



April 10, 2015

To the Parent/Guardians of the RE Mountain Family of Schools

Dear Parent/Guardians:

As families are now aware, there has been an ongoing consultation process with the Willoughby community and the Langley School District regarding the need for schools in your communities. At the February 17, 2015 Special Meeting of the Board of Education, at the end of the process, Trustees passed the following motion:

“That the Board of Education directs staff to indicate to the Ministry of Education that the Board’s preferred option for a new school on the Willoughby Slope is a secondary school.”

The District continues to work with the Ministry of Education in the hopes of acquiring approval for a new school. In the interim, it is important for the community to understand that a new process is now underway regarding plans for your children over the next few years. Though changes are coming, families need to know that your children will remain in their current schools with the existing configuration for the 2015-2016 school year.

For September 2016, the District will work with the community to implement changes as the number of students attending Yorkson Creek Middle School will exceed the school’s capacity. At this point in time, the District is exploring having elementary schools configured as K-6 schools, Yorkson Creek Middle School as a grade 7 & 8 school and RE Mountain continuing to operate as a 9-12 school. The District is also interested in hearing from the community any other ideas that individuals may have so that all options are explored. Again, any changes will take place for the 2016-2017 school year.

Communities on the Willoughby slope also need to be aware that the District will have to look at existing catchments and re-draw some school boundaries. This means that some children may have to move to different schools or that new students to the area may have a different home school. Over the next few years, some elementary schools in Willoughby will exceed capacities whilst others will have room to accommodate students. Staff is beginning to explore the catchment changes and the impact on families and schools. Again, proposed changes and the process for implementing the changes will be shared and co-developed with school communities through extensive consultation.

In the next few weeks the Willoughby communities will be advised of public meetings where feedback can be provided and new ideas surfaced for staff to explore. The District will continue to work closely with the Willoughby school communities and values the work that has been completed to date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Hoffman".

Suzanne Hoffman
Superintendent of Schools