

Improving Collaboration to Deliver Education

Presenters:

Honourable Minister Rachna Singh

Langley School Board Chair Candy Ashdown

Township of Langley Mayor Eric Woodward

Facilitator:

Deputy Minister Christina Zacharuk

September 19, 2023



Ministry of
Education and
Child Care

Presentation Overview

- Collaboration
- Demographic Context and Enrolment Forecast
- Ministry of Education and Child Care Initiatives
- Local Government Collaboration in Action
 - Langley School Board
 - Township of Langley
- Discussion

Collaboration



- The three levels of government working together can provide more complete communities in areas such as:
 - Housing
 - Health Care
 - Transportation
- Working together allows for better community planning, expedited permitting, better traffic flows, etc.
- Today we are here to talk about education and how important it is for school boards and local governments to work together.



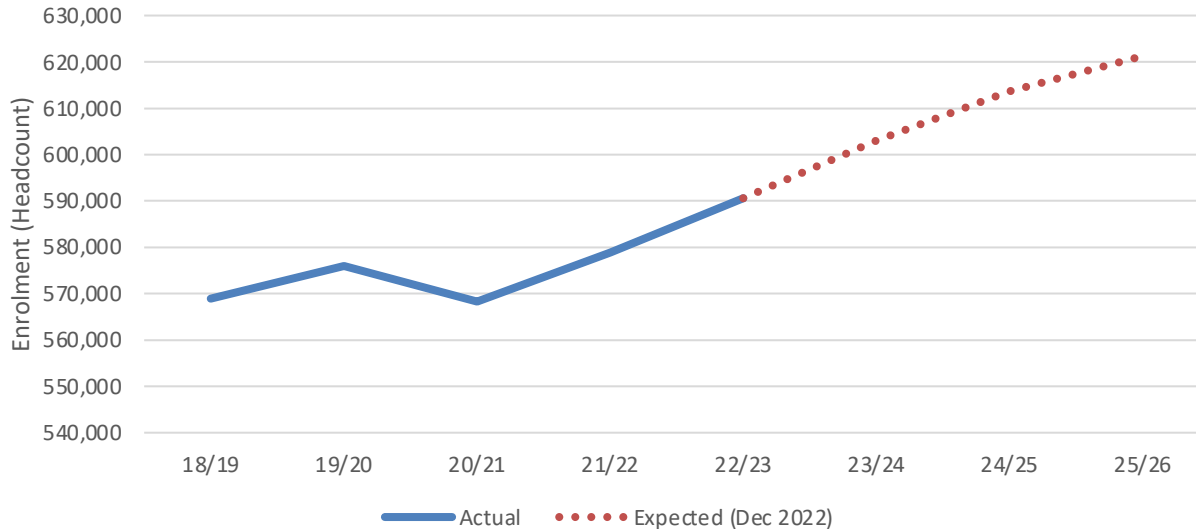
Demographic Context



- Great news - people are choosing B.C. as a place to live; however, this is putting pressure on multiple areas.
- Over the past year, B.C.'s population grew by 162,913 driven by international migration.
- Schools are a central pillar of complete communities and never has it been more important for us to work together.
- As you have seen in the news our enrolment in many school districts has increased significantly with more in the forecast.

Impact on Enrolment

B.C. Public School Enrolment Headcount Forecast



- *The last eight school years have seen enrolment in public schools increase by an estimated 36,410+ students.*
- *An additional 37,000+ students are forecasted by 2026/27.*

Ministry of Education & Child Care Initiatives



ECC has been working hard to do what we can to support boards to meet these challenges:

- Record school capital investment
 - Since September 2017, government has announced 24,000 new student spaces and 35,000 seismically safe seats
 - Budget 2023 includes \$3.4 billion for school capital projects
- Expediting internal government funding approval processes
 - Reducing school capital project timelines by up to a year
- Flexibility around acquiring school sites
 - Providing support throughout the year to acquire school sites as opportunities arise
- Exploring prefabricated modular classrooms
 - Accelerating the delivery of space for students



Local Government Collaboration



- Given these pressures, our goal today is to share ways that local governments and school boards can work collaboratively to improve outcomes for communities
- There are some excellent examples of this collaboration across the province, but we have here today the Langley School Board and the Township of Langley.
- These organizations have a history of working well together and they are going to share some promising practices that have been working for them, as well as areas that they would still like to improve on.



Langley School District and Township of Langley Partnership

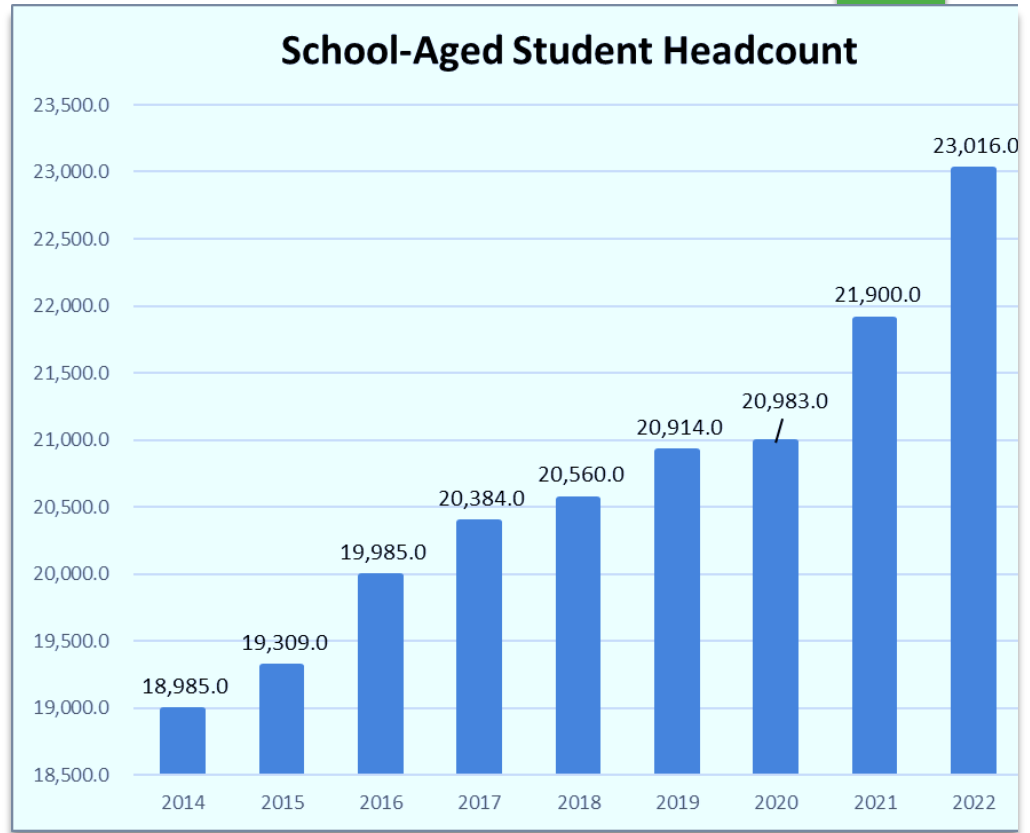
PRESENTATION TO UBCM
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

Role of the Trustee

- **Advocate actively** for students, their learning and their well-being in the board's work with the community, the municipality and the province
- Boards are the **direction setters** for the district. The board sets the overall direction for the school system through its **strategic planning**; and, along with its vision, mission and values, the Board articulates the strategic priorities and goals for the system.
- The Board sets **financial direction** through a **financial plan and an annual budget** that determines how resources are allocated to schools, departments and programs.
- The Board also provides direction **through Board policies**. This includes planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating policy.



Enrolment Growth



School District and Municipal Partnership

- In new developments, developers are required to set aside an elementary and park site if development in a specific area requires a new school
- Joint sites with School District building the school and the Township providing the fields for the school and community
 - Provide schools with better playing fields
 - Provides Township community green/recreational space after school
 - Creates a more healthy, vibrant community
- Work together on middle and secondary joint sites and work to find and preserve space as development happens
- Regular meetings at the political and staff level to strengthen the relationship



School District and Municipal Partnership Examples

North East
Latimer

Langley Events
Center with
RE Mountain
Secondary and
Peter Ewart
Middle Schools

New Middle/
Secondary site
with a Township
developed
soccer complex
being planned



Other Things They Would Like To Do

Look at creative ways to solve space issues that benefit the District and the Township

Future joint use of facilities and fields

Work together on providing Daycare space

Work to reduce the time to build schools by starting discussions earlier in the process to make permitting quicker



Questions for Discussion



1. What is working well in your communities?
2. What are some areas for improvement?
3. What factors assist with success?
4. How can the identification and establishment of school sites be better facilitated?
5. How can the permitting for school projects be expedited?
6. Ideas for reducing school sites and project costs?