



October 18, 2017

The Honourable Rob Fleming
Room 134, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Fleming:

Re: Invitation to attend student forum and changes to FSA reporting

Thank you again for announcing the seismic upgrades for two of our schools, and for taking the time to meet with us after last Wednesday's announcement. We very much appreciate both the funding for this important work as well as the opportunity for a one-on-one discussion with you.

We mentioned at last week's event that we would be pleased to have you attend the student forum we are hosting in January. Allow me to formally extend to you an invitation to this student forum, which will run from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm on January 31, 2018 at the Swan-e-Set Bay Resort (16651 Rannie Rd, Pitt Meadows). The forum would provide you with a great opportunity to hear directly from students about their educational experience.

Finally, one of the topics we didn't have an opportunity to discuss with you last Wednesday is FSA reporting. Because the FSAs are an area of concern for our Board, I wanted to take a moment to share these concerns with you here.

The Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District currently has limited student participation in FSA testing due to the way these results are being used by outside organizations to rate and rank schools.

Our Board believes that both the Ministry and our school district can benefit from the new FSA testing to assess how we are doing as a district, and how our students are doing individually. As long as the results are not collected or reported on a school-by-school basis, we know our teachers' association will encourage rather than discourage student participation. The resulting increase in student participation will produce far more valid data than is currently available.

We passed a number of FSA reporting change recommendations along to Minister Bernier last spring, advising him that these recommendations had the support of the Maple Ridge Teachers' Association as well as that of the BCTF President. We asked that a revised FSA reporting model be recommended to the Ministry of Education's advisory group on provincial assessment in which school districts are required to:

- conduct the new foundational skills assessment, collate the data and report district-wide results to the Ministry;
- make individual student results available to parents on request; and
- not collect or publish the data on a school by school basis.

We are hopeful the advisory committee on FSA reporting will be reconvened soon to consider this approach along with its other recommendations to the Ministry on this important subject.

We look forward to hearing any feedback the Ministry or committee may wish to provide and would be happy to discuss the subject further at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Mike Murray, Chairperson
Board of Education

Cc:

Board of Education of School District No. 42 (Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows)
Mr. George Serra, President, Maple Ridge Teachers' Association
The Honourable Lisa Beare, MLA and Minister of Tourism and Culture
Mr. Bob D'Eith, MLA
Mr. Gordon Swan, President, BC School Trustees Association