



Squamish – Whistler – Pemberton

Monday, November 23, 2009

This past Spring, SD48's Board of Education retained Dr. Robin Brayne to hold consultation meetings throughout the Olympic Corridor (Squamish, Whistler, Pemberton), where students, parents, teachers, support staff, principals/vice principals and the general public were invited to provide their views and have input into the development of the Board of Education's Goals, for 2009-2010.

One of the results of these community consultation meetings was the development of Board Goal 2.5, **RECONFIGURATION OF SCHOOLS**. Specifically to, *“Develop policy options, plans and strategies for possible school reconfigurations, boundary changes, programs of choice/ specialty programs, and school closures made necessary by changes in enrolment patterns.”*

With Goal 2.5 in mind, the Board is considering school reconfiguration options.

- (1) **SCHOOL CLOSURES**. No school closures are being considered.
- (2) **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Reconfiguration** – The Board will hold Public Meetings later this school year (probably April, 2010), to discuss Squamish area elementary school boundaries and the location of elementary district programs of choice (French Immersion).
- (3) **SECONDARY SCHOOL Reconfiguration** – Among the options reviewed, the Board is considering one option for Secondary Schools in Squamish:

Don Ross Secondary School (currently Grades 8, 9 & 10).
Under the new reconfiguration plan being considered,
DRSS would offer Grades 8 and 9 classes only,
for all Squamish area students, and

Howe Sound Secondary School (currently Grades 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12).
Under the new reconfiguration plan being considered,
HSS would offer Graduation Program classes only (Gr. 10, 11 and 12),
for all Squamish area students.

If the Board does proceed with this option, then it will consider a two year implementation plan: phase 1 in September, 2010, and finishing the implementation in phase 2, September, 2011.

There are a number of education advantages to having Squamish area students together in one school location, from the commencement of their Grade 8 year, and in arranging the Grade groupings by school, being considered.

The Board has scheduled two Public Meetings to discuss this Squamish area secondary school reconfiguration option, and invites all interested parties to attend one of the following meetings ...

- Monday, November 30, 2009**
Location: Don Ross Secondary School starting at 6:30 pm.

OR

- Tuesday, December 1, 2009**
Location: Howe Sound Secondary School, starting at 6:30 pm.

The purpose of these Public Meetings is to provide those attending with background information regarding this reconfiguration plan under consideration, and for the Board of Education to receive feedback from interested education partners.

Those unable to attend who may wish to have their views known, should either mail comments to the undersigned at the School Board Office (P.O. Box 250, Squamish, B.C. V8B OA2) so that they are received no later than Friday, Dec. 4, 2009, or proceed to SD48's web site www.sd48.bc.ca for information regarding electronic submissions.

The Board is considering the Squamish area Secondary Schools Reconfiguration option described and seeks your views and comments.

Dave Walden,
Chair, SD48's Board of Education.