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TO: The Board of Education and the Shoreline Community

FROM: Mark Walsh, Secretary-Treasurer

DATE: May 13, 2016

RE: **Seismic Update**

Background:

As you are aware, the Ministry of Education has not approved the seismic upgrade proposed for Shoreline Middle slated for the 2016-17 school year.

This memo is intended as background on the decision and future seismic intentions at Shoreline.

Q: Was Shoreline's seismic upgrading cancelled?

A: The Ministry has not cancelled the seismic upgrade. At this time the Ministry has not approved the project moving forward. The Ministry will review the project in future when the District has a long-term facilities plan in place.

Q: Why did the Ministry not approve the project?

A: The Ministry reviewed the utilization numbers of the facility (63% according to the numbers) and felt that without a long-term District facilities plan in place that the utilization rate did not support upgrading at this time.

Q: Does this mean that the school is at risk of closure?

A: No, Shoreline is part of the long-term plans of the District. It is an important part of the Esquimalt Family of Schools and is uniquely placed geographically to serve the local community. Further, given the continued growth of French Immersion in the District we also believe that Shoreline's future utilization rates will rise.

Q: When will we get upgraded?

A: The District is about to start its consultation on its long-term facilities plan. Part of that discussion will include Shoreline and how we will ensure that it will get its seismic upgrade.

Q: Are our children safe?

A: Shoreline does have a seismic safety rating that needs improvement. The District has a number of facilities with a similar rating. We are optimistic that given our track record of seismic upgrading that, working with the Ministry, our upgrade program, including Shoreline, will be complete well in advance of the Ministry's timelines.