



The 360|Report

Carlton Public Schools: Unveiling

Building a Stronger School Community Together!

InGensa Inc.

Wednesday, February 1st 2016 | 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

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The 360 Report

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Summary, Overview

Carlton Public Schools Unveiling | Summary Report Wednesday, February 1st 2017

Demographics, Human Survey

On Wednesday, February 1st 2017, 89 members of the Carlton Public Schools community participated in an engagement and “unveiling” event designed to inform the public of critical options to consider for the upcoming referendum and to elicit crucial community feedback. During the interactive demographic experience Human Survey, guests were provided the opportunity to self-identify as follows:

Generations (80 participants)

Generation Z or “Gen Tech” (b. 2004-present) | 9 participants (11% of total)
Millenials (b. 1984-2004) | 10 participants (13% of total)
Generation X (b. 1965-1984) | 37 participants (46% of total)
Baby Boomer (b. 1946-1964) | 20 participants (25% of total)
Silent Generation (b. 1945 or earlier) | 4 participants (5% of total)

Additional Demographic Information (72 participants)

Parents | 26 participants (36%)
Community Members | 18 participants (25%)
Board & Administration | 7 participants (10%)
Teachers & Staff | 6 participants (8%)
Students | 15 participants (21%)

Eighty (80) of the 89 total participants of the event engaged in this activity with Generation X and the Baby Boomer generation featuring most prominently in the room. Participants were most likely to identify as a parent, community member or student while a total of 13 board members, administration, teachers and other staff were represented in the room. Some participants declined to respond with generational and additional demographic information and are therefore not included in these counts.

Note: Percentages are approximations that have been rounded to the nearest whole percent.

Mindstorm Overview

Following the *Unveiling* or presentation of options for community participants to consider, a brief, tightly focused Mindstorm was engaged to elicit rich community member interactions with the offerings to be considered in the context of small-group conversations. The following analysis is drawn from the content of the handwritten notes documents collected from participating small groups and therefore contains direct community feedback to help inform the direction and processes of the forthcoming referendum. The full text of the notes submitted

during this process has been compiled, transcribed and made anonymous and can be found as an addendum at the end of this report.

The 360 Report

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Mindstorm Report

Carlton Public Schools Unveiling | Mindstorm Report

Wednesday, February 1st 2017

Summary

This Mindstorm was undertaken by approximately 89 participants of the *Carlton Public Schools Unveiling* on Wednesday, February 1st 2017. Ten (10) discussion groups submitted notes from their conversations as recorded by each group's self-selected scribe. The full text of these notes may be found as an addendum to the end of this report along with a facsimile of the questions and instructions sheet distributed to participants during the event.

Question One

Was there anything you heard today that you liked? What would you keep & why? (36 total responses)

Emergent Themes | Support for 2C/2; Safety, Functionality & Comfort of Shared Spaces

This question received 36 responses in total with nearly every group using the space provided to express initial support for options 2C and 2 particularly with regard to their “multifunctional use of space/design,” and thoughtful provisions for the safety and comfort of parents, staff and students (such as the centrally located office, community areas, bus loop concept, entrance area with good security, et cetera...). The popularity of the 2s and especially 2C is a theme that is revisited several times elsewhere in the discussion notes. Seven of the 36 responses in this section additionally prioritize safety and transportation issues such as the bus garage, with one group approving of its location in the plans reviewed and two raising the question of whether the planned location for the garage is more convenient than the current arrangement (“Could we keep the current bus garage?”).

Emergent Themes | Prioritizing Children, Athletics & Performance Spaces

Five of 36 responses indicate that participants favor plans and elements of those plans that emphasize “prioritizing children,” “closer elementary,” “encompass all areas and grades...PK, primary/upper” [sic]. Six of 36 responses in this section are concerned with plans for the athletic facilities with 3 of 36 expressing approval of facilities such as the three-station gym, four locker rooms and general athletic upgrades while an additional 2 of 36 express concerns that the concessions stand will be too far from the field and 1 of 36 contests that the concessions are well-placed as they currently stand in the plan-2s. Three of 36 responses indicate an interest in performance spaces such as the stage and auditorium (“would like an actual auditorium,” “the two way stage [is] good”).

Emergent Themes | Cost-Effective Options, Diversity, Variety

Eight of 36 responses to this question address the format and mode of community engagement, with 3 of 8 expressing approval for the presentation of cost effective options and the availability of relative cost information and municipal plans. An additional 3 of 8 responses express appreciation for the variety of options presented, the diversity of discussions in the room, and

the good food provided at the event itself. Two of the 36 total responses in this section actually identify elements found to be lacking in the options presented – namely, the need for a life skills learning space for students, and one group’s request for more detailed plans (“Would have liked to see a proposal for option 3”).

Question Two

Was there anything you heard today that you didn’t like? What would you eliminate & why? (30 total responses)

Emergent Themes | Consumer Science Still Needed, Athletics, South Terrace & the Forest

This question received 30 responses in total, 6 of which emphasize the continued need for additional spaces for Consumer Science, Automotive/Tech Ed. and minor adjustments to existing plans for athletic fields and facilities. A student of Carlton Public Schools opines that the “gym is more important than the auditorium,” whilst another unidentified community member posits that it will be hard to justify the football field improvements with so few games. Two responses express concern about potentially cutting into South Terrace, while one response indicates approval of the one-level school plans and proximity to the school forest, while also expressing concern “about cutting into” it.

Emergent Themes | Trust, Money, Information Access

Four of 30 responses in this section are mainly concerned with cost estimates, questioning the appropriateness and “value of added engineers,” and expressing concern that the district is “asking for trust a[nd] \$ [money] now when it was mismanaged in the past” [sic]. The themes of trust and access to information are echoed in the response notes of another group, which shares that several of their discussion group members “worry that we are not capturing all of the opinions...people feeling like they are not being contacted,” while yet admitting that at least one other person in the group felt that they were receiving “tons of information” and being appropriately informed of the district’s plans.

Emergent Themes | NO! to Plans #1 & #3, More on Outdoor Concessions, Accessibility Concerns

Four of 30 responses in this section emphatically reject options 1 and 3 outright. These options were unanimously unpopular in this Mindstorm. The remaining responses largely center on 2C, with one group noting that they could find nothing to eliminate on 2C and another 4 responses requesting that the location of concessions in the favored plan 2C be reconsidered given the vehement concerns expressed about distance between concession stands, restrooms and the athletic fields. One group (which self-identified in the notes as largely composed of teachers and staff) specifically add that it is important to remember that many elderly and disabled people attend these games and events and should be taken into consideration accordingly. Additionally, 1 of 30 responses in this section expressed regret that the issue of consolidation was not broached (again) at this time.

Emergent Themes | Specific Recommendations on Orientation & Placement

The notes submitted by the self-identified educators’ group included several specific suggestions not just for additions but also taking into account arrangement and orientation. These suggestions include the following proposed alterations, listed here for your benefit:

“Not Eliminate, but Change:

- At the high school need a consumer science area moved towards art room
- Add 4 extra rooms similar to the 2B
- At [the] elementary [school], switch Northside SPED Rm. with ECFE
- Kindergarten rooms should have room entrances opposite of each other and storage moved to the opposite side
- Outside concession stands by field – remember, there are elderly and disabled people who attend games – and inside concession stand by kitchen; concession stand on plans for storage.”

Question Three

Was there a best or standout option for meeting the education and facilities needs of the Carlton Public Schools today? Which option(s) would you prioritize? (18 total responses)

This question received 18 responses in total, largely in the form of annotated votes taken by the small groups themselves and sometimes distilled into a unified answer (i.e. the entire table group concurs that x is the best plan to prioritize). The results are as below:

Plan 2

3 of 18 responses indicate a preference for Plan 2. One group specifically adds that it would like to see this plan incorporate the auditorium option, and adds that they chose this plan because they believe that “it’s important to have...curb appeal,” and “if we are going to do it, we need to do it right!”

Plan 2B

2 of 18 responses indicate a preference for Plan 2B. One group notes that plan 2B (along with 2C) is preferred because it is cost effective, while another identifies it as the “best” choice (along with 2C, also identified as a “best” choice in this response).

Plan 2C (Most Popular Option)

7 of 18 responses indicate a preference for Plan 2C making it the most popular option presented at the Unveiling on February 1st, which is well in keeping with the findings of this Mindstorm overall. Two responses qualify this preference by adding that they would like to see 2C featuring a “tweaked stage” and “athletic field upgrades” included.

Will support any option the district chooses: 2 of 18 responses

Still interested in exploring consolidation: 1 of 18 responses

Undecided: 1 of 18 responses

Additional comments this section:

Additional comments in this section recapitulate one group’s earlier expressed desire to see a proposal for option 3 and reiterate the opinion that Plan 1 is “not [a] viable option.” Two of 18 comments in this section also emphasize the specific importance of gym and shared commons’ spaces as being particularly inviting to children/students and community members as well.

Question Four

Is there anything we didn't ask that we should have? Please share the question(s) you have identified along with your answers. (17 total responses | rating)

Emergent Themes | Consolidation Revisited, Taxpayer Impact & Responsibilities, South Terrace

This question received 17 total responses, 4 of which express a desire for continued exploration of consolidation with Wrenshall and/or Cloquet. Three of 17 responses request that more detailed information about tax impact and voter/taxpayer responsibilities be made available to the public. Two of 17 responses indicate concerns about South Terrace's upkeep and whether or not it will retain the classroom spaces "taken by the last mechanical installation."

Additional questions for district leadership surfaced in this section include the following:

- Will outhouses be upgraded if [there is to be] no new facility for restrooms? 😊 (*from a student*)
- What would be done about drainage on gravel parking lot side prior to constructing new building?
- Environmental concerns for using solar power?
- Will you listen to the recommendations by the staff who will be using it?

Additional comments surfaced in this section include the following:

- Football field parking
- Option 3
- Thanks for all of the hard work that all put into this project
- We liked bus loop for student safety

Conclusion/Highlights

Favored Among the Plans Presented:

Plan 2C

Desired Modifications:

Athletics facilities, addition of Consumer Science spaces, outdoor concession stands moved closer to the fields and restrooms.

Main Concerns:

Distance from fields to concessions (accessibility), fiscal responsibilities and cost-effective approaches, safety & security - bus loop and centrally located office in Plan-2s (2, 2B, 2C) particularly appreciated for addressing this latter concern.



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Mindstorm

Directions: Find a group of people that has the fewest number of people you know in it. Form into groups of 5-6 people (that means there may be more than one group at a table). Freely enter and exit groups. Remember to listen and give everyone a chance to speak. Speak authentically from your own personal point of view. Don't speak for others. Always imagine what feels best. When you felt most welcomed. That you belong in this conversation and your voice is equal to any other at the Table. Remember that this is a two-way street and listening is as important as sharing your feelings.

Identify one scribe to take notes about the conversation and write down the names of the members of your group in the space provided. Read the questions out loud and discuss briefly which questions you as a group think are the most important to answer. Answer the questions that you have chosen in order from most-to-least important. Be as concrete and specific as possible.

Questions for Discussion:

You have approximately 10-15 minutes per question. Please consider the options presented today and your knowledge of the district's needs and answer the following questions in order of importance (as determined by your group):

1. Was there anything you heard today that you liked? What would you keep & why?
2. Was there anything you heard today that you didn't like? What would you eliminate & why?
3. Was there a best or *standout* option for meeting the education and facilities needs of the Carlton Public Schools today? Which option(s) would you prioritize?
4. Is there anything we didn't ask that we should have? Please share the question(s) you have identified along with your answers.

Scribes:

- Write your first name down
- Take notes about things your group thinks important to note in the space provided
- Please write legibly or ask someone who writes legibly to write the notes
- Be prepared to share your findings with the larger group
- Please turn your notes over to facilitators at the end of the event

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Carlton Public Schools | InGensa

Mindstorm Raw Aggregate

Question 1: Was there anything you heard today that you liked? What would you keep & why? (37 responses)

- Like that prioritizing children
- Like (different option) providing cost effective options
- Site layout good
- Concessions too far from field
- Separate bus loop like concept
- Closer elementary
- Like variety of options
- Like the diverse discussion
- Like concessions at the end of the building
- Three station gym
- Four locker rooms
- Stage situations
- Would like an actual auditorium
- Wondering how concession would function so far away from [the] football field
- Maybe not best place for bus garage
- Bus garage at Co. transportation building
- Could we keep current bus garage?
- Liked 2C Layout (with full upgrades)
- But still a hard sell to public
- Municipal plans available
- Costs available
- Encompass all areas and grades (flowing into [question] 2 [below] – everyone benefits)
- PK
- Safety
- Transportation
- Primary / upper
- 2C multifunctional use of space/design
- But include athletic field upgrade
- Office being centrally located: a positive
- Liked option 2 with an auditorium
- Liked all of the option 2s
- Would have liked to see a proposal for option 3
- We all like 2C
 - Good options
 - Good use of space
 - Options
- The food was very good
- The living skills are needed

- The two way stage (good)
- Like entrance with good security, central office, and double gym & community area

Question 2: Was there anything you heard today that you didn't like? What would you eliminate & why? (30 responses)

- Wary about cost estimates and appropriate value added engineers
- Option 2C makes too many cuts to ST
- Worry that we are not capturing all of the opinions, people feeling like they are not being contacted – another member said the opposite and believes they are getting *tons* of info
- Asking for trust a[nd] \$ [money] now when it was mismanaged in the past
- Like how close to school forest
 - Concerned about cutting in to school forest
 - Like one-level school
 - Like that there's a secure entrance
 - Safe warm place to wait for parents
- Cost
- Option #3 (No!)
- Option #1 (No!)
- Nothing to eliminate on #2C
- Consumer Science missing
- Automotive missing (use of tech space)
- Tech Ed worked into area schools
- Remove #1 and #3 from options
- Concessions out of 2C
- We didn't hear more about consolidations
- Eliminate option 1 and 2A and 3
- Gym more important than auditorium (student response)
- Hard to justify football field improvements with so few games
- Distance between concession stand and restrooms and fields
- Nothing
- Concessions / washroom access for football field

Not Eliminate, but Change:

- At the high school need a consumer science area moved towards art room
- Add 4 extra rooms similar to the 2B
- At [the] elementary [school], switch Northside SPED Rm. with ECFE
- Kindergarten rooms should have room entrances opposite of each other and storage moved to the opposite side
- Outside concession stands by field – remember, there are elderly and disabled people who attend games – and inside concession stand by kitchen
- Concession stand on plans for storage

Question 3: Was there a best or *standout* option for meeting the education and facilities needs of the Carlton Public Schools today? Which option(s) would you prioritize? (18 responses)

- Plan 2 – with auditorium
 - Like because if we are going to do it, we need to do it right
 - It's important to have the curb appeal
- Plan 2B or 2C
 - Preferred because [it] needs to be cost effective
- 2C option – 1 [Group 2 Vote]
- 2 option – 1 [Group 2 Vote]
- Undecided – 1 [Group 2 Vote]
- Support whichever option – 1 [Group 2 Vote]
- Still worth exploring consolidation with consultants deciding best location
- 2C
- 2C best
 - Tweaked stage
- 2C plus athletic field upgrades
- #1 – not viable option
- 2B and C best options
- Option 2
- We believe all options would work
- Would have liked to see a proposal for option 3
- Gym & commons area
- 2C with tweaks as stated in the above statement
- The shared facility areas with K-12 is very inviting for kids and community

Question 4: Is there anything we didn't ask that we should have? Please share the question(s) you have identified along with your answers. (17 responses)

- Why did we not address consolidation?
- Why spend all this money between two districts? – should consider consolidating
- Consolidation
 - Cloquet
 - Wrenshall
- Consolidation tax impact on Wrenshall/Carlton as a group
- Carlton as TC-6 only, then elsewhere what is the tax impact?
- Numbers to education public
- How many voters and #s of taxpayers are in the school district?
- Will outhouses be upgraded if no new facility for restrooms? ☺ (from a student)
- What would be done about drainage on gravel parking lot side prior to constructing new building?
- Football field parking
- Option 3
- One concern about option 2, 2B, 2C is how long before we're in this situation again with the South Terrace portion
- Environmental concerns for using solar power
- Will S.T. (South Terrace) get back the classroom spaces taken by the last mechanical installation?
- Will you listen to the recommendations by the staff who will be using it?
- Thanks for all of the hard work that all put into this project

- We liked bus loop for student safety