

April 5, 2017 – Message from Superintendent

Last evening School District 57 (Prince George) Board of Education approved the re-opening of Springwood Elementary School effective September 1, 2017.

The re-opening of Springwood Elementary is in direct response to the Supreme Court of Canada's November 10, 2016 decision in the matter of British Columbia Teachers' Federation and the provincial government and the subsequent March 2017, Memorandum of Agreement (MoA). Beginning in September 2017, mandates for smaller class sizes are in effect.

Here in School District No. 57 (Prince George), additional classroom spaces are required in the Hart area to meet this obligation. The re-opening of Springwood Elementary allows SD57 to enhance learning environments for Prince George students living north of the Nechako River while meeting its contractual mandate.

In the matter of Springwood Elementary, the following recommendations were approved:

- Re-opening Springwood Elementary, located at 4600 Zral Road, effective September 1, 2017, enrolling students in Grades Kindergarten to Grade 7.
- Establishment of a catchment area for Springwood Elementary with revisions for Heather Park and Glenview School catchment areas.
- Students currently enrolled in Grade 6 residing in the proposed new catchment area for Springwood be permitted to remain in their current school for Grade 7.
- A student transfer process specific to reopening of Springwood Elementary, in accordance with Policy 5119 School Catchment Areas, Registration and Student Transfer, be set for April 10 to 21, 2017.

Current regular program Heather Park and Glenview School students who live within the Springwood catchment area are affected by this decision. These families will be contacted shortly with more specific information.

Approved recommendations allow families affected by the decision five months of preparation time, a transfer process opportunity and provision for Grade 6 students to remain in their current school for the Grade 7 year should they chose to do so. Families not residing in the Springwood Elementary catchment area but wishing to transfer their children into the new school could also make application starting at 9:00 a.m. on April 10th and closing at 3:00 p.m. on April 21, 2017.

The District Office is equipped to answer telephone, 250-561-6800 and email openspringwood@sd57.bc.ca questions and school communities will be supported to plan appropriately for September 2017. The Transportation Department is planning September 2017 service to Springwood Elementary. Staffing plans will also begin quickly as will preparation of the Springwood site led by SD57 Facility Services.

School District No. 57 looks forward to working with the Heather Park, Glenview and Springwood Elementary school communities in moving through the process of opening a new school.