



School District 62 (Sooke)
Community/Stakeholder Consultation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Introduction

The Board of Education of School District No. 62 (Sooke) received support from the Province of British Columbia on October 31, 2012 to replace Belmont Secondary School with two new secondary schools.

The School District engaged consulting services to assist school district staff in obtaining input from residents of the Westshore communities to allow the Board to make informed decisions about the requirements for the design of the two new schools.

Key areas of consultation included:

- School design considerations
- School programming
- Neighbourhood Learning Centres
- Naming of the schools

Consultation Process

Over five months between February and June 2012, the District met with key stakeholders and held public information sessions to determine community interest in enhanced educational programs, as well as support for community neighbourhood learning centres.

Key stakeholder consultations occurred during February – April 2012. The District and consultants met with representatives from the City of Langford, City of Colwood, Westshore Chamber of Commerce, school district staff, Principal/Vice-Principals, teachers, students and aboriginal stakeholders to discuss plans for the two new schools, as well as to consider the opportunities related to the Minister of Education's Neighbourhood Learning Centres (NLC) program.

A series of three public open houses and information sessions were held in March 2012 at Belmont Secondary School. These sessions informed the broader community about the planning process and sought feedback on the project plan for the two new schools. Open houses in June 2012 shared the compiled stakeholder and public feedback and recommendations with the broader public and community prior to the final plan being submitted to the Board of Education.

The stakeholder meetings and open houses met the objectives of providing an opportunity for stakeholders and the public to view the project overview and submit their feedback. Overall, the community consultation process engaged with over 450 stakeholders and members of the public.

Findings and Recommendations

The community strongly supported the vision of:

Two vibrant comprehensive secondary schools that will provide inspiring learning opportunities to meet the needs of tomorrow's learners today and act as a community centre and gathering place for the next 50 years and beyond.

The community is fully supportive of the replacement of Belmont Secondary School with two comprehensive secondary schools and is very supportive of the Neighbourhood Learning Centres (NLC) for each school.

Facility Design

- Develop welcoming gathering places so school is a place where students want to be
- Technology infrastructure needs to be both functional and dependable.
- Sustainability and low environmental impacts must be a design focus.

Education Programs

- Both schools offer comprehensive secondary programs that provide a full range of program choice, including academic, athletic, fine arts, technical, distributed learning, student services and special education programs at each site.
- Enhanced programs be established at each school that take advantage of the facility and community focus identified. Academies and related programs be initiated.
- Common timetables be established to permit student access to courses across sites.
- Both schools have access to AP and AVID programs, dual credit opportunities as well as having access to international student placements.
- The staffing processes for teaching and non-teaching positions need to be confirmed and implemented early to allow effective program development at the affected schools.
- The technology levels both for infrastructure and equipment that will be provided as part of the base school will impact the instructional programs and should be part of the initial discussions.

Neighbourhood Learning Centre Programs

Three themes for NLC programs were identified through the consultation process:

1. Child and family support
2. Sports and recreation
3. Arts and culture

The Ministry of Education is supportive of the types of programs identified by the community for the NLC for each school. Community agencies are also supportive of the general concept of a shared use family support centre.

The following table contains the recommendations for NLC programs and space for each school. An explanation of the areas follows the table.

NLC Proposed Area Allocation for Glen Lake site and Royal Bay Site			
Program Activity	SM	Base Plan	
		G.L.	R.B.
Family Support Centre	125	X	X
Childcare	200	X	
Multipurpose & kitchen	120	X	
Aboriginal Long House & MP kitchen	160		X
READ Society	30	X	
Education Centre	400	X	
Community Coordinator	45	X	X
Carnegie	480		X
Expand Small Gym to second main school gym	500	X	
Expanded drama from 250 sm to 690 sm theatre (NLC)	440		X
Design space	735	X	X
Total Requested Area (sm)	3235	1765	1470
Allowable NLC Area		1765	1470
Shortfall		0	0

The West Shore Parks and Recreation Society is prepared to manage the NLC program space on behalf of the Board of Education as they currently do with other school facilities.

School Name Suggestions

There were 12 names provided as suggestions; the most supported include the following:
Glen Lake site

- Belmont Senior Secondary

Royal Bay site

- Royal Bay Secondary or Royal Bay Community School

Next Steps

Should the Board of Education accept this report the next steps would include:

- selection of the educational programs for each school with the involvement of key staff;
- finalizing the business arrangements with Westshore Parks and Recreation Society, Pacific Centre Family Services Association, Camosun College and the READ Society;
- finalizing arrangements with the City of Langford and the City of Colwood on potential program enhancements and subsequent joint use agreements
- finalize the Project Definition Report to the Ministry of Education in support of the Project Agreement approval for the two schools.

Closing

The Consultant Team appreciates the opportunity to work with the Board of Education and the school community at a time when this exciting project has gained the support of the Province and is moving to fruition. It is clear the the Community is very supportive of the two comprehensive schools with neighbourhood learning centres and is anxious to see construction proceed quickly.

As you know, School District No. 62 (Sooke) is a rapidly growing district and an exciting place to be at this time. The two new secondary schools and the grade change at the middle schools will allow for redevelopment of your educational programs and allow you to continue *Shaping Tomorrow Today*.