



Memorandum

vancouver school board



September 13, 2017

Item 4

TO: Education and Student Services Committee III

FROM: Adrian Keough, Director of Instruction - Educational Programs
Learning Services

RE: **Early Mandarin Bilingual**

INTRODUCTION:

This report will provide an overview of the consultation process regarding the location of the secondary school of the Early Mandarin Bilingual Program which is currently at Norquay Elementary school. This report will further provide a recommendation of the location for the secondary program which will enroll students in grade 8 in the 2018-19 school year.

Connection to the VBE Strategic Plan: **Goal 1:** Engage our learners through innovative teaching and learning practices and **Goal 4:** Effectively use school district resources and facilities.

BACKGROUND:

This report is a follow up to the January 4, 2017 Committee III report presented by Nancy Brennan, Associate Superintendent-Learning Services. As stated in that report http://www.vsb.bc.ca/sites/default/files/17_01Jan04_op_commlII_agenda.pdf the Vancouver School District has long supported Mandarin Second Language programs at both the elementary and secondary levels. In 1995, the elementary Bilingual Mandarin program began in Grade 4 at Annie B. Jamieson Elementary. The students from this program, who learn Mandarin for up to 30% of their school day, can choose to move on to Eric Hamber Secondary, where they can take two Mandarin courses in Grade 8 and one in Grade 9 before transitioning into the appropriate level of the regular Mandarin stream in Grade 10. There are typically 25-28 students in each of the Jamieson cohorts, although some years the enrolment has been a bit lower and this has led to timetabling challenges and additional staffing costs.

In 2008, the 'Vancouver Parents for Mandarin' Committee was established and the stakeholders wrote a report entitled 'Early Mandarin Language Learning' which was shared through Committee III. In January of 2010, the Vancouver Board of Education approved the beginning of an Early Mandarin Bilingual (EMB) Program at John Norquay Elementary. The program in EMB is structured to allow 50% of instructional time to be in Mandarin and the other 50% in English. Mandarin Language Arts (K-3 Traditional and 4-7 Simplified Mandarin), Fine Arts, Physical & Health Education and Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies are taught in Mandarin, while English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies are taught in English. This does not however, preclude the integration of both languages in all subject areas. Registration for the program began in 2010, and in September of 2011, the program began at Norquay with three divisions (Kindergarten, K/1 and Grade 1). Each year a Kindergarten class of up to 22 (up to 20 Kindergarten as of September 2017) and others as space permits are accepted into

the program. As of September 2017, there are 195 students enrolled in 9 divisions. The lead class is now in grade 7 and will therefore move to the secondary level in September of 2018.

CONSULTATION

To this end, the 'EMB Secondary Transition Committee' was struck in the Spring 2017 and was comprised of:

- Associate Superintendent Learning Services
- Director of Instruction Educational Programs
- Representative of the District's Facilities and Planning Department
- VESTA representative (Modern Languages Teacher Consultant)
- VESTA representative (an EMB teacher)
- One VSTA representative (a secondary Mandarin teacher)
- VEPVPA representative (EMB program principal)
- VASSA representative (principal of a school offering Mandarin)
- Two DPAC representatives

The objective for this committee was 'to look more closely at the space requirements and availability, other relevant factors in the District such as seismic mitigation and enrolment trends, best practices in second language instruction at the secondary level, and where possible the requests of the EMB parents.'

Meetings were held on:

- March 2nd
- April 3rd
- May 15th

The following questions were discussed throughout the consultation process:

1. Is there an established Mandarin program at the school?
2. How many Norquay EMB students reside in each of these secondary school catchments?
3. What are the space challenges?
4. Are there other District Choice / Specialty programs currently in place at this secondary site?
5. What are the future Facilities plans for this site?

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
Secondary school offering Mandarin program.	# of students attending the EMB at Norquay and who live in this school catchment (June 2017)	Space challenges.	Other District / Choice programs.	What are the future Facilities plans around this site?
Britannia	2	Limited space available	Two other District Choice programs	2018/19 Capital Plan Year 7 for seismic
Churchill	6	Limited space available	Three other District Choice program	2018/19 Capital Plan Year 6 for seismic
Hamber	11	Limited space available	Two other District Choice programs	2018/19 Capital Plan Year 1 for seismic
Templeton	10	Available space	One other District Choice program	2018/19 Capital Plan Year 4 for seismic
David Thompson	7	Limited space available	One other District Choice program	2018/19 Capital Plan Year 1 for seismic
Vancouver Technical	16	No space available	Three other District Choice programs	Seismically upgraded
Windermere	46	Available space	One other District Choice program	2018/19 Capital Plan Year 5 for seismic

The committee members were provided with a variety of information:

- January 4, 2017 Committee 3 report and various attachments/appendices
- Early Mandarin Bilingual (EMB) program brochure
- Mandarin Bilingual (Jamieson) program brochure
- Chart summarizing all secondary Mandarin programs and Choice programs
- Chart of all languages offered in all secondary schools
- Chart of % of language instruction in Mandarin programs in other jurisdictions
- EMB Mandarin Curricular Framework K to 8
- May 2017 Parent created survey from EMB families of 2016-2017 grade 5 and 6 students
- Highlights of VSB EMB parent survey February 2016

Both surveys and all informal feedback indicate very positive support for both the EMB program as well as the continuation of a secondary program in general. There are pockets of support for various schools across the district and the majority of families indicate they would enroll their child in any school where the Board assigns the program.

RECOMMENDATION:

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the Board approve Windermere as the secondary school site component of the Early Mandarin Bilingual program.