



December 7, 2016

To the Parent/Guardians of the Walnut Grove Family of Schools:

The Board of Education passed a motion at their October 25, 2016 Regular Meeting supporting the establishment of a District-wide middle school model as part of the Long Term Facilities Plan and directed staff to undertake a consultation with the Brookwood, DW Poppy and Walnut Grove communities regarding the transition to a middle school model.

The District is now looking to engage your community in a consultation process regarding middle school programming in the Walnut Grove region and has planned a series of three community meetings. The purpose of the first meeting is to provide information specific to your community in regards to current facilities as well as current and projected enrolments; the second meeting will be an opportunity for the community to consider various options, specific to their circumstances, for implementation of middle school programming. At the third community meeting, District staff will discuss the draft recommendations going forward to the Board of Education for their consideration at the Regular Meeting at the end of May. As has been the case in recent consultations, staff will take input and feedback from the community at each step in the process and is open to other ideas that individuals may have.

The three Community Consultation meetings in the Walnut Grove region will be held at **Walnut Grove Secondary School** (8919 Walnut Grove Drive) beginning at **7pm** on **Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

The information provided at each meeting will be translated for our ELL (English Language Learners) community members. Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) will be in attendance and will arrange follow-up meetings as necessary. Child minding will be provided.

For those community members who would like more information on middle school philosophy, a panel discussion with current and past middle school administrators, parents and students has been planned for 6pm on January 31<sup>st</sup> in the Library at Walnut Grove Secondary School.

A series of similar meetings will be held in the Brookwood and DW Poppy regions of the District, as well as with the Fundamental community. Families are welcome to attend any of the meetings, however, information provided will be specific to those communities. Information will be posted on the District's website throughout this process, under the "Consultations" tab [www.sd35.bc.ca/consultations](http://www.sd35.bc.ca/consultations). Feedback can be provided to the District at any time via [feedback@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:feedback@sd35.bc.ca).

At the May 30, 2017, Regular Meeting of the Board of Education, based on the feedback received, staff will bring forward to the Board of Education recommendations for the implementation of middle school programming District-wide as part of the revision to the District's Long Term Facilities Plan. The earliest school year that changes will be made to current school configurations will depend on the extent of the facility changes coming from the recommendations, but in no case will it be for the 2017-18 school year. Recommendations brought forward will be unique to each community involved.

The District is committed to working with the community in an open, honest and transparent manner to seek the best possible solutions for children.

Sincerely,

Gord Stewart  
A/Superintendent of Schools