



Engaging the Community – Berry Creek Community School Discussion Results October 15, 2008 Meeting

If student enrolment continues to decline and funding is continuously reduced and the school Board has to make a decision about the future of Berry Creek Community School, what is your preferred option for educating your children?

Group 1

- Fight the “If” Word!
 - Cross boarder student transfer
-bussing from other divisions.
 - Attract Mennonite families to have children stay in school longer.
 - Vocational courses started by grade 9 for trades. (apprenticeship)
 - 4 day school week.
 - If video conferencing is the option, the teacher needs to be given the proper training and incentives.
 - Exchange programs through schools
-available dorms.
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Group 2

- No more than three grades together in elementary school.
- Cycle options over three years in High School.
- More video-link courses (E-link)/correspondence.
- Continued student teachers.
- Perks.
- Education Bursary for students to participate.
- Advertising positions available
-different methods.
- If staff is cut possible for extra curricular program
-then loss of students.
- *Special Area’s stonewalling people moving housing into area.
- Mennonite children not included in projection.
- More trades.
- Liability issues w/ community members teaching.
- More work experience positions
-pd credits to the board?

- possibly more involvement from community.
 - Home/life experience programs (sewing, green cert.).
 - Integrated German schooling (German classes beyond Junior High).
 - Students – type of jobs they are looking for.
 - More specific on year end questionnaires.
 - Redrawing busing lines?
 - Staff housing pd.
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Group 3

- Attract More Kids to come from the outside in.
 - Try to get foreign students.
 - More subjects or option.
 - Stronger relationship with the German community.
 - More parent involvement to help cut the costs.
 - More housing in the communities (Special Areas Board).
 - School Boards to work with other Divisions.
 - Look where the money is coming from.
 - Boundaries have to stay firm.
 - (Busses) Kids on wrong side of fences lines. Want to bring them to this school. Work within our School Board Boundaries.
 - Co-ed Programs needed. Parent taught courses High School More Creative.
 - Getting more Businesses Brought to the core. Hanna so it will spread out.
 - 4 Day Week.
 - School fees.
 - Shared teachers between schools.
 - Have all schools get on the same programs to have VC.
 - Implement and support for community members to work with ESL.
 - Work with the government to learn what rural needs are.
 - Have more Local control over how local money is spent.
 - Need to have guarantee that the school is going to stay for the next generation.
 - Need to get services in the community SAB and Palliser Planning.
 - Urban movers like the small classroom and teacher Ratio.
 - Need people to move in to Help the community to grow.
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Group 4

What can we do/where can we go...??

- Lowest “survivability” #s?
- VC will become more acceptable/“better”
-don’t want High School to be totally VC’d.

- staff needs training/peer-to-peer networking.
 - Charter School?
 - agriculture?
 - 2nd Language students?
(Rural AB Dev. Find?)
 - Build community?
 - economic prosperity=stability.
 - how to secure land/space?
 - Engage the government/press for rural recognition.
 - private/individual citizens need to “raise their voice.”
 - What are other rural schools doing?
 - Community expertise needs to be recognized by the government.
 - Vocational courses would maintain Mennonites.
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Group 5

- Bussing from other communities
 - flexible boundaries with surrounding divisions.
 - Beam out VC classes
 - become a VC delivery school.
 - become a VC niche school.
 - use our existing technology to become the tech hub.
 - Parent volunteers to assist teachers.
 - Triple grades in 1 room, but no more, especially in elementary.
 - Keep more students in (German program-offer to everyone, encourage students to complete high school).
 - Offer courses that are unique to BCCS and will draw students here. No other schools are offering.
 - Pm-going, concentrated letter campaign to MLA, MP, Minister of Education, etc. for more funding and resources.
 - Get exchange students through exchange programs.
 - Work experience for high school kids, especially with the trades that are important in the area.
 - Lobby S.A. to allow smaller communities to expand.
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Group 6

- 4 day school week
 - decrease transportation and custodial costs.
- Teleconferencing costs?
- Videoconferencing costs?
- Combining classes?

- Buses to another division?
-Older grades - #'s down for sports teams.
- Charter school – niche we can fill? Dorm? Billeting?
- More kids? Round 2 (even McNirens)
- Special Areas, water in towns? Roads
-make it more attractive for new people.
- Encourage Mennonite students to continue in school (CTS + Trades).
- School boards strong, lobby when numbers low.