

Subject clarification of 3040 status and information request status

From Warren Munroe <publicconsultationadvocacy@Shaw.ca>

Date Saturday, June 4, 2011 11:41 am

To Eve Flynn <eflynn@sd69.bc.ca> , Jane Williams <rjwilliam@shaw.ca> , Inez Hutchison <ihutchis@sd69.bc.ca>
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Cc

Hello Qualicum School District Board of Education Trustees,

Could you please clarify the status of requests for information used to justify the recommendations to close a school permanently, as well as the status of the School Closure policy #3040. Regarding the 3040

Is the Qualicum School District Board and Administration required to pass a motion invoking the School Closure policy (3040), prior to following the regulations set out therein? If so, where is this requirement stated?

I refer to the reply to Leona Matte DPAC rep from Eve Flynn Board of Education Chair regarding my request for clarification

From: Eve Flynn [mailto:eflynn@sd69.bc.ca]

Sent: May-30-11 10:04 AM

To: lmatte@shaw.ca; Candice Morgan

Cc: Jane Williams

Subject: Re: Community Dialogue Committee

Hi Leonayou are correct in your analysis. **The Board has not received or passed a motion invoking Policy 3040.** What we are doing now is captured in the last paragraph of the Policy statement.....which we talked about as being "more" or beyond the requirements of the schoolact/ministerial order which defines what "public consultation" shall look like....E.

On Tuesday, May 31, 2011 10:55 am, Leona asked me ...

Why must the current 3040 be referred to when it needs to be revised as it doesn't meet the requirements of the school closure order?

Does not the current 3040 meet the requirements of the Ministry of Education Authorized School Closure Order?

Regarding the Public Consultation Process, it is my understanding that the Qualicum School District (QSD) is considering a school closure; therefore, required to refer to the current school closure order 3040, as per Section 4 of the SCHOOL OPENING AND CLOSURE ORDER, from the BC Ministry of Education that reads:

4. (1) The board must develop and implement a policy that includes a public consultation process with respect to permanent school closures and this policy must be made available to the public.

(2) When considering closing a school permanently, the board must apply the policy referred to in subsection (1).

The Qualicum School District's developed and implemented policy, School Closure Order 3040 Section 3, states ...

Should the Board of Education believe that the closure of a school may be necessary, the following regulations will apply.

3. At least four (4) months prior to any school closure, the Board will advise the respective school staff, PAC and/or SPC and its recognized partner groups (i.e. MATA, CUPE, DPAC, and QDP&VPA) of the potential closure of any specific school. Such advisement will be in writing and/or through formal, scheduled meetings.

The advisement of a school closure was issued at the formal scheduled meetings on September 29, 2010 and on October 2, 2010.

Therefore, is it not the case that the QSD board must refer to the current 3040? Also, shouldn't the board rescind the motion to change the 3040 that passed first reading in January 2011 that reduced timelines from 4 months to two months?

Regarding access to information as required in Public Consultation Processes:

The current 3040 requires that information relevant to the potential closure be provided to the community; Section 4 states ..

Following the advisement noted in Regulation #3 above, the District will meet, prior to the 1st of April in the year the school may be closed, with the following groups to provide information relevant to the potential closure of any specific school:

- a. The respective school staff with Union representatives being invited to participate; and
- b. The parents of the noted school(s); and
- c. The community that is immediately and historically associated with the noted school(s).

The information relevant to the potential closure includes enrolment forecasts, transportation, and alternative uses, as stated in Section 1 of the QSD 3040 ...

1. Where the Board contemplates a school closure, it will take into consideration:
 - b. relevant factors such as enrolment projections, the physical condition of the school, available alternatives for students, catchment areas, effect on transportation services and alternative potential uses for the facility.

As well, relevant factors include those used to justify the closure such as those put forward in the consultant's report, including information used when running the funding formula such as school capacity.

Also, population estimates are to include pre-schoolers, students, as well as adults, as required by Section 5 of the SCHOOL OPENING AND CLOSURE ORDER, ...

- (1) The public consultation process must include:
 - (b) consideration of future enrolment growth in the district of persons of school age, persons of less than school age and adults

I'd like to the board to please make available all the data provided to the consultant (in machine readable formats such as .xls, .csv and shapefiles for the catchment areas) and used to justify the proposal to close a school in order for the community to have an opportunity to better understand the strengths and weaknesses of the methods and models and to verify the results. This information will be provided to the public at open information sessions prior to the closure of any schools.

Open meetings to address the issues used to justify a permanent closure would begin to provide an adequate opportunity for the community to respond and help provide alternatives.

Also, as mentioned, there are some corrections to be made to the final report from Matrix Consulting, for example, the title for Figure 6 of the should be changed from "Enrolment Forecast for All QSD Schools" (page 18) to "Enrolment Forecast for 15 selected QSD Schools".

Also, I have created enrolment population projections. Please let me know if you are interested in seeing them.

Sincerely,

Warren Munroe