



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 48

◆ Squamish ◆ Whistler ◆ Pemberton

April 16, 2010

Re: Local School Calendars, 2010/11 and beyond

The Board of Education has been examining options to co-ordinate the Local School Calendars with a view to bringing consistency and stability across the District. Recently a survey was distributed to parents and staff asking their preferences on two options presented around start-up dates and length of Spring Break. The response was fairly good and the Board greatly appreciates the time taken to respond.

The Board has examined the information it has received and passed the following motions:

“THAT for the 2010/11 School Year all schools will start on September 7th; Winter Vacation will be December 20th to January 3rd, there will be a one week spring break March 21st to 25, 2011, and non instructional days as approved by the Board.”

“THAT starting in September 2010 that the Board will develop a 3 year coordinated district wide school calendar which may offer a two week spring break and community based collaboration times.”

In taking this decision, the Board considered a number of factors, including the following:

- the survey results were fairly evenly divided between a one week spring break and a two week spring break, with a slight edge to the two week break
- opposition to the two week break and an early school start-up included employees and families who had already made plans for late summer 2010
- many survey respondents added comments encouraging the Board to consider a two week break, with the time made up in minutes per day so as not to have to start in the week before Labour Day
- this last option was not included in the survey, so the actual degree of support for this option was not possible to gauge at this time

The second motion is intended to convey that the Board will continue to examine the issue of a three year calendar. Work will begin by collecting information from partners in September 2010 which should provide ample time to thoroughly examine the options in time to create a three year calendar beginning in 2011/2012.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Price".

Rick Price
Board Chair