



January 30, 2023

Ms. Subrina Monteith
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen - Area "I" Director

Via email: smonteith@rdos.bc.ca

Dear Director Monteith:

Re: Review of School District Boundaries

We are writing to you on behalf of the Board of Education of School District No. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen) and the Board of Education of School District No. 67 (Okanagan-Skaha) with regards to recent and ongoing requests to legally change the boundaries between the two districts to move Apex Resort Village to School District No. 67.

Both school boards acknowledge that even though Apex Mountain Resort Village is within the boundaries of School District No. 53, children from the village have historically attended School District No. 67's schools due to the proximity of the village to Penticton. This has never been an issue with either district as it was understood that given the distance and condition of the roads between the village and schools in the Similkameen Valley it made sense that Apex Village children attend school in Penticton. School District No. 53 and School District No. 67 agree that while Apex students are part of SD 53 boundaries, they may request through cross district transfer process to be registered in School District No. 67 (Okanagan-Skaha). These requests have been accepted historically by SD 67, and will continue to be moving forward.

Both school boards also agree that we will not formally enter the process outlined by the Ministry of Education and Child Care for legal boundary changes for the following reasons:

- Both districts agree that Apex students may choose to register in SD No. 67 (Okanagan-Skaha) through cross district transfer process.
- The boundary change process is complex requiring a fulsome review of all areas, school capacity, busing, rationale, public and community consultation views of municipal councils, First Nations and other interest groups among many other factors. SD No. 53 and SD No. 67 boundaries are in close proximity to many communities: Okanagan Falls and Skaha Estates which are part of SD 53, and Twin Lakes which is part of SD 67 for example. The districts will have to be open to reviewing these boundaries as well which will leave some schools in SD No. 53 in more vulnerable positions.

- A boundary change does not dictate which school the community of Apex would attend. That process, along with any request for specific school or classes, is out of the scope of a boundary change, and instead part of the operational planning of SD No. 67.
- For more than a decade, Apex families have been accommodated in SD No. 67 following a cross district transfer process.

Thank you for continuing to advocate for Apex families. We believe the agreement between the two districts supports Apex families to register in SD No. 67.

Any processes or requests however, on specific schools, is a process to be discussed with SD No. 67 and not one through a boundary review process.

Yours Sincerely,



Rob Zandee
Chair, Board of Education
School District No. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen)



James Palanio
Chair, Board of Education
School District No. 67 (Okanagan-Skaha)

- c. Trustees, Board of Education, School District No. 53
Trustees, Board of Education, School District No. 67
Bill Newell, CAO RDOS
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Suzanne Hoffman, CEO BCSTA
Christina Zacharuk, Deputy Minister Education and Child Care
Bev Young, Superintendent of Schools, School District No. 53
Todd Manuel, Superintendent of Schools, School District No. 67