



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73
(Kamloops - Thompson)

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73 (KAMLOOPS-THOMPSON)

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**PUBLIC COMMUNITY MEETING – INQUIRIES
RECONFIGURATION OF SUN PEAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Monday, January 20, 2020 – 5:00 pm
Hearthstone Lodge, Sun Peaks BC**

Meeting Name:	Community Consultation Meeting – Reconfiguration of Sun Peaks Elementary	
Meeting Date:	January 20, 2020	
QUESTION		RESPONSE
1.	<p>Jenny Haws – President of Sun Peaks Education Society, newly appointed in the last few months. It’s a pleasure to be here tonight and meet all of you. I’m speaking to you today on behalf of the school community as a whole. This morning, I emailed a letter that we prepared in response to the school expansion plans and it’s provided here for you in hard copy. Thank you for your commitment and support in moving forward with the vision for our school community. We recognize the time and effort of School District No. 73 in the expansion of Sun Peaks Elementary since its inception in the Discovery Centre for Balanced Education in 2010. The community and its stakeholders have worked tirelessly year after year to ensure that the education is available for our children in a way that embraced our mountain lifestyle. This unique K-12 Education experience at Sun Peaks Elementary and the secondary academy have become a primary draw for many families to join our community, and hopefully there are some here tonight that will give their perspectives on this important project. It’s evident that our schools have contributed to the growth of Sun Peaks, the local economy and the fantastic community it is today. I get emotional, because I love this community and I’ve really just moved here under two years ago, so, it has made an impression. SPS(Sun Peaks School) and worked closely with the Parent Advisory Committee over the last several weeks to ensure that concerns raised by the school community have been captured to assist in understanding the important considerations affecting our community and we hope that you factor these into the planning process. We’ve conducted a survey, and we’ve held meetings to receive our community’s input and these results have been included in your packages that are provided from the Parent Advisory Committee. As you know, the Strategic Plan of our community has always been to have SD73 undertake the K-12 programming on a full time basis, and the survey results have spoken quite clearly that our community is overwhelmingly clear that we are in full</p>	<p>Assistant Superintendent Bill Hamblett. Thank you. I think at this time we have received the information and we need some time to look at it and we will, so thank you. We don’t have any questions right now, thank you.</p>

support of SD73 taking on the grade 8 and 9's for next year and we're also in full support of a name change to the Sun Peaks School. This is viewed as a positive step, with many benefits to our community. We acknowledge and support preliminary plans to co-locate the additional portable classroom for the grade 8 and 9's in proximity to the secondary academy and its seen as a benefit for co-locating teenagers. The considerations that we feel are most affecting our community in regards to the expansion plans are summarized as follows. There are still space concerns for the K-7 programming, the transition plans of our current grade 8s into grade 9 is not quite clear and lastly, the concern for the proposed 5-Day week model. Regarding space concerns, after an additional portable is provided for the grade 8 and 9 classroom, there will still be space concerns for the growing K-7 population of the elementary school. Our Mayor, Al Raine, has stated that he feels that there's still room for one more portable at the existing school location, should one be available to address any short term space issues. We appreciate that this topic is still a priority for the school division in the long term planning. We're really just recognizing it. Regarding the transition planning, questions and concerns raised regarding the transition plan for our grade 8s and 9s has yet to be addressed in detail. Aspects of the current @KOOL, vs. the traditional classroom learning model for grade 8s next season needs to be a factor, as the students will be part of that @KOOL program again for grades 10-12. So, they need to be prepared for independent learning expectations as they move into grades 10-12, but if they move back to a more traditional learning model, and they've worked so hard learning the @KOOL program this year, how is that going to work? And so that, we feel, is really important. So, we'd like to be included in the planning process and ensure that students move forward in that development and maybe there's a consultation with those parents. There's five students affected by this. In regards to the five-day week model, we've heard very loudly from our community about the importance in maintaining a four-day week model. Students and families use the fifth day for extra-curricular activities, supplemental Education opportunities, administration, and inter-provincial sport competitions, thus reducing absenteeism. Sun Peaks Elementary has consistently ranked high in the school district and province for academic performance. This ranking is reflective of the commitment of our families in balancing school work, parent-driven enhancement programs, that are only possible when combined with a four-day school week. A detailed document for consideration of the four-day week model, including sample schedules for the required extra additional education hours has been prepared and we are respectfully requesting that you re-consider the proposed five-day to a four-day week schedule.

I'll turn the presentation over to Harriet Burge. She will speak on behalf of the school community in regards to the

	<p>four-day week model. I just wanted to thank you very much for your consultation, the opportunity for feedback in this planning process and the expansion of Sun Peaks Elementary to fully integrate the grade 8s and 9s. It's an important move forward in creating a sustainable future for our community and we undeniably support you in this planning process. If there's any questions I can take that before handing it over to Harriet.</p>	
2.	<p>Harriet Burge Good evening, my name is Harriet Burge and I have a son in grade 6 in the elementary school. I think my son may be the 100th student on the enrolment program. As Jenny said, there is no doubt that the fundamental aim of the whole community is that eventually SD73 provisions schooling from K-12 in a designated, purpose-built full facility school building. It came as no surprise to the PAC, therefore, that 88% of parents are in favour of the integration of grade 8 and 9 into the SD provision. The remaining respondents were not sure. There was not a single person that was against it. 100% of parents are in favour of the change of name from Sun Peaks Elementary to Sun Peaks School. The issue is the 4-day week, and if you will bear with me while I explain the community's point of view I would appreciate it. You have already had our detailed proposal, and I don't plan to take you through every moment of it, but there are some highlights. The reasons why this is so important to the community vary. In a resort, many of the parents work in the resort, and many work weekends, and they've arranged to have Fridays off in order to have some time with their children. Although it's possible to replace, with the school setting, some of the sporting activities that our students undertake currently on a Friday, 84% of our students, by the way, take part in extra-curricular activities and some of those are the local ski program, alpine racing, and freestyle skiing. But, there are also much wider interests that aren't catered for in the resort. Students that are interested in art, music lessons, trampoline, swimming, things that cannot be catered for in a resort, those take place on a Friday, in town. When we asked them, between 84 and 89% of parents felt strongly, or felt that the 4-day week does not negatively affect their children's academic, mental or physical well-being. So, we understand that grades 1-7 need 878 instructional hours per year and that grades 8 and 9 need 952 instructional hours per year. So, we looked at how the current 4-day week program is managed in Sun Peaks and elsewhere. As we all know, SD51, the Boundary District, and SD64, the Gulf Islands, have both managed a 4-day schedule for 17 and 14 years respectively. Both districts are analogous to Sun Peaks in the sense that Big White Community School, which is part of the Boundary District, and the Gulf Islands is a rural community, dependent on ferry schedules, which puts them in a different position. I spoke to the Principal of the Big White Community School last week, and she explained how it worked for them. The</p>	<p>Assistant Superintendent Bill Hamblett: Thank you, Harriet, for your report and your organized manner of presenting the information. It's appreciated.</p>

principal difference is that those two districts operate a 4-day week schedule, every week. The principal of Big White School put it to me that 'we hold school 4 days per week, every week. The only time we did not was a compulsory day to implement the new curriculum. So, that means in essence, if they have a pro-d day on a Friday, they run their schedule Monday to Thursday. They don't take a day off for the Thursday. If we all have a stat. holiday on a Monday, they run their program from Tuesday to Friday. They keep the 4 days, even in the stat weeks. Sun Peaks doesn't do that. Sun Peaks, if there is a pro-d day on the Friday, we have the day off on the Thursday and we drop to a 3-day week. If we have a stat holiday on a Monday, our Tuesday to Thursday week stays and again we have a 3-day week. We do have a number of 3 day weeks that these other schools don't have, because they do it every week – they have a 4-day week, regardless. Now, we understand that the Board has its own consultation process going on with the staff and so we haven't updated the staff comments we garnered in 2014, the last time we made this presentation to you. But, when we did that in 2014, the staff at that point were universally in favour of ditching the 3-day weeks. They were felt to be unnecessarily disruptive to the continuity of learning of students. From the parents' perspectives, they're pretty disruptive to work schedules. The whole community is behind the idea of a 4-day week, every week, program. Now, when we looked at this, in terms of how it would work in practice, we had wanted to do what we had done in 2014, which is present to you a fully calculated calendar of what 2020-21 would look like. We weren't able to do that, because the dates haven't yet been released as to start date, finish date. We've got a late labour day this year, as everyone knows. Some districts are pushing the year date back to later in June to compensate for that and we just don't know how that's going to work yet. There's also an issue about a one week or two week spring break, and we don't have the non-instructional days set in stone yet. So what we did is we looked at the calendars for the Boundary and the Gulf Islands Districts for the current year and we look at the proposed calendar for the Gulf Islands for the 2020-2021 year that has already been put out there and we put together our illustrative calendar for 2020-2021, adopting those principles. Now, those principles are that we will either have a two week or a one week spring break. We've based it on seven non-instructional days a year and four early dismissals. Some years there are eight non-instructional days and each one puts an extra 2-3 minutes on the school day. If I could ask you to turn, if you would, to page seven, I've put out two boxes, two tables, which set out the calculation of the instructional minutes required for grades 8 and 9. The range is really between 156 and 160 instructional days a year if you follow the 4-day week every week philosophy, and the difference is between the one week spring break and the two week spring break. That's the difference of the four instructional

days. So, on the one week spring break, the 160 instructional days, it would put the grade 8 and 9's day at 8:30 am to 3:35 pm. So, a three minute longer day than they have currently. If we go to a two week spring break, that's 156 instructional days, and to get the required number of instructional minutes, they would go 8:30 am to 3:44 pm, so that's 12 more minutes than they currently do. I should say that on both schedules there's a 15 minute morning recess and a 50 minute lunch break. At this point, I would like to remind the Board that when we did this presentation in 2014, and it was approved, we did it on the basis of an 8:30 to 3:45 day, and that had been in place at the school from its inception in 2010. It was only changed in 2017 when the number of instructional hours was re-calculated. So, for two years, we've had a dismissal at 3:32 pm. Before that, we've always had 3:45 pm. So, we're looking at 3 minutes longer or 12 minutes longer on a four-day week, every week, schedule. So we ask, what would happen to K-7, because obviously they don't need as many instructional minutes as grades 8 and 9, and the box for them is set out on page 8. The PAC clearly agrees, that if you've got one part of the school on a four day week, every week, the whole school should follow. It would make little sense to have different programs for both. So, on the K-7, if you don't need as many instructional hours, you have the option of, or the chance to shorten the day, which for the youngest members of the school can only be a good thing and in our box, our schedule set out in appendix one, the full calendar, which is fully calculated, we would propose a day of 8:40 am to 3:36 pm for K-7. The reason for the late start, rather than an early dismissal, is organizational. The elementary school relies on the platter lift and the magic carpet to get the kids up to the school and those lifts start at 8:30 in the morning. The resort very kindly tries to open them early to get the kids up on time to start at 8:30 but there's inevitably a conflict between those two start times. So, if we push the K-7's back to an 8:40 start, they should all be able to get there on time every day. The PAC would very much prefer the four day week, every week, and get rid of the three day weeks. But if this isn't possible for any reason, then in our current year, we have 153 instructional days. K-7 would retain their existing school day, there would be no change, and grades 8 and 9 we would propose would run from 8:20 am to 3:41 pm. So that is six minutes longer than the day was up until 2017. All that is set out in your reports and calculated for you. The essence, therefore, is that we the PAC believe that on the number of instructional hours and minutes that are required for grades 8 and 9 we can comfortably accommodate that within a four day week program which will not impinge on the students' learning outcomes because the length of the day is barely appreciably longer than most of those students have had since they were four or five years old in 2010 and they've now and it's only changed two years ago. In terms of the location, the PAC welcomes the idea that

an extra portable is down by the high school. The reason for that is that in recent years there has been a slight morale issue with children getting to what they think is the top of the elementary school and then more years become incorporated into the school and they think, oh gosh, I've just done it and now it's grade 7 and now it's grade 8... We feel, culturally, if the portable was down by the high school, it would give the kids a real sense of having graduated from that elementary school and then let's move on down the hill and be next to the big boys and girls and be the middle school. Also, it would create a more seamless transition through to grades 10 to 12 and that might help retention rates, not that there's anything wrong with those at the moment. Also, the SPS have voted that, assuming the four day week is retained, (in fairness we didn't ask them the other question) they will align their school day to the middle school day so that there's cohesion amongst all the parts of the school. So, this is hard to explain, but a four day week, for Sun Peaks, is an intrinsic part of what makes education in this village so special. For many parents here, it's what counter-balances the lack of traditional facilities that we don't have. The lack of a gym, library, science labs. All the things that every parent would love for their kids. But here, it's worth it, because we have this amazing environment and this amazing ability to create a balance between work and family and school and other activities. If you start diluting that, what makes it really special, the fear is that those other things, those bits that are slightly lacking, will come into sharp relief for people. That's the fear. Those dreams, those aspirations, they're wholly in line with SD73's mission statement; To connect students with their passions and interests by strengthening partnerships to enrich the way we lead, learn and work. So, if we're unsuccessful, what would be the effect of changing to a five day week schedule? Well, from the outset, because we've always had a four day week, many (most) of our parents have arranged their working schedules around it. So, it's quite a big organization to re-gig your work, 5 days to 2:30, when you've always done 4 days to 3:30 or 3:45 pm. So, that's a big organizational problem in the community. The second thing is that the activity day would go from Fridays taking kids down to Kamloops, and as I said before, it's not really the skiing, it's not the biking, because there would be opportunities for that up here. It's all the other things that our kids love to do and that broaden their horizons from this mountain and teach them that there is a world outside it and we are loath to lose that for our kids. There are always concerns about the four day week on student outcomes. We have in this report updated the recent research, such as it is, into the pros and cons. Most of the concerns actually don't affect Sun Peaks. For example, the commute. Does it make too long a day when you've got a long journey to school? Well, all but one of our students live within a seven minute drive of Sun Peaks. A lot of kids walk to school. We have one student

	<p>who lives a fifteen minute drive away, but we don't have a community issue. Absenteeism – 63% of our parents replied that they routinely put appointments on Friday for their kids so we don't have a big absentee problem. Bad weather. Well, we like bad weather. We need snow six months of the year. So, in the recent storms, we were open every day. We wonder how many other schools in BC can say the same. In terms of, does it ask too much of our students? I will come on to the parent comments in answer to the questionnaire, but we would point proudly to the ranking of Sun Peaks published by the Fraser Institute. The most recent involving Sun Peaks is actually 2018, where we were the number one public school in the District, second only to St. Anne's, which is of course a private school. We think this says more than any US research can about how our kids cope and how they're doing academically. The parent comments – I would urge you to read them. I've summarized them here, but they are attached in full in your package. They're illuminating as to the reasons why this issue is held so dear to the community. There may be reasons in there that you haven't even thought of and I know that there were for me when looked through them. The second reason is that they are illustrative, from the parents voices, of the fantastic work that's being done up here in this school and that's thanks to you, the District, it's thanks to Mr. Johnson, our staff and our many wonderful parent volunteers. So, please, please do read them. I have taken enough of your time and I thank you for listening to me as I take you through the report, which you've got. So, here's the summary. Yes, please, to taking on grades 8 and 9. Absolutely, to a change of name to Sun Peaks School but please, let us keep our four day week. Four day week, every week. Thank you.</p>	
3.	<p>Liz McLean Good evening and thank you to all of you for driving up our mountain road this evening. My name is Liz McLean and I'm a parent of a grade 6 and a grade 3 child up here in Sun Peaks. I'm also a small business owner with my husband. We own a retail store in the village. Speaking to the five day week and the personal affect it can have on our family if we move over to a five day, is, as a small business owner in the community, we are obviously busier on weekends in the resort and for us to be successful, as owners, we need to be in the business on the weekend and if we do get a day off, it tends to be in the early week because that's the way the resort flows. Additionally for us, it's very challenging for us to have time off on a traditional weekend because we rely on staff who also work for the resort to help us run our business. The majority of our staff work for the ski corporation and again, the ski corporation requires most of their staff to work all weekend, which puts us in place in our business during the week, and our staff supporting us during the week. We are very involved with the school. We love volunteering with the school, my</p>	

	<p>husband probably spends as much time as he can during the week. Fridays are for us, a day that our kids can explore their other passions and go to town and more importantly, they are days that our kids can go attend appointments because during that day and before the rush of the weekend, we are able to come off hill and take them. So again, just speaking on a personal note to what Harriet and Jenny have been speaking, I'm one of the faces of the community that our weekends are our work time and we do rely on that Friday to allow us to either a) have our children do extra-curriculars as well as to attend appointments and just have time with our children. So again, as everyone has said, please consider the four day week and just look at the uniqueness of our community when you're in that consideration. Thank you.</p>	
4.	<p>Hi there, I'd like to start by thanking you all for taking your time to come up and even have this conversation with us. My name is Jason White, I'm a business owner up here. My children, one, has gone to this school and one is in this school. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the people that started this years ago. My wife, Melissa, and Maria and Darcy and there's about five or six women that are here that started this and ten years ago this conversation wasn't a very good conversation. So, thank you to them and thank you guys for allowing us to even talk about this. I think we're missing a point here on the four day week. I remember in grade 8 and 9, we had cooking and sewing and we had woodwork and we had shop. Those are things that we can't have here and I think we're an anomaly in a sense that it's been brought up before that we don't have a gymnasium, we don't have cooking facilities, we don't have things, but we have other things that put us outside the box. One thing happened a couple of months ago. It was an unfortunate situation. Two of our young lads had just taken first aid, and they saved the life of one of our children in this community. So, my point is that we should try to integrate things like first aid, avalanche training, outdoor recreation, and get credit for them on Fridays. So, if you sign up for something you actually get credit for it, so you're actually doing something that is educating you. Just because it's not in the curriculum of what has been put out there in the past. We are an anomaly and I think that we need to look at that and think about ski racing and what these things do. The kids go down to town for volleyball and basketball, we usually get our butts kicked, but lets go skiing and see what happens. Right? We'll go powder skiing and we'll kick your butts. But, I just wanted to hit home that I understand what the curriculum is and I understand that you guys have to follow and we can't just say we want to be different and here's why. But I think that if we say, we are different and here's why and these are the reasons why we think we should be getting credit for some of these things, and I think it's very important. So, that was just a point I wanted to make.</p>	<p>Assistant Superintendent Bill Hamblett: Thank you very much.</p>

<p>5.</p>	<p>Maria Cannon Good evening, I'm Maria Cannon. I'm a parent, business owner, and the past president of the Sun Peaks Education Society. I would just like to reiterate and say thank you so much, because we really appreciate this amazing relationship we have with SD73. How our small school from 19 students has grown phenomenally now and how many people embrace this community and the uniqueness of the school here and all of those opportunities that we have. I truly believe that the school is the heart of the community and at our school we embrace the importance of community. Also, the mountain lifestyle and the flexibility aspect too has been great and gives our students lots of opportunities, so we thank you as well for having that vision of continuing with all those unique aspects of the school and what makes the school amazing and continue to move that forward and many of those things that Jason just highlighted there. I feel very fortunate as well that our son, he started school in grade one here, needless to say he's dwarfing me now, he's actually in grade 10. I feel so fortunate that he's had that opportunity to be at school here and to have some of those different options there where we've been able to embrace the mountain lifestyle. Some of those different flexible options, using different resources within the school district for cross-enrolment as well and some of those different things. The learning, as you said, can be many of those aspects there and we want to say a big thank you to and we're very excited about how our school is moving forward. So, thank you.</p>	<p>Assistant Superintendent Bill Hamblett: Thank you.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>My name is Vince Cooper and I'm a resident up here. I've got four kids; three in the elementary and one in the @KOOL learning program. To continue on with what Jason was saying, with shop program, home economics, mechanics, there's trades programs in certain schools in Kamloops. I see this community as a real gem and a jewel in this school district, and for the school district to use it. Have kids coming up from Kamloops to do certain program. Not just Sun Peaks kids have to do the avalanche program and the first aid, bus kids up from Kamloops. The training with Secwepemc, it's in your long term plan. We would love to see busloads of kids coming up on Fridays, we've got an empty school, and teach and educate and use Sun Peaks for what it has to offer. I think that will go a long ways in the whole district and also this community because this community, from what I've learned and I've been here three years and it's small town. It's really a small town community. Everybody's helping everyone out, you hit the ditch, someone else is going to stop and pull you out, you need something done, someone's going to be there to help you. It's the same within the school district. So, I hope you take that also into consideration and thank you again for traveling that road. I drove it today and it's a pretty sloppy road. Thank you.</p>	<p>Assistant Superintendent Bill Hamblett: Thank you.</p>

7.	<p>Good evening everyone and thank you for coming here and supporting us. My name is Daniel Liddy and I lived in Whistler for 25 years. Three years ago we were really struggling there. We couldn't get help, my daughter is challenged. The school flatly turned us down for any assistance. They had no money, so, when we tried to get her an IEP, we were told that all children are special and she's not any more special than anyone else. In her last year at the Whistler Elementary, she was late 34 days. She missed school every other day. She wouldn't go. When she did go to school, she is a certain type that she loves things and she hates things. Hard to get her to get in line with all the things. In grade 2, she was reading the Chronicles of Narnia, all seven series without a problem, thought nothing of it. Get her to do math? Forget about it. Couldn't care less. Not that she couldn't do it, she didn't want to. I found out in her last year there that six days of the year, she had disappeared from the classroom, and they didn't know where she was. They'd find her in the library, hiding underneath beanbags, reading. She didn't want to do the other stuff. We had to leave. So, I had built a house there, it was our forever house, we sold it. I had a career there, I gave it up. I'm a stay at home Dad. Her scores at the Sun Peaks Elementary have improved 200%. Her last report, that she got, she was upset that she got two B's. She said, "I'm here to get straight A's." Her math gone tremendously up the scores. She no longer hates it and in fact, when we reviewed her report card together, her and I, I said, 'It appears that what the teacher is saying is that if you say you love math, instead of a B, you'll get an A. So, all you've got to do is change your attitude. She said, "You think that's it?" and I said, "That's it, that's all you've got to do." This weekend, her and I traveled to Apex Resort to ski race. She's become a ski racer. She wasn't previously. She stood in 4th and 5th place, in three races this weekend, and was beaming. This morning I thought, well, we drove home last night, she was exhausted, so I thought I'd let her sleep in. I woke her up at 10:00 o'clock to take her in after recess, and she said, "Daddy, what's the deal? I need to get to school." So, this is what the Sun Peaks Elementary School has done for us.</p>	<p>Assistant Superintendent Bill Hamblett: Thank you.</p>
8.	<p>Gabrielle Charlebois Hi, so to echo Daniel, my name is Gabrielle and my husband works for a gentleman who stood up here, Jason White. I'm a small business owner, I work for the corp. and I've pretty much just made ourselves a part of this community. So, we moved here in June and to echo a lot of what Daniel had to struggle with in Whistler, our son is going to be four at the end of the month and he is diagnose with Autism Spectrum Disorder and so we chose, we knew something was up and finally got the diagnosis in November and we chose Sun Peaks because of the four day structure and because two of the four days he is going to be out skiing for PE, which in turn will manage his ability to pay attention in class. His ability to</p>	<p>Assistant Superintendent Hamblett: Thank you.</p>

	<p>continue friendships that he already has fostered in daycare with his peers. His peers support him quite a bit. As well as there's adaptive sports which does assist with children who have different abilities than children who are able to function quite normally. So basically, at the end of the day, we don't fit into a box and we never will. So, for us to go and put our son into a school for five days per week does not make sense for us and it will not support him in the long run and we're going to be enrolling for 2021-2022 so this does impact us long term and our son's success as well, to be an actual functioning member of society long term as well. So, please don't take away four days a week.</p>	
9.	<p>My name is Jenna Allen. I have three kids, two of them are actually in the K-1-2 class which has 31 kids. I am fortunate that I can stay at home and volunteer my time with the teachers. They are doing a tremendous job, so thank you guys. Thank you, Assistant Superintendent, for speaking to the mountain culture and how much we love it up here. We're all getting so emotional because we really love it up here so much. We moved here from Alberta, and just to speak to the tough day, the long day, 6 and 7 – they come home after a full day of school and I wish they were tired. They're outside, building sled tracks in the backyard for another 2 or 3 hours. They are not suffering in the least. They ski two full days on the weekend. They are thriving. They are good at, I feel, almost everything they do and it's certainly not because of me because I had to do group lessons today. But, the community and the school is why we came and it's such an integral part of why everyone comes. People have moved here from probably all the provinces and I've even had a mom from Australia message me today because obviously she couldn't be at this meeting, but her family plan is to move to Sun Peaks and they are in Australia trying to make that happen. So, it's not just BC, it's not just...it's global. The effect that this school has had is global. I am so thankful that you guys are a part of it and that we can move forward together because as Vince and other parents have said, this is such a gem and we have such an opportunity to go beyond traditional boxes and boundaries, so thank you guys so much.</p>	<p>Assistant Superintendent Bill Hamblett: Thank you.</p>
10.	<p>Hi, my name is Barb Kupferschmidt Linder and I was one of the founding parents in 2010. I have a graduate, who graduated two years ago. She was the first graduate to have come through the school from grade 5 up through grade 12 and I have a son currently in grade 11. So, I just wanted to give a little bit of perspective. There was a time when I knew every name on the student list and exactly how many kids were in the class and today I don't recognize most of the parents in this room. So, it's amazing how we have grown since 2010, it's incredible. When I moved here in 1995, there were no homes in the main part of Sun Peaks. Only Burfield Drive. There was the day lodge, and we were building the Sun Peaks Lodge</p>	<p>Assistant Superintendent Bill Hamblett: Thank you.</p>

and the Cahilty Lodge was being built. Kids were not on my radar at the time, but the year 2000 came and we started to have kids and I think most parents that were here when we started with the 19 kids will agree, it was pretty tough times for daycare in those days at that time. I want to remind people that when the school started, SD73 was there to support us and has continued to support us, so we've always been a part of SD73 through the @KOOL and you and @KOOL have done a fabulous job of helping us out up here. The @KOOL program itself has grown tremendously in the past ten years, there's been a lot of changes there. But, coming back to the four day week, we put a lot of thought into that as well here starting it up and one of the main things was childcare, people working and what do we do with our kids at 2:30 pm if we follow the regular school day. For me, I also look at the safety on the mountain. I'm dressed like this because I just came off the ski hill before I came here. But there's a safety issue out there, in my opinion. There's a lot of young kids, there's 100 kids in the elementary and the ski hill is open until 3:30 pm. The lifts are turning, and I know when we originally started, we had the kids outfitted in the jackets and today they wear the vests, but the older kids don't wear the marked jackets anymore and they're not really the concern. But, I think it is something that I would ask the trustees to consider. When our kids are on a five day week and they're being dismissed at an earlier time when the lifts are still turning, is there a need for parent volunteers to be out there, looking out for younger students that might have that opportunity to get up the mountain without supervision. So, that's something that hasn't been mentioned, but it's something that we thought about ten years ago and I think it's something still to be considered. From having a graduating student having done the four day week and my current grade 11, you know, I can't say enough good things about how it has shaped them. My daughter went through the ski instructor program. Level II, got credits for it through @KOOL, she worked for the resort sometimes two or three days a week. I'd be lying if I said that sometimes four days a week is – some kids will need the extra day to do some extra homework. I have two kids that are on different sides of the spectrum. One needed the extra day to catch up and one has used the fifth day, the Friday, to get ahead. So, there's definitely benefits and disadvantages to both sides, but I think it can help out a wide spectrum of kids, having that extra day, academically. My son has been able to race in the race program so when he was competitively racing, the training if Friday, Saturday, Sunday, there wasn't a day that he missed of school due to the training. He also, in the summer, I think he started in grade 8, he worked for the municipality and that gave him encouragement to go into the trades and technology program in grade 10 and he'll be doing his millwright program in grade 12. So, I would also like to point out that SD73 has been very forward thinking in those kinds of programs; Trades and

	<p>Technology, the International Baccalaureate Program, so I would ask you to take that same attitude with regard to Sun Peaks, as a special spot in your scheduling because those programs are very successful, but they also run on a different time schedule so I wonder if we couldn't be looked at in the same light as those programs because they've been very successful. I'd just like to thank you personally for accepting us up here at Sun Peaks and supporting us in many different ways and I hope that continues to be the case as we move forward. It's been great to see the community grow as quickly as it has, from 19 students to 130 and to see some of the teachers that have come full circle and helped us get here. Thank you very much.</p>	
11.	<p>Jenny Hawes I wanted to read a letter from a student who recently graduated from Sun Peaks Education Society. She was not able to be here tonight. I think there's a copy of that letter here, from Darby? Yes, ok, so I won't read it but I would bring your attention to it then, because I think it's special what she's written. She's very passionate about our community and very engaged, so..thank you.</p>	<p>Assistant Superintendent Bill Hamblett: Thank you for drawing that to our attention and trustees and staff do have a copy of that and it will form part of the material we review.</p>
12.	<p>Hi there, my name is Katja Roberts and we have been in this community since 2001. My husband and I came here and never thought anything but just spending a season in Sun Peaks and here we are, 3 kids later, couple vehicles, different houses, and here we are today. So, my son was in kindergarten in 2010 when we opened the school up here and he's now in grade 10. So, he's the only kid that is left that started in kindergarten and has done his entire schooling, so he's quite proud of that, actually. So, we'll see if he is the first kid that actually graduates after completing all his schooling in Sun Peaks. All my children absolutely love this school. We as a family are here because this has worked and has grown so incredible in those eighteen years that we've been here. The community has changed. There weren't that many families there but now look at us. People are choosing to come here and its incredible to me to hear of people moving from New Zealand, from England, I'm personally from Germany, but I didn't move from Germany to come with my kids, but some other people have made this choice and it's really showing that we have something to offer. Our kids are using the Friday. We definitely use the Friday for the extra-curricular activities. The other things kids do need to learn, other sports that are complimentary to what they're doing. Because of who we are and where we live, a lot of the kids are involved in the racing programs or the freestyle programs. But those things also require a lot of travel, a lot of extra cross-training, that we do make available to them on that Friday. The kids are not missing any days in school. I have so many report cards where none of my kids missed one day of school so it really does work. Now I'm lucky that my oldest can look after my youngest so we are no longer in need of childcare but it</p>	

	<p>certainly wasn't like that before. Sun Peaks does not offer childcare facilities for long term residents, or it's very difficult, or there's no preschool things being offered in the future. So, those are all aspects, as a parent, we really are worried about if we shorten the day as well, as who will be looking after our children after 2:30 pm. And so, this way, we have been here for the entire time and our entire family life has been built around this schedule and it really works. People are moving into the community knowing the schedule and so they know that this is how they have to make it work. So, I really appreciate you guys letting us speak and hearing our thoughts and please take it into consideration. Thank you.</p>	
13.	<p>Jenny Hawes – I think that's everybody. I just wanted to again reiterate the community's support for this planning and thank you very much for your attention tonight and consideration of the concerns and the great stories that we've heard here tonight from our community. We're all very proud, as you can tell, about our community and appreciate your attention, so thank you.</p>	
14.		<p>Assistant Superintendent Hamblett: Thank you. One thing I was going to mention, that I missed, was that some people might want a paper copy, so there are paper copies by Dana Heyman and Dawn Forsey [Executive Assistants] there on the table, so if you want to put your thoughts down on paper and turn those in to Principal Johnson, he will forward those along to the Board Office. At this point, I'll turn it over to Chair Karpuk for some closing remarks.</p>
15.		<p>Chair Karpuk – assure you that we do listen to what you say and will take it seriously. Look at all the effects such as teacher contracts, etc. will be considering all facts, no decision has been made, will be making it in March when you've had a chance to provide your comments, questions and feedback. Thank you all for coming, we very much appreciate it.</p>

Closing Remarks –

Board Chair Karpuk –

Thank you all for coming out. We really appreciate the passion that you have for your school that is evident with the number of people that are in this room. I just wanted to assure you that we do listen to everything that you say, we take it very seriously. We will not make any decisions without really fully contemplating all the effects and looking at all the different things that weigh into what we have to deal with. Unfortunately, there are some things, such as teacher contracts, legislation, instructional hours, those are things that do affect how we're able to operate schools. So we will definitely be considering everything that you've said tonight and all those impacts that you have shared with us. We will make sure that we weigh those very, very carefully when we make our decision. So, no decision has been made yet. We'll be making it on March 9, 2020, after you've had a chance to add more to the conversation and again, I encourage you to send in more feedback if you have other things that you want to add on. We have the email, you can access it through the website (www.sd73.bc.ca), and the paper forms if you're not comfortable with that. But, we take everything that you have to say very seriously and it will be considered when we make our decision. So, thank you all for coming. We very much appreciate it.