

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
INFORMATION NOTE FOR MINISTER**

DATE: December 2, 2015

CLIFF: 185153

Honourable Mike Bernier, Minister, for **Information** at the request of the Deputy Minister's Office for Meeting with SD 67 (Okanagan

PREPARED FOR: Skaha) – December 11, 2015

SUBJECT: Topics for discussion with SD 67 (Okanagan Skaha) – MyEducation BC, Education funding, Technology Infrastructure - NGN

BACKGROUND:

Superintendent	Wendy Hyer
Secretary Treasurer	Bonnie Roller Routley
Board Chair	Linda Van Alphen - attending
Trustees	Ginny Manning, Vice-Chair - attending
	Bill Bidlake - attending
	Shelley Clarke - attending
	Bruce Johnson - attending
	Julie Planiden - attending
	Barb Sheppard - attending
MLAs	Linda Larsen (Boundary-Similkameen) <i>Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Health for Seniors</i>
	Dan Ashton (Penticton) <i>Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance</i>

DISCUSSION:

Question # 1 – MyEducation BC

The letter from Alex Attal was specifically related to the performance issues that were experienced by schools in September 2015, following the conversions that took place in August. Since that time Fujitsu has worked closely with the Ministry and school districts to improve response time. This has included changes to system and database configurations, upgrades to the application and substantial investments in servers and infrastructure. Performance monitoring by both Fujitsu and school districts was initiated on September 11. Since that time we have seen significant improvements in response time and as of early October the system was performing well within the service levels defined in the contract with Fujitsu. Surveys and follow-up with districts indicate that MyEducation BC is now working well.

We have received reports of performance issues in specific districts, including SD67. Investigation has shown that this is related to network performance which is impacting response times in the schools. The Ministry is working directly with affected districts to address local network issues. In February changes will be made to the NGN that will improve user

response for MyEducation BC. Fujitsu is developing diagnostic tools for MyEdBC that will help districts to identify network bottlenecks.

The process for converting student records from BCeSIS to MyEducation BC has required that both systems be periodically taken offline. This has been disruptive for school operations but the schedule was developed after thorough consultation with districts so as to minimize the impact on schools. The last conversion will be completed over the Christmas break and BCeSIS will be decommissioned in March 2016. Recognizing the impact on your schools, in March the Okanagan Skaha SD received a rebate of \$18,008, the equivalent of 4 months of MyEdBC usage fees.

Fujitsu has prepared a Recovery Plan which, in addition to system performance, commits them to improving service delivery and addressing outstanding functionality. Many issues have surfaced as more schools begin using new, complex features within the software. Fujitsu is working closely with the Ministry and district working groups to identify standard business processes and to configure the software accordingly.

Question #2 – Education Funding

The Ministry of Education's 3-year budget plan is published with the provincial budget each February. Decisions on education funding levels are made by Treasury Board, which is chaired by the Minister of Finance.

In addition, the Operating Grants Manual provides the three year School Year operating grant total for three future years. These announcements are legislated, providing districts with security in the timing of funding announcements, and provide nearly 6 months' notice in advance of the next school year.

The Ministry works with the Technical Review Committee, comprised of representatives from districts province-wide, to annually review the funding formula and recommend improvements to the minister. In this process, the ministry will consider how best to consult with key partner groups (BCASBO, BCSSA, BCSTA) on any significant changes in funding policy, prior to their announcement.

Given that the funding formula generally changes little from year to year, districts are able to plan for future resource needs with the primary varying factor being student enrolment levels. Districts are in the best position to understand where and when potential student/family movement in and out of districts may occur, to support their annual planning. They also have access to a Ministry estimator tool that enables them to forecast future funding allocations based on current rates

Question #3 – Next Generation Network

The NGN funding model was announced in the Estimated Operating Grants letters to Districts where the Ministry stated one-time start-up costs for the upgrade will be taken from a temporary increase to the Annual Facility Grant and incremental costs would be charges as an expense and adjusted from the districts' operating grants with the amount based on enrolment.

The NGN funding allocation method was recommended by the Technical Review Committee and supported by the executive of the BC Association of School Business Officials. In addition it was recommended the allocation was to apply to all school districts. SD 67 has indicated their

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
INFORMATION NOTE FOR MINISTER**

disagreement with this model as they currently operate a private fiber optic network for the majority of their schools.

School District 67 is scheduled to transition to the Next Generation Network (NGN) at the end of 2016. The NGN team is working with the school district on integrating their private fiber optic network with the NGN. Although originally forecasted to be completed in August of 2016 information the design phase has taken longer than expected due to the uniqueness of SD 67's network.

The target to complete design, including level of effort and costs required to integrate their infrastructure is January 2016. This will be followed by confirmation of security and other requirements required to be in place through the Office of the Chief Information Officer. The Ministry has previously communicated to the district the development of the self-provisioned funding model is underway and will be announced in the 2016/17 year.

<u>Contact Information</u>	
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**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
BRIEFING NOTE**

DATE: December 11, 2015
CLIFF: 185283

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Mike Bernier, Minister, for **Information** for meeting about Riverside College (SD75 Mission) on December 15, 2015.

SUBJECT: Riverside College Update

BACKGROUND:

- Mission School District (SD75) owns and operates Riverside College as a trades-training facility for school-aged and adult students.
- The Ministry funds school-aged students in Riverside Programs, and adults in the program are self-funded.
- Riverside is a certified trainer for the Industry Training Authority. Several programs are available:
 - Plumbing, in partnership with Kwantlen Polytechnic University
 - Automotive Service Technician
 - Hairdressing
 - Carpentry, in partnership with Camosun College
 - Plumbing Foundation is being delivered in partnership with Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) in 2015/2016.
 - Riverside is currently in discussions with KPU to deliver the new Construction Craft Worker (CCW) (for aboriginal cohorts) program.

DISCUSSION:

- The SD75 Board of Education is reportedly divided in its support for Riverside. Currently, a majority on the Board support keeping it open.

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CONCLUSION:

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Contact Information Learning Division Tim Winkelmans 250 217-6643	TC	Approved	Approved
	ADM initial	Dave Byng Deputy Minister 	Honourable Mike Bernier Minister
		Date signed: Dec 29, 2015	Date signed:

