



The Board of Education of School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap)

May 17, 2017

Dear Parents of Students attending M.V. Beattie, A.L. Fortune, and Grindrod Schools:

Re: Change of school grade configurations at M.V. Beattie and A.L. Fortune for
September 2017

At the regular public board meeting this past Monday night, Mike McKay, the Official Trustee, passed a motion accepting the recommendations of district staff to address the space concerns at M.V. Beattie. These recommendations were developed after an extensive public consultation. The primary recommendation approved was that M.V. Beattie be organized as a K-6 school and A.L. Fortune school be organized as a Gr. 7-12 school effective September 2017. The staff at A.L. Fortune were very involved in the public consultation including visiting other 7-12 schools in our region to learn about the organization of these schools as well as how these schools work to ensure the academic and social success of Grade 7 students. I personally know that the teachers and administration are very enthusiastic about welcoming Grade 7's to A.L. Fortune and are highly committed to the success of each student attending the school.

All three schools will be working hard in the days and weeks ahead to provide students and parents with information about the plans for transition in preparation for these recommendations being implemented. I appreciate the planning being done at Grindrod toward outdoor education and their welcoming of several new Enderby families into their school. M.V. Beattie is to be recognized for their efforts to provide good programming for students within difficult space constraints. And of course, I'd like to commend A.L. Fortune for their invitation and welcoming of the idea of Grade 7's becoming part of their 'family' and for the work they have already begun on exploring and developing programming options for a grade 7-12 school.

Other recommendations that were part of the motion include the following:

- One portable be purchased, sited and placed at M.V. Beattie Elementary in time for school opening Sept. 2017.
- That M.V. Beattie catchment is closed to cross boundary students for the foreseeable future.
- That a local capital plan for an addition to M.V. Beattie be developed and reviewed each fall to be considered for implementation if M.V. Beattie as a K-6 is projected to have no space.
- That a shuttle bus from Enderby to Grindrod be instituted.
- That an express-like bus from Ashton Creek to Grindrod be instituted.

- That all M.V. Beattie catchment students are given a priority choice for registration at AL Fortune or Grindrod Elementary.

Four further recommendations were passed to assist with transition of 'incoming' grade 7 and 8 students for next September. These include:

- That additional resources are provided to grade 6-8 students in Enderby to support appropriate and healthy social and emotional behavior and choices.
- That resources are allocated to M.V. Beattie for respectful, thoughtful closure and transition for current grade 6 and 7 students together.
- That resources are allocated to A.L. Fortune for welcoming and transitional activities.
- That resources be allocated to A.L. Fortune to support a school team to develop the best ways to successfully integrate Grade 7 students to A.L. Fortune with particular attention to program options, transitional events and supports, and policy considerations.

I would like to thank the community for your active participation in the consultation around space challenges for M.V. Beattie. This was a complex decision with no *one* perfect answer. Through your feedback several ideas and suggestions were brought forth and were included in these final recommendations. The community consensus around a hybrid solution involving many ideas has been heard and acted upon. Finally, I would particularly like to thank our Director of Instruction, Carl Cooper, for the leadership he has provided in working with the community and school staff to develop these recommendations.

Thank you and best wishes for a successful conclusion to the school year for your children.

Sincerely,



Glenn Borthistle,
Superintendent of Schools