

SCHOOL DISTRICT
No. 83 SCHOOLS

Early
Learning



Goal
setting



Tech
in the
classroom



Indigenous
Student
Leadership



Terry
Fox
Run

Oct. 20, 2017

STAYING CONNECTED

~ A message from Official Trustee Mike McKay ~

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

Continuing with community outreach efforts throughout the last school year, I am pleased to share a Staying Connected Bulletin with you as one of the ways to provide updates and share plans for our school district during my term in office. There are several updates for your consideration, all of which are being shared at public board meetings, at DPAC meetings and at the Partner Group Table.

It is an exciting time in our school district. Enrolment has grown by 100 students since last year and there has been a significant increase in hiring in response to a combination of larger student enrolment and restored class size language. School start up went well and a number of the changes made last year have proceeded according to plan and are being well received. We are a learning community and our focus is on success for all students.

Looking ahead, there are three initiatives I want to highlight among the many that are receiving time and attention.

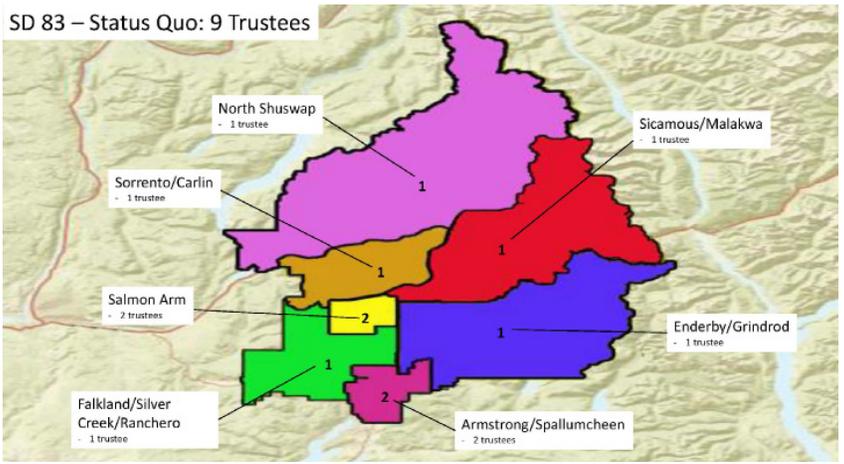
Trustee Variance - One of the recommendations in the Special Advisor's Report of June, 2016, was to consider a reduction in the number of elected trustees on the Board of Education. I have begun work with our partner groups to discuss what such a plan would look like and discussions have included:

- maintaining the status quo of nine trustees from the seven "wards" across the school district;
- reducing the size of the Board to seven trustees, with various options to achieve that reduction; and,
- reducing the size of the Board to five trustees, with various options to achieve that reduction.

In addition to discussions regarding how the electoral ward system might look with a smaller Board, it has been important to highlight that while trustees in SD 83 are elected from specific areas/wards, their responsibilities are as members of a corporate board governing the entire district.

Over the next weeks, there will be opportunities in schools and communities and on the district website for questions to be asked and perspectives to be shared. The timeline for me to make a recommendation to the Minister of Education regarding Board Variance will be December. For your information and interest, the following map describes the current electoral areas.

~ Continued ~



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District Strategic Plan - Another initiative under way in response to the Special Advisor's Report is the development of a District Strategic Plan. Work on this project began last February and has included a series of staff and community consultations, leading to the identification of key themes and priorities for our attention, and the development of a draft document for sharing. A series of "check in" sessions throughout the district is happening this week, in which employees and members of the public are able to consider the draft, engage in table talk, and make further suggestions for staff consideration. This feedback will inform the development of the next version, which will then be shared with the Strategic Planning Committee for vetting before the final version is considered for approval at the December public board meeting. The District Strategic Plan will play a critical role in guiding decisions around direction and resource allocation through the next five years and beyond.

Outdoor Program - Last spring, after visiting other Outdoor Learning schools in Maple Ridge and Sooke, a group of teachers came to a public board meeting to share what they had seen and learned and a vision for an outdoor learning school in School District 83. Since then, this team has worked with Director of Instruction Carl Cooper to explore the potential for an Outdoor Learning School as a district program of choice. Parents have responded to an online survey and have expressed a high degree of interest in learning more and in having their children participate in such a program. The next phase of this work is to share information and respond to more questions at a meeting on the evening of Nov. 7, 6 p.m. at Sullivan Campus of Salmon Arm Secondary.

November's public board meeting on Nov. 21 will be held at Pleasant Valley Secondary School. Throughout this school year, we will host public board meetings in each of our four largest communities and we look forward to welcoming parent and community attendance at those meetings.

I continue to be honoured to serve in the role of Official Trustee and to keep the focus on student success for every learner. Together, we build capacity and create a better future.

Respectfully,
Mike McKay
 Mike McKay, Official Trustee

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