

Merritt Central Consultation Summary

October 20, 2025

5 Tables

1	What further information would be helpful to understand the funding formula or the options we have, including potential school closures?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why are maintenance costs higher than on other districts? Are post flood infrastructures causing higher costs? Why is Bench not being considered? Why are potential cost savings so close when MC has so many more kids? Transparency on what schools are being looked at and why? Are leased properties contributing to District deficit?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MC is second home to students. MC community is not served in moving. What assurances do we have that mental health of kids would be ok if moved? Keep the schools together.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How many students are homeschooled in Merritt and how many through SCIDES?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What money is needed for Central?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why is Bench over capacity. MC is largest hub for community. Safe for kids to travel to MC. 1936 footprint very small at MC. What upgrades are needed? MC new boiler system.
2	If there is a dollar left on the table, where should the money be spent?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports and services/staffing one and the same.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did not answer.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of education, bring back basics.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for students first choice. Safe buildings needed for all. Neurodivergent students are causing stress for staff and other students.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports and services and staffing equal.
3	If Central or Collettville were to close, which option would be the best?
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> If CV closes, FIM moves to DV, and the school is dual track. If MC closes, students move to CV, DV and NC through catchment reconfiguration. IF MC closes, FIM to DV and MC to CV
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scenario 1 preferable. #3 challenge for walking families. #2 costly for bussing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #1 impacts least number of kids. • #2 too much movement and would impact most kids.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenario 3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenario 1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MC prefers not to move at all. • MC moving will be harder on more neurodivergent kids. • Relationships are key. • CV could easily be dual track again. • MC has a strong community. • Space at MC a positive. • Land donated by family for MC. • Transit system does not work. • Meeting vulnerable student needs around walking to school. • Concerns about field trips. • Closing smaller footprint schools may be better.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenario 3; but boundaries need to be looked at.
4	What should be the top three priorities in our new Strategic Plan?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Literacy k to 4. • Core competencies. • Attendance. • All children met where they are at; focus on those that need the most support. • Engage all learners.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not answer.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Rs basics. • Long term use of facilities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on learning, including students with designations. • Support holistic needs: food, regulation, counselling. Sports, mental health
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student wellness. • Academics.
5	What do you encourage the Board to consider in addition to the options provided here?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why not look at selling other properties like Kamloops?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not answer.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should we wind down FIM? Review viability.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No answer given. • Cost benefit analysis.