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December 21, 2017

Smiling Creek Elementary Catchment Update

The school district presented a proposal on the catchment area for the new Smiling Creek Elementary School at a public information session with a request for written feedback on that proposal. Feedback was received in-person and online. This engagement with our stakeholders was important as we determined how to best manage enrolment and class composition pressures at the new Smiling Creek Elementary School.

With respect to the registration process, the feedback indicated that people were pleased with the process and information sharing. Feedback specific to the proposed new catchment boundary included a split in peoples' feelings on the boundary where some agreed with the boundary proposal while others did not and asked for reconsideration of the catchment area.

SD43's Board of Education and staff have been committed to implementing a new catchment area for Smiling Creek that included as many families as possible. Complying with the class size and composition legal requirements and managing enrolment pressures added further complexities to the process.

Options and iterations for a catchment area were analyzed with a goal of creating a sustainable catchment to avoid catchment area changes in the short term and with future planning in mind including the proposed "Sheffield" and "Marigold" elementary schools. Broadening the catchment area was analyzed thoroughly but was deemed not feasible and not maintainable.

After a thorough review of the feedback and a final review of options it has been determined that the new catchment boundary as initially proposed is the best feasible solution. See below and the initial presentation above for details.

- **Catchment:** The catchment area boundaries for the new Smiling Creek Elementary are:
 - the western boundary is the ravine west of Glenbrook Street;
 - the northern boundary is the Pinecone Burke Park;
 - the eastern boundary is the ravine east of Kingston Street;
 - the southern boundary is the north side of David Avenue.
- **Priority cross catchment:** Any families living east of Kingston Street and north of David Avenue will have the opportunity to apply into Smiling Creek Elementary in a priority cross catchment manner based on space availability.
- **Declaration:** In January 2018, families currently living in the Leigh Elementary or Smiling Creek Elementary catchments will have the opportunity to declare to return to their home school for September 2018 or remain in their current school.

Specific declaration, new student and kindergarten registration, and priority cross catchment information will be provided to families in January 2018.

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