

BOARD OF EDUCATION MAKES FINAL DECISIONS ON OKANAGAN MISSION CATCHMENT AND SCHOOL REOPENING REVIEW

January 28, 2022

KELOWNA, BC – At the January 26, 2022 Public Board Meeting, the Board of Education approved the final recommendations for catchments for the Okanagan Mission Family of Schools and to reopen Bellevue Creek Elementary. These recommendations came from a comprehensive community consultation that included multiple communications to families, four surveys, and an in-person public consultation session at Okanagan Mission Secondary School. This community consultation was initiated due to the significant population increase in the community and a lack of space at existing elementary schools

The Board of Education has approved the following actions:

- École Bellevue Creek Elementary School will be reopened for the 2022/23 school year.
- École Bellevue Creek Elementary School will open as a K-1 French Immersion and English program in 2022/23 and will be a K-2 program in the next year and beyond.
- École Dorothea Walker Elementary will be a grades 2-5 English program and grades 2-6 French Immersion program in 2022/23 and a grades 3-6 program in the next year and beyond.
- Catchments have been changed to reflect neighbourhood populations and available school capacities.
- Current students will not be displaced from the school that they are currently enrolled in and that current eligible students will retain bussing eligibility to their current school as long as the student continues to reside in their current residence.
- Siblings of students that are exempt from displacement will be provided the same registration priority as a sibling of a catchment area student if their sibling is attending the school.

The phase in of the program between École Dorothea Walker Elementary and École Bellevue Creek Elementary will allow space for the childcare programs that are currently operating within Bellevue Creek to operate for one more year, at which point the District anticipates to have childcare programs operating at Okanagan Mission Secondary and Anne McClymont Elementary.

"The reopening of École Bellevue Creek Elementary provides much needed space and a better learning environment to educate our students" says Chantelle Desrosiers, Chair of the Planning and Facilities Committee. "The Board of Education continues to advocate to the Provincial Government to urgently approve more schools."

For more details and information, please consult the following [link](#)