

Enemark, Gord FIN:EX

From: Enemark, Gord FIN:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:21 AM
To: Mentzelopoulos, Athana FIN:EX
Subject: RE: Rural schools

Will call him now.

From: Mentzelopoulos, Athana FIN:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:04 AM
To: Enemark, Gord FIN:EX
Subject: Rural schools

Can u pls connect with Dave Byng asap abt this subject. Tx

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

Enemark, Gord FIN:EX

From: Enemark, Gord FIN:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:44 AM
To: Mentzelopoulos, Athana FIN:EX
Subject: RE: Rural schools

OK – so you are likely aware of all this, but here is what he told me:

- Potential announcement this morning of a Rural Funding Strategy review re ways to mitigate school closures, s.13
- Up to 9 schools in 6 Districts would be covered by the funding
- Minister of EDUC, our minister, Kim, other PO staff apparently all in the loop and in sync
- Everyone supposedly understands that EDUC cannot direct SDs not to close schools, even if we give them \$ for this

s.13

Good Luck up there!

Gord

From: Mentzelopoulos, Athana FIN:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:04 AM
To: Enemark, Gord FIN:EX
Subject: Rural schools

Can u pls connect with Dave Byng asap abt this subject. Tx

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Enemark, Gord FIN:EX

From: Edwardson, Jamie GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:21 AM
To: Enemark, Gord FIN:EX
Subject: RE: NR Rural Grants

Thanks Gord, will keep you posted.

From: Enemark, Gord FIN:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:15 AM
To: Edwardson, Jamie GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: NR Rural Grants

A few comments, typos – s.13
s.13

Hope he runs this by his financial people again before it goes out – Rebecca John, Ian Aaron, and/or Brian Fraser.

From: Edwardson, Jamie GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:54 AM
To: Enemark, Gord FIN:EX
Subject: FW: NR Rural Grants
Importance: High

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:53 AM
To: Edwardson, Jamie GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Fraser, John Paul GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: NR Rural Grants

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:53 AM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Smart, Stephen PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Kay, Maclean PREM:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
Subject: NR Rural Grants

I didn't hit the ongoing nature of funding hard enough – please see revised.

Rural Education Enhancement Fund keep rural schools open

QUESNEL – A new Rural Education Enhancement Fund to help keep rural schools open was announced today by Premier Christy Clark.

Districts outside Greater Victoria, Vancouver, Kelowna will be able to apply for ongoing provincial funding that recognizes the unique challenges faced in keep schools open in rural communities.

“Closing the only high school or elementary school in a community has a large economic impact on a local economy,” Clark said. “With Canada’s strongest economy it’s important the benefits are felt everywhere in the province – and that we take steps to further build our economy. Our rural education strategy will help us accomplish this.”

The amount of funding districts would be eligible for would be equal to their expected savings from closing the school. Schools would be able to apply annually for Rural Education Enhancement Funding if they meet the following criteria:

- In a rural community or sub-community outside Greater Victoria, Vancouver, Kelowna areas with a population less than 15,000;
- In a community or sub-community meeting these criteria and separated from the next closest school by a major geographic barrier for students – such as a major highway, railway, or waterway;
- Closure would eliminate specific grades within the community;
- Funding is used to keep the school open; and
- Closures due to condition or extreme enrolment decline are not included.

While the ongoing Rural Education Enhancement Funding will help keep schools open starting this coming school year, the Premier also launched a full study of rural education funding in the province to seek a long term solution.

The development of the rural education strategy will look rural school district budgets and the role education and schools play in communities outside the Lower Mainland, Greater Victoria, and Kelowna. The strategy will aim to find solutions for the unique challenges facing rural school districts while recognizing the economic impact of single schools in small communities. Details of the review will be announced in the near future.

“For students, families, and rural areas, the local school is the centre of the community and the local economy. In my time as minister I’ve seen that our education funding model doesn’t take those unique rural factors into account,” Bernier said. “My Ministry will take a hard look at how we can make sure the unique community and economic role of rural schools is supported in how we fund school districts.”

A list of potentially closing schools eligible for the funding is in the attached backgrounder.

Contact: Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Education
250 356-5963

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

BACKGROUND

Schools eligible for Rural Education Enhancement Funding in 2016-17

Kootenay Lake School District (SD 8)

Yahk Elementary School – Yahk

Winlaw Elementary School – Winlaw

Quesnel School District (SD 29)

Kersley Elementary School – Kersley
Parkland Elementary School – 10 Mile Lake

Okanagan Similkameen School District (SD 53)
Osoyoos Secondary School – Osoyoos

Bulkley Valley School District (SD 54)
Kathlyn Lake Elementary School – Lake Kathlyn

Okanagan Skaha School District (SD 67)
Trout Creek Elementary School – Summerland

Campbell River School District (SD 72)
Discovery Passage School – Duncan Bay
Oyster River Elementary School – Oyster River

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
[release number]
June 15, 2016

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Education

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The amount of funding districts would be eligible for would be equal to their expected savings from ~~closing~~ closing the school. Schools would be able to apply annually for Rural Education Enhancement Funding if they meet the following criteria:

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- In a community or sub-community meeting these criteria and separated from the next closest school by a major geographic barrier for students – such as a major highway, railway, or waterway;
- Closure would eliminate specific grades within the community;
- Funding is used to keep the school open for a minimum period; and
- Closures due to facility condition or extreme enrolment decline are not included.

While the ongoing Rural Education Enhancement Funding will help keep schools open starting this coming school year, the Premier also launched a full study of rural education funding in the province to seek a long term solution.

The development of the rural education strategy will look rural school district budgets and the role education and schools play in communities outside the Lower Mainland, Greater Victoria, and Kelowna. The strategy will aim to find solutions for the unique challenges facing rural school districts while recognizing the economic impact of single schools in small communities. Details of the review will be announced in the near future.

“For students, families, and rural areas, the local school is the centre of the community and the local economy. In my time as minister I’ve seen that our education funding model doesn’t take those unique rural factors into account to the extent that it could,” Bernier said. “My Ministry will take a hard look at how we can make sure the unique community and economic role of rural schools is supported in how we fund school districts.”

A list of potentially closing schools at risk of closure and that could be eligible for the funding is in the attached backgrounder.

Contact: Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Education
250 356-5963

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BACKGROUND

Schools eligible under consideration for Rural Education Enhancement Funding in 2016-17

Kootenay Lake School District (SD 8)

Yahk Elementary School – Yahk
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Campbell River School District (SD 72)

Discovery Passage School – Duncan Bay
Oyster River Elementary School – Oyster River

Enemark, Gord FIN:EX

From: Enemark, Gord FIN:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:18 AM
To: Fraser, Brian EDUC:EX
Cc: John, Rebecca EDUC:EX; Aaron, Ian EDUC:EX; Farkas, George EDUC:EX
Subject: FW: NR Rural Grants
Attachments: NR Rural Grants.docx

Assume you guys are consumed with this right now. Here are the comments I have asked our com guys to give yours.

Gord

From: Enemark, Gord FIN:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:15 AM
To: Edwardson, Jamie GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: NR Rural Grants

A few comments, typos – s.13
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Importance: High

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Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:53 AM
To: Edwardson, Jamie GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Fraser, John Paul GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: NR Rural Grants

From: Keenan, Jason GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:53 AM
To: Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Smart, Stephen PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Kay, Maclean PREM:EX
Cc: Holme, Matt EDUC:EX
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“For students, families, and rural areas, the local school is the centre of the community and the local economy. In my time as minister I’ve seen that our education funding model doesn’t take those unique rural factors into account,” Bernier said. “My Ministry will take a hard look at how we can make sure the unique community and economic role of rural schools is supported in how we fund school districts.”

A list of potentially closing schools eligible for the funding is in the attached background.

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Ministry of Education
250 356-5963

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BACKGROUND

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Kootenay Lake School District (SD 8)

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Campbell River School District (SD 72)

Discovery Passage School – Duncan Bay

Oyster River Elementary School – Oyster River

Enemark, Gord FIN:EX

From: Enemark, Gord FIN:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 12:12 PM
To: Edwardson, Jamie GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: NR Rural Grants

Could've been worse.

From: Edwardson, Jamie GCPE:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 12:06 PM
To: Enemark, Gord FIN:EX
Subject: FW: NR Rural Grants

Likely final version.

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
[release number]
June 15, 2016

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Education

Rural Education Enhancement Fund to keep rural schools open

QUESNEL – To help rural schools in British Columbia stay open, Premier Christy Clark announced a new Rural Education Enhancement Fund today.

Districts outside Greater Victoria, the Lower Mainland, and Kelowna will be able to apply for ongoing provincial funding that recognizes the unique challenges faced in keeping schools open in rural communities.

"Closing the only high school or elementary school in a rural community has a large economic impact on that local economy," Clark said. "With Canada's strongest economy it's important that we make sure the benefits are shared by rural communities throughout our province to ensure they have the infrastructure they need to grow, attract talent, and provide critical services like health care. Our rural education strategy will help us accomplish this."

The amount of funding districts will be eligible for is to be equal to their expected savings from closing the school. Districts would be able to apply annually for Rural Education Enhancement Funding if they meet the following criteria:

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- Closures due to facility condition or extreme enrolment decline are not included.

While the ongoing Rural Education Enhancement Fund will help keep schools open starting this coming school year, the Premier also tasked newly-appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Education, Linda Larson, and Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development, Donna Barnett to conduct a full study of rural education funding in the province to seek a long term solution.

The Rural Education Strategy will look at rural school district budgets and the role education and schools play in communities outside the Lower Mainland, Greater Victoria, and Kelowna. The strategy will aim to find solutions for the unique challenges facing rural school districts while recognizing the economic impact of single schools in small communities. Details of the review will be announced in the near future.

"For students, families, and rural areas, the local school is the centre of the community and the local economy. In my time as minister I've seen that our education funding model doesn't take all the unique rural factors into account," Bernier said. "My Ministry will work with the Parliamentary Secretaries to take a hard look at how we can make sure the unique community and economic role of rural schools is supported in how we fund school districts."

A list of potentially closing schools eligible for the funding is in the attached backgrounder.

Contact: Stephen Smart
Office of the Premier
778 389-6202

Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Education
250 356-5963

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

BACKGROUND

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Office of the Premier
778 389-6202

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2016PREM0067-001044
June 15, 2016

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Education

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“For students, families, and rural areas, the local school is the centre of the community and the local economy. In my time as minister I’ve seen that our education funding model doesn’t take all the unique rural factors into account,” Minister of Education Mike Bernier said. “My ministry will work with the parliamentary secretaries to take a hard look at how we can make sure the unique community and economic role of rural schools is supported in how we fund school districts.”

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2016PREM0067-001044
June 15, 2016

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