cbe.ab.ca

Calgary Board of Education

dialogue

Northwest and North Central French Immersion Program

World Café Discussion – Option 3

Option 3: Program/Location Expansion

This option involves increasing the number of school sites that offer a specific program. Program expansion may involve boundary changes and/or grade configuration changes to balance enrolment between the schools.

Over the past two years, the CBE has opened new schools and many students can now or will soon attend school in their own communities. This has resulted in space becoming available in the schools these students previously attended. When space becomes available, options open up for the use of that space. As not all schools have space available, the CBE must be strategic about where programs expand based on demand and the space available for options.

In previous CBE engagements on the use of learning space, stakeholders suggested there could be opportunities to expand alternative programs. For the expansion of a program into a new location, an alternative program requires a minimum number of students to ensure sustainability over time. An expression of interest is often conducted to determine if there will be a sufficient number of students registered in the program.

Space is one part of the equation. In addition to space, there must be the resources required to begin and subsequently grow the program. For example, for a language program, does the CBE have qualified staff to teach the language? Is there funding for learning resources?

Questions to be discussed

1. Discuss opportunities of this option.
2. Discuss challenges of this option.