



Books on
the bus
program

Traditional
Games



Exploring
careers

Pink
Shirt
Day at
Sorrento



STAYING CONNECTED

March 29, 2018

~ A message from Official Trustee Mike McKay ~

To North Okanagan-Shuswap School District Community and Staff Members:

Welcome back to school after Spring Break and the Easter weekend. Our district and its communities continue to feel pride in Natalie Wilkie's remarkable Paralympic Games success. As school returns, the celebrations and honours will likely continue. Congratulations, Natalie!

With the final term in progress, we know that the rest of the school year will go quickly – and there is lots to accomplish in classrooms and at the district level. I am pleased to provide you with some key information and dates that will be of interest to our community.

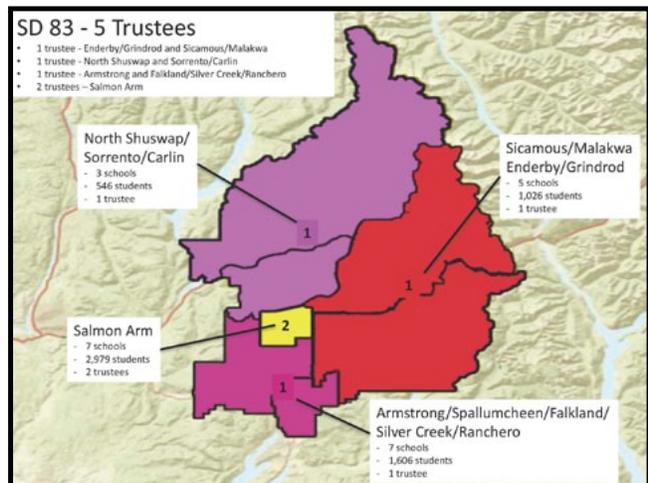
Prospective Trustee Orientation:

As you know, the Minister of Education has agreed to my recommendation that the Board of Education be made up of five trustees as of the Oct. 2018 election. (Please click [here](#) to read the complete report and recommendation or go to the district's website and click on the box for Important Upcoming Public Meetings.)

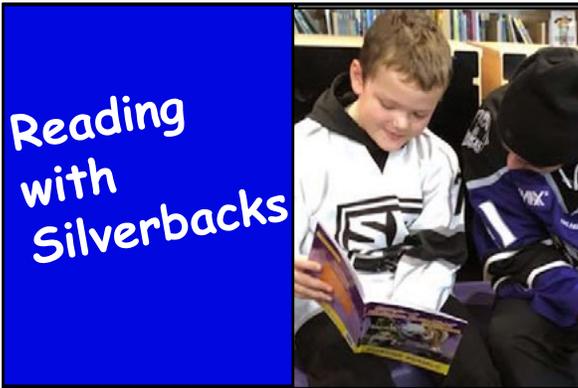
We are pleased to offer an information/orientation session for those who may be interested in running for election. That session will share information and respond to questions regarding the role of trustees, the current priorities in the district, local and provincial challenges and other areas of interest. I look forward to working with senior staff to provide a comprehensive and engaging session. Please note the date, time and location as follows:

Prospective Trustee Orientation

Monday, May 7 at 6 p.m. at the DESC
(341 Shuswap St. SW, Salmon Arm)



~ Continued ~



Reading with Silverbacks



Art Fair workshops

Sharing cultural stories



Chess tourney



ALF Grade 8 band invited to Nationals!

Community Consultation Re: Proposed Property Sale

In keeping with provincial requirements, the district is holding a public information and consultation process regarding the proposed sale of a district-owned property adjacent to Shuswap Middle School. We believe the funds realized from such a sale can be used to provide enhanced facilities to support student learning in one or more of our venues. We also believe that the site being proposed for sale is not appropriate as a potential location for a new school or for expansion to Shuswap Middle School.

Please click [here](#) for further information on this meeting and proposed sale. If this link doesn't work for you, please go to the district website (at www.sd83.bc.ca) and click on the box called Upcoming Important Public Meetings.

Property Disposal Consultation Session
Tuesday, April 10 at 7 p.m. at the DESC
(341 Shuswap St. SW, Salmon Arm)

SITE VIEW



Transportation Report and Recommendations

In response to the need for a Transportation review, this project has been completed and the [report and recommendations](#) can be found by clicking [here](#).

With increased enrolment across the district and greater ridership needs for students eligible for bus transportation to and from school, it is essential that the district revises and "right sizes" its bus routes in order to:

- provide assurances for eligible riders that there will be available space every day;
- give adequate notice to "courtesy riders" regarding their participation in district transportation;
- decrease ride times for eligible students where possible (note that expansion over the years to the transportation routes have resulted in

some students being on school buses for up to 45 additional minutes each way);

- continue to monitor and respond to issues of safety in addition to those related to ridership availability outlined in district policy ([please click here to read Policy 5040.02R](#)).

We recognize that the recommendations included in the attached report will result in significant changes – both positive and negative – for some children and families currently using the district’s bus service. We are working with the City of Salmon Arm regarding options for local transit route changes or enhancements that may be helpful in mitigating the service limitations from school district buses.

After reading the report, you may be interested in attending an information meeting at which district staff will provide a summary of and rationale for the recommendations and be available to respond to questions.

The meeting will be held at:

Transportation Review Session

**Wednesday, April 11 at 6 p.m. at Shuswap Middle School library
(171 – 30 St SE Salmon Arm)**

I will be considering the recommendations for adoption at the May 22, 2018 public board meeting.

Budget 2018/19

District staff is working with Partner Group representatives and with me to develop a preliminary budget for the coming school year. We have received the funding announcement from the Ministry of Education, so we can anticipate the resources we will have to support programs and services, pending actual enrolment in September 2018. Proposals for program/service enhancements are being received and considered over the next several weeks in anticipation of the adoption of a preliminary budget at the May Public Board Meeting. There will be an opportunity for members of our communities to participate in this process as follows:

Public Budget Consultation Meeting

**Monday, April 16 at 6 p.m. at the DESC
(341 Shuswap St. SW, Salmon Arm)**

Outdoor Learning Program

I want to provide you with a quick update to let you know that registration requests for the Outdoor Learning Program of Choice have resulted in a full enrolment for the upcoming school year. We await permission from the Agricultural Land Commission to re-open South Canoe Elementary School in order to provide the program in 2018-19 and beyond. That application process is in the hands of the Commission and they are aware of the timelines within which we are operating.

In closing, I want to thank you as always for your support for and engagement in the education of our young people. I appreciate the essential roles taken on by the Partner Group organizations (parents, employee groups, Indigenous reps) as they provide advice and perspectives as we work toward the best possible options for students and their success – today and in the future.

Respectfully,

Mike McKay

Mike McKay, Official Trustee

Questions? Feedback? Please send me an email at trusteefeedback@sd83.bc.ca

www.sd83.bc.ca