

School District #75 (Mission)  
Special Committee of the Whole Meeting  
Agenda

January 27, 2022, 6:30 pm

[Zoom Meeting](#)

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Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER  
*The Board Chair will acknowledge that this meeting is being held on Traditional Territory.*
2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS
4. CURRICULUM
5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  - 5.1. Stave Falls Catchment Boundary Adjustment to include Steelhead Area Action 1 - 7
6. STAFF REPORTS
7. NEW BUSINESS
8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
9. INFORMATION ITEMS
10. ADJOURNMENT

**ITEM 5.1      Action      File No.    0110**

TO:                Committee of the Whole  
FROM:            C. Becker, Secretary-Treasurer  
SUBJECT:        Stave Falls Catchment Boundary Adjustment to include Steelhead Area

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**Recommendation**

**THAT information and comments from the public engagement process regarding the approval in principle to change the Steelhead boundary from Albert McMahon Elementary to Stave Falls Elementary, be reviewed, discussed, and direction forwarded to the February Board meeting for consideration.**

**1. Summary:**

With enrolment in the Urban Elementary Schools continuing to increase due to the infill of housing in the neighbourhoods, the School District initiated a review of school catchment boundaries in 2019/2020. The 2019/2020 review indicated the need to reconsider the catchment boundary for Albert McMahon with the view of altering the school catchment for Stave Falls to include students from the Steelhead area. A survey of parents indicated general support of this boundary realignment. This report summarizes the student enrolment information for 2021-22, and the impact this change would have on the schools.

**2. Background:**

In 2020, the School District conducted a **Survey of the Steelhead area parents**. The results of the survey were included in the presentation on October 27, 2020. The following questions/responses were part of the survey.

*1. What advantages do you see with changing the Steelhead catchment to Stave Falls?*

- Help in the reduction of overpopulation at McMahon
- Since our catchment is and has been past capacity (Albert) then it only makes sense to change the catchment to include Stave. Stupidest question ever.
- Stave Falls needs more students (would prefer only 2 grade split instead of 3) and Albert McMahon is way too overcrowded. No student should be turned away from their catchment school.
- Would prefer a smaller school and with 2 boys, they would love the outdoor theme
- Smaller school size
- None!
- Less overcrowding at Albert McMahon. No more 3 way grade splits at stave falls.
- You better have some amazing busses to do this
- It's closer

*2. What concerns do you have with Stave Falls Elementary being the catchment school for Steelhead?*

- None!
  - No concerns. It is a good idea.
  - None
  - Not enough classrooms, not enough staff to support.
  - Childcare issues, too early bus pickups, having to drive kids to bus stop as there are no sidewalks, kids are already situated in their schools and family involved with PAC. Further from work or family members in the event the child needs to be picked up from school.
  - None
  - Seriously how do people get there in bad weather
  - None
3. *What other things should the School District consider as it reviews the change?*
- Stave needs students, Albert is maxed out..... that's all you need to consider in my opinion.
  - Albert McMahan school will only get more crowded as a lot of development is going on in that area. I see no reason why Steelhead residents shouldn't go to Stave Falls school
  - Bussing
  - Bussing being offered at a decent time, after school care. Perhaps a public input meeting at the community hall.
  - Lack of classrooms and teachers for the students. Building a new school in the cedar valley area, opening Ferndale elementary....
  - Forest based school for rural kids is fantastic
  - The outdoor school is so privileged. To pay to get there to pay for the gear etc. But you've built it. So maximize it. Make it as amazing as Maple Ridge that has a wait list
  - Bus service for steelhead to stave falls

As noted in the comments, the school district will need to consider bussing needs to make the change viable. If this change is approved in principle, staff will have additional information on bussing options for consideration at the January Committee meeting. In addition, the January meeting would provide additional information regarding long-range enrolment forecasts, and a more detailed review of the boundary cutoff near Dewdney and Keystone, to ensure the most appropriate boundary is set considering parent interest, and bussing needs.

It is expected that a formal consultation meeting with stakeholders, including parents, will identify additional issues that need to be considered.

### **3. Current situation**

The following table summarizes the enrolment at Stave Falls and analyzes the enrolment in Steelhead and the students residing in the Steelhead area that would change from attending Albert McMahan to Stave Falls.

**Stave Fall Enrolment Analysis - Steelhead - Nov. 2021**

<b><u>Current - Without Steelhead</u></b>	<b><u>Students</u></b>	<b><u>Classrooms</u></b>	<b><u>Avg Class Size</u></b>
Stave Falls Catchment - current	58		
Steelhead Area Students	4		
Other MPSD students	29		
Other non MPSD students	14		
<b>Total Stave Falls Enrolment</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>
<b><u>Revised - With Steelhead</u></b>			
Stave Falls Catchment - current	58		
Steelhead Area Students	37		
Other MPSD students	29		
Other non MPSD students	14		
<b>Total Stave Falls Projected Enroment</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Stave Falls Capacity</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>

Additional information is attached regarding current student catchment and schools attending that affect Stave Falls. There are currently 14 students from outside MPSD that are attending Stave Falls – 12 of these students are from Maple Ridge.

If the Steelhead area from just North of the turn at Dewdney and Keystone is changed from the Albert McMahon Catchment area and if all the current eligible students from this area that are currently attending Albert McMahon were to change to Stave Falls, there would be an additional 33 students attending Stave Falls school. However, staff note that it may take a few years before the impact of the change to the catchment boundary is fully realized.

Other information to consider is the size of the school. Stave Falls elementary has 8 classrooms. Five rooms are currently used by the school as classrooms, and three are currently occupied by daycare/childcare facilities. If a boundary change was implemented for September 2022, staff expect that one additional classroom would need to be changed from a childcare facility to a classroom for 2022/2023. As there are a significant number of students from outside of the Stave Falls catchment, there is also the ability to restrict the cross-boundary students to manage the enrolment at the site. The cross boundary and out of district students (43) generally contribute to the use of 2 classrooms.

A shift of 33 students out of Albert McMahon would help with some of the space issues the school is expected to experience in the next few years.

**Responses from Engage.MPSD Question and Answers:**

- If my son was already at Stave Falls the first year it opened and was recommended that he go to Albert McMahon (our catchment for steelhead), because he would have way more resources. And his school year did not go well at Stave Falls at all. Would there be a way for me to have him stay at Albert McMahon, where he is doing well and is night and day compared to Stave

Falls. I believe it will be in his absolute best interest to see out his last year of elementary at Albert McMahan next year.

- Will students already registered at Albert McMahan be grandfathered and permitted to continue attending AME? I am not in favour of the idea of uprooting my children from their friend groups, to attend a school that is a 15 minute drive away, versus the 5 minutes away that AME is. Desperately hoping students who are already settled and integrated into AME will be grandfathered.
- Likewise for kids who have already approved boundaries to Stave Falls who live in Albert McMahan's catchment. *Answer: Please be advised that any cross-boundary has always been approved for one year only, and hence, cross-boundary students needed to fill out the Cross-Boundary Form each year. If cross-boundary has been approved for multiple years, it was done only when capacity allowed.* Agreed but I don't want to see this new policy impact my son's stability at Stave Falls. That would be extremely upsetting and wouldn't make sense since we are in the AME catchment!
- What if I don't want my children to be moved? I want them to stay at AME. We have been there 5 years and this would be very disruptive to an already stressful two years. How can I be on a list to make sure I am notified of any meeting or votes if they are to come up. This is VERY important to my family and my children's happiness and livelihood.
- Mom lives in Albert McMahan. Dad lives in what will be Dewdney Elementary catchment. Work doesn't allow parents to drive kids to school. So buses are relied on. How do you deal with the many kids in split family situations?
- Will current students going to Albert McMahan be grandfathered in? My daughter attends kindergarten there and is thriving I do not want her to switch!
- I also have the same concern of having to move my children to another school, they are settled in at Albert McMahan and have gone through so much the past few years already, as well Stave Falls is 3x the distance from our house than Albert McMahan, would like to know how we are going to be consulted about being grandfathered in to where they already attend school
- As a parent of a child at Albert McMahan Elementary who would be affected by this change and displaced to a different elementary school when she has made friends and is comfortable where she is. As well as she attends before and after school care (after being on a wish list) that she is also comfortable at and has made friends at. I do not believe it would be well for any child's mental well being to be forced to go through yet another change. Resulting in my child to be forced into two completely new environments as I would have to switch her before and after school care. During this awful pandemic these children are already dealing with an upheaval on their lives, I do not believe this will be good for any child to be moved that is already enrolled. I hope with this change you allow the students who are already attending mentioned schools to stay where they are. I know my child would not benefit from being moved and I do not believe any other child would either.

**4. Options:**

**5. Analysis and Impact:**

- a. Strategic Plan Alignment

- b. Q'pethet Ye Tel:exw, Gathering to Understand: A Framework for Creating a Culture of Equity
- c. Funding Guidelines, Costing, & Budget Impact
- d. Policy, Legislation, Regulation
- e. Organizational Capacity

The proposed boundary changes to Albert McMahon can be done at no additional cost to the district only if we do not grandfather any busing. Busing could only be provided to Stave Falls from the new boundaries without any additional costs. The change can be made with the current bus route servicing Stave Falls.

Foresee concerns from the parents that the change will have the previous McMahon catchment students picked up 25- 30 minute earlier than previous route.

- f. Risks
  - i. Organizational
  - ii. Reputational
  - iii. Strategic
- g. Benefits
  - i. Organizational
  - ii. Reputational
  - iii. Strategic

#### **6. Public Participation:**

The recommendation includes additional consultation and engagement with the parent community. It is expected that additional information from the consultation may affect the decision, and any logistics for implementation.

#### **7. Implementation:**

The preliminary discussion has suggested a target date of September 2022 for the change. As such, the public engagement, and changes to the catchment boundaries should be made as soon as possible. Parents registering their children for kindergarten in January should be advised of the potential change, should this be approved in principle.

#### **8. Attachments:**

- 1. Stave Falls Enrolment Analysis – November 2021**
- 2. Map of area used for the analysis**

Attachment 1

**Stave Falls Enrolment Analysis - November 2021**

Stave Falls Student Residency	k	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Stave Falls Elementary	13	8	10	9	4	4	10	58
Albert McMahon (inc. Steelhead)	3	3	1	0	2	4	1	14
Maple Ridge	4	5	-	3	-	-	-	12
West Heights	2	4	-	1	-	-	2	9
cherry Hill	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Windebank	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	3
Hatzic E	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Silverdale	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Abbotsford	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Surrey	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	<u>25</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>105</u>

  

Steel Head Residency	k	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Albert McMahon	7	6	3	2	3	6	6	33
ESR	1	0	0	1	1	1	-	4
Stave Falls	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	4
Hatzic E	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3
Dewdney	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Hillside	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>46</u>

  

SF Adj to include Steelhead	k	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Stave Falls Elementary	21	15	13	11	7	12	16	95
Albert McMahon (exc. Steelhead)	2	2	1	0	2	2	1	10
Maple Ridge	4	5	-	3	-	-	-	12
West Heights	2	4	-	1	-	-	2	9
cherry Hill	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Windebank	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	3
Hatzic E	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Silverdale	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Abbotsford	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Surrey	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	<u>32</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>138</u>

Steelhead / Stave Falls Analysis

