February 9, 2022

To: The Board of School Trustees

Superintendent of Schools

Secretary-Treasurer

School District 51 (Boundary)

PO Box 640

Grand Forks, B.C. V0H 1H0

Dear: Board of School Trustees, Superintendent of Schools, and Secretary-Treasurer

This letter is submitted in response to the proposed closure of Midway Elementary school, on behalf of affected individuals who choose to present their response in this collective manner. This submission represents Concerned Parents, Stakeholders, Taxpayers and Community Residents.

Please be advised that we, as a very concerned representative group,

ADAMANTLY OPPOSE THE PERMANENT CLOSURE OF MIDWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We have reviewed all the Board's presentation materials and rationale for initiating this process, and we feel that the conditions cited by the Board also apply to other schools in the district, as well as many schools in the province. Our conviction is that the reasons presented by the Board DO NOT constitute a rush decision for permanent closure.

Midway Elementary is a pivotal and critically important component of our community. This unique, cordial facility provides an excellent and effective space that embraces and nurtures young students in their formative years to be educated, be active and learn socialization skills. The caring teachers and support staff provide excellent and effective education for our young children. To undertake such an impactful decision without ample time to review and resolve Board stated issues is less than appropriate. We do not concur that your timeline offers the adequate amount of time to discuss the issues, explore options and consider alternatives properly, fairly, and effectively.

We have a myriad of responses and solutions we would like to discuss regarding each of your points you raised as rationale for closure. But we feel the much better and more effective approach at this time is to have face-to-face discussions and develop solutions to the areas of concerns you have submitted as a Board. As such, we would like to:

1. **Request** the Board **immediately stop the process for school closure of Midway Elementary** so that a plan for a more affirmative and unified effort is formulated and can be utilized to find resolutions to ensure the school remains open.
2. **Inform** the Board that we prefer a collective and proactive process where **we form a committee of concerned stakeholders that will work in harmony with the Board** to carefully review perceived issues, mitigate those issues and find solutions in a cooperative and consensus style manner.

3. **Request** the Board implement a **5-year plan of remediation** where ongoing communication with the established committee continues to work cooperatively with the Board to review and adequately assess circumstances, options and collectively reach decisions based on the educational aspirations of the local community as per designated responsibilities of a Board.

We believe that we could and should use the public platform scheduled for February 24 in Midway to establish and launch the process described above. To initiate dialogue and potential strategies would be much more productive and positive than a 'back and forth' between Board rationale and Community opposition. We would prefer this more harmonized effort to find solutions.

Closing a school has huge negative and diverse impacts on students and the community. The reality is that once a school is closed it will not be reopened. The consequence is that future primary aged children in Midway will always be bused, regardless of increased enrollment in the community.

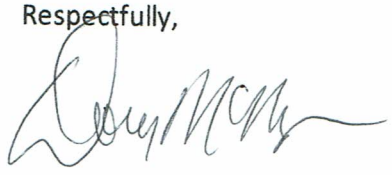
No one represented in this letter supports the Board's proposal for closure of Midway Elementary. **We are offering to, and advocate for, working with you to resolve issues and make this a win/win for the Students, the Stakeholders, and the Board.**

You have been elected as our representatives and as such are the advocates for public education of children and the public at large. Please consider that **every one of the hundreds of individuals** who signed the petitions we are submitting are requesting that you listen to us and that you fulfil your role as proponents of the wishes of your constituents who also advocate for children.

Please advise us in writing as soon as possible (we request at least one week in advance of the next public meeting) the Board's thoughts or decision with respect to the proposal we have submitted in this letter so we can prepare for the February 24 meeting.

Thank you in advance for recognizing the importance of using this strategy as an implement for successful amelioration. We look forward to working with you!

Respectfully,



Doug McMynn

Submitted on behalf of the Representative Group of Concerned Stakeholders including but not limited to Fred Marshall, Jane Marshall, Heinz Kreuzer, Marilyn Hanson, Rick Hanson, Tasha Ho, Stephanie Neufeld, Tia Nordstrom, Emily Kreuzer, Barb Kowalik, Jackie McMynn and Barb Hisey regarding Closure of Midway Elementary School.

If you would like to contact myself or the committee please email me at dcmcmynn@shaw.ca or phone me at (250)449-8545.