

Qualicum School District
Facilities Review
INFORMATION SESSION
SUMMARY #1

Population Change
and
Fluctuating Enrolment

by
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On October 2, 2010, the Qualicum School District 69 administration presented 3 proposals, all requiring the closure of Kwalikum Secondary School (KSS), the only high school in the town of Qualicum Beach. KSS opened close to 30 years ago, in 1983.

The deadline for a decision by December 14, 2010 was dropped, because of the 120 day Public Consultation requirement.

Concerned citizens continue to ask questions about the reasons used to justify the proposed closure in an effort to help provide alternatives to a permanent closure.

Questions include finding out more about enrolment, capacity and utilization rates, transportation cost forecasts, as well as seeing how the funding formula is run.

Instead of providing the public with requested information in a timely manner, the district administration began an effort to restrict the public consultation by half, to 60 days. This time limit would have allowed the closure to pass in December 2010.

Some of the enrolment data requested prior to Oct. 2, has been made public. It shows that the forecast total enrolment low point will still be higher than the mid 1980's total enrolment, highlighting the fact that the current funding formula penalizes school districts that accommodate increases in enrolment.

If KSS did not expand to accommodate growth (the expansion opened in September 2003), the closure of KSS would not have been proposed 7 years and one month later, in October 2010.

For more information, email publicconsultation@shaw.ca