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December 21, 2017

Eagle Mountain Catchment Update

As a result of regular enrolment pressures and the restored class size and composition language, the capacity at Eagle Mountain Middle School has decreased requiring spaces for approximately 60-70 students (the exact number is dependent on changes in composition).

The district had previously implemented actions to increase capacity at this school including limiting cross catchment and implementing room conversions. However these actions could not meet the new demand for student spaces caused by the class size and composition implementation.

Options were explored to find the best practical solution to comply with the class size and composition legal requirements and manage enrolment pressures in a way that minimizes the impact to students and families. The use of portables was the priority being explored since September 2017 but the school district encountered significant challenges.

There were indications that those challenges would not be overcome. Therefore the school district pursued in parallel the only other viable option – catchment changes. A catchment change proposal was made at a public information session with a request for written feedback.

The feedback received reinforced the collective preference of families and the school district for the use of portables. To that end, the Board of Education and district staff worked persistently with our municipal partners and a consultant to reach a final determination on the feasibility of portables. Through tireless efforts and a cooperative approach the outstanding challenges precluding the use of portables appear to have been overcome. We thank the community for their support.

Catchment changes will not be utilized at this time. Indications from both the Village of Anmore and our consultant suggest the use of two or three portables are a viable option to resolve the present enrolment pressures. This will not preclude the use of catchment changes to manage enrolment pressures in the future.

Additional specific information will be provided to families in 2018.

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