

Subject Phase 1 background information ?
From Warren Munroe <publicconsultationadvocacy@Shaw.ca>
Date Monday, October 31, 2011 12:40 pm
To jansell@sd69.bc.ca

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October 31, 2010

Mr. Jim Ansell, Superintendent of Schools
School District No. 069 (Qualicum)
PO Box 430, Parksville, BC, V9P 2G5,

Sir,

I am a resident of the Qualicum School District. I am concerned about the Facility Review and the recommendation to close a school.

I would like to see the information being provided during Phase 1 of the community dialogue process, referred to in the September 6, 2011 QSD69 Announcement titled TOUGH DECISIONS – FUTURE POSSIBILITIES:

"The focus of these meetings will be to provide background information and to define the problem facing the district, and to gather the beliefs and values of the community in regards to education." (link below)

Also, I would like to see the minutes of the nine Community Dialogue Committee meetings referred to in the September 6, 2011 QSD69 Announcement, as well as minutes for Community Dialogue Committee meetings held since September 6, 2011. Are these available?

Also, I would like to see the instructions given to the facilitators. The information, minutes and instructions can be posted on the QSD69 webpage.

I have requested this information from Community Dialogue Committee members, but have been told ...

"The background information is being prepared by the superintendent and vetted by the community dialogue committee. It was shared with the facilitators and will be shared with members of the public who attend the dialogue sessions."

... and ...

"I felt very strongly that the information given out during "phase 1" be very basic and deal only with enrollment numbers, funding given by the govt, and the capacities of the schools. My perspective is the less given up front the more people can be free to comment as they will without any preconceived ideas."

My requests for clarification have yet to be answered. Is it true that the background information is only for those who attend these meetings? Also isn't gathering the beliefs and about gathering preconceived ideas?

Please understand, I will not be attending these Community Dialogue Sessions as the focus is

"to gather the beliefs and values of the community in regards to education."

However, I will gladly attend meetings where relevant information can be questioned and clear well explained answers provided, and where information from the community will be gathered. In this manner, corrections and refinements to the information presented by the School District can be made.

For example, the chart used to justify the closure of a school presented in the preliminary report, Oct. 2, 2010, and seen on the front page of a local newspaper Oct. 5 2010, and seen on tv, and incorrectly labeled in the final report (December, 2010) is now corrected with historical numbers provided by the former School District 69 superintendent at www.wminformatics.com/PopGeog/PGForum/QSDFRIS.html.

As you know, the implemented school closure order requires all relevant information be provided. I look forward to seeing more about the methods used to forecast enrolment to 2024, as well as transportation impact studies, as well as studies on capacity ratios and student outcomes, and rerunning the funding formula without the heavy weighting toward more private schools and with the addition of international students.

With all relevant information taxpayers, citizens, communities and all who prefer to be informed can participate in the two-way exchange of information, rather than participating in a process where only beliefs and values are recorded. Questions must be answered, and numbers verified as befitting a public education system dedicated to the best learning experience for all students, and to life long learning..

I have requested information since the October 2, 2010 announcement of the recommendation to close a school, initiating the implemented School Closure Order 3040, requiring all relevant information be provided. I continue to request information relevant to school closures in the Qualicum School District 69. Could you please provide the information requested of the Board members at <http://www.wminformatics.com/PCA/InfoRequest.pdf>.

I plan to provide the requested information to Elder College members thus providing another opportunity to share relevant information to the community. Elder College is also dedicated to life long learning.

Thank you in advance for making sure people are consulted, therefore, by definition able to participate in the two-way exchange of information, as well as opinion.

Warren Munroe, M.A.
Population Analyst
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September 6, 2011 Announcement link
<http://www.sd69.bc.ca/Announcements/Attachments/98/SD69%20Press%20Release-%20September%206.pdf>