



# Key Community Leaders Meeting Discussion Results April 18, 2007 Meeting

- 1. Please provide input on the direction the Board is taking the Division with respect to the implementation of the Utilization Plan.***

## **Group #1 & #2**

- Pleased with gathering input from all stakeholders before making any decisions regarding the schools in PLRD.
  - Be cautious about the population shift from urban to rural setting which may/is occurring presently.
  - Attempt to avoid any radical decisions which have negative impacts on the rural schools.
  - The closing of the school must be the last resort after all options have been exhausted.
  - Consider that the closures of schools may result in students leaving the division entirely.
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## **Group #3**

- Kudos to the Board for doing this right – ie: for going slowly, consulting all the stakeholders, and so on.
  - Community involvement and use of school facilities is a great benefit to school and community (eg: the exercise room at BCCS). Helps to keep both vibrant.
  - Re: amalgamation/consolidation of Hanna Primary and JCC: There is a huge cultural difference between the schools – each would have to adapt to accommodate the other, requiring effective communication among all involved. The goal must be to preserve the positive elements of both schools.
  - Question: if two classes join (eg: from Delia and JCC) to make a large class in any given year, would they be split?
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## **Group #4 & #6**

- Is moving the high school/jr. high school students just the beginning of school elimination.
  - The board is on the right track with their plan to meet with parents for input.
  - Are we limiting our divisions growth potential if we put all our eggs (students) into one basket (J.C. Charyk).
  - Closing the school should be the last action plan.
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## **Group #5**

- Will the Board speak with both the sending and receiving schools parents. Eg: Veteran → Consort . . . be sure to interview both communities.
  - Has there been thought put into partnerships with municipalities/School Board.
  - If the Board decides to meet with parents, they need to meet with the community (eg: service groups).
  - Questions to the community need to be sent out in advance. Interviews need to be set up with parents of 2 and 3 year olds.
  - If leasing is an option. . . will safety (of students) and infrastructure of the facility be considered?
  - In a few years time . . . School Division boundaries may be changed which will affect schools within PLRD . . . will this be considered?
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## **Group #7**

- Check out possibility of salvage value of portables – ie Altario.
  - Parents pay a fee for students to use bus to defray costs.
  - Video conference, make more use of.
  - Take the most practical route, combine Hanna Primary and J.C.C.. No Transportation issues involved, other school are K-12 schools.
  - Wait and see what happens with enrollment, has our enrollment leveled off.
  - The school is a drawing card when people are considering moving to a community. Would closing a school thus have a negative impact on enrollment.
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