



Facilities Renewal – Proposed Closure of Schools

Since 1997, enrolment in the Nanaimo-Ladysmith School District has declined by 2,200 students. This trend is expected to continue for several years and then level off, but enrolment is not expected to return to the levels of 1997 in the foreseeable future.

As a result of declining enrolment, there is currently the equivalent of about 90 empty classrooms in schools throughout the district. When schools are not operating at capacity, it puts pressure on the district's operating budget and prevents the district from making much-needed upgrades to school buildings.

It has been recommended to the Board of Trustees that nine or more elementary schools and at least one secondary school be closed over the next several years, allowing the district to use its operating budget more efficiently and to upgrade the remaining school buildings.

As a first step in that process, the Board of Trustees is considering the closure of two elementary schools in September 2007: Dufferin Crescent Elementary and South Wellington Elementary.

Public Consultation on Closures

There will be a number of opportunities for the public to obtain information and to comment on the proposed closures.

- Written comments and questions may be directed to the Board of Trustees, School District 68, 395 Wakesiah Avenue, Nanaimo B.C. V9R 3K6 or e-mailed to facilitiesrenewal@sd68.bc.ca. In order to be considered by the Board, written comments must be received by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14.
- **Public meeting at Dufferin Crescent Elementary – Tuesday, February 13.** At 6:30 p.m., district staff will be available to provide information and meet informally with individuals. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. at which time there will be a short presentation by district staff, followed by questions and comments from the audience.
- **Public meeting at South Wellington Firehall – Thursday, February 15.** At 6:30 p.m., district staff will be available to provide information and meet informally with individuals. The meeting starts at 7 p.m., at which time there will be a short presentation by district staff, followed by questions and comments from the audience.
- **Public meeting of the Board's Special Business Committee on Monday, March 12 at 6 p.m. in the NDSS Small Gym,** to receive presentations from the public. Presentations must be no longer than 10 minutes and must be booked by Wednesday, March 7 at 4 p.m. To arrange to make a presentation, e-mail facilitiesrenewal@sd68.bc.ca or call 754-5521. If there are too many presentations for one night, the meeting will continue on Tuesday, March 13.

Where to Get More Information

- Detailed information on facilities renewal in School District 68 and the proposed closures is available on the school district website www.sd68.bc.ca
- If you do not have access to the Internet, you may obtain printed copies of the information by calling 754-5521.

Consideration by the Board

The following public meetings are currently scheduled for the Board of Trustees to consider the proposed closures:

- **Special meeting of the Board's Business Committee – Wednesday, March 28 at 6 p.m. in the Board Room at 395 Wakesiah Avenue, Nanaimo.** A report and recommendations from staff will be presented at this meeting and partner group representatives who sit on the committee will have an opportunity to discuss the recommendations with trustees.
- **Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees – Wednesday, April 4 at 6 p.m.** The Board will consider the input received on the proposed closures and the recommendations from staff.