



News Release

*For immediate release
June 16, 2015*

Long-Term Facilities Plan and Willoughby Slope Recommendations

LANGLEY – Ongoing consultations that began in the winter of 2014 regarding the Long-Term Facilities Plan have primarily focused on the Willoughby slope and the recommendation that a new high school be requested of the Ministry of Education to accommodate increasing numbers of students. These community consultations have provided feedback regarding capacity and configuration of schools on the Willoughby slope where a number of different options have been considered.

Based on feedback from staff and the community, District staff recommended that the current configuration of schools be maintained for as long as practicable. Given Board of Education approval, the following direction will be taken:

- 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 School Years
 - No changes to configuration of schools or catchments
- 2017 and beyond
 - Drawing new catchment boundaries for elementary schools on the Willoughby slope
 - Potential drawing of catchment boundaries for the possible addition of a second middle school (subject to Ministry approval of a new school for the Willoughby slope)

Approved Timeline for Future Catchment Discussions:

- October 2015
 - Small community meeting regarding process and timeline
- November 2015 – January 2016
 - Committee work
 - Drafting catchments
 - Working with the Township of Langley
- February 2016
 - Draft catchments to the Board of Education

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- March and April 2016
 - Community consultation on catchments
 - May or June 2016
 - New school catchments approved by the Board of Education

Until the potential news of a new school for the Willoughby slope is announced, possibly in the fall of 2015, it is difficult to determine the length of time for which short-term planning is required. In the meantime, the District continues to work closely with the Township of Langley and monitor developments in the area. The plans shared at the June 16th Regular Meeting of the Board of Education are based on current information regarding the changes on the Willoughby slope.

Superintendent Hoffman and Board Chair McFarlane have both expressed appreciation for the input from the Willoughby slope community and have committed to an ongoing plan to continue to work closely with school communities.

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