



# Engaging the Community – Consort School Discussion Results October 7, 2009 Meeting

As PLRD enrolment continues to decline and government funding is reduced, what can PLRD do to keep our schools open and viable?

- a. How can we best allocate and share our resources to meet the learning needs and goals of our students in all of our schools?
- b. How can we deliver education to all of our students in an effective and efficient manner?
- c. Are there any other areas we should be considering?

## GROUP 1

- 4 Days/Week – Longer Days  
Savings:
  - Janitorial
  - Transportation
  - Utilities
  - Administration
- Longer Lunch?
- Is there too long a day for learning saturation?
- Video Conferencing
  - Initial Consultation Important
  - More Opportunitites – Cosmetology
  - Split Screen.
  - Multiple Cameras
  - Is there a teacher in the room (supervision).
  - Human Element
- Multi-Grades in One Classroom
  - Have to have an Aid
  - Two grades together max in Grades 1-3
  - Possibly 3 grades together in higher grades.
- Busing them further is not an option.
- Video Conferencing on Buses? Screens in the backs of seats
- Federal Government Programs
  - Possible Grants
  - Get all of GST back

- Donations that go directly into Education Fund (PLRD Reserve Fund)
    - Tax Deductible*
    - Tax Credits*
    - Estates*
    - Money that people don't want to go to government*
    - Society runs a casino that designates funds to PLRD Innovation or Fund (School Council)*
  - Contract Busing for Special Events ie. Band
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## **GROUP 2**

- Video Conferencing (Cosmetology/ Health)
  - works for high school*
  - cost effective?/expertise*
  - provides opportunities*
- Keep the Music Program/ C-A-V sharing teacher
  - timetabling is a challenge*
  - promotes integration – working together*
- 4 Day school week
  - Pros:
    - less \$ spent
    - less absenteeism
  - Cons:
    - long day for kids
    - have to align all schools
    - childcare (Friday)
- Grouping small grades into larger groups (multigrades)
- Cut down on the paper trail!
  - use email eg. Newsletter*
  - are text books not available – reems of photocopying*
  - overpurchasing of materials*
- Energy/ Utilities Savings
  - green alternatives
- Ask the front line workers (students, teachers, all staff) – what can you live without?
- What is the budget for Central Office?
- Video Conferencing for Trustees Meeting to ave “honorariums”/expenses?
- Integrate Hutterite Colonies...
- Make our schools “special”/unique to entice outside students
- Could parent volunteers be better utilized?
- Better use of EA's?
- Are 3 ECS Days/week necessary – would a reduction save \$?

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## **GROUP 3**

### **a.**

- Personnel (specialists)
- Teaching resources
- VC (concerns: effectiveness in the larger “host” school)
- Shared Administration (principalship)
- Absorbing/Amalgamation of Schools
- Billeting
- “Acadamy” school – hockey, dance, baseball

### **b.**

- Offer a smaller choice, well – ie. High School: 2 routes with high standards
- VC
- Sharing personnel & resources

### **c.**

- Other considerations:
  - “academy” – might bring in whole families & benefit community also
  - absorption
  - reduce - duplication of services – utilization of buildings i.e. Libraries, Fine Arts Centre
  - reduction of staff in all areas
  - bussing fees/ payout self-transportation

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## **GROUP 4**

- What is the best (appropriate) use of technology?
- Important to retain a “structure” school for students to gather, and interact.
- What positions do we need in the school?
- Reduce school week to 4 days?
- Athletics – user pay
- More video conferencing
- Provide trained Librarians who are “tech” (internet) savvy
- Importance of socialization skills and “school building”