



County Line Elementary Site Committee Meeting Tuesday, January 26, 2010 3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

- A) Introductions
- B) Agenda

- 1) Composition/intent of the site committee in attendance:
- Omer Magusin, PAC President
 - Mike Haladin, PAC Parent Rep.
 - Brenda Verhelst, Administrative Assistant, CUPE
 - Kathy Janzen, Teacher, LTA
 - Charlie Etchell, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
 - Suzanne Hoffman, District Principal
 - Kirsten Ulmer, Principal
 - Alice Boyd, Executive Assistant
 - Record minutes
 - Collate information
 - Create member list serve

<p>A) Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlie/Suzanne discussed the purpose of the site committee – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify issues/questions which may arise from community consultations - Gather information and answer questions/concerns • Suzanne will be the contact and Chair of this committee. Direct comments/questions to Suzanne via email to Alice Boyd (a Boyd@sd35.bc.ca)
<p>B) Agenda</p> <p>1) Composition/intent of the site committee: As listed above in attendance.</p>
<p>2) Timeline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 19, 2010 – March 23, 2010 • Community Meeting with the Board – March 18, 2010 • Public Board Meeting – March 23, 2010 (decision)
<p>As part of the review process, a community meeting will be held at County Line Elementary on March 18, 2010 with Trustees and senior staff. This meeting is an opportunity for parents and community members to provide their input prior to the Board making its final decision on the status of the school on March 23, 2010. As per the Board's past practice, presenters are limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes each.</p>
<p>3) Document Sharing (handouts, also available on line)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Closure – Policy 5029 • Board Recommendation

4) Preparation/make-up of report

- identify issues/questions which may arise from community consultations
- site committee to gather information related to those questions/concerns
- Secretary-Treasurer writes the report

5) Communication

- through site committee members
- newsletters
- local newspapers (outlining process)
- written submissions from the public
- delegations to Board meetings

February 16, 2010 (**it was advised by the Committee that there will be a delegation at this meeting**)

March 18, 2010 (Community Meeting)

6) Future meeting dates

February 9, 2010
February 23, 2010
March 2, 2010

7) Questions: As attached.



County Line Elementary
Site Committee
Tuesday, January 26, 2010
Questions

Questions from PAC President

1. What do we have to do to keep the school open?

The Board of Education is going through a 60 day process and it needs to hear community feedback to inform its decision. The community is able to have delegations at the Public Board Meetings, make presentations at the community meeting with the Board and express concerns via emails and letters.

2. What does the base allocation of \$95,180 mean?

All elementary schools receive the same base allocation to cover basic and essential services. This is a district decision. Additional funding goes to schools on a per pupil funding basis.

3. What is an acceptable number of students?

The Board would be looking for immediate growth, potential for sustaining growth and the long-term viability of the student population.

4. Is the Computers on Wheels program hurting County Line financially?

No, Computers on Wheels (COWS) are paid for out of district funds, not County Line funds. The COWS program is a district initiative.

5. How are the school assets going to be dispersed?

It has been the district's practice to have existing resources move with the students to their new school(s) to supplement existing resources. This would not apply to the COWS as they are part of a district initiative and considered district equipment. Any resources deemed surplus would be dispersed to other schools that would benefit from receiving them.

6. Where will the playground equipment go?

The playground equipment falls into the same category as other school assets - it could follow the children. This would depend on the age of the equipment (an assessment would be completed and the Maintenance Department would advise the district on costs and issues related to safety.)

7. What will the class break down for North Otter be next year?

See attached Grids

Questions from Parents

1. What can County Line do to keep from closing?

The Board of Education took the following into consideration when approving a recommendation for consideration of a closure -

- **the enrolment, enrolment pattern and future enrolment projections**
- **the school's ability to provide programming and services to support student achievement given the enrolment**
- **the need to consider consolidation of programs to benefit students within that school and across the district**
- **the impact on surrounding schools and the ability of surrounding schools to accept students from the closed school**
- **specific program implications for students**
- **the financial impact of being able to maximize services to all schools**

2. How were the numbers for the projection of future student enrolment determined?

The district has software that uses population base, birth data, HRC and Revenue Canada data as well as historical data to determine projected enrolment of students. As a start the District looks at catchment participation and out of catchment numbers and retention rates. We also hold data on birth rates and migration rates and there is the ability to input new housing developments with student yield rates.

3. What is the cost to run a fundamental school as compared to County Line?

County Line – cost per student \$7,784

Fundamental Elementary – cost per student \$5,823

4. What measures is the Langley School Board taking to cut costs? i.e. some BC school districts have board wide Pro-D days.

The Board of Education has cut a Senior Management position and reduced the number of Principals and Vice-Principals and Managers. Significant cuts were made to central services for the 09/10 school year and a number of central office positions have not been filled over the course of this school year. The Board has developed a plan to reduce expenditure in a number of areas and that is available on the website.

5. What programs is County Line school lacking?

County Line has offered, at a minimal level, some of the same programming as other schools. Funds are provided to support programs by the District, in addition to the allocation. \$17,400 was provided for this extra service beyond the base allocation and the school was given an extra teacher so that a three grade combined class was not created.

6. Can special programs be introduced to encourage new students to enroll? For example special reading programs?

Suzanne Hoffman is to receive more information from the Site Committee parents. eg. an Abbotsford reading program.

7. It has been said that the school is at the age when it will need upgrades. What do these upgrades include and how much would they cost?

There is significant work to be done at County Line in the coming years:

- replacement of building mechanical equipment	\$750,000
- roof replacement	\$400,000
- fire arm panel replacement	\$ 20,000
- gym floor	\$ 8,000
- painting	\$ 30,000
- floor replacement	\$ 5,000
- P.A. replacement	\$ 15,000
	<u>\$ 1,228,000</u>

**(Replacement gym flooring is 5 years away \$80,000)
(Full internal painting is 5 years away \$40,000)**

Further Questions from Parents -

1. What will the bus routes look like?

Bus routes are determined by the Transportation Department in late spring when enrolments are confirmed. They are based where students reside.

2. How many students left the district in the past when schools were closed. eg. South Carvolth as they were close to the Surrey border. Is there historical information from past closures?

In September 2005 (the last 1701 before South Carvolth was closed), South Carvolth had 82 students. Of those 82, 39 returned to Langley in September 2006.

Some students who left in 2006, returned to Langley at the beginning of September.

3. Would counseling be available if County Line were to close for County Line families?

Yes.

Requests from Committee:

1. County Line budgets for the last 4 years (08/09, 07/08, 06/07,05/06). We would like to see the books to help us understand how the school was run in the past, if the budgets were balanced and how (have current 09/10 budget).
Will be provided at next site meeting.
2. Parents have asked for information on the School District going forward and specifically on North Otter and would like to compare them both.
3. Copy of “deficit elimination plan” submitted to the Ministry of Education.
Available on the website – Public document
4. FSA results for County Line and North Otter *
Available on the website. District to provide copies of the County Line and North Otter FSA results as well as a link to the Ministry Site at the next site meeting. The link to the Ministry website is <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/>
5. District Achievement Contract results for County Line and North Otter. **
Parents on the Site Committee will receive school plans for both North Otter and County Line as well as some information from the District Achievement Contract.

**** FSA results were emailed to the Committee Thursday, February 2, 2010 at 10:18 a.m.***

*****School Plans were emailed to Mike Haladin and Omer Magusin on Friday, January 29 @ 11:24 a.m.***

Comments from the Committee:

- Every child at County Line participates in programs, team sports, etc. there are no tryouts, as compared to larger schools. Participation is encouraged.
- Personal comment – It is not appreciated when comments are made by parents at other schools or members of other communities. e.g. “you guys are still open?”