



Learning for a Lifetime

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April 25, 2017

To Mountain Meadows Elementary School Community

Re: Daycare Questions and Inquiries

There have been several questions, inquiries and concerns expressed regarding the lease non-renewal of one of the five classroom spaces presently used as a daycare space within Mountain Meadows Elementary School.

Our School District approach to classroom space that is not required for K-5 educational programming in elementary schools is to offer the space to licensed daycare providers with the caveat that the licensed space needs to support school families and the provided daycare services should be for before and after school care and/or preschool. The space provided under a 'license to occupy' agreement is for one year only, with a renewal review process that occurs every year. There is no guarantee of renewal. The School District has more than 30 independent daycare providers taking advantage of this opportunity.

Every February, as a standard practice, a review of anticipated school enrolment and classroom needs is undertaken by School District management. The need for added educational space can occur at any time for a variety of reasons such as influxes in enrolment through immigration, District population growth and move-ins due to new home construction, and other reasons. Historically we have provided renewal notices to daycare providers in April of each year, which we did again this year.

On March 8, 2017, the School District provided notice to all daycare providers of the potential for non-renewal of the license to occupy. On April 13, 2017 the School District notified the Junior Citizens Care Centre (JCCC) that one of their spaces was required.

Between March 8 and April 13, every school in the District was reviewed to determine classroom requirements under the new collective agreement language. Enrolment projections for the two following school years were analyzed and updated. Originally it was determined that two classroom spaces at Mountain Meadows were required from JCCC. The School District worked closely with the school Principal and conducted a second review to further minimize the reallocation of leased spaces to classroom space by sourcing an alternative space within the school, which resulted in only one daycare space being required for a classroom. As a result, the preschool and before and after school care are retained. This is testimony to the efforts the District and school Principal have gone to in accommodating daycare provision at Mountain Meadows.

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The District has been in communication and has met with the owners of JCCC and Coronation Kids Care and we continue to provide to them gym space and outside play space. We understand and empathize with parents about the challenges associated with finding a daycare provider. With this understanding, we have encouraged the daycare providers to retain their licensed space for preschool and before and after school care, and to continue providing their services to current parents enrolled in their programs to the fullest extent possible. We have explored alternative locations and have worked diligently to minimize the reallocation of license to occupy daycare spaces to classrooms throughout the School District.

The decision made by School District management was done with careful consideration and the understanding of the effect on parents and children. Our responsibility to comply with collective agreement language in support of the educational requirements of all our students was paramount to this outcome.

We thank you for your understanding as we work to provide enhanced education to our 31,000 students through smaller classes and positive composition changes.

Yours truly,

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 43 (COQUITLAM)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Nicolls", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chris Nicolls
Acting Secretary-Treasurer

cc: Patricia Gartland, Superintendent of Schools
Reno Cioffi, Assistant Superintendent
Kate McMeiken, Principal, Mountain Meadows Elementary
Sharon Thompson, Manager, Procurement and Rentals