

Dear Black Mountain Elementary Parent/Guardian,

The Board of Education approved a catchment review for Black Mountain Elementary schools this past September. The purpose for the catchment review is to explore boundary options that would create a specific catchment boundary for Black Mountain Elementary school.

School District staff attended the Parent's Advisory Committee meeting on September 20th to provide an overview of the catchment review and at the meeting, there was one draft option presented to the group.

When a process is undertaken to set or change a catchment boundary, the District needs to follow Policy 405 – Student Placement that identifies a catchment area is to meet the program needs of the students as much as possible; make the best use of the facilities, staff and transportation and if possible; enable the school to develop a unique identity. Included are principles for setting/changing catchment areas where boundaries are to:

- reflect traditional neighbourhoods, subdivisions and regions;
- minimize safety concerns for elementary students as a result of major roadways or other known hazards;
- reflect long-term development to minimize stress caused by frequently changing boundaries in rapidly growing/declining areas;
- maximize the efficiency of schools and the transportation system;
- maintain a cohort of students at each grade level offered at the school, to support the long-term sustainability of the school.

Staff requested the parent community to provide any feedback regarding the process, the draft option and provide any other options for consideration.

Since the meeting, School District staff members have reviewed the demographics, future growth projections and School capacities. In addition, from the Parent Advisory Committee meeting Staff heard consistent messaging:

- Keeping neighbourhoods and peers together is important
- Keeping families together is important
- Ensuring the schools are sustainable for the long-term
- Provide transportation certainty for schools and families was understandable for the School District

### [Option #2](#)

**Staff would like to present another draft option for your consideration.** This option was developed based on comments received, projections and capacity of the Black Mountain Elementary school.

Option #2 Black Mountain Elementary Catchment Boundary.pdf

Black Mountain Elementary is projected to average about 460 students starting in 2019 to 2028.

The increase will require one or two additional classrooms to accommodate the projection. Option #2 would exclude the Toovey neighbourhood from Black Mountain catchment and the area would remain in the Rutland Area open catchment. The impact would be for new students registering for September 2019 and would not affect current students attending Black Mountain Elementary. Over the last five years, the Toovey Neighbourhood has about 20 – 25 students attending Black Mountain Elementary. If this trend continues, by excluding the area from the Black Mountain Catchment Boundary, the enrolment may decrease to 425 – 435 projection.

Attached is the previous document sent out that provides background information and responses to "frequently asked questions".

Background Info and FAQ for BME-ELE Review.pdf

We would like to receive any comments you may have on Option #2 by November 21, 2018. The information provide we hope is helpful in determining how the proposed catchment area option may affect your student(s).

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me directly by email at [planning.review@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:planning.review@sd23.bc.ca) or by phone 250-470-3276.

Cheers  
David Widdis  
Planning Manager  
Central Okanagan Public Schools