

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
BRIEFING NOTE**

PREPARED FOR: Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for Information at the request of the Director, Aboriginal Education, Learning Division, in preparation for a January 20, 2012 meeting with the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee of the British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF)

SUBJECT: Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal student completion and success rates, support for teachers of Aboriginal ancestry, and conditions for both Aboriginal students and teachers.

BACKGROUND:

On September 29, 2011, BCTF president Susan Lambert wrote that Aboriginal-focused courses, such as BC First Nations Studies and English First Peoples, are offered sporadically and frequently cancelled due to low enrolment. She alerted the Minister to recommendations set at that union's annual general meeting:

- embed Aboriginal content in all K-12 Integrated Resource Packages (IRPs);
- add secondary school IRPs that span subject areas and emphasize Aboriginal culture;
- make one Aboriginal-focused course a graduation requirement; and
- fund the implementation of Aboriginal-focused courses.

She asked the Minister to impress the importance of these courses on all boards of education.

On November 8, 2011, the Minister provided a response highlighting the resources districts and teachers already have available to them when working to include Aboriginal cultures, histories, and languages.

Note: In the summer, the Ministry prepared briefing note 148135 on the recommendations emerging from the BCTF's annual general meeting.

DISCUSSION:

Not responsive (NR)

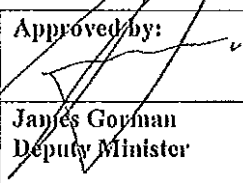
Recommendations and Resolutions (Aboriginal-Focused Courses)

Some districts find it challenging to offer English 12 First Peoples and BC First Nations Studies 12 due to low student enrolment. Districts can make these their only senior English and Social Studies

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<u>Contact Information</u> Learning Division Aboriginal Education 250-356-1891 280-20/BN	RA	Approved by: 
	ADM Initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister
		Date signed: Jan 19/12

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
BRIEFING NOTE**

PREPARED FOR: Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information**, at the request of the Resource Management Division, to accompany a Capital Project Funding Agreement.

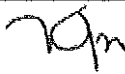
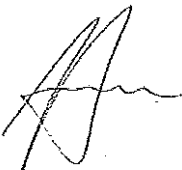
SUBJECT: Signing of Capital Project Funding Agreement No. 105242 for the replacement of Oak Bay High School, in School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)

BACKGROUND:

- The east block of Oak Bay Secondary School in Victoria was constructed in 1929. Oak Bay Junior High School was constructed on the west side of the property in 1953 and the two schools were amalgamated in 1970.
- The capacity of the grade 9-12 high school is 1,500 students. The September 2011 enrolment was 1,019 students and this is projected to remain stable for several years with some modest increases after 2015/16.

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<u>Contact Information</u> Resource Management Div. 356-7984 12215-20/SD61-105242		Approved by: 
	ADM Initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister
		Date signed: Feb. 3, 2012

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
BRIEFING NOTE**

PREPARED FOR: Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information**, at the request of the Resource Management Division, to accompany a Capital Project Funding Agreement.

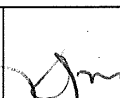
SUBJECT: Sunnyside Elementary Replacement (Project No. 113221)
School District No. 36 (Surrey)

BACKGROUND:

- The current Sunnyside Elementary School opened in 1949 and has a nominal capacity of 20 Full Day Kindergarten (FDK)/250 Elementary students.
- In the 2004/05 Capital Plan, the Minister of Education supported renovation of the existing Sunnyside Elementary, subject to the completion of Phase One and Two feasibility studies.
- The Phase One feasibility study, completed in 2007, recommended a new 40 FDK/350 Elementary school to be located at Site 202 (a vacant school site owned by the Surrey Board of Education), rather than the renovation of the existing school.
- Following the completion of the Phase Two feasibility study in February 2009, it was determined that the replacement Sunnyside Elementary School will have a nominal capacity of 100 FDK/350 Elementary students. The study clearly identified that relocation of the existing school would improve access issues and also better meet enrolment demands in South Surrey.
- Enrolment projections confirmed the need for this school in the Grandview Heights area. The construction of this school will also allow the School District to adjust school catchments in the area to better balance enrolment demands.
- As a part of this project, the School District will construct a 495 m² Neighbourhood Learning Centre.

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<u>Contact Information</u> Resource Management Div. 356-7814		Approved by:
	ADM Initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister
		Date signed: Jan 11/12

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE

PREPARED FOR: Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information** in preparation for a meeting with Minister Blair Lekstrom

SUBJECT: School District No. 59 (Peace River South) Operating Grant Funding

BACKGROUND:

Funding for K-12 districts is based on an allocation of the Operating Grant. The Operating Grant funding formula is a population based formula – ensuring funding is associated with students and not services or costs. Transportation was the remaining services based supplement based on 1999/2000 costs.

As a result of consultation with BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) in December 2011, trustees and school district staff were notified of a number of changes to the operating grant funding formula that take effect for the 2012/13 school year. These include:

- A new supplement for vulnerable students based on the CommunityLINK allocation;
- Additional support for remote elementary schools through improvements to the Small Community Supplement formula;
- Additional support for small districts through improvements to the Low Enrolment Factor;
- A new allocation based on student location will be phased in to replace the current transportation supplement;
- Funding Protection will protect districts with declining enrolment from year-to-year losses greater than 1.5 percent.

Peace River South school district staff has taken a particular interest in the changes to the transportation component, even though the district receives the Funding Protection supplement and is expected to for the near future, ensuring a year-to-year decline of no more than 1.5 percent. In fact, the district's own analysis shows that funding would be no different with or without the transportation change over the next 3 years (Appendix 1).

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DISCUSSION:

- In 2011/12, School District No. 59 (Peace River South) is estimated to receive \$42.4 million in operating grant funding for just under 3,900 FTE.
- This is an increase of more than \$4 million or 10.5% since 2001/02 despite enrolment decline of nearly 1,000 or 20.1 percent in that time.
- As a result, per pupil funding for 2011/12 is estimated to be \$10,925, about \$3,250 or 42 percent higher than it was ten years ago.

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- The Sparseness Index for School District No. 59 (Peace River South) is 11.7 percent with 10 disperse schools. Other districts where enrolment is as disperse or more disperse as that of the Peace River South School District and receiving less Transportation funding on a per student basis include:

School District	\$ per FTE	Sparseness Index %	Disperse Schools
No. 82 (Coast Mountains)	384	21.8	11
No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay)	273	12.6	8
No. 57 (Prince George)	295	6.1	10
No. 91 (Nechako Lakes)	602	40.4	17

- School District No. 59 (Peace River South) Transportation is based on average daily kilometres of 9,303. This compares to:

School District	Avg. Daily km	Compared to SD No. 59 (Peace River South)
No. 91 (Nechako Lakes)	8,189	more disperse schools and a higher proportion of students enrolled in disperse schools
No. 57 (Prince George)	12,890	more than three times the enrolment
No. 82 (Coast Mountains)	6,074	900 more students attending sparse schools

- The Student Location Factor is based on enrolment and school-age population density in each community in which a school board operates a school.

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<u>Contact Information</u> Resource Management Division 387-0893	<i>OSB</i>	Approved by: <i>Approved via email</i>
	ADM initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister
		Date signed:

	Student Location Factor		
	<u>2012/13</u>	<u>2013/14</u>	<u>2014/15</u>
	<u>Projected</u>	<u>Projected</u>	<u>Projected</u>
Student Base Allocation	\$26,091,862	\$26,000,541	\$25,935,540
Supplements:			
Enrolment Decline	100,000	0	0

	Existing Transportation and Housing Supplement		
	<u>2012/13</u>	<u>2013/14</u>	<u>2014/15</u>
	<u>Projected</u>	<u>Projected</u>	<u>Projected</u>
	\$26,091,862	\$26,000,541	\$25,935,540
	100,000	0	0

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**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
BRIEFING NOTE**

PREPARED FOR: Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Decision**, at the request of the Resource Management Division regarding the announcement of the Preliminary 2012/13 Operating Grant Allocations

SUBJECT: Preliminary Operating Grant Allocations for 2012/13

KEY POINTS:

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- 3) School district enrolment projections indicate a decrease of 5,245 FTE, with 45 districts expecting to enrol fewer students in 2012/13.
- 4) Funding Protection of \$56.9 million will ensure that funding declines in 42 districts at September 2012 are limited to 1.5% compared to September 2011.
- 5) The holdback has been established at \$51.3 million to accommodate actual enrolment exceeding district estimates, the lowest holdback since 2006/07.

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- 7) Funds exist to fully implement the Supplement for Vulnerable Students at the full \$11.2 million in 2012/13.
- 8) Funds are also available to increase the Student Location Factor by \$10 million and to implement gains to districts immediately, while continuing to phase in declines over three years
- 9) Funds are also available to adjust the Sparseness factor for water distances greater than 50km, resulting in \$1.2 million increase to the factor.
- 10) Funds are available to provide a one-time \$10.7 million allocation to assist districts with implementing initiatives as part of the Education Plan.

BACKGROUND:

The *School Act* requires the Minister of Education to provide operating grant allocations to boards of education for the coming school year on, or before, March 15. The attached Operating Grants Manual details the preliminary funding allocation to all boards of education based on their enrolment projections for the 2012/13 school year.

Boards are projecting an overall enrolment decrease of 5,245 FTE students for the coming year.

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DISCUSSION:

The Preliminary 2012/13 operating grants have been calculated with Funding Protection which will ensure no district experiences a decline funding greater than 1.5% after the September 2012 count when compared to the previous September count (Appendix 1) despite a decline in enrolment. Preliminary 2012/13 Funding Protection is provided to 42 districts requiring \$56.9 million compared to 31 districts receiving \$30.6 million in 2011/12. Based on estimated district September enrolment, 48 districts will be receiving less funding compared to September 2011, totalling \$41.1 million. A total of 45 districts are estimating their September 2012 enrolment will be lower than the previous September, 1 unchanged, and 14 increasing.

When comparing full year funding between 2011/12 and 2012/13, the same number of districts are estimating their enrolment will decline, remain unchanged or increase. Including the other enrolment counts besides September results in a total of 47 districts receiving less funding this year compared to 2011/12, with declines totalling \$44.4 million. (Appendix 2)

For 2012/13, a holdback has been established at \$51.3 million. This figure was determined by comparing district estimates to Ministry projections. Ministry projections are 3,392 September FTE more than district estimates. The Ministry projections for all Unique Student Needs categories, February, May and some summer enrolment are higher than district estimates.

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Although the plan announced in December was to implement the Supplement for Vulnerable Students over two years, higher declining enrolment than expected has provided an opportunity to fully implement this supplement in 2012/13. The plan was to provide a total of \$5 million in this supplement in 2012/13, rising to \$11.2 million in 2013/14 when full implementation occurs. A portion of the presently unallocated 2012/13 funding can be used to fully implement this supplement at the entire \$11.2 million for 2012/13.

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NR . Higher declining enrolment than expected has also provided an opportunity to increase the weighting for the smallest, most remote communities, adding \$10 million to this factor. It is also possible to ensure that gains are immediately realized this year, while continuing to phase in declines according to the above schedule.

In response to concerns raised by the Alberni school district regarding water transportation, the Sparseness Factor can be amended to include additional funding of \$200,000 per school where the distance between the school and board office community exceeds 50 kilometres. Five schools in four districts, including Bamfield Community School in Alberni, would benefit from this amendment. However, because these districts are eligible for Funding Protection, this results in a reallocation from each districts' Funding Protection allocation to the Sparseness Factor with no additional funds required.

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LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES: n/a



OPTIONS:

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RECOMMENDATION:

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<u>Contact Information</u> Resource Management Division Phone: 356-2531	OSB KM	AGREE / Disagree: 	Agree / Disagree: 
	ADM initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister	Honourable George Abbott Minister
		Date signed: March 5, 2012	Date signed: March 6 2012

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
BRIEFING NOTE**

PREPARED FOR: Honourable George Abbott, for **Information**, in preparation for a meeting with Marc Dalton, MLA (Maple Ridge-Mission), and representatives from the District of Maple Ridge, Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Board of Education, and School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows), at the request of the Resource Management Division.

SUBJECT: Future school site acquisitions by School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows) in the District of Maple Ridge.

BACKGROUND:

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- Since 1996, the Board has acquired four sites for new schools; to date, but only two sites have been fully built out:
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 - Pitt Meadows Middle School in Pitt Meadows – acquired in 2001 for \$1.9 million, but currently surplus due to declining enrolment.

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- Since 2001, the Board has closed four schools across the School District due to declining enrolment.

DISCUSSION:


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- The School District is currently experiencing some population growth in the Albion area of the District of Maple Ridge.

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- There are nine elementary schools currently serving the Albion area with current enrolments exceeding capacity by only 18 students.
- Projected student enrolments (Albion area only) indicate the need of approximately 450 additional spaces by 2015/16.

LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES: n/a

<u>Contact Information</u> Capital Management Branch Resource Management Div. 356-7814	<i>DS on behalf of KM</i>	Approved by: 
	ADM Initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister
		Date signed: March 5, 2012

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
BRIEFING NOTE**

PREPARED FOR: Honourable George Abbott, Minister for **Information** in preparation for a meeting with MLA Dawn Black on March 29, 2012

SUBJECT: John Robson Elementary and West Side Middle School projects in School District No. 40 (New Westminster)

ISSUE:

MLA Dawn Black has requested a meeting to discuss the status of capital projects for John Robson Elementary and West Side Middle School in New Westminster.

BACKGROUND:

The Ministry supported the new West Side Middle School in its 2003/04 Capital Plan. The school is to be constructed on the site of John Robson Elementary School, and will enable the district to ease enrolment pressure on New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS) by accommodating Grade 8 students.

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Construction of the middle school will proceed as the elementary is completed in the Fall/Winter of 2013 and will be able to accommodate the elementary enrolment; grade 8 students will remain in NWSS until the middle school is completed in Fall/Winter 2015.

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LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES: n/a

<u>Contact Information</u> Resource Management Div. 356-7814	<i>OSB DS for KM</i>	Approved by: 
	ADM Initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister
		Date signed: March 28, 2012

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
BRIEFING NOTE**

PREPARED FOR: Honourable George Abbott, Minister, for **Information**, at the request of the Resource Management Division, to accompany a Capital Project Agreement.

SUBJECT:

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School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast)

BACKGROUND:

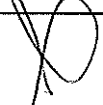
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- The original Gibsons Elementary School, located in Gibsons, BC, was constructed in 1950. The school has a capacity for two full-day Kindergarten classes and 400 grade 1 to 7 students. The September 2011 enrolment was 40 Kindergarten and 241 grade 1-7 students.

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<u>Contact Information</u> Resource Management Division Phone: 356-7814		Approved by:
	ADM Initial	James Gorman Deputy Minister
		Date signed: April 23/12