



William Reid School

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Class Configuration 2017-18



We had an excellent turnout for our School Council meeting on Tuesday, March 14th and great conversations with the parents who were able to attend. Parents first looked at the two scenarios that we presented and then had the opportunity to brainstorm alternative scenarios for us to consider. Below is a summary of our conversation. The two scenarios that we presented involve:

- Moving the Kindergarten class from Room 3 to the larger Room 7 due to an increase in enrolment (from 48 this year to 60 next year).
- Moving Gr. 1 Co-teaching Class (2 classes/2 teachers) into Room 11.
- Maintaining Room 8 as the music room.
- Scenario 1: 2 Gr. 4 classes in modulars and 1 inside and 2 Gr. 3 classes in modulars and 1 inside (most preferred option by administration & teachers).
- Scenario 2: 1 Gr. 4 class in modulars and 2 inside and 3 Gr. 3 classes in the modulars.

Suggestions/comments from parents with response from administration:

Music Room

- Keep Room 8 as a designated music room.
- Keep a music room!
- My kids and I love the music room, please keep it!
- Music program too important to lose the music room.
 - We agree! Without a designated music space, the quality of our music program would drastically decline and this would impact all students.

Co-teaching Classroom

- Put 2 Grade 4 classes in room 11 (Co-teaching) and the other Grade 4 class in Room 1.
 - This would likely mean 50 students in a co-teaching class which is very large especially for the physical size of the students and the space. Teachers are not interested in this option.
- Keep co-teaching grade 1 class but include the 3rd class in flexible grouping opportunities whenever possible.
 - This may be feasible to some degree and something we will consider for next year.
- Keep Co-teaching Grade 1 class at 18 students and have 22 or more in the traditional class.
 - We will try our best to keep the co-teaching class as small as possible.
- Keep promise to ensure current Grade 1s have individual Grade 2 classrooms next year and for their remaining years at WR.
 - This is definitely the plan for next year and for the future.
- Ask current Grade 1s in Co-teaching classroom about their experience this year.
 - We plan to conduct a class discussion, focus group, and/or interviews with students.

Modulars

- Move 2 Grade 2 classes in modulars and 2 Grade 3 classes.
 - We have had Grade 2s in the modulars in the past and teachers found that they struggled with transitions into the main building more than the older students.
- Keep Grades K-2 in school instead of in modulars.
- Move Music and/or Library to modulars so more kids can stay in school, easier for bathroom breaks.
 - This would mean more movement to go into the modular for everyone (larger impact). Younger students (K-2) may have difficulty with bathroom breaks while in the library or the music room.
- Add more modulars.
 - We have inquired previously and were told it is not possible.

Walls

- Install a removable wall in Room 8 to create two small classrooms.
 - The 2 classrooms would be extremely small as the music room is already our smallest classroom in the school.
- Install a permanent wall between Library and Room 11.
 - We have inquired previously and were told it is not possible.
- Move the wall between Library and Room 11 to enlarge the classroom.
- Would prefer not to make the library smaller, would not want to lose more resources. Would like more funding to create a Learning Commons.
 - While this is not a current priority for our school, it is a valid suggestion and something we will be considering in the near future.

Noise Reduction

- Add noise dampening panels/devises on ceiling of Room 11 co-teaching classroom
 - This seems like a feasible idea that we will be investigating further.

Scenario 1

- Go with what the teachers suggest.
 - There were many parents that liked this option as we presented it and didn't think we should change anything. Thank you for your confidence in our professional judgement.

We will receive our budget for next year on April 6th and this will have a great impact on our decisions moving forward. In the meanwhile, we will engage our staff in conversation around the suggestions and comments from parents. We will then invite parents to attend a meeting in May when we will present class configurations for next year and explain the rationale behind our decision.

Please know that we care deeply about your opinions and we will do our best to listen to and apply parent input as we make this decision. However, it will not be possible to accommodate everyone's needs and/or suggestions. As always, the most important factor when making school decisions is *what is best for students*. When it comes to learning, students are our top priority!