

SCHOOL DISTRICT
No. 83 SCHOOLS

Early
Learning
Fair



Bastion
Choir

Bannock
bake
off!



Joinery
showcase

Meeting
Barney
the Bus!



Dec. 20, 2017

STAYING CONNECTED

~ A message from Official Trustee Mike McKay ~

To North Okanagan-Shuswap School District Community and Staff Members:

To North Okanagan-Shuswap Community and Staff Members,

As snow settles in for the Christmas season - and likely beyond - I want to wish all of you the very best for the holidays and for a positive and healthy 2018. In our busy world, it is a special gift to have some time to pause, reflect and refresh. The Christmas vacation break allows for that and more.

This has been a busy few weeks leading up to the Public Board meeting held on Dec. 19. I want to thank staff and community members who have participated in providing feedback and shape to several initiatives, some of which were part of the December Board meeting presentations. They included:

- the community engagement and collaborative work leading to a new **Strategic Plan** that will guide the district's work over the next several years. The three areas of focus in that plan are as follows:

- **Students First:** Student success is our top priority every day
- **Organizational Efficiency** - Decisions and actions are clear, purposeful and respectful
- **Culture of Health and Wellness:** Students and staff are healthy and connected to the learning community

- there has also been significant input into the various options being considered for a **variance in the number of trustees** on an elected board in North Okanagan-Shuswap. My recommendation to Minister of Education Rob Fleming is that he consider a five member board in anticipation of the Oct. 2018 election. I further recommended that the electoral regions/wards be organized as follows:

- North Shuswap/Sorrento/Carlin - one trustee
- Salmon Arm - two trustees
- Sicamous/Malakwal/Enderby/Grindrod - one trustee
- Armstrong/Spallumcheen/Falkland/Silver Creek/Ranchero - one trustee

I invite you to read a background paper that accompanied the recommendation. It can be found on the district's website at www.sd83.bc.ca. When I took office in June of 2016, my commitment was to have a recommendation ready for the Minister prior to Christmas in order for him to make a decision early in the new year. That will give sufficient time for potential trustee candidates to consider whether they wish to stand for office in the election of Oct. 2018.

~ Continued ~

Solving math problems



Practicing bus safety



Locker art project



Math games



Student projects



www.sd83.bc.ca

- the district has also recently received **provincial assessment data** allowing us to track local trends and make comparisons with districts across the province. That information provides us with some good news and some direct positive links between program initiatives and outcomes. It also highlights areas of significant need, giving us evidence that will initiate thoughtful, research-based action. The graphs illustrating the data were presented at the December board meeting and can be accessed under District News on the website or at <http://bit.ly/2z6o7m4>.

- among the other issues addressed at the December board meeting was the proposal regarding an **Outdoor Education Program of Choice** to be located at South Canoe Elementary School. A committee of passionate and dedicated educators and community members have worked with Director of Instruction Carl Cooper on this initiative over the past several months. Their report and rationale make for compelling reading and what they have produced is a great example of a well-developed and thoroughly analyzed project proposal. The recommendation emerging from the committee's work was as follows:

- After considering sound educational research, current demographic information, parent surveys, community partnership input, interest expressed through intent to register forms, the Senior Leadership Team at School District No. 83 recommends approval of Option 5: Re-open South Canoe Centre as a K-6 School with an Outdoor Learning Program for September 2018.

I have given approval in principle to this request and have commented that:

a) we cannot offer transportation to this program of choice. It would not be a sustainable or equitable use of resources;

b) in order for South Canoe School to re-open, we require permission from the Agricultural Land Reserve. That request has been submitted and we have asked that it be expedited;

c) the re-opening of South Canoe and the establishment of a Program of Choice there must occur as part of an overall strategic approach to effective management of school capacities and student enrolment trends. We know that several of our Salmon Arm schools are reaching full capacity and we also know it is not likely that we will qualify for a major capital project in the near future. Adding to our available capacity by including South Canoe may require the district to re-draw some catchment boundaries so that the school may serve a regular catchment of students as well as those enrolling in the Outdoor Education Program.

As always, I appreciate working with the district's Partner Groups and with other local government agencies. We all share a responsibility for providing the best possible environment for children to learn and to thrive and for communities to have confidence and pride in their schools.

Respectfully,

Mike McKay

Mike McKay, Official Trustee

Questions? Feedback? Please send me an email at trusteefeedback@sd83.bc.ca