



**Information package for the Mobile Central High School system
related to the planned extension
March 8, 2017**



Background

Mobile Central High School system consists of Mobile Central High School (MCHS, Grades 7-12) in Mobile and St. Bernard's Elementary (Kindergarten to Grade 6). The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced in Budget 2016 an extension for MCHS. The Newfoundland and Labrador English School District (NLESD) is currently experiencing enrolment pressures at St. Bernard's Elementary and future enrolment pressures are projected at MCHS.

Enrolment Projections and Room Requirements

NLESD considered two sources for enrolment projections. One source is Baragar Systems, a custom planning software system for use by school districts across Canada. The other is from the Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency (NL Stats) of the Department of Finance for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. NL Stats provide a low, medium, and high projection. The high projection as a worst case is utilized here.

Room requirements are calculated on the basis of maximum class caps. For example, the class cap in primary grades is 25 students. So if there were 50 students projected in Grade 2, this means the room requirement would be listed as 2 rooms (assuming 25 students in each class). However, if there were 51 students projected for the next year in Grade 3, the room requirement would be listed as three (3) rooms (assuming 17 students in each class).

St. Bernard's Elementary

Assuming its current K-6 configuration, the enrolment projections for St. Bernard's Elementary are shown in Figure 1 (Baragar) and Figure 2 (NL Stats High) below:

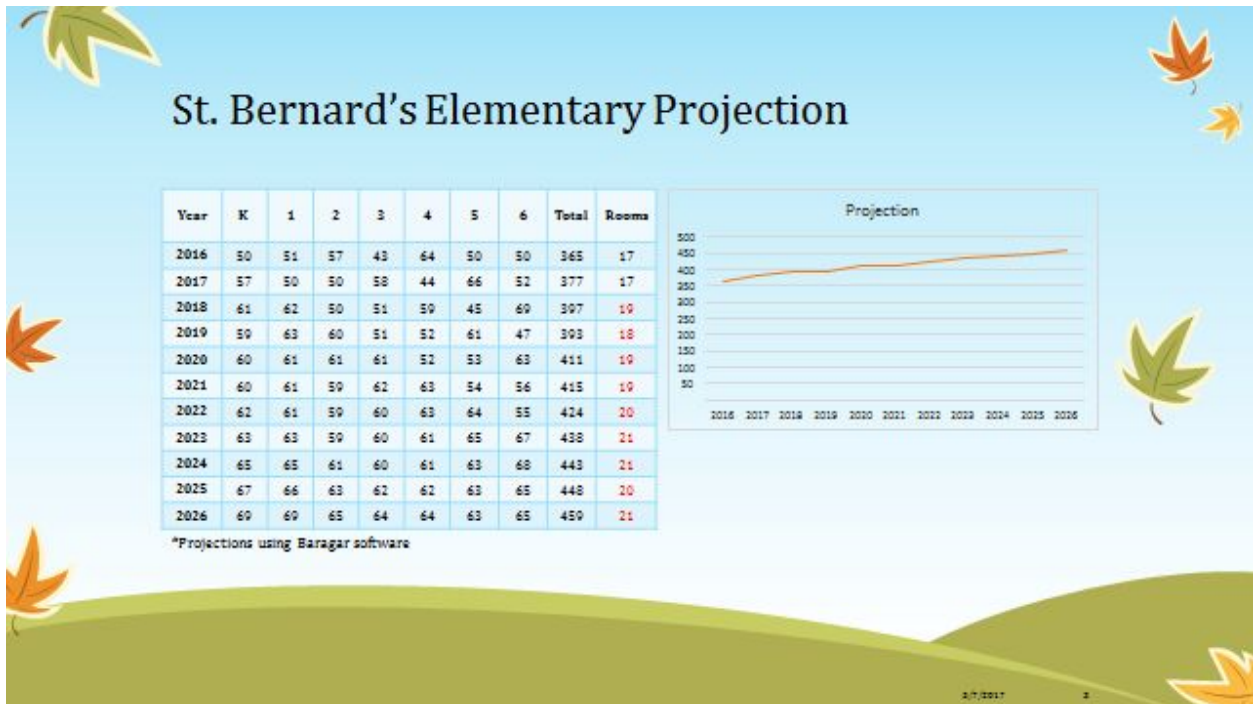


Figure 1: St. Bernard's Elementary enrolment projections (Baragar)

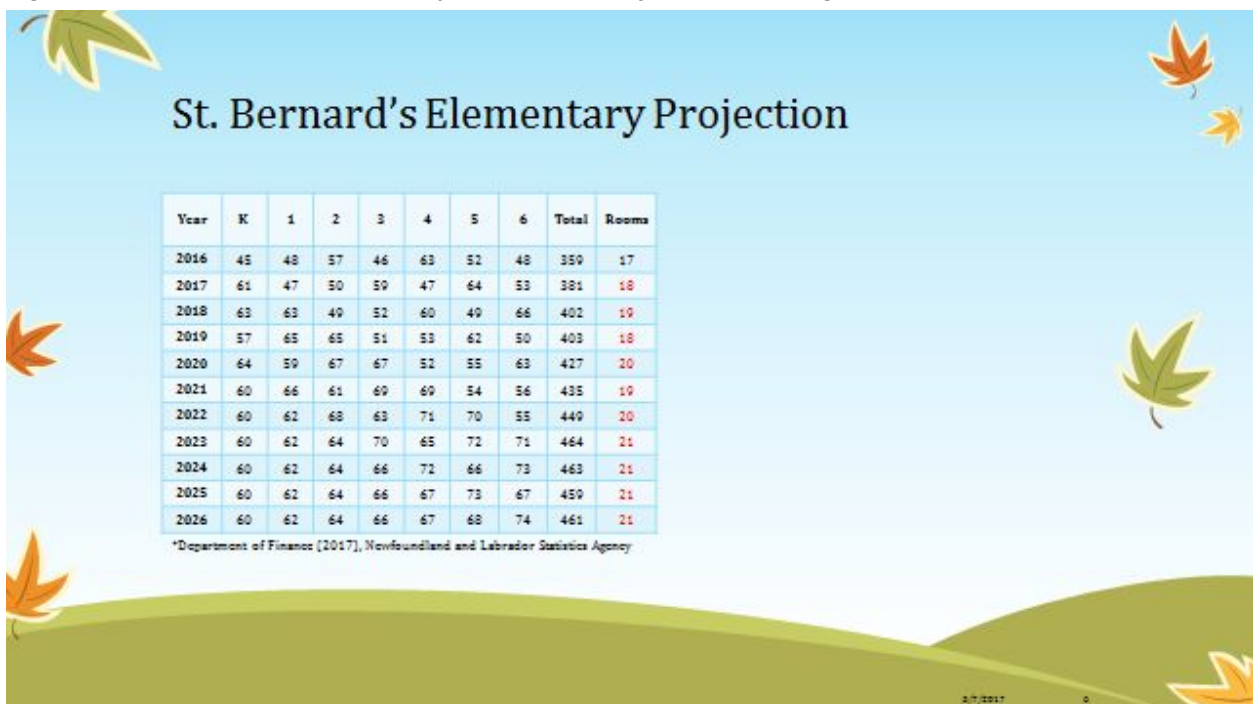


Figure 2: St. Bernard's Elementary enrolment projections (NL Stats High)

Both projection models show an increasing enrolment trend. Figure 3 below illustrates a comparison of enrolment trends. The NL Stats High projection indicates a requirement for more rooms earlier than the Baragar model. In any case, the existing 17 rooms available (14 regular classrooms and 3 modular classrooms) would be insufficient in the near term. It is anticipated that the school could manage for the 2017-2018 school year, but thereafter require an alternative solution.

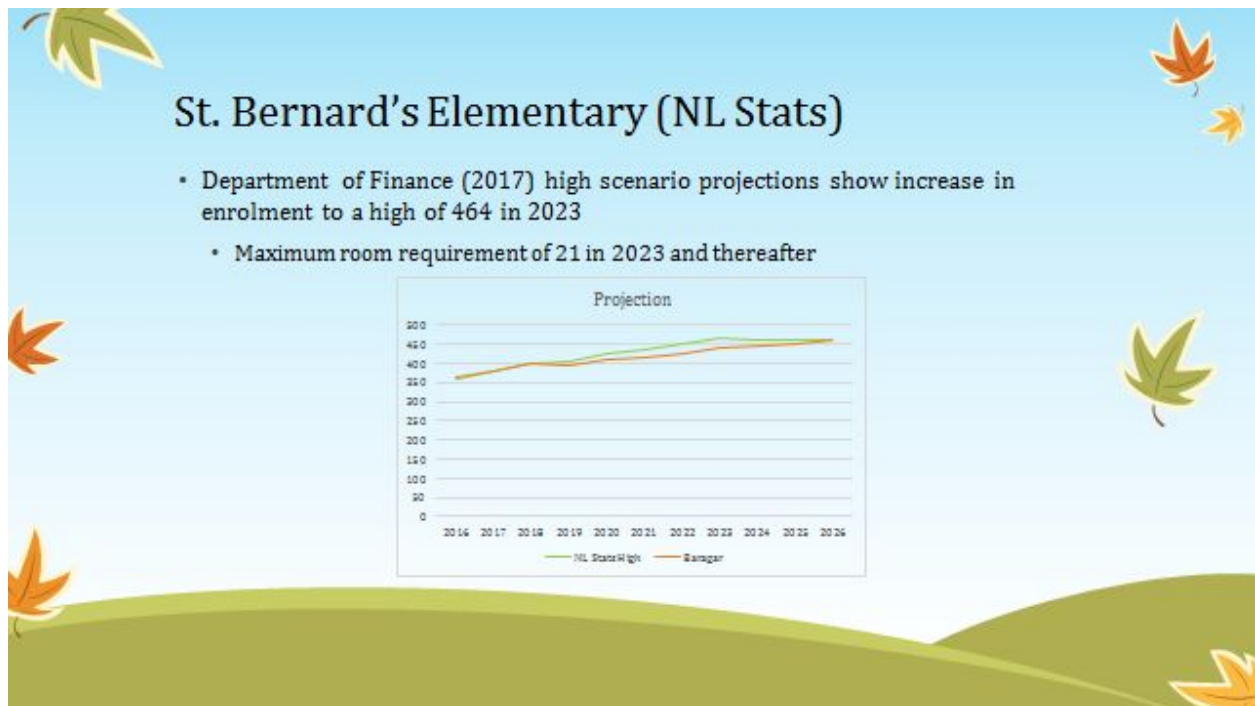


Figure 3: St. Bernard's Elementary Comparison of Enrolment Projections (Baragar and NL Stats High)

Reconfiguring to a K-5 school after 2018 would allow St. Bernard's Elementary to accommodate enrolment to 2021 (based on Baragar projections) or 2022 (Based on NL Stats High projections). It should be noted however, that several enrolment numbers at particular grade levels are on the class-cap edge requiring an additional room. If projections are even slightly lower than projected the room requirement drops. If this were to occur, the K-5 configuration may be able to accommodate beyond 2021 or 2022. It should also be noted that even a K-5 school will still have concerns regarding special education (instructional resource teacher) rooms. As well, there is a need for at least one additional washroom.

If however, the room requirement is in fact exceeded by 2021 or 2022, contingency plans would have to be developed that may include such measures as team teaching where room capacity allowed, utilizing the library or music room as a classroom, or an additional extension which would require time for planning and construction.

The enrolment projections for St. Bernard's Elementary reconfigured as a K-5 school are shown in Figure 4 (Baragar) and Figure 5 (NL Stats High) below:

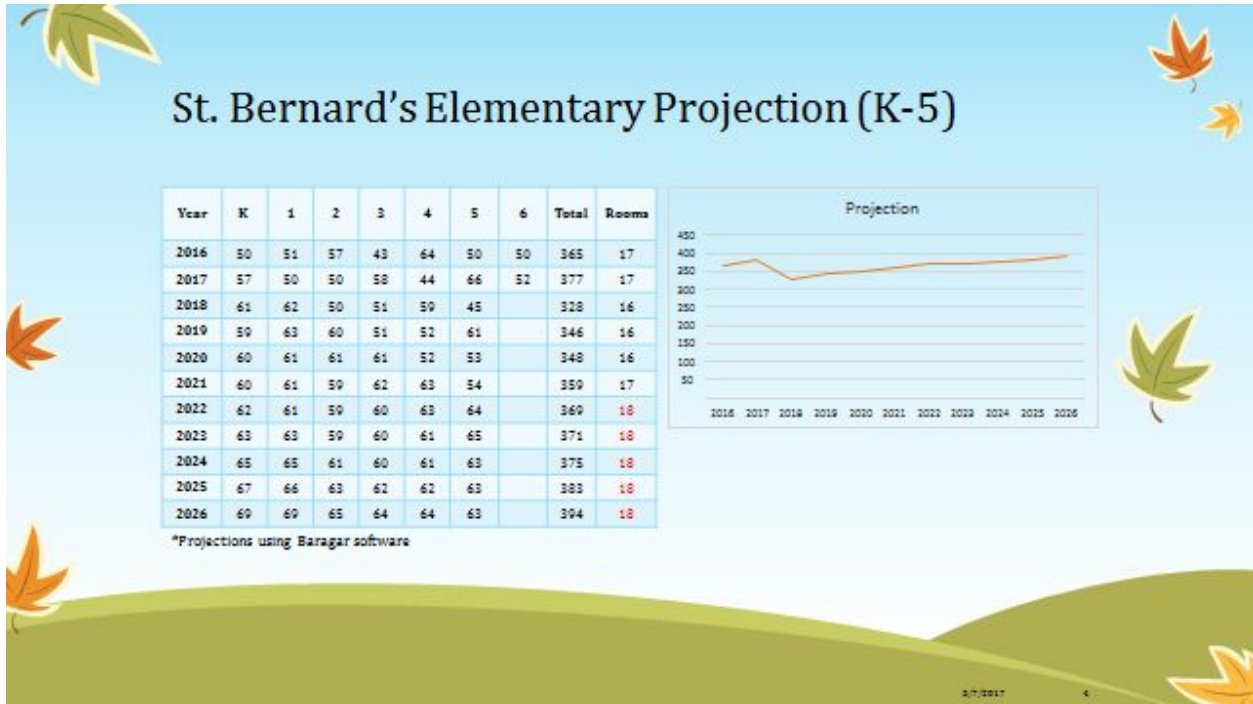


Figure 4: St. Bernard's Elementary K-5 enrolment projections (Baragar)

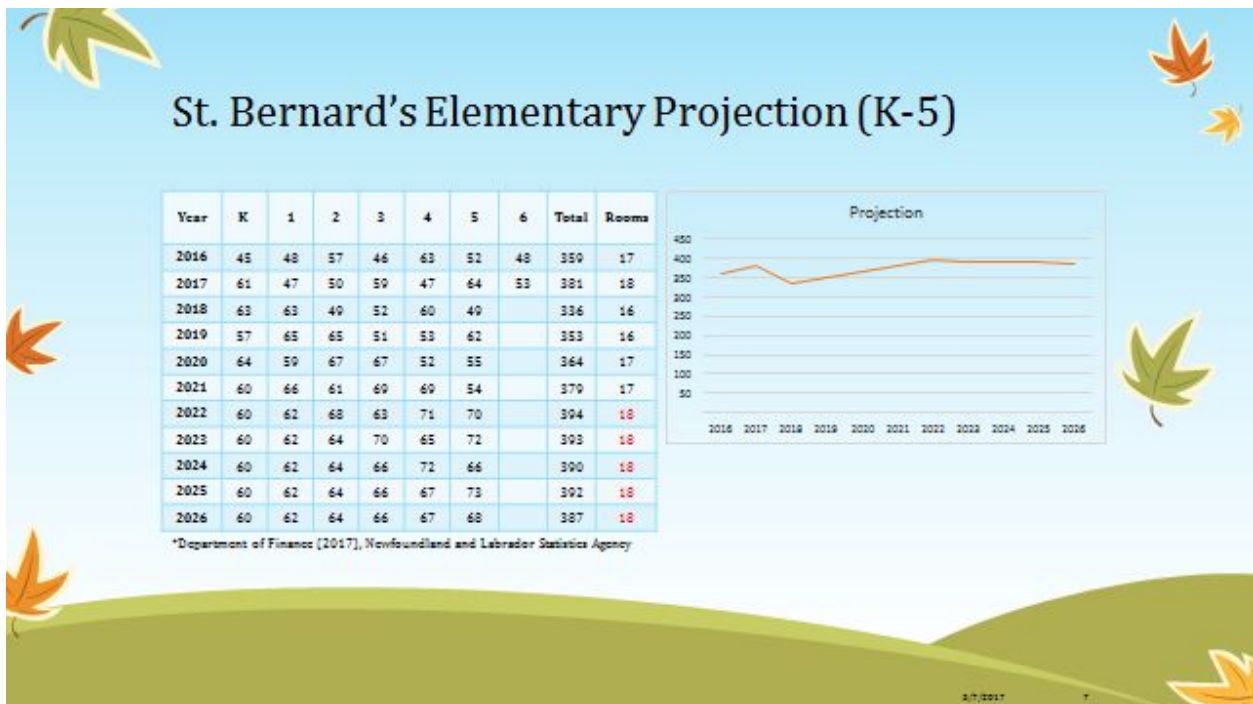


Figure 5: St. Bernard's Elementary K-5 enrolment projections (NL Stats High)

Mobile Central High School

Assuming its current Grade 7-12 configuration, the enrolment projections for Mobile Central High School are shown in Figure 6 (Baragar) and Figure 7 (NL Stats High) below:

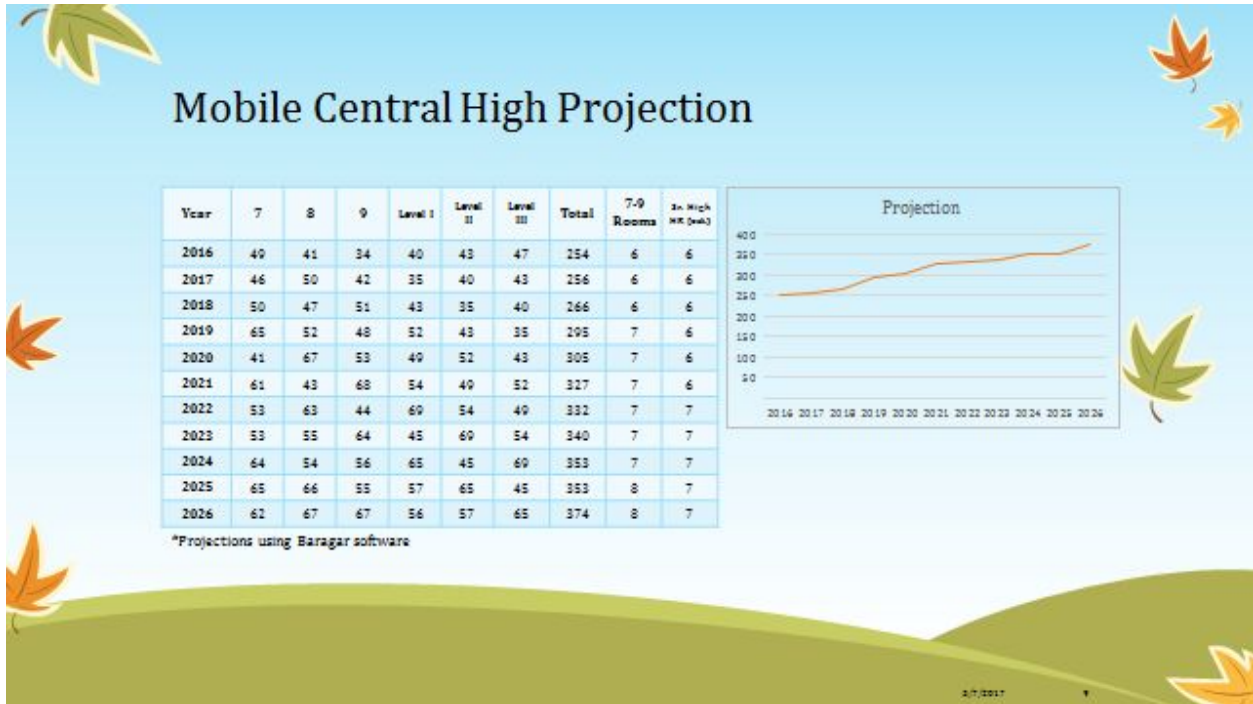


Figure 6: Mobile Central High 7-12 enrolment projections (Baragar)

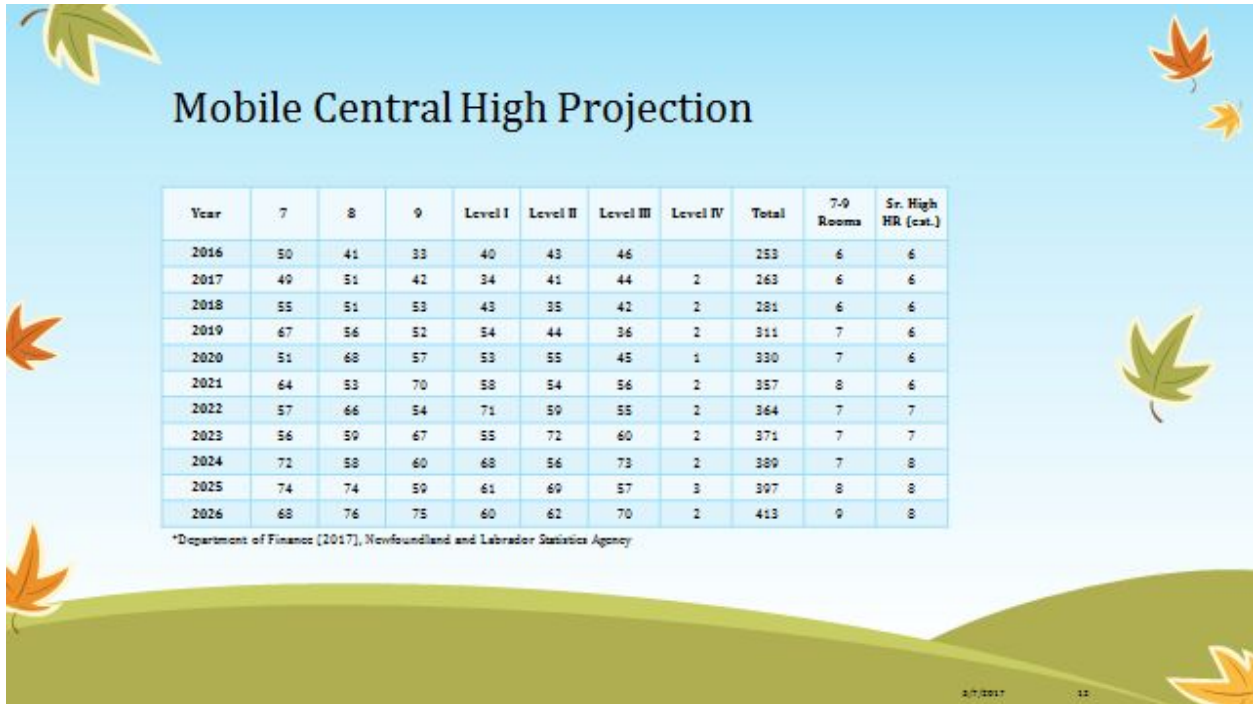


Figure 7: Mobile Central High 7-12 enrolment projections (NL Stats High)
 Mobile Central High School currently has 14 classrooms (11 regular classrooms and a music room, an art room, and a science lab).

Both projection models show an increasing enrolment trend and therefore associated growing room requirement. Figure 8 below illustrates a comparison of enrolment trends. Projections show a requirement beyond the existing 14 rooms by 2024 utilizing NL Stats High and by 2025 utilizing Baragar projections.

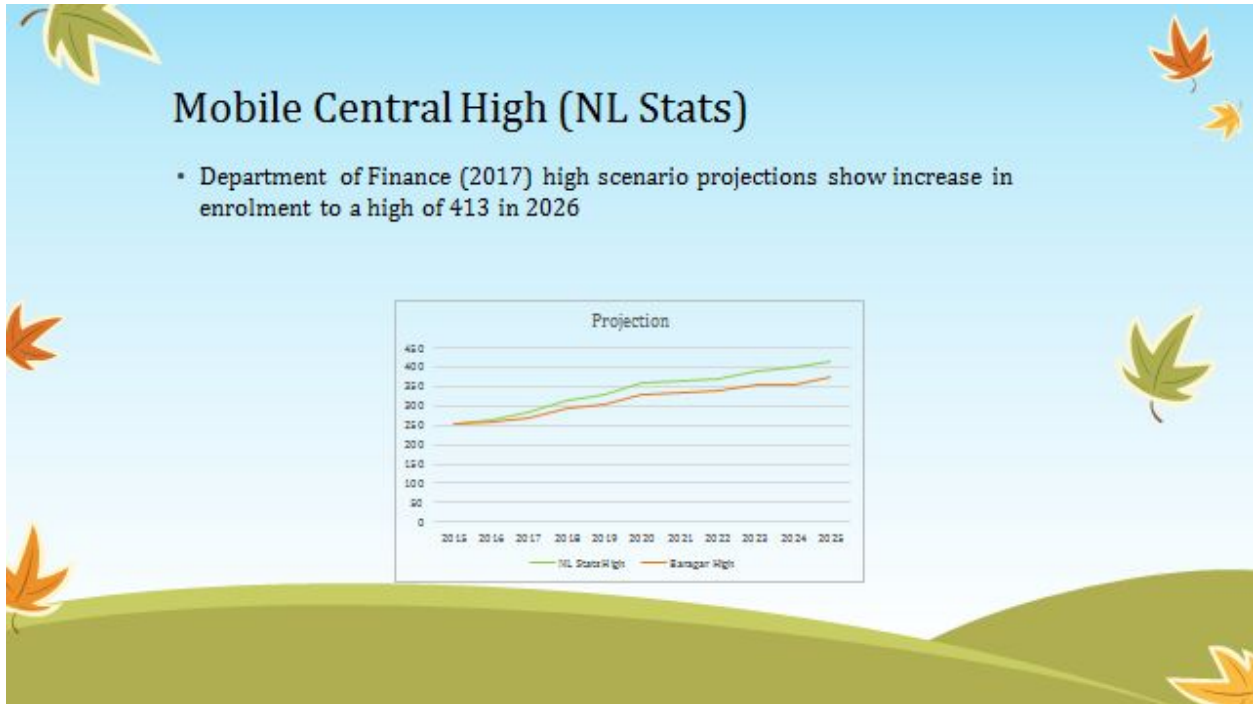


Figure 8: Mobile Central High Comparison of Enrolment Projections (Baragar and NL Stats High)

NLESD was advised by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) that the extension project to Mobile Central High School was to be nine (9) regular classrooms and one (1) computer room. The exact configuration will ultimately be considered by the consultant hired by EECD to develop the physical specifications for the expansion project.

The enrolment projections for Mobile Central High School reconfigured as a 6-12 school are shown in Figure 9 (Baragar) and Figure 10 (NL Stats High) below:

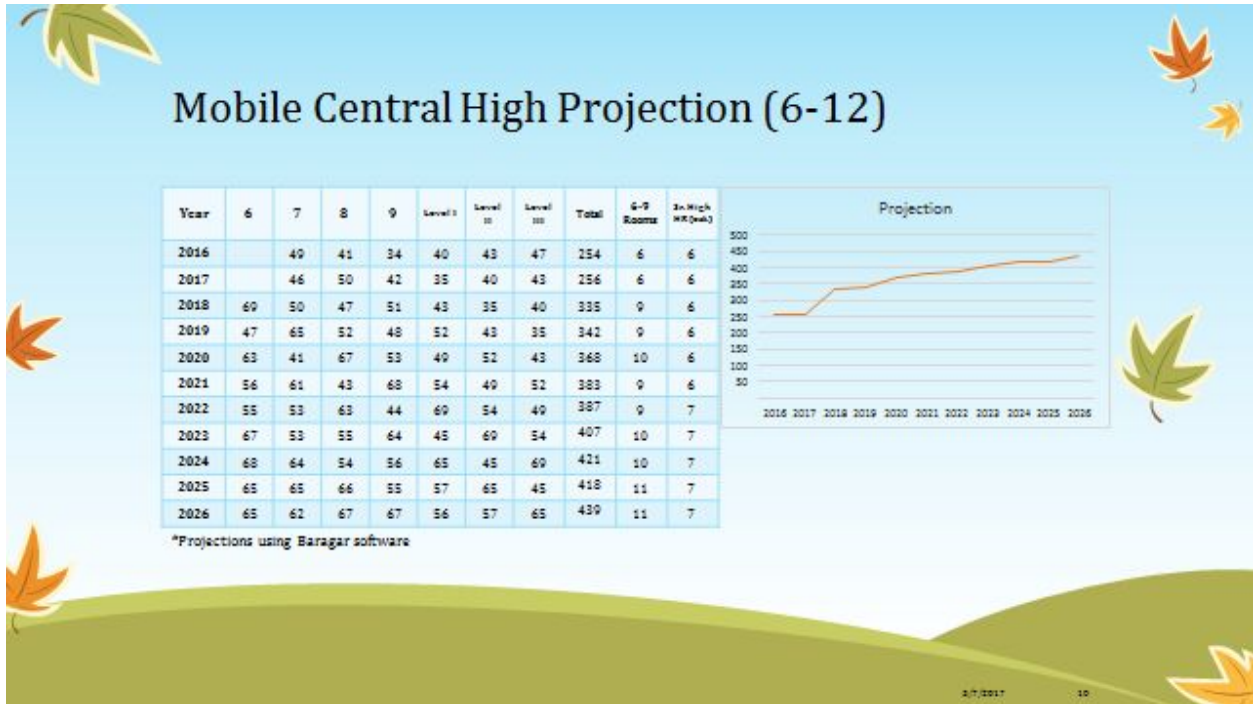


Figure 9: Mobile Central High 6-12 enrolment projections (Baragar)

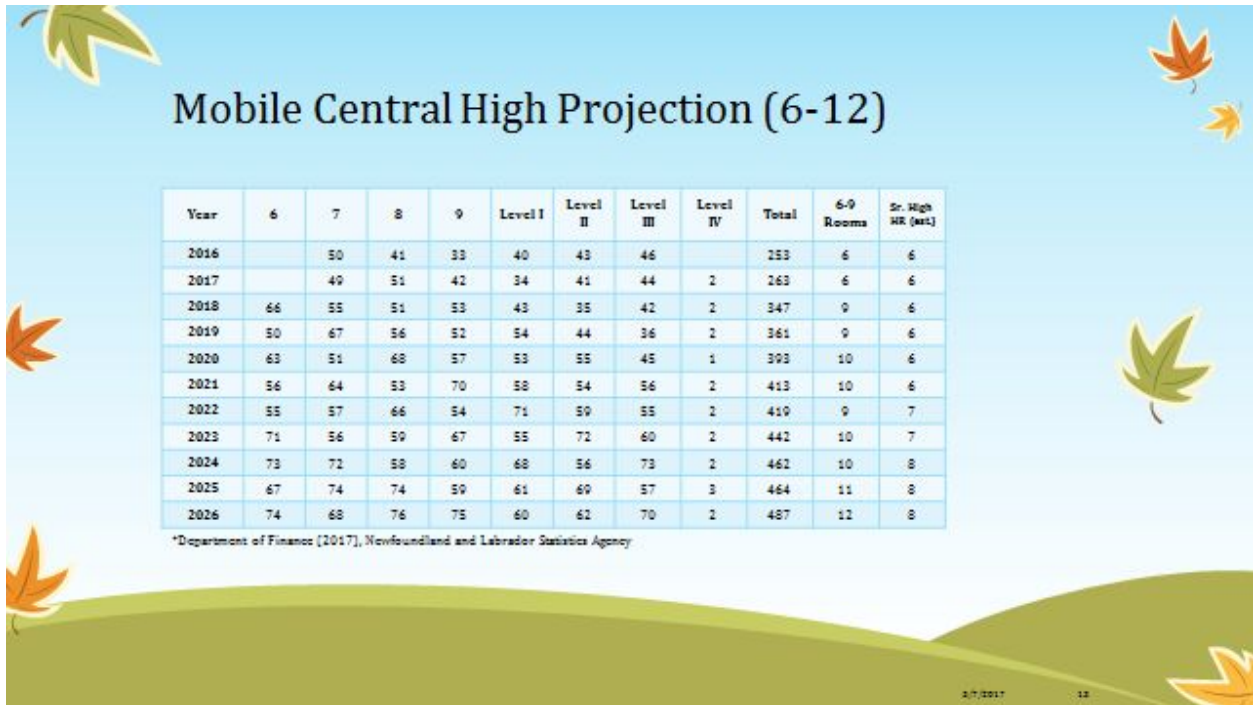


Figure 10: Mobile Central High 6-12 enrolment projections (NL Stats High)

The addition of Grade 6 from St. Bernard’s Elementary increases the room requirement at MCHS by three (3) rooms. Again, please note that the room requirement calculations are based

on maximum class caps. The projected enrolment increases in Grades 7-9 out to 2026 increases the room requirement by a further three (3) rooms. Finally, there is a projected increase in the room requirement for the senior high population to two (2) more additional rooms for a total of eight (8) additional rooms. Therefore, based on enrolment projections, a nine (9) classroom extension would suffice for a Grade 6-12 configuration of MCHS out to 2026.

There are some concerns which the NLESD has identified to the consultant for the extension project as follows:

1. A traffic study is required to deal with the increased traffic and the requirement for increased parking.
2. The adequacy of the existing septic field will need to be addressed.
3. Construction must occur without interfering with the normal functioning of the school.

The NLESD in tandem with the school administration will also need to consider the supervision of younger students in the building, access to the cafeteria and other common areas.

Conclusion

In summary, the NLESD is planning for the announced extension to Mobile Central High School. The District is aware of the enrolment pressures at St. Bernard's Elementary. Given the additional available space after the extension, the District is considering the realignment of Grade 6 from St. Bernard's Elementary to Mobile Central High School resulting in a Kindergarten to Grade 5 school and a Grade 6-12 school once sufficient space is available at Mobile through the completion of an expansion, which is anticipated to be for the 2018-2019 school year. Based on projections, this will alleviate enrolment pressures at St. Bernard's Elementary out to the year 2021 or 2022.

NLESD would like to thank School Board Zone 17 Trustee, Jennifer Aspell, the combined school councils and the staff of the Mobile Central High School system, for your candour, interest, and passion for the education of yours and our students.

Please take the time to complete the feedback form to better inform the District regarding the plan for the utilization of the extension for Mobile Central High School.