Central Okanagan Public Schools
Together We Learn

Memorandum

Date: February 7, 2025
To: Finance and Planning Committee
From   Rob Drew, Director of Operations
Prepared by: David Widdis, Planning Manager

Action Item: **Proposed Catchment Boundary Adjustment – Webber Road Elementary and Shannon Lake Elementary**

1.0   ISSUE STATEMENT

Recently, a new subdivision was created along the Smith Creek Road area in West Kelowna. The current Shannon Lake Elementary and Webber Road Elementary catchment boundaries split the new subdivision. A review of the boundary is necessary to provide certainty to students and families regarding catchment schools and transportation eligibility.

2.0   RELEVANT BOARD MOTION/DIRECTION

N/A.

3.0   BACKGROUND

Board Policy 405R (Regulations) – Student Placement states: *"A student may enroll in an educational program at any school in our district, providing there is space, as outlined in Sections 2(2) and 74.1 of the School Act, this policy and its regulations."*

Policy 405 – Student Placement states: *"The Board of Education will designate school catchment areas in the school district in order to:*
- *Meet the program needs of the students as much as possible;*
- *Make best use of the facilities, staff and transportation, and if possible;*
- *Enable the school to develop a unique identity.*

The principles for setting/changing catchment areas include the requirements for boundaries to:
- *Reflect traditional neighbourhoods, subdivisions and regions;*
- *Minimize safety concerns for elementary students as a result of major roadways or other known hazards;*
- *Reflect long-term development to minimize stress caused by frequently changing boundaries in rapidly growing/declining areas;*
- *Maximize the efficiency of schools and the transportation system…"*

The current catchment boundary was established in January 2022 with future Smith Creek development included in the Shannon Lake catchment to accommodate for the proposed future neighbourhood. A

new road is proposed from the Smith Creek neighbourhood to connect to the Tallas neighbourhood, and this road would provide appropriate access to Shannon Lake Elementary.

The fifty-three (53) new lots created along Smith Creek Road include the new roads Scenic Ridge Drive, Eagle Bluff Drive and Flume Court. These new roads are not within in the Smith Creek Development and the parcels were created in the Spring of 2024. This subdivision was not identified in 2022 when the catchment boundary was redrawn for the opening of Webber Road Elementary.

Currently, there are no registered students from this new subdivision in the school system. Staff recommend adjusting the catchment boundary to include the new subdivision within the Webber Road Elementary catchment area. This adjustment will not impact the future Smith Creek development, and the neighborhood will continue to feed into Shannon Lake Elementary as the development progresses. A conversation with the City of West Kelowna confirmed that the Smith Creek Development has paused but is expected to continue in the future.

4.0   POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

The recommended boundary adjustment is a minor change, does not have a significant change to neighbourhood, no students are living in the area currently, and the boundaries stay within the established policies.

5.0   OPTIONS FOR ACTION

A. Recommend that the Board of Education adjust the Webber Road Elementary and Shannon Lake Elementary catchment boundary.
B. Provide alternate direction to staff.

6.0   DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Establishing the catchment boundaries for Shannon Lake Elementary and Webber Road Elementary as recommended will help to manage future enrolment growth that is anticipated in the Smith Creek area.
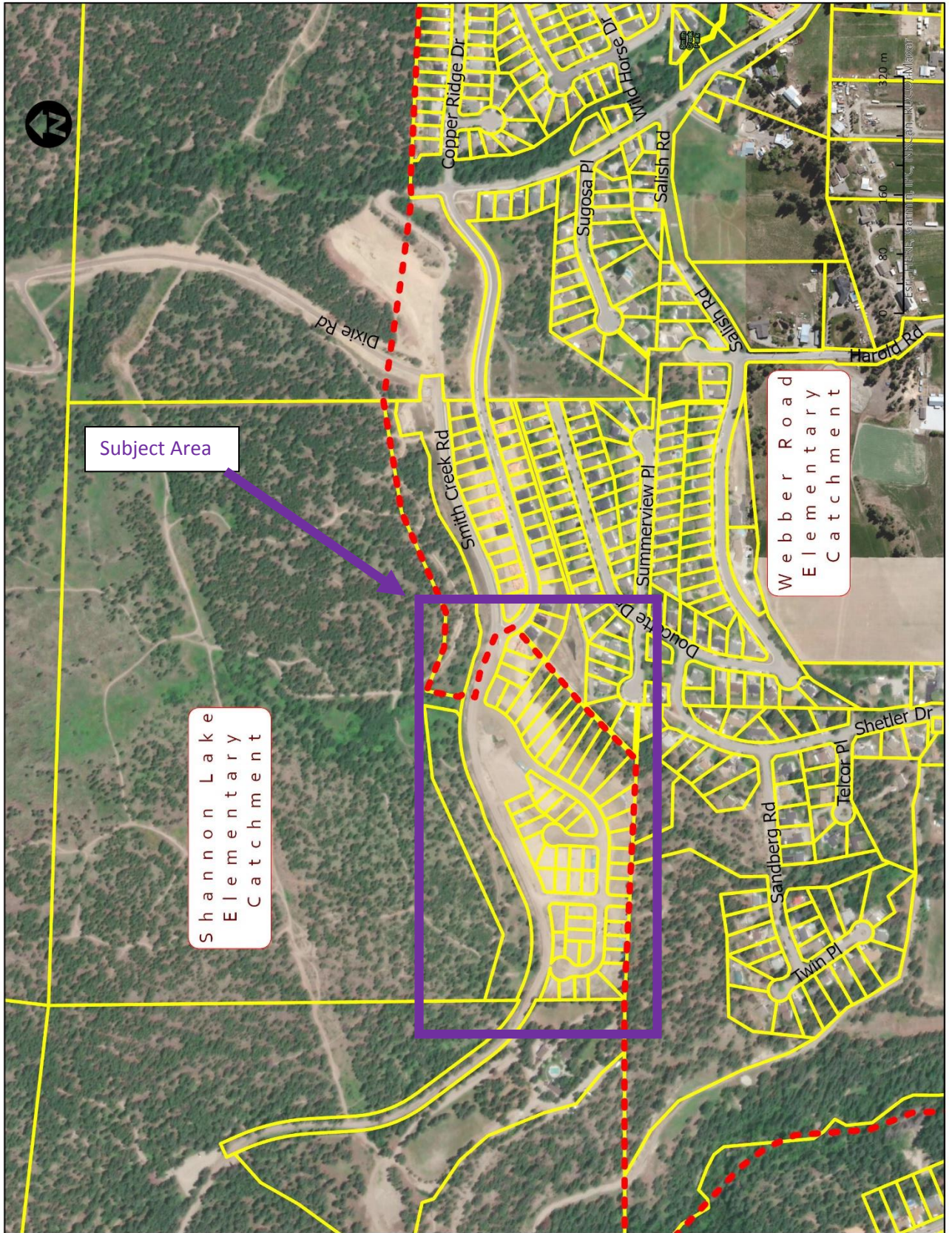
7.0   STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT: The Finance and Planning Committee recommends to the Board:

THAT: The catchment boundary between Shannon Lake Elementary and Webber Road Elementary be adjusted, as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the February 12, 2025 Finance and Planning Committee meeting.

8.0   APPENDICES
A.   Appendix A – Current Catchment Boundary
B.   Appendix B – Proposed Catchment Boundary