

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
INFORMATION BRIEFING NOTE**

DATE: June 10, 2019
CLIFF: 212164

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister - **FOR INFORMATION**

SUBJECT: Teacher Professional Development Legislation

PURPOSE: To provide an overview of the 2015 professional development legislation and options for implementation.

BACKGROUND:

- In 2015, Bill 11 amended the *Teachers Act* to authorize the Minister to set continuing professional development (CPD) requirements for BC teachers. However, the changes were not brought into force.
- The amendments empower the Minister to:
 - Set a minimum number of CPD hours per school year;
 - Require certificate holders to participate in a particular CPD activity or specify the number of hours that must be spent on specific courses or activities;
 - Set different requirements for different types of educator positions; and
 - Establish categories of acceptable CPD activities.
- In addition, the amendments provide that the Director of Certification is authorized to:
 - Approve specific courses, programs or activities;
 - Establish a process for verifying completion; and
 - Provide exemptions to individual certificate holders (for illness, etc.).
- The 2015 amendments can be brought into force by Order in Council.

DISCUSSION:

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Program ADM/Branch: Keith Godin/ Governance and Analytics

Program Contact (for content): Dave Duerksen

Drafter: Dave Duerksen

Date: June 10, 2019

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
INFORMATION BRIEFING NOTE**

DATE: June 20, 2019
CLIFF: 212783

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister – **FOR INFORMATION**

SUBJECT: Potentially Uncertified School in Bountiful, B.C.

PURPOSE: Plan to ensure Bountiful Elementary Secondary School Society compliance with the *Independent School Act*

BACKGROUND:

- First opened in 1958, the Bountiful Elementary-Secondary School (the School) was a previously certified independent school, operated by the Bountiful Elementary-Secondary School Society (BESS), that received Ministry funding from 1982 until its closure in 2012.
- Except for exempted schools (e.g. public schools), Section 19(3) of the *Independent School Act* (the Act) prohibits uncertified entities from schooling ten or more school age persons.
- Maintaining independent school certification requires successful completion of regular, scheduled inspections conducted by Ministry staff and/or contracted inspectors.
- Contracted inspectors are qualified through a Request for Qualifications process that includes demonstration of education sector expertise, knowledge and experience.
- On October 17, 2018 while inspecting another certified independent school in Lister, B.C., an experienced Ministry-contracted inspector (Ms. Susan Penner) observed activity on the site of the formerly closed School and conducted a site visit.
- The contracted inspector interviewed teachers, students and other adults and concluded that the School was providing an education program to approximately 75 students, ranging approximately from grade 2 to grade 10.
- Since October 2018 Ministry of Education (EDUC) staff have engaged in a protracted correspondence with BESS and its legal counsel to receive information on students and teachers and to understand BESS's position. Appendix 1 summarizes this correspondence.

DISCUSSION:

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CONCLUSION:

The Ministry of Education will work with the Bountiful Elementary Secondary School Society (BESS) either to seek certification as an independent school or to require BESS to comply with the Independent School Act by ceasing to offer schooling to students at Bountiful Elementary Secondary School.

Attachments

1. Appendix 1 – 2018/19 Timeline: Bountiful Elementary Secondary School Society
2. Appendix 2 -s.13
3. Appendix 3 -
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Program ADM/Branch: ADM Keith Godin / Independent Schools and International Education Branch
Program Contact: Marnie Mayhew, Executive Director, Independent Schools and International Education
Drafter: Grant Sheppard, Deputy Inspector, Independent Schools and International Education
Date: June 27, 2019

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Appendix 1

**2018/19 Timeline: Bountiful Elementary Secondary School Society (BESS)
School visit and follow-up correspondence**

Date	Event	s.13
October 17, 2018	Site visit of former Bountiful Elementary-Secondary School	
December 6, 2018	First EDUC Inspector letter to Mr. Ken Oler, Authority Chair	
December 21, 2018	Reply from BESS legal counsel with request for delay	
January 10, 2019	McEwan and Co. response to EDUC's December 6 letter	
February 15, 2019	Second EDUC Inspector Letter	

Date	Event
May 13, 2019	Third EDUC Inspector Letter
June 4, 2019	Reply from BESS legal counsel with notification of delay
June 13, 2019	Reply from BESS legal counsel

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**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
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DATE: 7 June 2019

CLIFF: 211942

PREPARED FOR: Honourable John Horgan, Premier – **FOR INFORMATION**

SUBJECT: Announcement of a new Elementary and Middle School and a new Secondary site in SD62 (Sooke)

PURPOSE: For briefing on 14th June 2019, in preparation of Announcement on 17th June 2019.

BACKGROUND:

- Enrolment in the Sooke District has increased by more than 370 students annually in each of the last four years. There were over 1,400 students in more than 50 portables in the District in the 2017/18 school year, representing 13% of students.
- Currently, the local family of elementary schools are over capacity when considered together as a group.
- All the schools in the local family are expected to be considerably over capacity in a decade.
- The closest elementary school to the site, Willway Elementary, is currently under capacity by 18 student spaces but is forecast to be near capacity one year before West Langford Elementary would open.
- The closest middle school is Spencer Middle 4 kilometres away, followed by Dunsmuir Middle 7 kilometres away.
- These are the only two middle schools serving this area and there are twenty (20) portables at these two schools.
- The District was supported to acquire a new secondary school site in the March 2019 Capital Plan Response Letter.

DISCUSSION:

Elementary and Middle School:

- To address the growing enrolment in the area the project entails building a new 500 seat elementary school and a new 700 seat middle school co-located on land acquired by the District in 2017.
- The project budget is \$88.6 million, which includes a \$14.8 million reserve.
- There is no District contribution, as the District contributed all available funds to the recent addition project at Royal Bay Secondary.
- Neighbourhood Learning Centre (NLC) space is included at the elementary school and will have childcare spaces.
- The predominant feature of the site is that it is steeply sloping and complicated to develop.
- Site preparation of the steeply sloping site is a major cost in the project budget.
- There is \$21.0 million budgeted on supplementary site preparation, a significant expenditure. This includes \$3.3 million for blasting, \$6.0 million for excavation and removal, and \$8.5 million for retaining walls.
- The main advantage of the site is that it is large enough for two schools, enabling many efficiencies.

- There are cost efficiencies to co-locating the schools and building as a joint project. While difficult to quantify, these cost efficiencies are anticipated to be significant. There will also be roughly double the parking spaces for events compared to a typical school.
- West Langford Middle school is forecast to open with 84% capacity utilization, reaching full capacity in its third year. Enrolment in the area is anticipated to continue growing over the 10-year forecast horizon.
- It is anticipated that West Langford Elementary would open with a 72% capacity utilization rate. Enrolment expected to continue to increase so that capacity utilization is expected to reach 100% in the school's fifth year.
- The scheduled opening (of both schools) is September 2022.

New Site:

- The site acquisition, known as the North Langford site, located on McCallum Road in Langford, near Costco Wholesale, is required to address the enrolment pressures which are being driven by significant residential growth in this area of the District.
- The two existing secondary schools serving this area of the District, Royal Bay Secondary and Belmont Secondary are operating over capacity, requiring the use of 12 portables.
- There is currently a 600-capacity addition under construction at Royal Bay Secondary School, this will increase the capacity to 1400 students once complete in 2020.
- The North Langford site is 12.00 acres and is suitable for secondary school. It has a September 2018 appraised value of \$16.8 million or \$1.4 million per acre, as per the valuation by Colliers International.
- The site was purchased for \$18.9 million using \$18.55 million of provincial funding and \$0.35 million of District land capital.
- The site purchase includes services and civil and geotechnical work, saving the province significant site development costs for the construction of the new school.
- The vendor will service the site, clear trees, blast rock and level the site to prepare a buildable area.
- Additionally, there have been discussions between the City of Langford and the District on shared use playfields and partnerships on community amenity space. Details will be defined during the development of the design for the new school.

CONCLUSION:

- Though costly to develop, the elementary and middle school site was selected as it is an appropriate location to accommodate students from both the Belmont and Royal Bay catchments, and elementary school students from large developments in the West Langford catchments.
- A different, flatter site was not available to serve the population required. The diminishing inventory of available land in areas with growth, where schools are required, is making it increasingly difficult to find suitable locations.
- There are challenges finding school sites in areas that are experiencing rapid development as buildable land is purchased early by property developers.
- This investment will eliminate 17 portables.
- The procurement and construction of these schools will be bundled.
- The District is not yet supported to begin a business case for a North Langford Secondary School as it is not currently included in the Ministry capital plan.

Attachment: Map of School Sites

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
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Program ADM/Branch: Reg Bawa

Program Contact (for content): Joel Palmer

Drafter: Rachelle Ray

Date: June 10, 2019

Map of School Sites

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