



From the Office of the Superintendent
January 25, 2017

DISTRICT RECEIVES MINISTRY FUNDING FOR FRANK J. NEY EXPANSION PROJECT

Dear Parents and Guardians:

On January 24, 2017, the Ministry of Education confirmed funding in the amount of \$1.3M to be used entirely towards the construction of an addition at Frank J. Ney Elementary. The remaining funds needed to complete the project will be funded by the district.

As you are aware, the Board of Education approved the closure of Rutherford Elementary on June 30, 2017, or later, dependent on a number of factors.

- [BYLAW No. 2015-06](#)
Be it resolved that the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) permanently closes Rutherford Elementary School, 5840 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 5M6; Facility No. 068077; on June 30, 2017 or later, subject to the completion of a new wing at Frank J. Ney School. In the event capital funding is not approved for the Frank J. Ney construction, or construction is delayed such that it is not expected to be completed by September 2018, the issue of the closure of Rutherford Elementary School will be revisited by the Board.

The district anticipates that construction will be complete in time for the beginning of the 2018-19 school year.

In December, Assistant Superintendent Tim Davie and I met with the Rutherford PAC to answer questions regarding the proposed closure of Rutherford Elementary. It was during that meeting that I assured the group that the district will share any updates when it becomes available. This letter is to be the first of many communications regarding the Board's school closure motion.

As you know, the district has undertaken an extensive review of the seismic work required at Rutherford Elementary as well as a review of the major capital investments needed for near term upgrades or replacements at the school. The findings indicates considerable long-term savings with the construction of an addition at Frank J. Ney Elementary. The updated Frank J. Ney Project Identification Report and Rutherford Elementary Building Condition Assessment report can be found on the district [website](#).

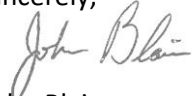
In the coming weeks, the district will make sure families at Rutherford, Frank J. Ney, Randerson Ridge and McGirr elementary schools are fully informed on the next steps in this process.

A School Consolidation Working Group (SCWG) will be created in order to address: student and family transition, school facilities requirements, student safety, closing school history and artifacts, school financial related matters (i.e. PAC funds), student support services,

library resources, and staffing implications. This group will include district senior staff, a trustee, school principals, PAC Chairs, union representatives, and local community members.

I appreciate your patience over the past year while the district and the Ministry of Education discussed the plan for the expansion at Frank J. Ney Elementary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Blain". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

John Blain
Superintendent/CEO

CC:

Robert Hoban – Principal, Rutherford Elementary
Annette Noble – Principal, Frank J. Ney Elementary
Darren Brick – Principal, Randerson Ridge Elementary
Gregg Halfyard – Principal, McGirr Elementary