



## Staff Report to the Board of Education

December 14, 2022

### PROPOSED POLICY ON OKIB IR#1 WITHIN SD22 CATCHMENT

Adrian Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer

#### RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends the Board adopt the following motion:

*That Board Policy No. 210 'School District Boundaries Impacting OKIB Indian Reserve No. 1' be approved for circulation; and further*

*That Board Policy No. 210 'School District Boundaries Impacting OKIB Indian Reserve No. 1' be distributed for comments and further input in accordance with Board Policy No. 140.*

If adopted, this policy will be the initial policy in section 200, 'Relationships and Engagement'.

#### POLICY LINK TO RECOMMENDATION

Board Policy 140, 'Policy Development, Currency and Revision' includes the following statement:

*The need for a new policy or revisions to existing policy may be identified by the Board, the Superintendent, Secretary Treasurer, or as a result of Board Standing or Working Committee recommendations or Ministry of Education and Child Care requirements.*

The Superintendent has identified the need for this policy to follow the Board's strategic plan.

Board Policy 110, 'Strategic Planning', includes the following statement:

*The district Strategic Plan will be maintained to establish the direction for student learning and the resulting decision making and resource allocation for the district...*

The district Strategic Plan contains the following goal under Community Connections:

- *Fulfill our public responsibility to Indigenous communities: First Nation, Metis, Inuit.*

The recommended policy ensures SD22 can provide all OKIB students living on IR#1 the same opportunities, no matter where on the reserve they live.



## REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

The attached staff report dated June 15, 2022, provides background and a motion adopted by the Board at the June 15, 2022, Board Meeting.

The required consultation process is moving slowly, with little progress made to date. The required 'metes and bounds' description of the new proposed catchment area is an archaic method of describing boundaries and will take some time to prepare.

Furthermore, the proposed change will take the School District's boundaries out of alignment with the Regional District's. This creates complications for election and Trustee Electoral Area administration.

The Superintendent remains committed to navigating those challenges. Once these challenges are overcome, the Minister may take some time to consider the request.

In the meantime, the Superintendent recommends that the Board adopt a policy which ensures all OKIB students resident in IR#1 have equal opportunity of access to an education at a School District school.

Chief Louis raises the concern that 'Having Indian Reserve lands split between school districts only creates confusion for school bus transportation and increases the risk for the loss of local Indigenous children learning their language and practicing their culture between family and other community members living on other areas of these reserve lands.'

Adopting a policy which ensures all OKIB students residing on IR#1 are entitled to the same rights under policy as any student residing within the SD22 catchment area is a practical step towards mitigating those concerns.