

Subject Board cannot refuse to allow a public consultation process to be initiated when consider school closure(s)

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Hello Everyone,

The Board can not decide whether they are going to invoke the public consultation process or not if they are considering closing any school.

When considering a school closure, they do not have the right to refuse to initiate the public consultation process, by not making and approving a motion to allow the school Closure policy (3040) to be initiated.

The Qualicum School District (QSD) Board and Admin staff must comply with the School Opening and Closure Order, authorized by the School Act, requiring a pcp when considering a school closure.

They most certainly cannot announce consideration of a school closure, then pass first reading shortening the consultation period (as was done at the January 2011 board meeting without due process as described by the DPAC and MATA reps).

When considering a school closure, the school board and staff must take into consideration population forecasts, transportation etc. They must also provide relevant information to the community.

The Matrix report provides some information but I would like to see all relevant information including the enrolment back to at least when the school(s) being considered for closure were opened Did it help to put into perspective the changes in enrolment by going back to 1983? Shouldn't the consultants report provide this... how can it refer to 2004 to 2010 only when trying to look to 2024?

Also, would it be helpful to include the historical positive net migration into the forecast and would it be worthwhile to run the funding formula with the revised numbers?

Public Consultation is not only necessary, but it can be, should be, beneficial for people to understand the issues, review the methods and models, ask questions, receive clear, well explained answers as befitting an education oriented organization. This process must be open to the community so that the community has an adequate opportunity to respond and assist in finding alternatives.

Since a pcp has been initiated, the consultants coming to town (Baragar soon?) should be making presentations open to the public. Anything else is just silliness.

A well run administration needs to keep records, and should know where they are, and willing to provide the data, in machine readable format. As well, they should understand the processes that must be applied.

As mentioned, this is an opportunity to bring lessons in pcps and in examining issues into the class room. Also this is of interest to young and old and an opportunity for learning across age groups.

Step by step,

Warren