|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Shelley Green, Deputy Superintendent**  250-475-4117**Greg Kitchen, Associate Superintendent**  250-475-4133**Deb Whitten, Associate Superintendent** 250-475-4220 |

 556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, British Columbia V8Z 1E8 Fax: 250-475-4115

**MEMO**

**From: Deb Whitten, Associate Superintendent**

**To: Education Policy Committee**

**Date: November 6, 2017**

**RE: Supports for children and families in elementary school**

The purpose of this memo is to provide a report and recommendation on elementary counselling supports as per the September 25, 2017 Board motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) request that the Superintendent provide a report and recommendation on elementary counselling supports for elementary children and their families for the November 2017 Education Policy and Directions meeting.

The Superintendent and I met with elementary counsellors to discuss current supports for elementary children and their families. The counsellors shared current struggles with regards to the staffing allocations and the time required to create and maintain files for students with a ‘H’ designation (Intensive Behaviour Intervention/Serious Mental Illness).

As a result changes have been made regarding the submission of the files for students with an ‘H’ designation. In addition to these changes, the Superintendent and I have explored other options to increase the support for students and their families in elementary schools.

There are three models are: a ‘Base + model’ of support for elementary schools; a ‘Whole School Inclusive Service Delivery model’; and a ‘Profile’ funding structure for the ‘H’ designation. The models will provide sustainable, proactive and preventative counselling and supports to students and families in elementary school.

Recommendations:

1. The Superintendent and Associate Superintendent Whitten work with elementary principals and their staff to identify schools interested in implementing a ‘Whole School Inclusive Service Delivery’ model for the 2018-2019 school year.
2. The Superintendent and Associate Superintendent Whitten work with the Inclusive Learning Team and the Ministry of Education to provide profile funding to schools for students with an ‘H’ Ministry designation.
3. The Superintendent and Associate Superintendent Whitten continue to meet with the itinerant staff, school based teams and elementary principals to discuss other supports including the Base + model.