

# Configuration Feedback Review Committee Report to the Board, April 2020

## Configuration Review - Timeline of Events

This year, the Board of Education undertook a full review of its program offerings, transportation services and facilities use. The timeline of this process can be summarized as follows:

### Phase I - Consultation

- 🍎 October 10, 2018: Board motion to undertake a community-based consultation process to review district configurations that support the best educational outcomes for students in addition to maximizing cost-effective education delivery
- 🍎 April/May 2019: Planning process begins
- 🍎 June to November 2019: Email feedback form on website
- 🍎 October/November 2019: Public community engagement meetings and ThoughtExchange (online feedback platform)

### Phase II - Review

- 🍎 December 11, 2019: Board considers feedback summary and passes a motion to create an ad-hoc feedback review committee to review feedback from the configuration review while extending the decision-making timeline to September 2020
- 🍎 February/March 2020: Feedback Review Committee is formed meets to sort and organize consultation feedback
- 🍎 \*April 2020: Feedback Review Committee Report

*\*Note:* Due to COVID-19 response measures and the indefinite suspension of Board Committee meetings, the Feedback Review Committee will submit its report directly to the Board at the May Public Board Meeting, in lieu of the Education Committee.

### Phase III - Implementation

- 🍎 September 2020: The Board will consider recommendations from staff. Any resulting changes and/or school closures will be governed by District Policy and the *School Act*.

## The Question

In its effort to be unrestrictive in the endeavor to gather broad feedback, the Board posed the following questions to the Gulf Islands School District community: *“What are the ways we could organize learning and District resources to best serve our students?”* Thought and ideas were gathered through email, ThoughtExchange, and public engagement meetings.

## Public Engagement Meeting Schedule

A total of seven public engagement meetings were held to provide a forum for community consultation: one meeting on each of Mayne, Galiano, Pender and Saturna Islands, and three meetings on Salt Spring Island. The number and location of meetings aligned with trustee representation. Trustees and senior staff were in attendance to provide clarity and respond to questions.

Pender Island School	October 9, 5:00 pm
Galiano Community School	October 30, 4:30 pm
Saturna Recreation Centre	November 5, 9:30 am
Mayne Island School	November 13, 5:00 pm
Gulf Islands Secondary School	November 6, 6:30 pm
Fernwood Elementary School	November 7, 6:30 pm
Fulford Elementary Community School	November 19, 6: 30 pm

## Feedback Review Committee Membership

In accordance with the Terms of Reference that were created by the Education Committee to govern the Feedback Review Committee, the following membership was established:

Board of Education	(3 members)	Janelle Lawson, Chair Tisha Boulter Greg Lucas
DPAC	(1 member)	Adria Kray (alt. Deblekha Guin)
CUPE	(1 member)	Angela Thomas (alt. Cathy George)
GITA	(1 member)	Bryce Woollcombe
GIPVPA	(1 member)	Judy Smith (alt. Michael Berendt)
Student	(1 member)	Claerwen Sladen-Dew
District Admin.	(2 members)	Scott Benwell Jesse Guy

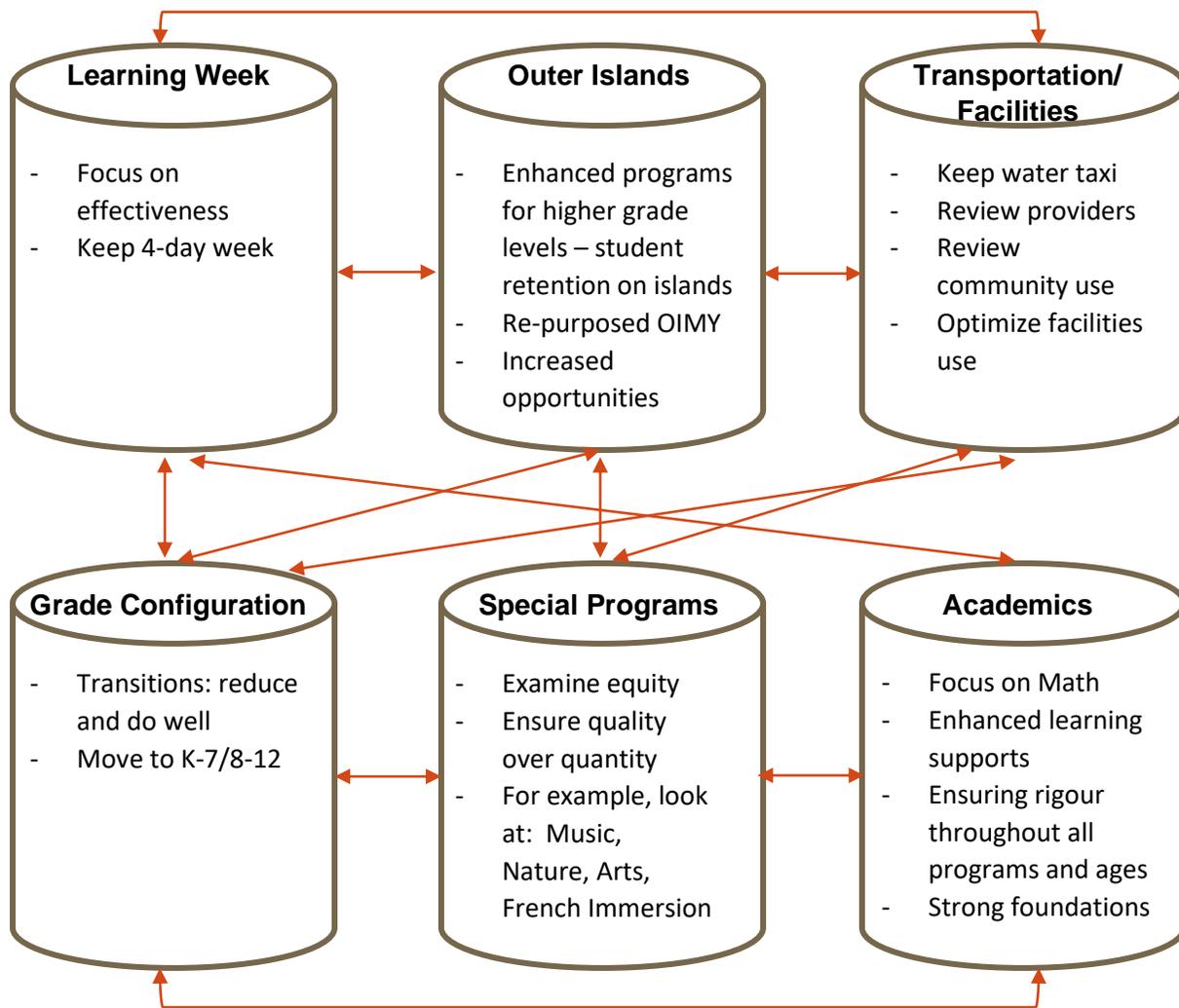
## Feedback Review Committee Meetings

The committee met three times:

- February 26, 2020
- March 2, 2020
- March 9, 2020

## Work of the Committee

The Feedback Review Committee met on February 26, March 2, and March 9 to review feedback gathered during the District's configuration consultation process. Feedback was coded, key themes were identified, and overall sentiment considered. The committee noted that many of the predominant thoughts were interconnected.



## Core Thoughts and Ideas (ThoughtExchange)

We heard from **students** and they were passionate about:

**Math support at GISS.**  
Lots of people struggle during math courses & in the past it was helpful to go to math support to ask for the help you need.

**We have come to value the 4-day week.**  
Students participate in many curricular and extra curricular activities on Fridays with little impact on other courses at GISS.

**Prepare kids for any walk of life - not just life on a small island.**  
The world is competitive and not as compassionate as here. Unless they stay here, they need to be prepared for it.

We heard from **parents/guardians** and they were passionate about:

**4-day school week is perfect.** It gives students opportunity to work part time, reduces travel time on water-taxi, and it gives students time to be more involved in the community.

**Core academic is fundamental.** Let's make sure we do the core subjects really well.

**I am thankful for the diverse learning opportunities for our students in the public ed system.** This creates a level of engagement and excitement that allows our students to celebrate their individual and diverse learning styles.

We heard from **staff** and they were passionate about:

**Building connections** throughout the entire district more evenly not just SSI focused.

**Integrating grade 8 into the high school environment** 13-year-old students are ready for the high school experience. Experiencing being a party of an older cohort helps transition into teenage years.

**Pender becomes a high school option for Mayne/Galiano/Pender/Saturna.** Avoids long water taxi days and more students means more opportunity for program offerings.

## Conclusion

Upon thorough review of the feedback received, it was evident that the Gulf Islands education community had many varying and creative thoughts and ideas as to what district configuration could and should look like. Many of these ideas did not relate directly to the concept of configuration; however, their value lies in the insight into expectation, misconception, and perceived insufficiency in service delivery that can be addressed at the classroom, school and district levels.

The Committee wishes to thank everyone who participated in this process and looks forward to the Boards endeavors in the months to come to effect change that will best serve learners in School District 64.

