evening activities for children, youth and families was suggested.

The *Mount Baker Building Committee* also appreciates that the EKIDP may be able to provide in-kind staffing hours to support some of the services outlined above.

### **East Kootenay Children First**

*East Kootenay Children First* increases community planning and develops quality early childhood services in the community. It builds community partnerships that improve services for young children and families in Cranbrook and the region.

Working with local and regional governments *East Kootenay Children First* helps organizations to assist families of children ages 0-6 with services that enhance the development of a child's emotional, social, cognitive and physical skills.

*East Kootenay Children First* also hosts presentations and meeting space for community groups to gather for seminars, training or for informal sharing as a way to support young families. A *NLC* could provide additional meeting space for these types of activities.

The *Mount Baker Building Committee* also appreciates that the *East Kootenay Children First* may be able to provide in-kind support to early child development areas of the *NLC* initiative in the form of research, project coordination and administrative labour.

### **East Kootenay Seniors' Coalition**

At present the *East Kootenay Seniors' Coalition* has not indicated a need to utilize space in a *NLC*. However, the idea of providing meeting space and a central community information "hub" where seniors could access information and /or qualified staff around various community services was identified as potentially beneficial for seniors.

### **Safe Communities Cranbrook Committee**

Cranbrook received designation by *Safe Communities Canada* in 2009 in recognition of the City's commitment to a culture of safety and injury prevention. Application for this designation was submitted by volunteers, professional practitioners, local business, government and community organizations.

The partnerships that made this designation possible parallels both the cooperative nature of a successful *NLC* and the desire expressed by a number of

community groups for a *NLC* that supports an educational continuum committed to promoting “healthiest choices” for our community.

### **Summit Community Services Society**

*Summit Community Services Society* provides a number of programs and services that support families in the Cranbrook and Kimberley area including counseling, intervention services, support programs, parenting enhancement, resource service and daycare services.

The *Society* has provided student support staff in the Cranbrook SD5 Alternate program for ten years and there may be opportunity for increased partnership between *Summit Community Services Society* and SD5 through a coordinated continuum of quality, accessible, client-centered support and intervention services.

## **Education**

### **Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Local 4165**

CUPE represents SD5 support workers. Input from this stakeholder group, like that of teachers, will be fundamental to the success of any *NLC* initiative.

As Canada’s largest union CUPE wants to ensure that care is taken to ensure that both work jurisdiction and job designation issues for CUPE employees are appropriately addressed as the *NLC* initiative moves forward.

### **College of the Rockies (COTR)**

The *College of the Rockies* offers a number of post-secondary academic and apprenticeship programs. Presently the COTR and SD5 partner on a number of dual credit programs, enabling secondary students to transition into trades while receiving credits toward their High School Dogwood Diploma.

Potential opportunity exists for expanding our partnership to include additional trades and for MBSS students to receive some university credits while still in high school.

### **Cranbrook District Teachers’ Association (CDTA)**

The *Cranbrook District Teachers' Association* is the local teachers' association for Cranbrook. Input from our teachers, like the MBSS administration and staff, will be fundamental to the success of any *NLC* initiative.

The CDTA provides both suggestions and cautions as we move ahead with this initiative. Like many other community groups, the CDTA has expressed interest in a *NLC* that supports youth and families by providing licensed daycare, before and after school child care programs, an expansion of dual credit programs into additional trades and academics, as well as opportunities for students to run and operate small businesses such as a greenhouse or cafeteria.

CDTA expressed concerns that only not-for-profit organizations are housed within the limited space available to accommodate a *NLC* and do not wish to see essential services such as a library or staff parking sacrificed to accommodate non-educational programs or services.

### **Mount Baker Secondary School (MBSS) Administration and Staff**

Traditionally, the Board of Education encourages schools approved for replacement to provide considerable input into the school's design layout but any design ideas must still conform to the school replacement requirements as set out by the Ministry of Education (see page 7 above).

While SD5 continues to encourage this practice with regard to the educational components of the building, the addition of *NLC* designation requires that the community at large provide the majority of input into *NLC* components of the school.

The input received from the current MBSS staff does reflect many of the concepts presented to the *Mount Baker Building Committee* during *Phase One: Community Consultation Process*, including retaining a theatre, providing daycare services, increasing practicum and dual credit opportunities for students and building a "green" facility<sup>10</sup>.

### **Mount Baker Secondary School (MBSS) PAC**

The MBSS PAC was involved in the initial work of the Mount Baker Vision Committee (see below) and receives regular updates on *Mount Baker Building Committee* progress from their school Trustee representative, Chris Johns.

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<sup>10</sup> See <http://newmountbaker.blogspot.com/p/home.html> to view MBSS administration, staff and student input

## **Mount Baker Vision Committee**

The Mount Baker Vision Committee was a PAC-parent led initiative born out of a “desire to engage our youth and to create an environment for personal prosperity within Cranbrook”. Further information provided by the Mount Baker Vision Committee can be reviewed at the SD5 website [www.sd5.bc.ca](http://www.sd5.bc.ca)

## **Parents of Cranbrook SD5 students, K – 12**

In February, 2010, SD5 sent a newsletter outlining the work that the *Mount Baker Building Committee* had completed to that point in time as well as the overall vision of a *NLC* (Appendix 2b). Individual school Parent Advisory Committees (PACs) as well as the District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC) receive regular progress updates.

In addition, the SD5 Communications/Media committee provides media with regular updates on *NLC* progress, disseminated to the public via radio and newsprint.

## **School District No. 19 (Revelstoke)**

In November, 2009, SD19 received *NLC* designation for its secondary and elementary schools, both of which had received prior replacement approval from the Ministry of Education (MoE). Revelstoke Secondary school/*NLC* will include a 275-seat theatre and will offer an on-site social worker, mental health services and substance abuse prevention.

Revelstoke Elementary school will become the first BC early-learning hub to provide seamless service delivery for children from infancy to school age and will include medical, dental, literacy and community service programs. It will also include an acrobatic centre.

In April, 2010, Trustees Johns and Ayling, Superintendent Bill Gook and Secretary-Treasurer Rob Norum attended a telephone conference meeting with Superintendent Anne Cooper and Board Chair Alan Chell of SD19 to discuss their process of community consultation and partnering<sup>11</sup>.

Although their consultation period for SD19’s *NLC* initiative was very brief given the immediacy of building construction, SD19’s partnerships—especially with the City of Revelstoke—were identified as instrumental in moving the project forward.

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<sup>11</sup>See "Revelstoke Schools Project: Neighbourhoods of Learning Proposal", May 22, 2009 at <http://www.sd19.bc.ca/pdf%20Files%20for%20Website/Neighbourhoods%20of%20Learning%20Presentation%20.pdf>

## **Young Parents Education Program (YPEP)**

*Young Parents Education Program* is a local partnership including the *Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL)*, the *College of the Rockies (COTR)* the *Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child and Family Services Society*, the *Community Connections Society*, School District No. 5 and others.

The program runs four days per week and provides an opportunity for young parents between the ages of 16 to 24 with children under school age to work toward their high school Dogwood Diploma.

Academic instruction is provided by a COTR instructor three days per week. CBAL coordinates the program and provides a variety of learning opportunities including parenting, and life and workplace skills one day per week.

Parents and children attend the program together. While there is no licensed daycare facility, Early Childhood Education (ECE) professionals do provide a child care program while parents attend class. Providing appropriate child care remains one of the biggest funding challenges for this type of program.

Young families --and other members of the community-- could benefit from presentation and meeting space for instruction in health and nutrition, first aide, communication, study and job search skills etc.

Classroom space made available for evening literacy classes for young adults and seniors, English as a second language and computer literacy were also considered areas that a *NLC* could potentially address.

The addition of both a community information “hub” and a literacy “hub” would provide much-needed support and information to Cranbrook citizens of all ages and backgrounds.

## **Government & Affiliated Agencies**

### **City of Cranbrook, Mayor and Council**

SD5 and the City of Cranbrook have been in partnership around the *Key City Theatre (KCT)* initiative for almost twenty years. Building of the theatre was a joint venture between the District and the City in which SD5 provided the land and an existing school gymnasium and the City of Cranbrook provided funding to renovate the gymnasium into the current KCT facility.

KCT is physically connected to MBSS. Throughout *Phase One: the Community Consultation Process*, the KCT has consistently been identified as an important community asset.

The City's *Cranbrook Cultural Plan for Arts and Heritage*, also states that "regardless of ownership, whether by School District No. 5 or the Key City Theatre Society, plans should be made to upgrade the Key City Theatre to meet a higher level of audience and performer needs."<sup>12</sup>

While there are many potential logistical and administrative challenges around ensuring that the KCT is able to exist beyond the current MBSS building, there are also many new opportunities to be explored around Theatre location, size and partnerships.

Opportunities for further cooperation between SD5 and the City of Cranbrook may also exist with regard to the City of Cranbrook's downtown revitalization efforts.

### **City of Cranbrook, Family and Community Services Committee**

The City of Cranbrook's *Family and Community Services Committee* was initiated by Mayor and Council to address current issues specific to family and community services in Cranbrook.

Members of the *Mount Baker Building Committee* presented to the *Family and Community Services Committee* on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010. The City committee was invited to encourage community groups and businesses to become involved in SD5's upcoming *Phase Two: Community Engagement Planning Process*.

### **Columbia Basin Trust (CBT)**

The *Mount Baker Building Committee* sought input from the *Columbia Basin Trust* because of their focus on assisting communities in addressing local priorities, bringing people together around key issues and encouraging collaboration and partnerships.

Although it is not part of the CBT's mandate to assist local government bodies like SD5 with funding for these endeavours, the CBT was able to provide the *Mount Baker Building Committee* with valuable information about community sustainability and community engagement planning processes.

### **Cranbrook Family Justice Services**

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<sup>12</sup> *Cranbrook Cultural Plan for Arts and Heritage*, February 2010, page 23



*Cranbrook Family Justice Services* is a community resource focused on providing mediation and dispute resolution information and support to families, children and youth when parents separate.

Providing a safe, non-judgmental environment with a central community information “hub” where individuals can access information around various community services from qualified staff and audio/visual media information accessed through the use of an on-site TV, DVD or computer located in a small private viewing area was suggested.

### **Cranbrook Leisure Services**

There is a long-standing “joint-use” agreement between SD5 and Cranbrook Leisure Services in which the City acts as booking agent for after-hour use of School District facilities (i.e. MBSS dance studio, classrooms and school gymnasiums etc). In return, the City provides access for SD5 to utilize City recreation facilities such as the aquatic centre, tennis courts, parks and arenas.

As the District moves forward with the *NLC* initiative it is important that care is taken to preserve the “joint-use” agreement in order that the school may be accessible to the community beyond regular school hours and that the process for community use remains organized and well-coordinated.

Cranbrook Leisure Services has also indicated that were the *NLC* to house an additional auxiliary gymnasium, community-based sports programs would be better able to service the community.

In addition, the use of tables and chairs in place of student desks would create multi-use classrooms that could be used as evening meeting rooms or to accommodate community leisure classes that require work space larger than that which a traditional desk can provide.

### **Fraser Basin Council (FBC)**

FBC provides resources and tools to local and First Nations governments for planning socially, culturally, economically and environmentally sustainable communities.

Members of the *Mount Baker Building Committee* will be meeting with the Fraser Basin Council over the summer of 2010 to discuss *Phase Two: the Community Engagement Planning Process*.

*Phase Two* will include the hiring of a professional engagement facilitator to coordinate public engagement activities, identify key information and develop capacity around the *NLC* initiative.

A grant of \$30,000 from the *School Community Connections* (SCC) program, a joint initiative of the *BC School Trustees Association* and the *Union of BC Municipalities*, has been obtained to fund *Phase Two* of our process.

### **Interior Health**

Trustees Johns and Ayling met with Interior Health representatives, including the Senior Health Inspector, Population Health Facilitator, Child and Youth Program Consultant, Public Health Nurse assigned to Mount Baker Secondary School, and the Program Administrator, Mental Health & Addictions/Aboriginal Services, East Kootenay, Kootenay Boundary Health Service Area (EKKBHSA). Discussions included the potential for expanding our existing partnership around the Healthy Schools initiative into broader-based health and wellness needs throughout our community.

Opportunity may exist for collaboration around linking SD5 students with *Interior Health* to provide information and support around healthy lifestyle choices, sexual health and mental health and/or addictions challenges.

As Public Health nursing continues to promote Healthy School initiatives in MBSS, a *NLC* could provide designated space for visiting health promotion support staff to connect with students in a private, confidential setting.

There may also be opportunity for *Interior Health* to provide information around career options in health care, offer work shadowing, etc.

### **Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD), Child Youth w/ Special Needs**

The Children and Youth with Special Needs program provides services and supports to children who have developmental disabilities, autism and extraordinary medical needs.

Services include group programs, one on one support, behavioural support and respite programs with a goal that every child has the support they need to grow into healthy, successful adults.

A *NLC* could assist in addressing the needs of developmentally disabled youth in our community through after-school and/or summer programs, especially by enhancing programs and services to youth between the ages of 12 to 19.

### **Royal Canadian Mounted Police**

Currently, SD5 benefits from a RCMP and *East Kootenay Addictions Services Society* partnership --the *East Kootenay Community Prevention Education Continuum* (CPEC). This continuum includes programs like the P.A.R.T.Y. (*Prevent Alcohol and Risk Related Trauma*) program for secondary school students and the D.A.R.E. (*Drug Abuse Resistance Education*) program for elementary students. These initiatives are consistent with the RCMP's *National Youth Strategy* aimed at reducing crime and victimization and helping youth become contributing members of society.

#### Cranbrook Detachment

Involvement in a *NLC* by RCMP that focuses time and energy toward engaging and assisting our youth to stay safe in our community is suggested.

#### Drugs & Organized Crime Awareness

The CPEC requires community partnerships that can assist the RCMP in delivering consistent drug prevention strategies through positive messaging and education. The nature of a *NLC* is to build supportive community relationships. Exploring how this type of prevention strategy could work in a *NLC* is recommended.

### **Support & Outreach**

#### **ANKORS (Aids Network Outreach & Support East Kootenays)**

ANKORS is a not-for-profit organization that provides sexual health information and services to individuals in a safe, non-judgmental environment and also serves individuals living with or at high-risk for HIV, AIDS and HCV. Many of their clients also deal with social barriers such as mental illness and/or minority status due to sexual orientation, gender identity, race or ethnicity.

ANKORS advocates providing our youth with "healthiest choices" by building upon an education continuum that includes an access point to sexual health and wellness information.

Developing a community resource room, or "community hub", within the MBSS *NLC* is recommended.

#### **Better Babies Pregnancy Outreach Program**

*Better Babies* is a not-for-profit outreach program that provides services and ongoing support to families from the pre-natal stage through a baby's first year. Programming addresses challenges posed by under education, social and ethnic isolation, limited income, tobacco/substance use, limited knowledge/experience related to pregnancy or parenting and teen parenting.

Providing "wrap-around" services and supports to youth and families at the *NLC* was recommended. Examples include a community information "hub", accessible child care and support programs in or near MBSS and flexibility for young parents wishing to complete their high school Dogwood Diploma.

### **Canadian Mental Health –Youth Outreach Team**

*Canadian Mental Health* is an accredited association that actively supports the delivery and distribution of mental health education services in the Kootenays. Youth outreach provides services and programs around prevention, education, crisis intervention, life skills counseling and referrals to other appropriate agencies that can assist Cranbrook youth.

Providing a community information "hub", housing a youth drop-in centre available evenings and weekends, twelve months a year and access to a community kitchen, gymnasium and meeting rooms was suggested.

### **Cranbrook Society for Community Living (CSCL)**

The Cranbrook Society for Community Living (CSCL) is a not-for-profit organization that has dedicated over fifty (50) years to providing innovative services that provide support and enhancement to individuals with developmental disabilities.

SD5 currently partners with CSCL with the *Bright Lights Theatre Group*, working with a combined group of actors and theatre crew.

A potential partnership of *Life Skill and Transitions* programming exists. A partnership could enhance the skills required for independent living and employment for those with or without barriers. Transitions programming would assist in the transition from child/youth services to adult services.

A central information "hub" and an inclusive youth centre available to youth of all abilities was also recommended.

### **East Kootenay Addictions Services Society**

*EK Addictions Services Society* provides treatment, prevention, harm reduction and counseling programs to support people with diverse needs including outpatient counseling, day programs, support groups, home detox, and methadone and prevention programs.

Currently, SD5 benefits from a RCMP and *East Kootenay Addictions Services Society* partnership --the *East Kootenay Community Prevention Education Continuum*. This continuum includes programs like the P.A.R.T.Y. (*Prevent Alcohol and Risk Related Trauma*) program for secondary school students and the D.A.R.E. (*Drug Abuse Resistance Education*) program for elementary students.

The integration of student learning and the community through peer support, mentoring, volunteerism and inter-generational opportunities as well as the incorporation of research, practicum and small business opportunities into the current curriculum to provide students with a broader base of experience was suggested.

This new *NLC* facility also presents an opportunity to provide space and meeting rooms for small to mid-sized community-group gatherings.

### **Options for Sexual Health**

*Options for Sexual Health* provides comprehensive sexual health services and pregnancy options counseling every Wednesday evening at a drop-in clinic located in the Cranbrook Family Connections building.

Linda Douglas, who supervises the drop-in service, has personal experience with developing the youth centre in Kimberley and understands the support that an inclusive youth centre in Cranbrook could provide to youth and families in the community.

Advice and vision based on her first-hand experience with the *Kimberley Youth Centre* is outlined on pages 33 and 34 of this report under the heading of “Youth Centre”.

### **PFLAG**

PFLAG is a national volunteer network that provides support and information around sexual orientation and gender identity. These areas fit the SD5 Social Responsibility mandate and are reflected in policy.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> School District No. 5 policy 3.35; <http://sd5.bc.ca/pdfs/3.35SexualOrientation.pdf>

A NLC with a central information “hub”, an inclusive youth centre and meeting rooms available to community support groups was suggested.

### **Street Angel**

*Street Angel* is a new program for at-risk persons in Cranbrook. Membership includes representatives from the *Cranbrook Women’s Centre, ANKORS, the Salvation Army, Ministry of Child and Family Services*, social workers and concerned citizens.

The purpose of *Street Angel* is to provide assistance to Cranbrook residents who are currently homeless, many of whom also suffer from mental illness and/or addiction issues. Ideally this organization would like to be able to provide a facility offering a community kitchen, hot meal program, sleeping cots, laundry facilities and access to medical, mental health and addictions counseling services between the hours of 5:00 pm to 2:00 am daily.

Providing a youth centre inclusive of the at-risk youth population in the NLC was suggested.

Street Angel is also interested in utilizing the MBSS Annex, current home to the *SD5 Senior Alternate* and *Wild About Hair* programs should it become available in the future.

### **United Way (UW) of Cranbrook and Kimberley**

The UW of Cranbrook and Kimberley provides support to a number of agencies in Cranbrook including *Big Brothers Big Sisters, Community Connections Society of South East BC, Early Childhood Development, Better Babies, Cranbrook Boys and Girls Club, Options for Sexual Health, Success by Six* and the *East Kootenay P.A.R.T.Y. Program*.

A NLC facility that provides our community with a safe, non-judgmental environment as well as a central, one-stop location where individuals can access information around various community services was recommended.

The United Way is exploring a system of service information delivery in Northern BC called 2-1-1. While this 2-1-1 would provide service information to people over the phone there may be a way to unite this system with the concept of an information hub located in the NLC that could be staffed with a variety of service professionals throughout the day and/or evening each week.

The UW has also completed a recent survey of MBSS students<sup>14</sup>. Based on this survey there appears to be a strong desire among students for a youth centre; a place to complete homework, meet with friends, join in activities and participate in facilitated-topic conversations.

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<sup>14</sup> Survey was conducted at the Student Opportunities Fair, Mount Baker Secondary School on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009

## COMMON THEMES

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Information gathered from community groups and organizations during *Phase One: Community Consultation Process* was very much a “blue sky” endeavour in the sense that our Committee did not want to predetermine any particular outcomes. We were interested first and foremost in what community groups themselves could envision for shared educational and community services in a new high school for Cranbrook.<sup>15</sup>

As one might expect we received many different ideas but soon discovered overlapping themes. In particular, most organizations indicated a desire for a *NLC* that would provide “wrap-around” services and supports for youth and families (i.e. services that address social issues related to family well-being). Examples include a community information “hub”, accessible child care and support programs in or near MBSS and flexibility for young parents wishing to complete their high school Dogwood Diploma and any number of social support and intervention services.

This report also recognizes that the number of times an idea is identified is not necessarily indicative of the amount of support the idea may or may not receive during *Phase Two: Community Engagement Planning Process*.

For example, building a “green” facility, maintaining green space, supporting diversity and ensuring access to the *NLC* beyond traditional school hours were identified by less than ten percent of the community groups and organizations during *Phase One*. However, we suspect that if community groups were specifically asked if these were desirable attributes for a *NLC*, most if not all would respond in the positive.

Also while we believe there is merit to every idea received during *Phase One*, it is important to recognize that a broad range of ideologies and philosophies have been expressed. The services, amenities and practices eventually included in the *NLC* must be able to co-exist together harmoniously while respecting and servicing a diverse community.

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<sup>15</sup> We were also cognizant that the type of organizations consulted during *Phase One* would have determined—to at least some degree—the type of responses received. We therefore expect that other interested groups, such as youth and sports groups, may provide different perspectives when consulted during *Phase Two*.



Logistical considerations also exist. Care must be taken to ensure that both work jurisdiction and job designation issues between SD5 staff and staff employed by *NLC* tenants are appropriately addressed.

The consideration of for-profit versus not-for-profit organizations housed within the limited space available to accommodate a *NLC'S* must also be considered. While there are a number of for-profit agencies that provide valuable social or health services to the community (i.e. support services for autism, ophthalmologists, dentists, etc), services eventually housed within the *NLC* must ultimately provide the most direct benefit to students and the overall community.

Finally, it must be emphasized that the *NLC* must still fit within the context of the District's primary objective, which is to provide to the students of Mount Baker Secondary School equitable, quality educational opportunities in a safe, supportive environment.<sup>16</sup>

### **Community information “Hub” (identified by 58% of groups/organizations)**

A community information resource centre, or “hub”, was identified by fifty-eight (58) percent of the community groups and organizations. Such a Centre would provide a safe, non-judgmental central location within the *NLC* where individuals could access information around various community services.

There are a few examples of this type of resource partnership to draw upon. The *United Way* is exploring a system of service information delivery in Northern BC called 2-1-1 which would provide service information to people over the phone. The *Community Connections Society* has experience with integrating various community groups into a single facility. The *Summit Community Services Society* provides a continuum of quality, accessible, client-centered support and intervention services.

Through effective partnering, the *NLC* could establish itself as the initial contact point any citizen could access to find information or services for any social sector service; sexual health, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental illness, mental delays, addictions, FASD, public health, dental/hearing/vision screening, speech impairment, social justice, affordable housing, employment opportunities, etc.

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<sup>16</sup> SD5's mission, “To provide students with equitable, quality, educational opportunities in a safe supportive environment through the efforts of a caring, professional team in cooperation with students, parents and communities.” is located at <http://sd5.bc.ca/about/>.

Professionals from some of these social sectors could potentially staff the resource centre (information hub) on an outreach basis during specific days or hours of the week while maintaining employment through their parent organization.

In addition, audio/visual media information could be accessed through the use of an on-site TV, DVD and/or computer located in a small private viewing area.

Potentially, access to information and/or professionals from social enhancement organizations such as *Big Brothers and Sisters*, *Cubs*, *Girl Guides*, *Salvation Army* etc. could also be included in the “hub”.

### **Community Meeting Rooms** (identified by 50% of groups/organizations)

Providing meeting rooms and gathering space for the community to access evenings and weekends was suggested by half of the community groups and organizations during *Phase One*. Access to meeting space would enable community groups and organizations to address a number of needs in the community as many of these groups and organizations do not have adequate space for presentations, seminars, training or informal sharing sessions.

Some specific examples of meeting room and gathering space uses include providing young parents with instruction in areas such as health and nutrition, first aid, communication, study and job search skills, providing youth with information sessions that deal with topics such as parent/teen conflict, date rape, bullying, home and dating violence etc, and enabling groups like *Big Brothers and Sisters* to host youth mentoring sessions and activities.

Informal literacy classes for young adults and seniors, English as a second language and computer literacy were also considered services for which *NLC* meeting rooms/gathering spaces could provide accommodation.

It was also suggested that the use of tables and chairs in place of student desks would create multi-use classrooms that could be used as evening meeting rooms and to accommodate community leisure classes that require work spaces that are larger than a traditional desk can accommodate (i.e. large art or craft projects etc.).

### **Alternate Education/ Dual Credit /Practicum /Business Experience** (identified by 48% of groups/organizations)

### Alternate Education

During many of the *Phase One* consultations the existing location of the SD5 Senior Alternate Education Program was discussed. A more “welcoming” and spacious educational environment than currently exists in the Lower (basement) Annex building location and more flexibility in when/how this program is offered were recommended.

### Dual Credit

MBSS currently benefits from its close proximity to the *College of the Rockies* (COTR). These two educational facilities partner to provide a number of dual credit programs –programs that enable a high school student to work on his or her trades apprenticeship while also receiving credits toward high school graduation.

This partnership could be expanded to include more trades geared toward a kinesthetic learning style (i.e. automotive, welding, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, heavy duty, culinary arts, etc). Academics may also benefit by dual credit innovations that would enable students to receive some university credits while working toward their high school Dogwood Diploma.

As partners, it is important that SD5 work together with the COTR. While we can calculate that approximately 200 Cranbrook residents between the ages of 15 – 24 do not have their high school Dogwood Diploma<sup>17</sup>, SD5 should limit educational offerings to the age-group for which all School Districts are mandated –that is, students aged five (5) to nineteen (19).<sup>18</sup>

### Practicum

Presently MBSS students can gain practicum experience in areas of interest through mentorship and volunteer work. As with many of the existing community partnerships SD5 enjoys, there may be room for expansion.

Connecting SD5 students with *Interior Health* to provide career options in health care, *Cranbrook Boys and Girls Club* for early childhood and physical education, practicum and research or small business practicums could provide students with valuable practical experience.

### Small Business Experience

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<sup>17</sup> Figures are calculated using Statistics Canada, BC Statistics and SD5 graduation rates.

<sup>18</sup> See the School Act, revised statutes of British Columbia, 1996, Section 2 (1)(a) & definition “school age” pg C-16.

A number of opportunities have been identified during *Phase One* for students to run and operate small businesses; operating a greenhouse and selling fresh produce to local businesses, running a school cafeteria using fresh-grown produce; setting up a small art gallery for the sale of students' art projects etc.

Given the number of possibilities it is important that any endeavour be focused and that the teacher or volunteer mentor(s) have some experience and/or genuine interest in the small business operation(s).

### **Daycare** (identified by 46% of groups/organizations)

Daycare has been identified as one of the main “wrap-around” services that can provide support to families in our community.

According to the January 2009 *East Kootenay Child Care Report*, between 2003 – 2008 Cranbrook lost 201 licensed child care spaces –a decline of one-third of its spaces. By 2008 four major employers in Cranbrook expressed concern over the lack of child care –in particular citing difficulty attracting staff from outside the region and difficulty with employees not returning to work after maternity leaves due to lack of child care<sup>19</sup>.

Priority placement is needed for young parents wishing to complete their high school Dogwood Diploma. For 2008 – 2009 the Better Babies Outreach program identified forty-five at-risk pregnant women who had not received their grade 12 Dogwood graduation. Forty of these young women were 19 years of age or younger.<sup>20</sup>

Funding remains one of daycare’s biggest challenges. According to the *East Kootenay (EK) Child Care Report* “non-profit societies providing licensed child care services are reluctant to move ahead to develop new licensed child care because of the lack of assurance around continuation of the *BC Child Care Operating Funding*, capital grant programs and other grants that support the development of new child care.”

The Report goes on to state that private operators are also selling and/or quitting the field, often for similar reasons.

### **Youth Centre** (identified by 42% of groups/organizations)

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<sup>19</sup> East Kootenay Child Care Report, January 2009, Gail Brown

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.sd5.bc/pdfs/AppendixILetterofSupportBetterBabies.pdf>

Presently Cranbrook youth do not have a central place to gather beyond school hours. In order to support families with youth the creation of a safe, non-judgmental and inclusive youth centre within the *NLC* has been recommended by a large number of community groups and organizations consulted during *Phase One*.

It would appear that Cranbrook youth agree with this recommendation. Recently the *United Way* completed a survey of MBSS students<sup>21</sup>. Respondents indicated desire for a youth centre --a place to complete homework, meet with friends, joins in activities and participates in facilitated-topic conversations.

*Community Harm Reduction* also indicates that a youth centre inclusive of youth of all abilities and diversities could contribute greatly to both the physical and emotional well-being of our youth.

A pool table, ping pong table, foosball table, exercise equipment, cards/games, music, access to the gymnasium, kitchen and laundry facilities and an opportunity for bands to perform in the evenings are some of the amenities and activities suggested for consideration in a youth centre that is available evenings and weekends, twelve months a year.

Many committees and groups have also suggested inviting seniors/elders to volunteer at the youth centre as mentors, craft/activity instructors (i.e. cooking, sewing, woodwork etc.) or as benefactors of training from youth (i.e. computer, technology, etc).

Linda Douglas (*Options for Sexual Health*) has had personal experience with developing the youth centre in Kimberley. She recommends that youth be consulted for input on what they would incorporate into a youth centre.

Ms. Douglas also suggests that the youth centre go forward as a partnership endeavour with the City of Cranbrook. Funding could potentially come from various granting agencies and local, provincial and/or federal government bodies/agencies. In addition it may be possible for youth to generate a limited portion of the funding through small business endeavours (i.e. concession, used book "store" etc.)

It is important to have qualified staff, including a manager/coordinator and two or three part time staff to manage programs, monitor facilities and be accessible to youth. For this reason funding for operations needs to be sustainable.

Ms. Douglas also recommends that the youth centre become a Society with board members from the SD5 Board and teaching/counseling staff, the City of Cranbrook and business and community organizations. Specific details around responsibility and accountability would also need to be determined.

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<sup>21</sup> Survey was conducted at the Student Opportunities Fair, Mount Baker Secondary School on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009

### **Before & After Child Care** (identified by 36% of groups/organizations)

According to the *East Kootenay (EK) Child Care Report* released in January 2009, “over the past five years available licensed Out of School Child Care spaces in the East Kootenay region have dropped by twenty-one (21) percent.”<sup>22</sup>

Parents and community groups and organizations have identified before and after child care as a priority need in Cranbrook. There is also the need for quality after school programming and summer programs for youth between the ages of 12 to 17 years with special needs.

### **Key City Theatre (KCT)** (identified by 32% of groups/organizations)

KCT is physically connected to MBSS. Throughout *Phase One* the KCT has consistently been identified as an important community asset. Indeed, many community groups have pointed out that the current relationship between the theatre and the school is quite similar to what Revelstoke recently set out to build in its own secondary school *NLC*.

While providing the community with a performance theatre is not part of a School District’s education mandate, MBSS staff and administration have included a theatre as part of their *NLC* presentation.

As an existing partner, SD5 is committed to working with the City of Cranbrook and the Key City Theatre Society to coordinate efforts around the challenges that MBSS replacement may present with regard to retaining the KCT once the existing MBSS has been demolished.

As we indicated on page 24 of this report the City of Cranbrook has stated its desire to ensure that audience and performer needs are met.

In addition, any initiative around the KCT must follow the lead of the KCT Society as they explore options regarding Theatre location, size and community partnerships.

### **Community Greenhouse/Garden** (identified by 26% of groups/organizations)

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<sup>22</sup> East Kootenay Child Care Report, January 2009, Gail Brown

A community greenhouse/garden could provide healthy food to students by utilizing an in-house cafeteria that prepares fresh greenhouse produce. A viable business venture through the sale of both fresh and freshly prepared foods to businesses and consumers would also be possible and a community greenhouse/garden could address the needs of others in the community if used to support a volunteer or student-run hot meals program.

### **In-house Cafeteria/Eating Space** (identified by 26% of groups/organizations)

At present MBSS does not have adequate cafeteria eating space and there is no on-site hot food vendor. Many community groups and organizations recommend utilizing a school owned, student-operated cafeteria that provides inexpensive, healthy food choices to the staff and students of MBSS.

There are several Ministry of Education approved curriculum subjects that would complement this type of endeavour including Business Education, Economics, Home Economics: Foods and Nutrition and Home Economics: Cafeteria Training<sup>23</sup>.

### **Safety/Well-Being** (identified by 26% of groups/organizations)

Safety and well-being include harm reduction strategies ranging from safety from injury, promotion of "healthiest choices" and providing a physically and emotionally safe learning environment.

The healthiest choices educational continuum includes basic health information as well as information on sexual activity and tobacco, drug and alcohol use. Community and SD5 partnerships with the RCMP can assist in the delivery of consistent drug prevention strategies through positive messaging and education within schools.

Broader-based health and wellness needs throughout our schools and community could be addressed through increased partnership with *Interior Health*.

In addition, access within the school facility to health and social service professionals for youth with mental health and/or addictions challenges has been recommended by a number of committees and organizations.

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<sup>23</sup> [http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/irp\\_appskills.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/irp_appskills.htm)

*Community Harm Reduction* also suggested that increased connection between students and seniors in our community through mentoring and a stronger Aboriginal presence in both the physical structure of the *NLC* and the programs offered at MBSS can contribute to the increased social and emotional well-being of our community.

Although smoking is not an activity that creates well-being, it has been suggested that a designated “smoking pit” (similar to the one at the College of the Rockies) would provide students with a safer environment for smoking than “across the street” and could reduce the likelihood of these students being exposed to “undesireable” people or practices.<sup>24</sup>

### **Use of Recreational Facilities/Amenities** (identified by 24% of groups/organizations)

While almost every community group or organization expressed desire to ensure that the school be accessible to the community beyond regular school hours (i.e. youth centre, before and after school care and access to meeting rooms) twenty-four (24) percent of community groups and organizations specified general access, after-school use of gymnasium and other amenities (community kitchen, inexpensive laundry facilities, sensory garden and observatory) as a priority use for the *NLC*.

An additional auxiliary gymnasium, community-based sports programs and equipment storage space made available for community programs have also been recommended.

In order to coordinate usage in an organized and efficient manner it is important that care is taken to preserve the “joint-use” agreement between SD5 and the City of Cranbrook Leisure Services.

### **Art Gallery/Access to Arts** (identified by 24% of groups/organizations)

A *NLC* could support arts in our community by providing a shared educational/community space for art instruction, rehearsal/performance areas, meeting rooms and art gallery space.

Fund-raising is already underway for a Youth Arts Centre. It has been suggested that this centre does not necessarily need to be physically located in the new *MBSS/NLC*.

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<sup>24</sup> However, see footnote 9 above re limits on designated smoking areas.



### **Aboriginal Presence** (identified by 18% of groups/organizations)

SD5 strives to provide all students with access to people, programs and resources that enable them to reach their full potential. The District also recognizes that some Aboriginal students may require different and/or additional resources than have been traditionally offered to students.

Incorporating Ktunaxa art, language and culture more fully into the physical structure of a new MBSS *NLC* could increase community appreciation for and pride in persons of Aboriginal ancestry.

It is also important to continue to provide a safe, non-judgmental and inviting space in MBSS where Aboriginal students, families and elders can connect to support one another, discuss personal and cultural issues and access a continuity of Aboriginal history, culture and service information.

Dental and vision screening, elder outreach, access to computers and internet and a drop-in friendship, youth or emergency centre. An on-site Aboriginal community information “hub” with part-time Aboriginal presence was also suggested.

### **Support Diversity** (identified by 6% of groups/organizations)

A broad range of human characteristics, ideas and viewpoints enriches educational experience, personal growth and the well-being of a community. Students educated in an environment that embraces diversity are better prepared to participate in Canada’s pluralistic, democratic society.

According to the BC Ministry of Education’s *Diversity in Schools: A Framework* document “diversity refers to the ways in which we differ from each other. Some of these differences may be visible (e.g., race, ethnicity, gender, age, ability), while others are less visible (e.g., culture, ancestry, language, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, socioeconomic background)”.<sup>25</sup>

These characteristics, including gender identity, are fundamental to the identity of an individual and can impact both access to and outcomes of education. By promoting acceptance and understanding of these characteristics through a positive, respectful school culture we can mitigate the possibility of these same

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<sup>25</sup> [http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/diversity/diversity\\_framework.pdf](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/diversity/diversity_framework.pdf)

characteristics making an individual the target of discrimination, harassment or violence.

These ethical and legal principles are based within legislation as follows:

- The diversity of people is acknowledged and valued (Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, 1982; and the BC Multiculturalism Act, 1993).
- The dignity of people, as well as protection from harm, is intended to be preserved (Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; BC Human Rights Code, 1997).
- Fair and equitable treatment should be secured for all people (BC Human Rights Code, 1997; Employment Equity Act, 1996).

### **Green Space/Green Building** (identified by 6% of groups/organizations)

Attractive urban green space contributes to overall quality of life assisting in reduced social exclusion and increased sense of community. It can also reduce negative mental health afflictions like stress, mental fatigue and cognitive impairment<sup>26</sup>.

Quality of life, culture, diversity and environmental quality are becoming important factors for families and business when choosing a new community, in some instances outweighing traditional factors such as taxes or land costs<sup>27</sup>.

Cranbrook currently boasts a good balance of urban green space. It is worthwhile to consider its retention –and possible enhancement—when structuring a new MBSS/NLC.

Green building design ensures more resource-efficiency (energy, water, materials, increased cost savings) while improving the comfort of building occupants<sup>28</sup>.

The 2006 Building Code has been revised yearly to include code changes from fire resistance ratings to flush cycles for the installation of water closets<sup>29</sup>.

Aside from mandated changes to building codes, schools are encouraged to support sustainability throughout the entire lifecycle of a building including the

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<sup>26</sup> <http://www.westbroadway.mb.ca/files/web/Green%20Space%20Plan%20with%20signed%20letter.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.hcf.on.ca/pdf/HCF%20Core%20Ideas%20fin.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/capitalplanning/projectmanagement/documents/project-procurement-procedures-guidelines.pdf>

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/regs/codes/index.html>

building exterior and interior, operational attributes and the demolition of any existing structure<sup>30</sup>.

SD5 has already incorporated many green features in recent replacement schools like Sparwood Secondary School which boasts six-liter toilets and automated blinds that reduce heat loss.

SD5 is expecting to teleconference with Trustees in Crawford Bay to discuss some of the initiatives used in the Crawford Bay Elementary-Secondary School, a Kindergarten to Grade 12 school built in 2009 for a capacity of 190 students and staff.

Although there is considerable size differences between the Crawford Bay school and the MBSS replacement school, Trustees and Administration are eager to learn more about initiatives like daylight light-sensing systems, hemp and linseed flooring and using locally sourced, recycled building material and wood<sup>31</sup>.

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<sup>30</sup> <http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/green/overview.htm>

<sup>31</sup> [http://www.kootenaybiz.com/developments/articles/making\\_green\\_choices](http://www.kootenaybiz.com/developments/articles/making_green_choices)

## NEXT STEPS

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During the summer of 2010 Trustees Johns and Ayling will be meeting with Laurie Cordell of the *Fraser Basin Council* to discuss Phase Two of our public consultation, the *Community Engagement Planning Process*.

Following this initial meeting, Trustees Johns and Ayling will be joined by Trustee Jan Gordon-Hooker, Superintendent Bill Gook and Secretary-Treasurer Rob Norum in a follow-up meeting with Ms. Cordell to discuss the following:

- capacity development for sustainable future planning
- processes for identifying information important to our engagement process
- community engagement activities
- development of *terms of reference* for a potential *NLC steering committee*
- solicitation of an appropriate Community Engagement facilitator via a request for proposal

Once an outline for the *Phase Two: Community Engagement Planning Process* has been developed and a facilitator has been tendered and hired, he or she will receive a copy of this report and will be asked to develop an inclusive community engagement plan based on the findings of this report and within the terms of reference outlined through the *SD5 Mount Baker Building Committee's* work with the *Fraser Basin Council*.

It should also be emphasized that a *Neighbourhood Learning Centre* can only go forward as a *partnership* between the school district and the wider community. Ultimately, the community has to come to the table with human and financial resources to help bring the vision to reality.

Therefore, during *Phase One: Community Consultation Process*, the *Mount Baker Building Committee* also sought to determine what, if any, in-kind or financial support community groups and organizations may be able to contribute to a *NLC*. A number of possibilities were identified, including:

- The *Cranbrook Rotary Club* may be able to provide funding, fund-raising, grant writing or in-kind expertise or labour.
- The *East Kootenay Infant Development Program* may be able to provide in-kind staffing hours to support young families with child care,

parent/child playgroups and / or after school and evening activities for children, youth and families.

- *East Kootenay Kids First* may be able to provide in-kind support to early child development areas of our NLC initiative in the form of research, project coordination and administrative labour.

A more in-depth examination of potential community, local government or business support will be a key component of *Phase Two: Community Engagement Planning Process*.

**To the many individuals and organizations who assisted  
our Committee with on-going support and encouragement:**

**Thank you.**

**We hope that our Report honours your daily commitment,  
dedication and effort to build a stronger community.**

## APPENDIX

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December 8 letter from MBSS PAC	1a
Minutes, January 7th, 2009 MBSS tour/meeting	1b
Minutes, January 21st, 2009 MBSS tour/meeting	1c
Request to MoE for NoL designation	1d
Additional Correspondence to MoE	1e
List of Community Groups, <i>Phase One</i>	1f
Presentation to Chamber of Commerce	2a
February 2010 Hand-Out to SD5 Parents	2b

**APPENDIX 1a**

**Request to MoE for NoL designation**

Michelle Richmond - Chair, Mount Baker Senior Secondary Parents Advisory Council  
1712 -2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South  
Cranbrook, BC  
V1C 0A1  
Tel/Fax: 250-489-1224  
Cell: 250-919-0747  
Email: [Michelle.Richmond@sbcsd.bc.ca](mailto:Michelle.Richmond@sbcsd.bc.ca)

December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Trina Ayling  
Pat Casey  
Chris Ellis  
Dan Hall  
Chris Johns

Dear School Board Trustees:

Hello and welcome to our new and returning Trustees. My name is Michelle Richmond and I am the Mount Baker Senior Secondary PAC Chair.

As a parent, and on behalf of the Mount Baker Parents Advisory Council, I am respectfully submitting this letter in support of a new building for our Cranbrook Secondary Students, with a proposed opening for the 2011/2012 school term. The PAC is aware that a new Mount Baker was at the top of the list for replacement with the previous Board. May this letter be considered as a first point of contact to spark your thoughts and ideas to address the issues that affect every student in Cranbrook--as they all end their public education at Mount Baker Senior Secondary.

By the time our children get to Mount Baker they are fairly self-sufficient and the parent presence is not as keenly involved in the day-to-day activity within the school walls. I was certainly unaware of the conditions within the school until my own children were actually attending the building, and my involvement in supporting the interior workings required that I be in the building myself. I feel certain that if the parents of our elementary, middle school and future students were informed of the current building environment we would have a new building in the works already. It appears that we need to raise the level of awareness locally and provincially in order to address these issues and finally get a new Mount Baker!

There are circumstances and serious issues that should put the current school building at the top of the list for replacing. These include a concern with the school building meeting current standards as the majority of the middle section was constructed in 1951. There have been many changes to building codes and safety policies over the years that are surely not reflected in this original building structure.

There is concern over the presence of harmful materials that do not provide for a clean learning environment. In particular, asbestos, mold, the litigated mercury spill and lead from the operations of a shooting range in the basement in the early years. My own daughter's health was certainly affected by her attendance within the building.

The current timber issue in our Music room and the Key City Theatre is an immediate concern. Mount Baker has complied with the Engineer requests, but the fix in place is short term and totally dependant on snow load. I do believe it is a 2-year conditional approval...let us not wait until the situation involves a critical incident or closure again. The loss of space that accommodates upwards of 350 students and the musical instrumentation and equipment within that space is not a situation that is compatible with excellence in learning! Further, the modern steel frame on the gymnasium side of the building does not have the capacity to meet load requirements should stresses from packed snow and ice remain unchecked.



Our current gym space does not meet our needs in order to deliver the Ministry mandate of daily physical activity.

The school does not have a location for all of the students to gather together for assemblies or to gather as one unit. A space of this nature is needed, beyond functional use, to foster a spirit of unity and to allow for the creation of developing ownership of 'their' school community.

The current lunchroom can house 30 students. A very congested hallway houses the remaining 900 or so lounging lunching students which, no surprise to staff and administration, is not conducive to harmonious interactions. The library is used for classroom space and the lunchroom is also being looked at to accommodate space needs. There is no area for quiet study. A lunch room/study room is desperately needed to truly support an environment of learning and to provide a space that our students are free to be comfortable in.

I have a daughter who graduated in 2007 from MBSS and a son who is in grade 11 at MBSS this year. I have served on the PAC since my children began attending school, and I am in my fifth year as a member of the School Planning Council. My husband and I have been actively involved in supporting our children, their teachers and their school community through these last fourteen years.

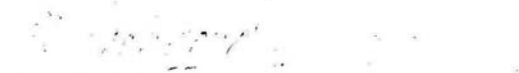
I pass on these details because I know that your willingness to sit on the School Board means that you also have a deep, heartfelt desire and interest in supporting our young people and the environment of learning in Cranbrook--and have indeed been moved to action hence your own current positions! This project will take support, dedication and effort from us all. Be assured that my family along with a growing number of effected Cranbrook families are willing to do what it takes to facilitate this positive initiative.

A further intent to sending this letter is to share with you that there are some very exciting thoughts and ideas coming forward! As we as a PAC Board send out some tentative first feelers it would seem that the time is now! At a recent meeting that I attended on behalf of the MBSS PAC Mr. Bill Bennett, our MLA, indicated his support of this project. He has communicated that he will bring this issue forward to the Premier and to the Minister of Education. There have also been rumblings of corporate sponsorship as we partner with other entities within Cranbrook to facilitate a community of learning. Please add your support to beginning the planning process by contacting Mr. Bennett and the Provincial Ministry on behalf of School District #5. There is much to share! I look forward to further communications with the board!

Please feel free to contact me. I am a lover of communication, process and "there's always a way" thinking and I will welcome your comments.

In addition, I would encourage each of you to contact Mrs. Empson for a visit of Mount Baker to see and experience these issues first hand.

Warm Regards and respectfully yours,



Michelle Richmond  
Chair - MBSS PAC

**APPENDIX 1b**

**Minutes, January 7th, 2009 MBSS tour/meeting**

<b>Mount Baker School Replacement-Based Tour Meeting of January 07<sup>th</sup>, 2009</b>	
<b>Attendees</b>	<p>Debra Empson, Principal, MBSS  David Martin, Vice-Principal, MBSS  Brenda Tyson, Vice-Principal, MBSS  Bill Bennett, EK MLA  Courtney Magro, Constituency Assistant  Michelle Richmond, Chair, MBSS PAC  Susie Mayson, PAC Parent Representative/Interior Health  Trina Ayling, Trustee  Pat Casey, Trustee  Dan Hall, Trustee  Chris Johns, Trustee</p>
<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MBSS is approximately 60 years old.</li> <li>• MBSS is the largest gathering place, on a daily basis, in the East and West Kootenays.</li> <li>• MBSS is currently #46 on the Provincial Government school replacement list.</li> </ul>
<b>Key City Theatre Component</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key City Theatre is included in the square footage formula used by the provincial government to determine the capacity utilization of MBSS.</li> <li>• Key City Theatre is not large enough to accommodate entire population of MBSS for assembly-type purposes.</li> <li>• MBSS is provided with maximum of 30 days usage of Key City Theatre –inclusive of all productions and without priority access. Additional dates must be paid for by MBSS.</li> <li>• Theatre productions bring revenue into the Drama Department for the purchase of production equipment.</li> </ul>
<b>Safety Issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structural problems exist with the timber support beams in the music room. Repairs have been made but roof replacement is necessary within 18 months.</li> <li>• Gymnasium frame does not have the capacity to meet load requirements from packed snow and ice.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prior mercury contamination and possible lead contamination (from old rifle range) are a potential safety concern.</li> <li>• Wheelchair access equipment attached to stairwell is another potential safety concern. If wheelchair equipment is engaged during an emergency situation the stairwell can not be used for evacuation.</li> <li>• Physical layout of MSBB does not provide for adequate safety monitoring of school entrance or washrooms located in close proximity to the 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue N. entrance.</li> <li>• In case of an emergency, there is no exit readily available for students/staff to safely exit the photography room.</li> <li>• Winter safety issues exist for students walking on icy sidewalks to and from classroom portables. As these sidewalks are under the jurisdiction of the City, SD5 and MBSS are not able to provide covered access for students/staff moving to and from these portables.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Space Issues</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An average of 90 students share the gymnasium and a single boys' and a single girls' change room –with limited shower facilities—per DPA block.</li> <li>• Lack of cafeteria facilities necessitates students to eat lunch in hallways, sitting on the floor, creating congestion, safety and litter problems.</li> <li>• Lack of physical space for metal work room has resulted in caps on the program.</li> <li>• Metal works program possesses CNC machines but doesn't have the room to set this equipment up. Aside from practical work experience this equipment could potentially provide students with small contract work revenue for the program as well as small business experience.</li> </ul> <p>In contrast the woodworking room –which is adequate in size—allows students to tender out substantial projects and bring revenue back into the</p>

	<p>program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four toilets service 83 staff members.</li> </ul>
<b>General Issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate heating in photography room.</li> <li>• Hallway ventilation problems.</li> <li>• Portable classrooms smell. They also tend to be too cold in winter. They are often so hot in late spring that teachers move their classes outside for instruction.</li> <li>• Difficult to enforce “No Smoking” legislation as MBSS is in very close proximity to City property where there is no smoking prohibition.</li> </ul>
<b>New School “vision”</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MBSS replacement vision is for campus-style community school.</li> <li>• Discussion around incorporation of daycare, early childhood programming, additional ACE-IT programs and job shadowing facilities/opportunities into the community school campus.</li> <li>• Discussion around incorporation of Youth Centre to meet critical needs within our community.</li> <li>• Discussion around City of Cranbrook's need for a community centre being incorporated into community school campus concept.</li> <li>• Community Connections Program and funding potential discussed.</li> <li>• Future employers, i.e. Interior Health, Jim Pattison Group were discussed as possible corporate sponsors.</li> </ul>
<b>Immediate Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bill Bennett will contact Rob Norum at SD5 with a contact name to schedule a Facilities Assessment on MBSS.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Bennett has suggested that Principal Debra Empson, Trustee Chris Johns, PAC Chair Michelle Richmond and Manager of Facilities Tom Walkley</p>

	<p>be present during the assessment process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Bennett will provide SD5 Board of Education and PAC Chair Michelle Richmond with a copy of Ministry requirements for school replacement.</li><li>• Trustee Pat Casey will ask to discuss issue of MBSS replacement with Deputy Minister at Trustee Conference in February.</li><li>• Trustees will follow-up on previously commissioned engineering report for MBSS.</li><li>• Trustees will request that the replacement of MBSS be included on the agenda of the February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 public board meeting scheduled in Cranbrook at 5:00 pm.</li><li>• Trustee Trina Ayling will notify attendees of this meeting once the agenda has been set. All interested parties are encouraged to attend the February 10<sup>th</sup> board meeting.</li></ul>
<p>Report prepared by Trina Ayling, Trustee SD5</p>	

**APPENDIX 1c**

**Minutes, January 21st, 2009 MBSS tour/meeting**

**Mount Baker School Replacement  
Meeting of January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009**

<b>Attendees</b>	<p>Debra Empson, Principal, MBSS          *David Martin, Vice-Principal, MBSS          *Paul Duczek, MBSS          Trina Ayling, Trustee          Chris Johns, Trustee          *Tom Walkley, Manager of Facilities, SD5          *Gregg Brown, KMBR Architects Planners Inc.</p> <p>*Attended only a portion of the meeting</p>
<b>Current Interest Groups</b>	<p>Provincial Government          City of Cranbrook          Columbia Basin Trust          Interior Health          C.O.R.T.          Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce          Junior Chamber          Downtown Business Association          School Planning Council, MBSS          Parent Advisory Council, MBSS          School Board Trustees (Ayling, Casey, Johns)          SD5 Superintendent          SD5 Secretary Treasurer          MBSS Faculty          Boys and Girls Club</p>
<b>Interest Groups to be Added</b>	<p>Although contact information has been compiled for a number of interest groups, it is by no means inclusive. It was determined that, given the vision is for a <i>community</i> campus, all interest groups should be welcome.</p> <p>The following list is a brainstorm only and is by no means inclusive:</p> <p>ANKORS          Summit          Aboriginal Community Organizations          Local Community Service Organizations          Parent Advisory Council, LMS          Parent Advisory Council, PMS          Early Childhood Development          East Kootenay Seniors Coalition          NDP (Opposition) Representation          All SD5 Trustees</p>



	<p>Specifically, Debra Empson will be contacting Terry Segarty, Mike Patterson and Troy Sebastian with invitations to participate.</p> <p>It was decided that, given the upcoming May election, it would be prudent to remain non-partisan by seeking representation from both political parties.</p>
<p><b>Feasibility Study</b></p>	<p>During our meeting, Tom Walkley, Manger of Facilities, SD5 joined us with Mr. Gregg Brown from KMBR Architects Planners Inc. who has been hired to conduct a new Facility Study on MBSS.</p> <p>Mr. Brown explained that there are two phases to the study.</p> <p><u>Phase One:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why we're considering redevelopment</li> <li>• Possible options and cost implications (i.e. renovation, replacement or various combinations of the two)</li> <li>• Preferred option is chosen and comparative costing examined</li> <li>• Report is made of delivery method, risk, management etc.</li> </ul> <p><u>Phase Two:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preferred option is developed into a detailed project proposal</li> <li>• Proposal is weighed against other projects and government determines the priority of the proposed project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Additional MBSS Safety Concerns</b></p>	<p>Mr. Brown looked over the January 7<sup>th</sup> 2009 report on MBSS.</p> <p>Tom Walkley, Manger of Facilities, SD5 included the following items to the "Safety" category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structural cracks apparent on bearing walls and ceilings throughout basement area.</li> <li>• HVAC system was replaced in 2001 but is still not up to Code as corridors are still being utilized as return air space rather than through proper ductwork.</li> </ul>

	<p><i>Following the meeting</i> Tom Walkley, Manger of Facilities, SD5 included the following items to the “Safety” and one item to the “General” category:</p> <p><u>Safety:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire separations are not provided between floor areas throughout the facility.</li> <li>• Although Electrical panels have been replaced, the old wiring still remains within the walls.</li> <li>• Exposed galvanized piping as well as lead based soldered fittings have been replaced, original piping and fittings still remain behind walls.</li> <li>• Asbestos surveys have been completed, again only the exposed materials were identified; many pipes and pipe coverings containing asbestos remain unseen behind wall spaces.</li> </ul> <p><u>General:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although the entire school lighting was replaced in 1996, these were 1<sup>st</sup> generation electronic ballasts. Energy studies would prove that these are not the most energy-efficient products available.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Additional Points of Discussion</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Brown indicated that it should be possible to have the square footage for both Key City Theatre and the Basement eliminated from the capacity utilization footage currently used to assess MBSS usable space.</li> <li>• The campus-style community school concept fits into both the government’s current “Birth to Death” mandate and its new “Neighbourhoods of Learning” initiative.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Completed Action from Previous Meeting(s)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trustees have requested that the replacement of MBSS be included on the agenda of the February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 public board meeting scheduled in Cranbrook at 5:00 pm.</li> <li>• Bill Bennett contacted Rob Norum at SD5 with a contact name to schedule a Facilities Assessment on MBSS.</li> </ul>

	<p>Tom Walkley, Manager of Facilities and Michelle Richmond, PAC Chair, MBSS were present for the tour.</p>
<p><b>Outstanding Action from Previous Meeting(s)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Bennett will provide SD5 Board of Education and PAC Chair Michelle Richmond with a copy of Ministry requirements for school replacement.</li> <li>• Trustee Pat Casey will ask to discuss issue of MBSS replacement with Deputy Minister at Trustee Conference in February.</li> <li>• Trustees will follow-up on previously commissioned engineering report for MBSS.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Immediate Action (New)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current facility report to be put on agenda as update information for Trustees.</li> <li>• Trustees Ayling and Johns will request that an update on the MBSS replacement project become a regular monthly agenda item until the project is resolved.</li> <li>• It is believed that there is a campus-style community school in Kelowna or Kamloops. Debra Empson will look into this possibility and report back at the next meeting.</li> <li>• Senior secondary school blueprints should be viewed and recently replaced senior secondary schools should be toured by Trustees.</li> <li>• Trustees Ayling and Johns will update on the progress of the MBSS vision and invite representation from the following committees of which they are members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aboriginal Council on Education</li> <li>• Early Childhood Development</li> <li>• Success by Six</li> </ul> </li> <li>a. Debra Empson will be contacting Terry Segarty, Mike Patterson and Troy Sebastian with invitations to participate.</li> </ul>
<p>Report prepared by Trina Ayling, Trustee SD5</p>	

**APPENDIX 1d**

**Request to MoE for NoL designation**

October 14, 2009

Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid  
Minister of Education  
Office of the Minister and Deputy Premier  
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister MacDiarmid:

**RE: NEIGHBOURHOODS OF LEARNING**

At its regular public meeting of October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009, The Board of Education of School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) continued its discussion on the Neighbourhoods of Learning concept and passed the following motion:

*“M/S that the Board of Education endorses the Ministry of Education’s concept of Neighbourhoods of Learning and that District Staff actively pursue the Mount Baker Secondary School replacement project within the concept of Neighbourhoods of Learning”*

As early as January 2009 our District has been actively pursuing information and community input for this concept. The Board has taken practical steps to ensure that the Neighbourhoods of Learning concept is viable as an option for the Mount Baker Secondary School (MBSS) replacement and one that is desired by the community at large.

MBSS is almost 60 years old and has a number of health & safety and space deficiencies including compromised timber support beams, structural cracks on bearing walls and ceilings and an outdated HVAC system that is not currently up to code. MBSS scored only 44% in a recent Building Audit completed in April 2009.

MBSS also includes in its square footage (used to determine capacity utilization) the Key City Theatre (which was formerly the school gym but now functions as an arts and entertainment venue for the entire region).

MBSS is situated in the downtown core of the City of Cranbrook. It houses over 1000 students and staff on a weekday basis –the largest daily gathering place in the East Kootenay.

A number of community service organizations and recreational services are located in close proximity to MBSS, including government employment offices, Interior Health services, the Cranbrook Childcare Resource and Referral, Cranbrook RecPlex, the newly-installed Seniors’ Fitness Park and the College of the Rockies. Local businesses and

professionals including doctors, dentists and merchants are all within close walking distance to MBSS.

All City Transit busses intersect approximately one block from the Mount Baker Secondary School providing easy access to MBSS for all citizens of Cranbrook during transit operating hours.

Due to its central location MBSS has the strong potential to function as a “neighbourhood hub” by combining educational services with community services –such as family and seniors’ resource centres, trades training and childcare services –to “*create a climate of cohesiveness in the interest of well-being for all of our citizens*” [Appendix G(1)]

Given these important factors the Board of Education of School District No. 5 strongly encourages the Ministry of Education to consider its proposal for the replacement of Mount Baker Secondary School with the *Neighbourhood of Learning* designation.

Following is our MBSS Neighbourhood of Learning vision statement, a chart outlining the activities of SD5 and the community of Cranbrook since December 2008, and a timeline outlining future SD5 activities focused on this vision.

## **Our Vision**

- To integrate education with the wider community by providing opportunities for partner agencies to utilize MBSS for early learning, health care, career training and social support purposes.
- To provide citizens of all ages with safe, central, easily accessible space in which to pursue physical, social, intellectual and cultural activities.
- To improve economic growth and diversity for the citizens of Cranbrook by providing opportunities for students and adults to train as vital service and trades providers without leaving the East Kootenay region.

## Background

### MOUNT BAKER SECONDARY SCHOOL REPLACEMENT/NEIGHBOURHOOD OF LEARNING TIMELINE

December 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2008		Cranbrook Trustees of School District 5 (SD5) received a letter from Mount Baker Secondary School (MBSS) PAC requesting that Trustees consider MBSS for top replacement priority within the District.	Appendix A
January 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2009		Trustee Ayling scheduled a meeting and tour of MBSS.  In attendance:  - Cranbrook Trustees Ayling, Casey, Hall and Johns - MBSS Principal Debra Empson - Vice-Principals David Martin and Brenda Tyson - PAC representatives, Michelle Richmond and Susie Mayson - East Kootenay MLA Bill Bennett  Discussion included safety, space and general concern issues as well as MBSS replacement as a community school, later defined as a Neighbourhood of Learning (NoL) concept.	Appendix B

3

January 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2009		SD5 Board of Education Chair, Lento, sent a letter to Keith Miller, Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Management Division, requesting support with a facility assessment on MBSS.	Appendix C
January 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2009		A follow-up meeting was held to discuss a feasibility study for MBSS along with the further exploration of a NoL. Attendees included:  MBSS staff, Trustees Ayling and Johns SD5 Manager of Facilities Tom Walkley Gregg Brown of KMBR Architects Planners Inc.	Appendix D
February 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2009		A parent-initiated MBSS Community Vision Committee session was held to brainstorm the concept of a NoL. The following SD5 representatives attended:  Trustees Ayling, Hall and Johns SD5 Superintendent Bill Gook Secretary-Treasurer Rob Norum	Appendix E
February 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	Motion R – 09 - 020	The School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) Board of Education passed the following motion:  <i>M/S that the Board of Education of School District 5 appoint trustees to be part of a Vision Committee for Mt. Baker Secondary School</i>  Trustees from Cranbrook and the Chairperson were appointed.	

4

February 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	Motion R – 09 – 038	Capital Project Amendment Bylaw, Bus Replacement <i>M/S READ A THIRD TIME, FINALLY PASSED AND ADOPTED</i> February 10, 2009 (This amendment bylaw prioritized Mount Baker Secondary School as the District's number one replacement priority.)	
March 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	Motion R – 09 – 047	The School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) Board of Education passed the following motion:  <i>M/S that the Board of Education of School District No. 5 write a comprehensive letter to Bill Bennett, MLA, asking for further information on "Neighbourhoods of Learning" schools.</i>	
March 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2009		A letter was sent to MLA Bill Bennett requesting information on NoL's.	Appendix F
April 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	Motion R – 09 – 064	The School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) Board of Education passed the following motion:  <i>M/S that the Board of Education of School District No. 5 establish a Mt. Baker Secondary School Building Replacement Committee consisting of trustees, the Superintendent and the Secretary Treasurer, and to develop the terms of reference for the committee.</i>	

5

April 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2009		The MBSS Community Vision Committee hosted a design charrette (i.e. technique for consulting with stakeholders) to produce stakeholder input on design and partnership ideals for MBSS.  SD5 attendees included: Trustees Ayling and Johns Superintendent Bill Gook	
May 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2009		SD5's Project Identification Report (PIR) was sent to the Ministry of Education (MoE).	Appendix G
May 19, 2009	Motion R – 09 – 080	<i>M/S that the Board of Education of School District No. 5 Southeast Kootenay approve the Capital Plan as outlined on the attached summary, subject to the addition of the buses in Years 1 and 2.</i>  School replacement priorities remain the same as last year as per the Capital Project Amendment Bylaw, Motion R – 09 – 038, passed February 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2009.	
June 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2009		First SD5 MBSS Replacement Committee meeting was held. Terms of Reference were developed for presentation to the Board on June 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2009.	

6



June 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	Motion R – 09 - 095	The School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) Board of Education passed the following motion:  <i>M/S that the terms of reference for the Mt. Baker Secondary School Building Replacement Committee be approved by the Board of Education.</i>	Appendix H
July 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2009		A meeting was scheduled to discuss the MBSS Replacement and NoL designation with the East Kootenay MLA Bill Bennett.  In attendance:  SD5 Chairperson Lento and Trustee Johns SD5 Superintendent Bill Gook and Secretary-Treasurer Rob Norum East Kootenay MLA Bill Bennett MBSS PAC Chair Michelle Richmond	
August 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2009		The MBSS Community Vision Committee hosted a second design charrette review and update session to provide an overview of the work done by stakeholders at the April 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2009 design charrette exercise.  SD5 attendees included:  Trustees Ayling, Casey and Johns Secretary-Treasurer Rob Norum	

7

September 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2009		The MBSS Community Vision Committee requested SD5 forward the following information to the MoE:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mount Baker Community Vision Project –An <i>About Us</i> mission document [1]</li> <li>• Eleven letters of support from community supporters [2]</li> <li>• Mapping Early Child Development SD5 Community Summary Fall 2008 [3]</li> <li>• Capital Health Edmonton Area: Population Health Issues Paper September 2007 [4]</li> <li>• “Placemaking” definition by Ross Blackwell of Focus Design Group [5]</li> <li>• The MBSS Community Vision Committee Charrette Session attendance list [6]</li> <li>• List and contact information of community supporters [7]</li> </ul>	Appendix I
September 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2009		The second SD5 MBSS Replacement Committee meeting was held.  Discussion included MoE’s desire for clarification on SD5’s request for a NoL and possible timeline for SD5’s receipt of the MBSS Community Vision Committee April 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2009 design charrette documentation.  This documentation is currently being finalized.	

8

September 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	Motion I – 09 - 054	<p>The School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) Board of Education passed the following motion:</p> <p><i>M/S to make formal application to the Ministry of Education for the MBSS Replacement as a pilot project under Neighbourhoods of Learning at the October Board meeting and to use the PIR to supplement the application process.</i></p>	
October 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	Motion R – 09 -	<p>The School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) Board of Education passed the following motion:</p> <p><i>M/S that the Board of Education endorses the Ministry of Education's concept of Neighbourhoods of Learning and that District Staff actively pursue the Mount Baker Secondary School replacement project within the concept of Neighbourhoods of Learning</i></p>	

The above chart illustrates what School District No. 5 trustees and administration have accomplished to date by responding to and addressing the needs of students, parents and the larger community.

Nevertheless, we appreciate that the viability of the Neighbourhood of Learning concept requires the completion of a number of practical steps. The following provides a roadmap of where we are going over the next few months:

### **Next Steps**

1. SD5 MBSS Replacement Committee to determine which community supporters are interested in becoming *partners* with SD5 in the NoL concept [Appendix J].
2. SD5 administration to determine District and partner requirements and the resources required by the District to meet these requirements to fulfill the vision of MBSS as a Neighbourhood of Learning
3. SD5 Replacement Committee to make recommendations to the SD5 Board of Education with regard to proposed space allocation and/or joint usage agreements of community partners and rights and responsibilities of partner groups and the public at large.
4. SD5 administration to negotiate monetary agreements with partners (i.e. funding, rent etc.).
5. SD5 administration to continue communication with the Ministry of Education and the SD5 Board of Education regarding all initiatives related to the MBSS Neighbourhoods of Learning.
6. SD5 MBSS Replacement Committee to liaise with community MBSS vision committee and public throughout process
7. SD5 administration to create a link on the SD5 website dedicated to documenting the on-going progress of the SD5 MBSS Replacement Committee. Website content will be the responsibility of the SD5 Board of Education.
8. SD5 Media Committee to provide on-going media releases to local media regarding all initiatives related to the MBSS Neighbourhoods of Learning.

The replacement of MBSS is of an urgent and imperative nature given several health and safety issues –some of which are outlined on page one of this application. These issues are fully identified in our PIR appendices A-E [Appendix G].

SD5 Board members and administration continue to work in partnership with other community and government groups to ensure that once MBSS receives this designation we are prepared to “break ground” quickly and efficiently. In doing so, we aim to provide Cranbrook, the largest city in southeast BC, with the most inclusive, innovative and versatile education delivery system available in our province.

We look forward to receiving your timely response to our request.

Sincerely,

Frank Lento  
Chairperson, Board of Education

Cc: Trustees  
Bill Gook, Superintendent of Schools  
Rob Norum, Secretary Treasurer  
Debra Empson, Principal, Mount Baker Secondary School  
John Cavelti, Planning Officer, Ministry of Education  
Bill Bennett, MLA, East Kootenay  
Michelle Richmond, MBSS PAC Chair  
District Management  
Principals  
DPAC  
School PACs  
City of Cranbrook  
RDEK  
IHA  
COTR

Please note: Appendices are available on the School District website:  
<http://www.sd5.bc.ca/news/publications/reports/annualbudget/>

**APPENDIX 1e**

**Additional Correspondence to MoE**



**SCHOOL DISTRICT 5**  
SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY

*File MT Baker Replacement  
- Capital*  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TREASURER  
*RL*

January 8, 2009

Keith Miller  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Resource Management Division  
PO Box 9151, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9H1

Dear Mr. Miller,

Re: Mt. Baker Secondary School Replacement

This School District has identified Mt. Baker Secondary as a high priority on its annual five year capital plan. Various community partners along with parents, staff and trustees are supportive of the idea that it is time to get underway with planning to replace this 1952 structure.

Since the previous assessment of the facility several significant deficiencies have come to light including, as an example, broken trusses in the music band area of the school.

I have requested staff to pursue a facility assessment of this school and to keep in touch with the Ministry facility staff to ensure that we adhere to the prescribed process.

I would request your support with an assessment of Mt. Baker Secondary School and would ask that you contact our staff, Mr. Bill Gook, Superintendent and Mr. Rob Norum, Secretary Treasurer, to discuss our request.

Thank you for your consideration.

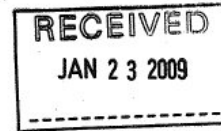
Sincerely,

Frank Lento  
Chairperson, Board of Education

Cc: Trustees  
B. Gook, Superintendent  
R. Norum, Secretary Treasurer  
B. Bennett, MLA  
J. Cavelti, Planning Officer



MT Baker replacement n'g



Our Ref: 129520

January 21, 2009

Rob Norum, Secretary Treasurer  
School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)  
940 Industrial Road #1  
Cranbrook BC V1C 4C6

Dear Rob Norum:

I am responding to a letter dated January 8, 2009, from Frank Lento, Chair, regarding the replacement of Mount Baker Secondary School.

I note that several deficiencies have come to light at the school and that district staff have been asked to complete a facility assessment of the building. Please feel free to call upon Ministry staff to assist with any questions that might arise during this process.

We recognize the district's desire to replace this school and assure you that this project will be considered as part of the ongoing capital planning process.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Miller  
Assistant Deputy Minister

pc: Frank Lento, Chair, Board of Education  
Bill Gook, Superintendent  
John Cavelti, Planning Officer

Ministry of  
Education

Resource Management  
Division

Mailing Address:  
PO BOX 9151 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria BC V8W 9H1  
Telephone: (250) 356-2588  
Facsimile: (250) 953-4985

Location:  
5th Floor  
620 Superior St  
Victoria BC



**SCHOOL DISTRICT 5**  
SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY

March 25, 2009

Mr. Bill Bennett, MLA  
100C Cranbrook Street North  
Cranbrook, B.C.  
VIC 3P9

Dear Mr. Bennett,

There has been a great deal of discussion amongst Trustees both locally at the Provincial level around the "Neighbourhoods of Learning" pilot project which the Premier announced on September 3, 2008 and was followed up by a letter from Minister Shirley Bond to Board Chairs. Although we did not meet the initial criteria to be considered for the initiative ("To be eligible for the pilot project, the rural school district must have an existing (approved) capital project.", S. Bond, 2008), we believe that the Board's current project dedicated to the replacement of Mt. Baker Secondary School fits very clearly into the Government's "Neighbourhoods of Learning" concept.

As there has been little recent communication coming from the Education Ministry about this model and the ability of Boards to incorporate elements of the "Neighbourhoods of Learning" into future capital projects that may meet the criteria, would you please forward to us information that would help clarify the process Boards should follow to be considered and the criteria for gaining approval for such a project.

Thank you for any information you can give us.

Yours truly,

Frank Lento  
Chairperson of the Board of Education of School District 5

Cc: Trustees



July 15, 2009

Keith Miller  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Resource Management Division  
PO Box 9151, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9H1

Dear Sir:

Re: Neighbourhoods of Learning

As you are aware, School District No. 5 is excited about the opportunity to replace Mt. Baker Secondary School which is under consideration by the Ministry of Education at this time.

In addition our community has indicated strong support to take this project beyond a replacement project and make it a community project. That vision under the Neighbourhoods of Learning concept has been spearheaded by our Mt. Baker PAC Chairperson, Michelle Richmond. Michelle has been working closely with the District and community groups to promote the vision as you can see from the letters of support included in this package.

Your support and consideration is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Frank Lento  
Chairperson, Board of Education

Cc: Doug Stewart, Director, Capital Management  
Dan Butler, Regional Manager, Capital Management  
John Cavelti, Planning Officer, Capital Management  
B. Gook, Superintendent  
B. Bennett, MLA  
M. Richmond, MBSS PAC Chairperson  
Trustees



# SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TREASURER

December 18, 2009

Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid  
Minister of Education  
Office of the Minister and Deputy Premier  
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister MacDiarmid:

Re: Replacement of Mt. Baker Secondary School

Further to our previous letters about Mt. Baker Secondary School and Neighbourhoods of Learning, we would like to bring the following background information about the building's condition to the attention of the Minister.

Mt. Baker Secondary School is a school for approximately 900 students, grades 10 to 12. It is the only secondary school in Cranbrook, and the largest school in the Southeast Kootenay regional district. The original building was constructed in 1949 with 13 separate additions occurring between 1955 and 1990, with mechanical and electrical upgrades in 1998 and 2000. The most recent addition was the new gymnasium in 1998. The Key City Theatre (the original gymnasium) was renovated and added to using community funds in 1990. The school has limited access to this facility.

Several studies and audits have been completed on this facility over the past 20 years. All have identified major deficiencies in the structure, fabric, operation, function, code compliance and accessibility. Other than selective structural remediation to roof trusses that failed due to higher than average snow loads, floor joists that failed due to the addition of concrete topping in washrooms, electrical and mechanical upgrades and replacement of flooring and some millwork in science rooms due to remediation required after a mercury spill, very little was done to improve the facility and address its deficiencies. The latest facility audit completed in March 2009 noted the overall condition of the building at 46%

At its regular in-camera meeting of December 8, 2009, The Board of Education of School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) passed the following motion:

*"M/S that the Board of Education write a letter to the Ministry of Education reviewing our safety concerns about the integrity of the roof on the Key City Theatre and part of the drama/music room in Mt. Baker Secondary School."*

We would respectfully request that the Minister of Education consider funding for the replacement of Mt. Baker Secondary School a high priority.

Sincerely, 

Frank Lento  
Chairperson, Board of Education

Cc: B. Bennett, MLA  
K. Miller, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Trustees  
B. Gook, Superintendent  
R. Norum, Secretary Treasurer



The Best Place on Earth

Re: *Truskes  
R. Wilson*  
REC'D  
MAY 11 2010

MAR - 4 2010

Our Ref: 135031

Frank Lento, Chair  
Board of Education  
School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)  
940 Industrial Road #1  
Cranbrook BC V1C 4C6

Dear Mr. Lento:

Thank you for your letter dated October 14, 2009 proposing the Neighbourhoods of Learning concept for Mount Baker Secondary School. I apologize for this late response.

As you know, the Ministry of Education's capital review process requires that each proposed project is carefully reviewed and prioritized. The Southeast Kootenay School District has requested the replacement of Mount Baker Secondary as its highest priority in its 2009/10 Capital Plan, which is now being reviewed by Ministry staff. I assure you that during this process, all projects are carefully evaluated and ranked fairly with competing capital projects from all 60 school districts province-wide.

Government's vision for school facilities in BC is one where schools and community organizations converge to create Neighbourhoods of Learning where people can access community services under one roof. At this time, Neighbourhoods of Learning will be introduced in six communities: Vancouver, Port Alberni, Powell River, Williams Lake, Oliver and Revelstoke. I recognize that many community/school partnerships already exist and are successful in several school districts and the Neighbourhoods of Learning program will continue to build upon these successes.

Mount Baker Secondary is recognized by the Ministry as a high priority for replacement, and the school will receive full consideration for a Neighbourhood Learning Centre should it be supported in a future capital plan.

I recognize that the Cranbrook community has been actively planning for a Neighbourhoods of Learning model at this school, and I wish to thank the Board for its efforts in this regard.

Sincerely,

Margaret MacDiarmid  
Minister

cc: Bill Gook, Superintendent of Schools

Ministry of  
Education

Office of the  
Minister

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Location:  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC



# SCHOOL DISTRICT 5

S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Ministry of Education  
PO BOX 9045 Stn. Provincial Government  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Attention: Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid

Re: Mount Baker Secondary School *Neighbourhood of Learning* Initiative

Thank you for touring Mount Baker Secondary School during your tour of our District on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Ayling and I appreciated having an opportunity to discuss our progress and our community's involvement in the replacement of our high school as a *Neighbourhood Learning Centre* (NLC) educational facility.

As per our presentation, we look forward to designing our *Neighbourhood Learning Centre* as a multi-use facility that supports the community of Cranbrook by:

- Integrating education with the wider community by providing opportunities for partner agencies to utilize MBSS for early learning, health care, career training and social support purposes.
- Providing citizens of all ages with a safe, centralized, easily accessible space in which to pursue physical, social, intellectual and cultural activities.
- Improving economic growth and diversity for the citizens of Cranbrook by providing opportunities for students and adults to train as vital "service and trades providers" without leaving the East Kootenay region.

As always, we look forward to ongoing dialogue with you and your Ministry as our Committee continues to solicit and receive community input on this Initiative.

Sincerely,

---

**Mount Baker Secondary School**  
SD5 Replacement Committee

Chris Johns, Chairperson  
250-426-5338 250-919-5393

cc: Honourable Bill Bennett

940 Industrial Road #1, Cranbrook, BC V1C 4C6 \* Tel: 250.426.4201 \* Fax 250.489.5460  
[www.sd5.bc.ca](http://www.sd5.bc.ca)



MAY 20 2010

Ref: 136196

Frank Lento, Chair  
Board of Education  
School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)  
940 Industrial Road #1  
Cranbrook BC V1C 4C6

Dear Mr. Lento:

I am writing further to my visit to your School District and in response to your letter concerning the replacement of Mount Baker Secondary School.

As we have discussed, the Ministry of Education realizes that the replacement of Mount Baker Secondary School is a high priority for the Southeast Kootenay School District. Please be assured that this project will receive full consideration once capital funding becomes available. In addition, as indicated in my letter to you dated March 4, 2010, Mount Baker Secondary will be considered for a Neighbourhood Learning Centre should it be supported by the Ministry for capital construction project funding.

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Cranbrook and appreciate the dedication of District staff and students. I recently had an opportunity to review the video that Mount Baker students and staff developed and applaud everyone for their tremendous talent and creativity.

Sincerely,

Margaret MacDiarmid  
Minister

pc: Bill Gook, Superintendent

Ministry of  
Education

Office of the  
Minister

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Location:  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC

**APPENDIX 1f**

**List of Community Groups, *Phase One***

ANKORS
Better Babies Pregnancy Outreach Program
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Canadian Mental Health –Youth Outreach Team
Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 4165
City of Cranbrook
College of the Rockies
College of the Rockies
Columbia Basin Trust
Community Action Program for Children
Community Connections Society
Community Harm Reduction
Cranbrook & District Arts Council
Cranbrook Boys and Girls Club
Cranbrook Chamber of Commerce
Cranbrook District Teachers' Association
Cranbrook Family Connections
Cranbrook Family Justice Services
Cranbrook Food Action Committee
Cranbrook Leisure Services
Cranbrook Society for Community Living
District Parents Advisory Committee
Early Childhood Development Committee
East Kootenay Addictions Services Society
East Kootenay Children First
East Kootenay Infant Development Society
East Kootenay MLC
East Kootenay Seniors' Coalition
Fraser Basin Council
Interior Health, Mental Health & Addictions/Aboriginal Services, East Kootenay Kootenay Boundary Health Service Area
Interior Health, Population Health, Child and Youth Program
Interior Health, Public Health Nurse assigned to MBSS
Interior Health, Senior Health Inspector
Key City Theatre Society
Ktunaxa Nation Regional Social Governance, Local Implementation Committee
MBSS Elders in Residence Program
Ministry for Child and Family Development
Mount Baker Secondary School Principal & staff
Mount Baker Vision Committee
Options for Sexual Health
PFLAG
Rotary Club
Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Cranbrook Detachment



Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Drugs & Organized Crime Awareness
Safe Communities Cranbrook Committee
SD5 Parents & PACs, Cranbrook
Social Planning Committee
St. Mary's Indian Band
Street Angel
Summit Community Services Society
United Way of Cranbrook and Kimberley
YPEP

**APPENDIX 2a**

**Presentation to Chamber of Commerce**

## **“The ABCs in Neighbourhood Renewal”**

Trina Ayling

We’re here today to talk about Mount Baker Secondary school, the concept of *Neighbourhood Learning Centres*, and the role that a new high school and local businesses might play in neighbourhood renewal.

Mount Baker is 60 years old. As most of you know it’s actually a collection of building additions completed over the years. The core structures are now showing their age. Compromised timber support beams, structural cracks on bearing walls and ceilings and an outdated HVAC system are just a few of the problems.

Last spring we commissioned a facilities assessment, and the Building Audit confirmed that Mount Baker is at only 44% of its optimal status.

That’s why last year we designated Mt. Baker as the number one school replacement priority in our entire District.

We certainly recognize that there are many other communities throughout BC with schools at the end of their service lives. And we also recognize that a new Mount Baker is estimated to cost over 40 million dollars --a significant financial outlay in challenging economic times.

However, while the “if and when” of funding for school replacement is a decision made by the provincial government, our Board is moving forward with due diligence and planning, so that we will be ready to go when we eventually get the green light.

Part of that planning involves figuring out how a new Mount Baker could actually function in our community. And to that end, government has given us some new direction.

In 2008 the BC government introduced a pilot project called *Neighbourhood Learning Centres*, in which specific schools would become community facilities as well as learning spaces –all under one roof.

Our local MLA, Bill Bennett, has described the concept as “an opportunity to expand that vision –to create a hub of educational, cultural and recreational opportunities that will enhance the livability of our community and support the life-long learning goals of students and their families. “

Possible uses could include such things as early learning or child-care programs, space for non-profit organizations, health clinics, sports programs, family resource or seniors’ centres, industry training, and so on.

It should also be recognized that a *Neighbourhood Learning Centre* can only go forward as a *partnership* between the school district and the wider community. Ultimately, the community has to come to the table with human and financial resources to help bring the vision to reality.

Last year the concept was embraced by parents at Mount Baker, some of whom undertook a “visioning” exercise to solicit feedback from potential community partners and to generate support within our City.

School trustees were very supportive of this process and responded to our community’s wishes last October by forwarding the results of the exercise to the Ministry of Education.

At the same time, we reinforced our community’s interest by making a formal application for Mount Baker replacement to be as a *Neighbourhood Learning Centre*.

You can view all of this information on the SD5 website.

We were pleased to see our efforts confirmed last November when Premier Campbell advised that all future new school projects would be built as *Neighbourhood Learning Centres*. The commitment was echoed more recently in the government’s February Throne Speech.

It’s an innovative idea, but it isn’t a new concept. Community schools have been operating for many years in Saskatchewan, Alberta and even right here in BC.

One of the oldest examples is Britannia Centre in Vancouver. Created in 1974, the school integrates a wide range of services including an elementary and secondary school, a senior's centre, a teen centre, as well as fitness facilities and meeting rooms.

More recently, Revelstoke moved forward with not one, but two, *Neighbourhood Learning Centres*. A new elementary school will house an early learning hub and medical services. A new secondary school will include a 275 seat theatre and provide coordinated health services that include an on-site social worker, mental health services and substance abuse prevention.

Now, I know some of you will be thinking the "school plus theatre" idea sounds a lot like what we already have at Mount Baker, and I'll talk a bit more about that later.

For the provincial government, a key component of *Neighbourhood Learning Centres* is school districts consulting with their communities to find ways to design schools with community use in mind. In other words, our role is to inform our community about some of the potential uses of a *Neighbourhood Learning Centre*, and then to respond to the community's interest.

That's why we're here speaking to you today.

While the primary focus of any school institution is to produce educated and capable future citizens, our Board is also willing to think outside the box in how we deliver educational services.

As you can see on our handout, one part of our community's *Vision for a Neighbourhood Learning Center* is to:

Improve economic growth and diversity for our citizens by providing opportunities for students and adults to train as vital service and trades providers without leaving the East Kootenay region.

So we are inviting you, as business leaders in our community, to think about the *Neighbour Learning Center* concept, about how local businesses might partner with us in its development or provide us with feedback on how we might respond to your interests.

You can access a Community Expression of Interest form on the SD5 web site as well.

But the bigger picture for the Chamber is reflected in the title of our presentation “The ABCs in Neighbourhood Renewal”—that is, a *Neighbourhood Learning Centre* has, among other benefits, the strong potential to enhance our local business climate.

I’m not just talking about the jobs and local purchasing that would come with a multi-year, 40 million dollar project right in the middle of downtown Cranbrook.

The City’s Economic Development Strategy speaks to “the potential for a vibrant town centre incorporating core personal, business, and social services, as well as entertainment and visitor amenities, that could reinvigorate the City’s business and cultural life.”

The Strategy identifies downtown revitalization as having a “high impact potential” in improving the business climate in our City.

We believe that a new Mount Baker, functioning as a “neighbourhood hub”, could play a central role in that revitalization.

Finally, one of the challenges we’ve already identified is the future of the Key City Theatre. The theatre is physically connected to the high school and shares not only electrical, heating, plumbing, etc but also those compromised timber support beams.

Once the old Mount Baker is taken down it may not be possible, or it may be too expensive, for the Theatre to continue as a stand-alone facility.

Funding for a performing arts facility is obviously not part of a Board of Education’s mandate, so we wanted to get ahead of this issue and bring it to the attention of our community, as we have already done with both the City of Cranbrook and the Key City Theatre Society.

It is interesting to note that, as we saw with Revelstoke, a *Neighbourhood Learning Center* can include a performing arts facility. It is certainly an option that we would be willing to look at. However, as is the case with all *Neighbourhood Learning Centers* this could only happen if our community steps up as full partners in the effort.

I bring this to your attention because one of the Chamber's principle goals is "to provide creative business leadership in solving community problems and in initiating constructive community action."

On behalf of the Cranbrook school trustees I can tell you that we look forward to partnering with our whole community, not just in building a better school, but in building a better Cranbrook.

Thank you.

**APPENDIX 2b**

**February 2010 Hand-Out to SD5 Parents**





SCHOOL DISTRICT 5 SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY

## Mount Baker Secondary School

It's been exactly one year since the Board of Education of School District 5 committed to having Mount Baker Secondary School as the number one replacement priority for the entire District.

On October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 the Board of Education of School District 5 voted to also pursue replacement within the provincial government's *Neighbourhood Learning Centre* concept, which aims at combining education with other community services in schools.

In November 2009 the Premier of BC advised that the *Neighbourhood Learning Centre* concept would be integrated into in all future school building projects.

### Our Vision

- Integrate education with the wider community by providing opportunities for partner agencies to utilize Mt. Baker Secondary School for services such as early learning, performing arts, health care, career training or social support purposes.
- Provide citizens of all ages with safe, central, easily accessible space to pursue physical, social, intellectual and cultural activities.
- Improve economic growth and diversity for our citizens by providing opportunities for students and adults to train as vital service and trades providers without leaving the East Kootenay region.

We are in the process of consulting with interested community groups and individuals about what a future Mount Baker might look like. You can review a summary of our work to date on the opposite page, or visit [www.sd5.bc.ca](http://www.sd5.bc.ca) for more details, including our letters to the Ministry of Education.

As always, we welcome your feedback.

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#### Contact:

Trustee Chris Johns,  
Chairperson, SD5 MBSS Replacement Committee

[chris.johns@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:chris.johns@sd5.bc.ca)

# What we've done and where we are going

## Feasibility Assessment

- Tour of facility by Trustees, Manager of Facilities and KMBR Architects Planning
- Secured a facility assessment for Mt. Baker Secondary School from the Assistant Deputy Minister
- Completed a feasibility study for Mt. Baker Secondary School with KMBR Architect Planners
- Appointed trustees to attend PAC-parent initiated "community vision" sessions

## Commitment to Pursue Replacement and Neighbourhood Learning Centre Designation

- Board designated Mt. Baker Secondary School as the District's No. 1 priority replacement
- Sent a formal written request for information on Neighbourhood Learning Centres to local MLA
- Board officially carried motion to establish Mt. Baker Secondary School Replacement Committee
- Commissioned Project Identification Report (PIR) for Mt. Baker Secondary School and forwarded to the Ministry of Education
- Forwarded all PAC-parent initiated community vision information to the Ministry of Education as requested by the parent group
- Board officially carried motion to actively pursue the Mt. Baker Secondary School replacement project within the concept of a Neighbourhood Learning Centre
- Board submitted a formal application to the Ministry of Education for Neighbourhood Learning Centre designation that included vision statements, timelines, next steps and complete appendices.

## Ongoing Commitment to Parents and Community

- Posted all submissions, appendices and correspondence regarding Mt. Baker Secondary School / Neighbourhood Learning Centre initiative on School District 5 website via link from the homepage
- Currently in the process of consulting with the Cranbrook Mayor and Council, the Key City Theatre Society and community groups and individuals.
- Requesting input from parents of students currently enrolled in Cranbrook public schools