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VOE 5N0



February 13, 2020

Board of Trustees
School District 73
c/o Ms. Kathleen Karpuk, Chair

Re: Reconfiguration of the Sun Peaks School

Dear Trustees,

Thank you for coming to Sun Peaks for the Reconfiguration Consultation on January 20th. I was pleased to attend though I did have to leave early due to another commitment. Please accept my submission to assist the school board in arriving at a good decision.

I support whole-heartedly the community's request to continue with a four- day school week model and sincerely hope that the School District can accommodate this. I see no strong reason why a five-day week is necessary.

As a Senator and as a former Chancellor of Thompson Rivers University I had numerous discussions with educators including teachers, professors, superintendents and university administrators. Without exception, everyone was very interested in discussing the education model that had been developed at Sun Peaks. They were intrigued by our experience with supervised online learning (using @Kool) as well as the experience of both teachers and students in split classrooms. They were also intrigued by the impact that an outdoor environment such as at Sun Peaks has on the students.

Sun Peaks has been fortunate to develop a model of education that not only has worked for students and their families, but also has had a very positive impact on the growth of our community. With an economy based on tourism, there is no doubt that our ability to attract a stable work force depends on a school that fits family needs.

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Last year I visited the outdoor school in Salmon Arm and could to see the enthusiasm of the students who were learning in a non-tradition school environment. The teachers were inspirational and very excited to participate in an alternate learning environment.

I am encouraged and pleased to see that educators in many school districts in British Columbia have had the courage to adopt new ideas, expanding on the traditional learning models of the past. Many students do well in the traditional schools, but some may do better in a non-traditional school model. I trust that our education system in British Columbia will always remain open to different ideas and innovative approaches to learning.

I believe that what we have been doing at Sun Peaks can be considered a pilot project, an opportunity for evaluating and perhaps improving education in small communities. I have seen and heard some of our students in public debates and discussions and was extremely impressed that future leaders are being developed by their educational experience.

The combination of an active outdoor lifestyle and education is appealing to more and more parents and students. Opportunities for change do not come along every day, and I wish to encourage all trustees to focus on the educational outcomes for the students.

As a former school trustee, I thank you for taking on the task of guiding education in our region.

Yours sincerely,

Nancy Greene Raine (signed)