

Grandview Heights Secondary Community Forums – Running FAQ

Updated September 2018

This FAQ is based on questions that have come to the district through the four Grandview Heights Secondary community forums, as well as questions on PlaceSpeak and via email.

If you have a question that you feel should be included here, please email it to grandview@surreyschools.ca and it will be added to the FAQ.

Milestones:

April 16, 2018 – Letter to Parents

April 24, 2018 – Pre-Engagement Meeting with PAC representatives

April 27, 2018 – Information Package

April 30, 2018 – Community Forum #1 – Earl Marriott

May 14, 2018 – Community Forum #2 – Earl Marriott

May 15, 2018 – Community Forum #2 – Elgin Park

May 16, 2018 – Community Forum #2 – Semiahmoo

Important Dates:

(Board Meeting dates may be subject to change. Please check the [Board Meetings](#) page for the most up-to-date information.)

June 15, 2018 – Consultation Feedback closes (Please note, the public will still be able to provide feedback and ask questions about Grandview Heights Secondary.)

September 19, 2018 – Board Meeting, Report to be presented to the Board

October 17, 2018 – Board Meeting

October 20, 2018 – General Voting Day for 2018 Election

November 7, 2018 – Inaugural Board Meeting following 2018 Election (no business will be conducted regarding Grandview Heights Secondary)

November 21, 2018 – Board Meeting (earliest decision on options)

December 12, 2018 – Board Meeting (earliest decision on options)

January 23, 2019 – Board Meeting (likeliest decision on options)

Grandview Heights Secondary

Will Grandview Heights Secondary offer Grade 12 when it opens?

No. As a policy, the district does not take Grade 12 students out of their current secondary school when a new secondary school opens. Grandview Heights Secondary will only offer Grades 8-11 in its first year.

The first year of Grade 11 students will be the first graduating class at Grandview Heights Secondary.

Why isn't the district doing a phased transition of students to Grandview Heights Secondary like the other proposed boundary changes? (i.e. Jessie Lee, Bayridge, White Rock or Semiahmoo Trail)

Unlike the other boundary changes, Grandview Heights Secondary needs a new cohort of students when it opens. This is why Grade 8-11 students in the Grandview Heights Secondary catchment will see an immediate move to the new school rather than a phased transition.

My child will be in Grade 11 at Grandview Heights Secondary, but they will be taking a Grade 12 course. Will Grade 12 courses be offered at Grandview Heights for students in this situation?

If enough students request a specific Grade 12 course, one option is that it could run the first year that Grandview Heights Secondary is open. Otherwise, students could take this in their Grade 12 year.

Recognizing the rapid growth projected in the Grandview Heights area, why isn't Grandview Heights Secondary being built larger?

The Ministry of Education has approved a 1,500-student school for Grandview Heights Secondary.

There is room for expansion, if needed, on the east side of the building, which would allow for the creation of 12 new classrooms for approximately 350 students.

The Options

Why is Option 2B considered the preferred option?

Option 2B most evenly distributes the student population across the four South Surrey-White Rock secondary schools and maximizes space at each site.

In Option 2A, it is proposed that Bayridge feed into Elgin Park instead of Semiahmoo. Bayridge is within walking distance of Semiahmoo. Why is it being considered that Bayridge feed to Elgin Park?

The consideration to move Bayridge students to Elgin Park is in an effort to address the declining enrolment at the secondary level while balancing enrolment across the South Surrey-White Rock area.

In Option 1B, moving the secondary French Immersion program from Earl Marriott to Elgin Park would put Elgin Park well over capacity. Is there possibility for adding an expansion to Elgin Park?

The Ministry of Education has not approved an expansion at Elgin Park, so there are no plans for an addition there.

In all four options, the Sunnyside catchment will feed into Grandview Heights Secondary. Considering many Sunnyside parents already experienced moving their children from the old Sunnyside elementary to the new one, has consideration been given to children who may be asked to move again?

The district had not contemplated special consideration to the students who were impacted by the September 2013 move to the new Sunnyside Elementary. The students impacted are currently in Grades 6 and 7, or are attending Semiahmoo Secondary in Grade 8. The district will look into the number of students who are potentially impacted by another move.

In all four options, Pacific Heights Elementary will become a split catchment while Grandview Heights Secondary will open well below capacity. Why not have all of Pacific Heights feed into the Grandview Heights Secondary catchment?

Looking ahead to the development of the new Edgewood Drive area elementary school (scheduled to open in September 2020), it is possible those students living in the Pacific Heights catchment south of 20th Avenue would become part of the new school's catchment area.

French Immersion

Was French Immersion considered for the new Grandview Heights Secondary?

The district did look at moving the secondary French Immersion program from Earl Marriott to Grandview Heights. However, moving the program would have put Grandview Heights above capacity too quickly, so it was not a viable option.

What factors are being considered before deciding whether the French Immersion program will move to Elgin Park (in Option 1B) or remain at Earl Marriott?

Each option was guided by Surrey Board of Education policy, namely Policy No. 9200 (School Catchment Areas), No. 9320 (Registration and Placement of Students) and No. 8320 (Programs of Choice and Focus Programs).

Projected enrolment and housing numbers were also taken into consideration, as well as the ability to maintain the secondary French Immersion program at its current size while balancing student populations at South Surrey-White Rock secondary schools.

In a comprehensive boundary review, all Choice Programs and their placement must be considered to ensure thorough and thoughtful consultation.

I live in the proposed Grandview Heights Secondary catchment, but my child is in secondary French Immersion. Will my child be forced to move to Grandview Heights Secondary?

No, secondary French Immersion students will continue to attend secondary where the French Immersion program is offered: either Earl Marriott as it is currently or Elgin Park if Option 1B is selected by the Board.

Is there consideration for the secondary French Immersion program to move to its own facility, similar to how École Laronde provides elementary French Immersion?

Not at this time. The only secondary school facilities the district has in the South Surrey-White Rock area are Elgin Park, Earl Marriott, Semiahmoo and Grandview Heights when it opens.

International Baccalaureate

Are there plans to move the International Baccalaureate program from Semiahmoo?

No. Semiahmoo is the only school in South Surrey that has been authorized as a World International Baccalaureate School by the International Baccalaureate Foundation.

Out-of-Catchment Students

Will Earl Marriott / Elgin Park / Semiahmoo accept out-of-catchment students when Grandview Heights Secondary opens?

Closer to the opening of Grandview Heights Secondary, the district will look at balancing out-of-catchment requests across the South Surrey-White Rock secondary schools. If any student wants to attend a school other than their catchment school, they must fill out a cross boundary registration form.

The district will examine how to accommodate the moves in a manner that attempts to balance the populations to the best degree possible. For example, if 10 students who live in the Earl Marriott catchment want to attend Grandview Heights, and 10 students who live in the Grandview Heights catchment want to attend Earl Marriott, the number of student requests between the school balances out and 10 student requests from each school can be accommodated.

This phase will be the initial review of out-of-catchment requests. Not all student requests will be able to be accommodated in this initial review. More details will be announced closer to the opening of Grandview Heights Secondary.

Will current out-of-catchment elementary students continue to secondary school based on feeder school or based on address?

Out-of-catchment elementary students will be given the option to continue to the out-of-catchment secondary school tied to their elementary school, or they can attend their in-catchment secondary school based on address.

Will current out-of-catchment secondary students continue to secondary school based on feeder school or based on address?

Out-of-catchment secondary students will be given the option to continue attending their out-of-catchment secondary school, or to attend their in-catchment secondary school based on address.

Montessori

Will Montessori students at Sunnyside continue to secondary school based on feeder school or based on address?

Montessori elementary students at Sunnyside who will be entering Grade 8 before Grandview Heights Secondary opens will be given the option to continue to Semiahmoo or attend their in-catchment secondary school based on address.

Montessori elementary students at Sunnyside who will be entering Grade 8 after Grandview Heights Secondary opens will be given the option to continue to Grandview Heights or attend their in-catchment secondary school based on address.

International Students

How many international students are there in the South Surrey-White Rock secondary schools?

Below are the current enrolment numbers for international students at the three South Surrey-White Rock secondary schools:

	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Total
Earl Marriott Secondary	8	23	14	29	30	104
Elgin Park Secondary	19	17	28	23	26	113
Semiahmoo Secondary	22	9	11	19	40	101
Total	49	49	53	71	96	318

Why does the district allow international students at secondary schools that are already above capacity?

The district has capped enrolment for new international students at secondary schools that are above capacity.

Why not move international students to other secondary schools that are below capacity?

Many international students live in homes with their family, or with host families, within the catchment boundaries of their school. In addition, when international students are accepted, it is often a multi-year commitment to graduation within a school.

Transit and Bus Routes / Walkability

How is the 4.8-kilometre walk zone determined?

The walk zone is measured by actual walking distance, as opposed to a 4.8-kilometre radius from the school (also known as “as the crow flies”).

Will students who live within 4.8 kilometres of their catchment school be able to ride the bus?

Yes, the district offers a monthly pass for students within the 4.8-kilometre walk zone, provided there is room on the bus and the student is able to reach the route. The pass is \$30 per month. For more information, see our [Bus Services](#) page.

Can you ensure that bus routes will be added for students outside the walk zone in rural areas that are currently underserved by transit?

The district shares all school catchment boundary information with the City of Surrey. We are currently sharing all possible catchment boundary options regarding Grandview Heights Secondary. The City of Surrey works in conjunction with TransLink to plan transit routes.

In Option 2B, it is proposed that Semiahmoo Trail feed into Elgin Park instead of Semiahmoo. Currently, there is adequate bus service for Semiahmoo students living in the Semiahmoo Trail catchment. Elgin Park is shown to have the least growth projected in the next 10 years, with secondary student numbers going down in some cases. What incentive does TransLink have to add new bus routes to a non-developing area?

Meetings between the district and the City of Surrey have begun to look at the possible impacts of the proposed boundary changes in the South Surrey-White Rock area could have on current public transit use patterns. The City of Surrey and TransLink will take this into account when they are planning for future transit service in these communities. The district’s role is to continue to advocate for the need for more public transit service to support our school communities.

In all four options, the Pacific Heights Elementary catchment area south of 20th Avenue (and east of 168th Street in Option 2B) feeds to Earl Marriott. Students will have to cross Highway 99 to attend Earl Marriott. Why not have those students attend Grandview Heights Secondary so they don't have to cross the highway?

According to the fourth principle of Surrey Board of Education Policy No. 9200: School Catchment Areas, "Boundaries are created in the interest of student safety using arterial roads and natural boundaries to form catchment areas whenever possible."

While the district tries to minimize the crossing of major roadways for students, this cannot always be achieved when drawing new catchment boundaries. The district is working on safe travel options such as bus routes to accommodate students who have to cross highways on their way to school.

Other Programs

What type of extra-curricular activities and athletic teams will be available at Grandview Heights Secondary?

Once administrative and teaching staff has been assigned to Grandview Heights Secondary, they will work to determine the athletic teams and extra-curricular activities available at the school.

Will there be a band program at Grandview Heights Secondary?

All secondary schools in Surrey offer band and we expect Grandview Heights Secondary to have a band program.

Will there be a co-op program at Grandview Heights Secondary?

Once an option is selected by the Board, the district will start to determine programs at Grandview Heights Secondary.

In all of the options, the Grandview Heights Secondary catchment is largely made up of Earl Marriott feeder schools. What happens to programs at Earl Marriott when Grandview Heights Secondary opens and the EMS student population drops?

The location of programs at secondary schools is dependent on interest. Many programs at Earl Marriott have waitlists, so if the demand is there, those programs should remain at Earl Marriott.