

Alison Beach
2550 Willowbrae Crt.
778-220-8141
drbeachnd@gmail.com

April 21, 2021

District Leadership:
Allen Blohm, Manager of Operations
Terry Sullivan, Superintendent of Schools
Trish Smillie, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary
Melissa McGarry, Manager of Health and Safety
School District 73 Board of Trustees

Dear School District 73 Board of Trustees and District Leadership,

I am writing to you today in regards to the proposed catchment boundary change to Pacific Way Elementary. Due to the current neighbourhood expansion, I agree that the catchment boundary will have to change to accommodate the increasing number of students. However, I disagree with the proposed boundary change for numerous reasons as outlined below:

1. **The proposed plan increases safety risk for our children.** With the current Pacific Way Catchment, students living on Bentall, Talbot, Willowbrae, Raeburn, Galbraith and Telford are attending Pacific Way which means they do have to cross Aberdeen Drive in order to get to school. As many members of our neighbourhood are aware, Aberdeen Drive is very busy with numerous morning commuters speeding down this hill. In fact, due to residential concerns, the City of Kamloops recently had to set up a "Speed Board Program" on this road in an attempt to slow speeders down. Thus, it is not safe to propose a catchment boundary change where there would be a significant additional number of young children crossing this busy road.
2. **The proposed plan significantly decreases walkability to school by numerous families.** For instance, I live on Willowbrae and in order to get my daughter to Aberdeen Elementary I would have to walk a significant distance down Dunrobin to the stair path residing on Dunrobin which connects to Aberdeen Drive. It was my hope that on my days off I would be able to walk my daughter to school. I also have a two year old daughter who I would also be taking with me on this walk in her stroller. The stair path on Dunrobin is made up of 55 stairs so there is no way I could get our stroller safely down these steps. As another option to the Dunrobin trail, I could walk down Abbeyglen Drive then onto Aberdeen Drive; however, this is a significant hill to have to push a stroller up and down thus I do not realistically see many parents able and willing to make this trek. Also because of the steep topography it discourages young children to be able bike/scooter to their school. I challenge the School Board to come out and see how many wagons and strollers they see in our neighbourhood with parents taking their children to school in the morning. These parents would no longer have easy access to their school. How does

decreasing walkability make sense in a time where childhood obesity is already a documented health concern?

3. **Due to the increased safety issue and decreased walkability for many families, there would most likely be a significant increase in traffic.** Upon observing the morning drop off time at Aberdeen Elementary, it is already apparent that it is very busy with lack of parking. With the decreased walkability to the school as already mentioned, this drop off time will be even more congested. How will this be addressed- will more parking be provided? Also, with increased traffic to Aberdeen Elementary this means more traffic from parents turning on and off Aberdeen Drive to Van Horne Drive. This will not only impact traffic flow to the pedestrian crossing on Aberdeen Drive, but may also impact traffic congestion in all intersections within the lower Aberdeen area. Has this been considered? Will a traffic light have to be installed? Has a Traffic Impact Assessment been conducted?
4. **Decreasing walkability directly opposes the City of Kamloops' Official Community Plan (OCP).** The City's OCP encourages walkable neighbourhoods to promote health communities. A goal of the OCP is "to be a pedestrian friendly community with networks that integrate with transit, neighbourhood amenities, parks, open space and schools." The proposed catchment change does not achieve the City's vision of achieving a walkable neighbourhood by decreasing families' abilities to easily walk to school but rather forces families to drive their children to school.
5. **The proposed plan for the boundary change is not practical.** As stated, I live on Willowbrae and the fastest access to Aberdeen Elementary would be through the stair pathway on Dunrobin. The students who live on Dunrobin, however, are still able to attend Pacific Way Elementary. How does this make sense that children living further away from Aberdeen Elementary are expected to attend this school? Also, children living in Westerdale/Glenmohr area usually are driven to school due to their distance from Pacific Way Elementary. Would it not be more practical to have the children in these areas attend Aberdeen Elementary especially since these students can access Aberdeen Elementary through existing road networks off Pacific Way. This would then allow the Pacific Way Elementary catchment to retain the students of Bentall, Talbot, Willowbrae, Raeburn, Galbraith and Telford who would be able to walk or ride their bikes to school.
6. **The timeline for the catchment change is unrealistic.** Childcare in our city is incredibly competitive, thus parents have to be on waitlists for two to three years in order to have their child enrolled. Parents have had to preplan childcare options based on the current catchment boundaries as there are only a limited number of facilities that will drop off and pick up at the various schools. As a result, parents need more than a year's notice to change their childcare plans.
7. **Mental health of affected children will be significantly impacted.** The start of a new school year is a difficult transition for many children and the current COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated this. Children who have made friends at Pacific Way will be forced to switch schools, creating additional mental health concerns for our future generation. Also, forcing a

child in grade six to attend a new school with new friends in their final year of elementary school may create more anxiety with the transition into secondary school.

8. **Many families have been left out of this conversation.** Only parents whose children are currently attending school were contacted about this catchment change. Parents, like myself and many in my neighbourhood, who have a child entering kindergarten were not contacted. I only found out through a friend. Also, parents with younger children who will be entering school in the next few years have also not been contacted. How is it appropriate to make such a major decision for a neighbourhood without notifying all of the residents within the area?

Our community is not opposed to a new catchment boundary. We are aware that Pacific Way Elementary will soon be over capacity. However, the proposed boundary change is not practical, and our community is more than 'just a line'. Our neighbourhood would be very appreciative of any member of the School Board willing to come out and walk with us, so we can demonstrate to you how this current proposal is not sensible. We want to help you come up with a plan that is. Attached is a proposal of an alternative option that demonstrates that there are other options worth seeking. Also attached is a signed petition of over 100 residents opposing the proposed catchment boundary change. Let us work together to make a better plan.

We can do better. Our children deserve better!

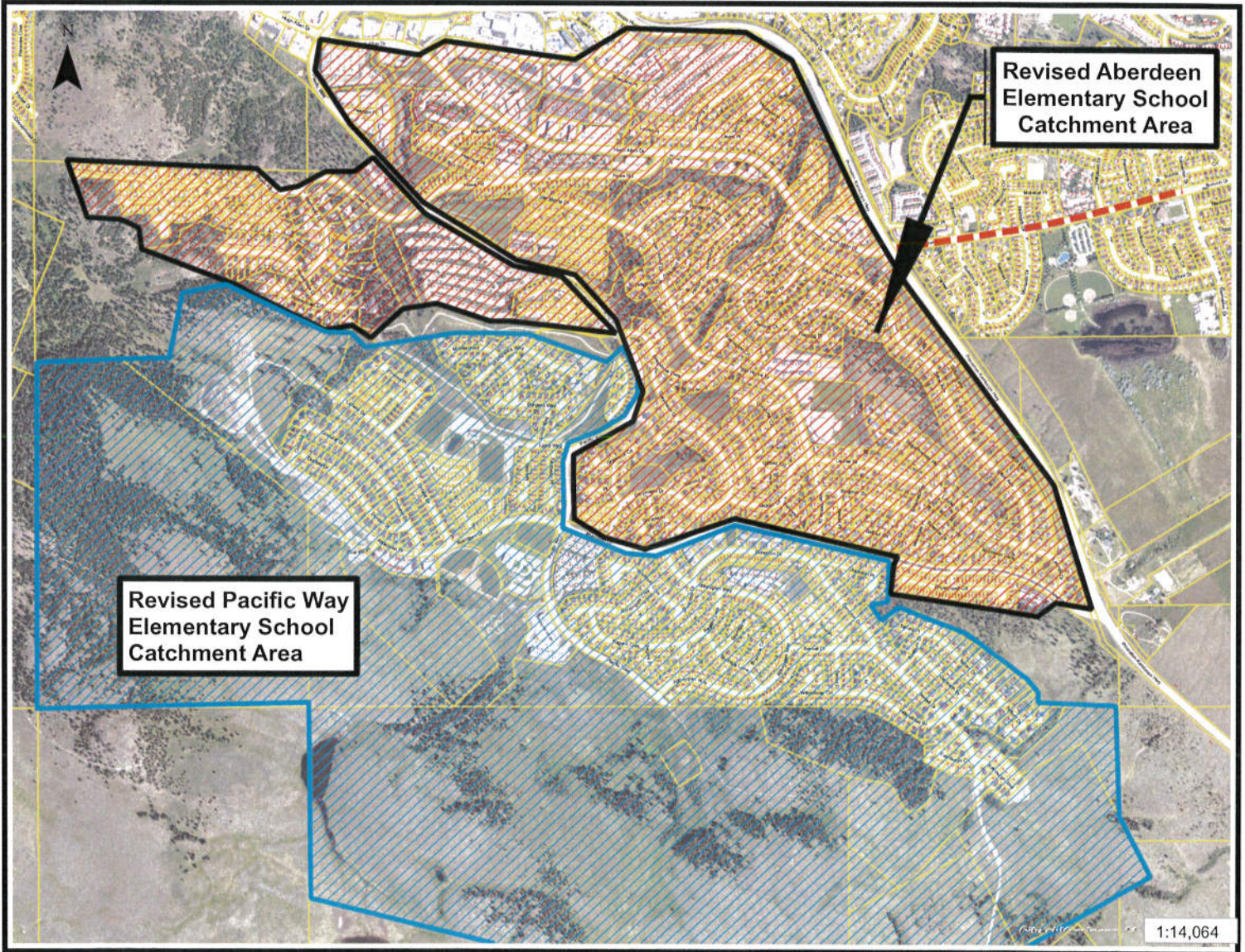
A Proposed Plan:

The proposed plan would entail children living in the Westerdale/Glenmohr area who are usually driven to school due to their distance from Pacific Way Elementary be relocated to Aberdeen Elementary. These students can access Aberdeen Elementary through existing road networks off Pacific Way without creating further congestion on Aberdeen Drive. This will also allow the Pacific Way Elementary catchment to retain the students of Bentall, Talbot, Willowbrae, Raeburn, Galbraith and Telford who would be able to walk or ride their bikes to school. This proposal also reflects the traditional catchment area of Aberdeen Elementary prior to the construction of Pacific Way Elementary. This proposal would see the majority of students located South of Aberdeen Drive to attend Pacific Way Elementary. We believe this preserves walkability and safety for more families in our neighbourhood while taking into consideration the expansion of the neighbourhood. Furthermore, there would also be less of an impact to the Van Horne Drive area as a result of increased traffic movements.

Sincerely,

Alison Beach,

A concerned parent on Willowbrae



Revised Aberdeen
Elementary School
Catchment Area

Revised Pacific Way
Elementary School
Catchment Area

1:14,064

Recipient: Residents of the Aberdeen neighbourhood in Kamloops

Letter: Greetings,

Help Oppose the Aberdeen Elementary / Pacific Way Elementary Catchment
Boundary Change

Signatures

Name	Location	Date
Alison Beach	Kamloops, Canada	2021-04-18
Amrita Ebata	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-18
Kristen Servatius	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-18
Jennifer Oneill	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-18
Dane Servatius	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Kyle O'Neill	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Kaitlin Loewen	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Carolyn Genzel	Richmond, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
carol o'neill	nanaimo bc, Canada	2021-04-19
Emilio Magliocchi	Vancouver, Canada	2021-04-19
Anna Harris	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Christopher Harris	Kamloops, Canada	2021-04-19
Tony Marrington	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Janelle Caird	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Laura McIntosh	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Rachel Anderson	Vernon, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Blaire Mikoda	Maple Ridge, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Jennifer Collins	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Nicole Mercado	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Dominique Fry	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19

Name	Location	Date
Jesse Bertling	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Kim Nielsen	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Andrew Abley	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Lisa Abley	Kamloops, Canada	2021-04-19
Tiffany Cull	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Annette Brown	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Michelle Mann	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Jennifer Cane	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Kendel Lavallee	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Nikki Shaughnessy	Merritt, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Indy Bal	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Mandeep Bal	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Jaskaran Heer	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Aekam Bal	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Alexandra Hinz	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Kewal Bal	Kamloops, Canada	2021-04-19
Harmeet Bal	Edmonton, Canada	2021-04-19
Sonja Marsh	Maple Ridge, Canada	2021-04-19
Magalie Levasseur	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Jamie Roy	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Emily Hokanson	Maple Ridge, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Jestine Hinch	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19

Name	Location	Date
John Collins	Kamloops, Canada	2021-04-19
Megan Collins	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Charlene Brugger	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Linnea Kahlke	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Nicole Solomon	Victoria, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
brittany young	Kamloops, Canada	2021-04-19
Kevin Mikoda	Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Evelyne Murphy	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Catherine Bartlett	Kamloops, Canada	2021-04-19
Brigitte Willman	Kamloops, Canada	2021-04-19
Kylie Blenkhorn	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Jenna Vanderburgh	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Eric Vanderburgh	Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-19
Tanya Blackall	Kamloops, Canada	2021-04-19
Oishiki Dutta	Edmonton, Canada	2021-04-20
Lee Davis	Manitoba, Canada	2021-04-20
Katherine Robinson	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-20
Dylan Szasz	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-20
Jennifer Hood	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-20
Margo Fehr	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-20
Jillian Harnett	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-20
Candice Ewen	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-20

Name	Location	Date
Kerry Konopski	Richmond, Canada	2021-04-20
Lori wood	kamloops, Canada	2021-04-20
Mansi Balyan	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-20
Leanne Columbus	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-20
Joanna Clark	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-20
Tamera Koester	Kamloops, Canada	2021-04-20
Eric Nielsen	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-20
Don Mann	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-20
Gurjit Lalli	Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-20
Trish Mcconnell	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-20
SIENNA BUGGE	Delta, Canada	2021-04-20
Shannon Bale	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-20
Jason Hughes	Kamloops, Canada	2021-04-20
Abdullah Rana	Toronto, Canada	2021-04-20
Ryan Monk	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-20
ainsley robinson	Trenton, Canada	2021-04-20
Andreu Tarrago	Victoria, Canada	2021-04-20
Stefanie Spencer	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-20
Julie Wade	Kamloops, Quebec, Canada	2021-04-20
Kara Evans	Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada	2021-04-20
Alex Perkucin	Toronto, Canada	2021-04-21
Gurpreet PNnu	Brampton, Canada	2021-04-21

Name	Location	Date
Toney Tracey	Fredericton, Canada	2021-04-21
Shamim Abowath	Toronto, Canada	2021-04-21
Carlie S	Georgetown, Canada	2021-04-21
Jelena Vico	Toronto, Canada	2021-04-21
Kaitlin Parker	Pickering, Canada	2021-04-21
Philip Hampson	Toronto, Canada	2021-04-21
Sean Shepard	Edmonton, Canada	2021-04-21
Christine Gauthier	Petawawa, Canada	2021-04-22
Julia Stavnitzky	Ancaster, Canada	2021-04-22