

**Subject** Re: OCQE and students  
**From** Warren Munroe <publicconsultationadvocacy@Shaw.ca>  
**Date** Tuesday, June 14, 2011 8:33 am

Hello Everyone,

I agree that students should be included in the public consultation process, whether via the ocqe [oceanside communities for quality education group] or in other ways.

Students should be able to ask questions, and receive clear, well explained answers, just as parents and elders should. Understanding the issues, and helping come up with alternatives could be a part of regular school curriculum courses.

Also, being aware of how public consultation can work well should be part of the education system. Students would not be provided with the best education experience if they came out of high school not being aware of how to participate in community planning and decision making.

For example, every student should know that when a school is being considered for closure, there is a public consultation process to be followed. This includes providing the public with all the relevant information.

Everyone should be aware, including students, parents, board members and the admin staff, that the board doesn't have the authority to decide when the public consultation process begins after publicly announcing they are considering a school closure.

As part of the high school curriculum, students should also be aware of how enrolment forecasts should be done (it's arithmetic). This helps determine whether a permanent closure is being considered or whether a partial, temporary closure is all that may be needed. The time frame helps when considering alternatives.

As well, students (and parents) can learn about capacity measures (the administrators should not be the only ones deciding how packed a school should be), and transportation studies, etc.

Indeed, the public consultation process is an excellent opportunity to help provide the students with the best learning experience.

Since public education is so important, perhaps there should be funding provided to schools that engage students, and the community, in public consultation processes, just as there is money for students to go into the dual credit program.

From my experience, I went into the trades, but when planning issues arose, I was surprised that no one knew how a public consultation process was supposed to work, or that there were very real problems in the information exchange. Then I went to meetings

(in the early 1990's) only to be shown the stats and given three options that were all the same. Our education system should be addressing peps.

As well as golfing, music, electric cars, organic farming, and international students, perhaps a public consultation program open to students, parents and elders, locally and internationally, could be included. With the communities committment, this could be an excellent program.

Public (and private) school lessons in Public Consultation would address the School District's goal of providing the best education experience for all students.

Step by step,

Warren