

DISTRICT RECEIVES GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR ADDITION TO ÉCOLE DR. KNOX MIDDLE SCHOOL AND WILDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LAND PURCHASE

May 27, 2021

KELOWNA, BC – As part of the 2021/22 budget, the Provincial government announced support for two of the District's seven priority capital projects: an addition to École Dr. Knox Middle School and the purchase of land in the Wilden neighbourhood for an elementary school. As one of the fastest growing areas in the City of Kelowna, the Glenmore Valley experiences significant capacity issues and currently has over 15% of its students in portables.

Addition to École Dr. Knox Middle School

This school year, Dr. Knox is at 115% utilization and has seven portables on site, with an additional two portables to be installed this summer. This much needed addition will eliminate all portables, create a better learning environment for students, and allow for up to 1,100 students to attend the school. The project is expected to cost more than \$20 million and the District is developing the final project plan to secure final Treasury Board approval.

Subject to the timing of the final approval by the Provincial Government, the École Dr. Knox Middle School addition should be completed by September 2023.

Purchase of land for Wilden Elementary School

The District secured land in the Wilden subdivision and, with government approval, can now proceed with the purchase of the land. The school site will be located at Union Road at the north end of the Wilden subdivision. With the land now able to be acquired, the District is now advocating for the provincial government to proceed with the approval of the school building, which will provide much needed capacity to the Glenmore Valley elementary schools, which are at 130% utilization and will have thirteen portables after this summer.

"The Board of Education is very pleased to see support from the Provincial Government on these urgent priorities," says Board Chairperson, Moyra Baxter. "The Board of Education continues to advocate for our other priority projects such as Rutland Middle School and Glenmore Secondary, where we have a plan, suitable locations and just need the government's support to move forward."