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**December 21, 2017**

## **Programs of Choice Location Changes**

As a result of the restored class size and composition language as well as projected regular enrolment growth in the Glen, Pitt River, and Banting catchments, there is not sufficient space for the Programs of Choice at these schools.

The school district presented proposals on changes to Programs of Choice locations at a public information session with a request for written feedback on those proposed changes. The district received feedback on these changes which included a desire for siblings to remain together and suggestions to move regular catchment boundaries. The extent to which regular catchment boundaries would need to be changed would result in students within close proximity not being able to attend their current home schools.

The school district was committed to retaining the current enrolment in the Programs of Choice and not reduce or close the programs, and it was not possible to retain the programs at their existing size at their current locations.

To comply with the class size and composition legal requirements, manage enrolment pressures and maintain programs of choice in a way that strives to minimize the impact on students, families, employees and schools, the following decision have been made.

- The Glen Elementary EFI Program will move to Westwood Elementary (phased over 6 years) beginning with Kindergarten in September 2018. Sibling clauses would apply at Westwood Elementary for French Immersion if families had children in Grades 1 -5 at Glen Elementary for September 2018.
  - Any families who will have Grade 1-5 children in the Glen Elementary EFI Program in September 2018 and have a younger child entering Kindergarten will be worked with on an individual basis to see if they would like to transfer their children to another EFI school and keep the children together. This will continue to occur throughout the phasing out of the Glen Elementary EFI Program.
- The Pitt River Middle LFI Program will move to Citadel Middle (phased over 3 years) beginning with Grade 6 in September 2018.
- The Banting Middle LFI Program to Montgomery Middle (phased over 3 years) beginning with Grade 6 in September 2018.
  - Any families who will have Grade 7 – 8 children in the Pitt River Middle or Banting Middle LFI Programs in September 2018 and have a younger child entering Grade 6 will have the sibling clause apply for Late French Immersion at Citadel Middle, Montgomery Middle, or Moody Middle. This will continue to occur throughout the phasing out of the LFI Programs at Pitt River Middle and Banting Middle.

The decision was done in Alignment with Administrative Procedure 210 which states “French Immersion students must not displace regular English program students from their neighbourhood schools”. These location decisions did not require changing any regular catchment areas. Work is also occurring from an educational resource and professional development support standpoint during the transition of the program.

Some feedback mentioned the desire to delay some of the decisions, however these decisions are needed at this time to comply with the class size and composition legal requirements and to be able to hold all in-catchment students for September 2018 and the 2018-2019 school year.

Additional specific information will be provided to families in 2018.

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