



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 64 (GULF ISLANDS)

112 Rainbow Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2K3

T: (250) 537-5548 F: (250) 537-4200 W: sd64.bc.ca

November 19, 2020

To the Education Community of Gulf Islands School District:

Yesterday, at its regular public meeting, the Board of Education for School District 64 (Gulf Islands) passed a series of motions to secure this district's future educational, financial and organizational stability through reconfiguration.

In its efforts to support student learning and maintain options and access for Gulf Islands students to the greatest extent possible, while addressing the current financial deficit, the Board of Education passed the following motion:

That the Board approves the operationalization of Configuration Scenario 4b, effective September 2021, with a transition year and the following implementation considerations:

1. *GISS becomes the catchment school for grade 8 to 12 students on Salt Spring Island. Salt Spring Island elementary schools will be configured as Kindergarten to grade 7.*
2. *For the 2021/2022 school year only, Salt Spring Island students entering grade 7, currently registered in grade 6 at SIMS, will remain in attendance at the SIMS location for a transitional year.*
3. *For the 2021/2022 school year only, Galiano, Mayne, Pender and Saturna students in grade 8 may attend either their home island school or Pender Islands School. Students in grades 9 to 12 will have the option to attend either Pender Islands School or GISS.*
4. *For subsequent years, commencing September 2022, students from Galiano, Mayne, Pender and Saturna, in grades 8 and 9, will attend Pender Islands School as their catchment school. Students in grades 10 to 12 will have the option to attend GISS for their graduation program.*
5. *Access to French Immersion will be granted through to graduation without interruption, for students currently registered in French Immersion.*
6. *Ridership on the student water taxi to Salt Spring Island Schools will be provided to all students successfully registered in French Immersion and/or GISPA, and to those students who require Inclusive Education services as indicated in the student's Individual Education Plan.*
7. *Students from Salt Spring Island, in grades 8 to 12, will have the option to attend Pender Islands School.*

Once reconfiguration has been fully implemented (September 2022), SD64 schools would be configured as follows:

Galiano Community School	K to 7	Fernwood Elementary School	K to 7
Mayne Island School	K to 7	Fulford Elementary Community School	K to 7
Pender Islands School	K to 12	Gulf Islands Secondary School	8 to 12
Saturna Island School	K to 5	Phoenix Elementary School	K to 7
		Salt Spring Elementary School	K to 7



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The decision follows a twenty-five-month process and more than a year of consultation, review, and study. Some of these changes will be experienced differently across the district and, as indicated in the motion, will be implemented over the next two years to provide the time to make adjustments.

To execute the full intent of reconfiguration, the Board presented the following Notice of Motion:

Pursuant to Board Procedure 635 - Permanent School Closure, the Board of Education gives notice of its intent to close Saltspring Island Middle School at the end of the 2020/2021 school year.

The motion will be tabled at the February 10, 2021 Public Board Meeting.

The motion will be added to the website along with an online comment forum to allow stakeholders and school community members to share their input regarding the Board's intent to close Saltspring Island Middle School.

The work of transition will begin almost immediately with short, medium, and long term goals developed by the district, our schools, and our communities. This work will be carried out in the coming weeks and months.

Again, these decisions will provide the needed stability and resources to support this district moving forward. Let us all appreciate this as an opportunity for a renewed focus on student success and achievements.

Sincerely,

Scott Benwell, PhD
Superintendent/CEO