



July 5, 2018

To the Parents/Guardians of the Walnut Grove Family of Schools

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Mal Gill, Assistant Superintendent, has been working with the family of schools in the Walnut Grove region to support an eventual transition to middle school programming. The Board of Education passed the following motions at their Regular Meeting on May 30, 2017 specific to the WGSS region:

"That the Board of Education directs staff to establish a Transition Committee to report back to the Board by March 2018 with an implementation plan for establishing the middle school model in the Walnut Grove community which will include a timeline, facility change requirements and education programming implications."

"That the Board of Education directs staff to request Ministry of Education capital funding in the year Capital Plan submission for acquisition of a site for construction of a middle school and sufficient funds to renovate an elementary school to a second middle school facility."

The Langley School District believes in the middle model and is moving ahead with plans to transition all families of schools as resources will allow. Specifically, for the Walnut Grove region, staff and trustees heard the recommendations from our community during consultations and has requested the acquisition of a site for construction of a new middle school and sufficient funds to renovate an elementary school to a second middle school facility in Walnut Grove.

Our family of schools administrative teams have been working closely with their communities to begin the process, within our current K-7 and 8-12 structure, to implement some aspects of the middle school pillars so that our children can begin to benefit from the middle experience. The administrators in the Walnut Grove community believe in the middle model and are supportive of visioning a K-12 culture supported by a gradual integration of academic and extra-curricular collaborations.

Middle School Transition Team

Assistant Superintendent Mal Gill has been meeting with administrators from the Brookwood and Walnut Grove Family of schools along with principal representatives of our current middle schools. The team is working on establishing K-12 culture based upon the middle pillars, and includes the following principals:

Balan Moorthy, Principal of Walnut Grove Secondary School

John Pusic, Principal of Brookwood Secondary School

Lisa Lainchbury, Principal of James Kennedy Elementary School

Michael Carlyle, Principal of Alice Brown Elementary School

Kevan Reeve, Principal of Yorkson Creek Middle School

Shawn Davids, Principal of HD Stafford Middle School

This District Team had its inaugural meeting on May 11, 2018. That meeting was followed up with a second meeting on May 31st. During these meeting, the Team agreed to work with their collective family of schools to move towards a leadership model that will incorporate a sharing of students between elementary and secondary schools. The Team will research the concept of looping (students, to the best of our ability, maintain the same teacher for their grade 6 and 7 school years) and work to create opportunities for school teacher teams from the family of schools to collaborate. In addition, the family of schools will collaborate with curricular and extra-curricular activities between schools. The Walnut Grove family of schools met to begin the first steps to implement the middle vision on June 14, 2018.

The District Leadership Team is very thankful to the Walnut Grove community for its support and involvement to date, and looks forward to continued progress in the implementation of the middle school pillars in the 2018-19 school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gord Stewart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gord" and last name "Stewart" clearly distinguishable.

Gord Stewart
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Principals – Walnut Grove Family of Schools