



Engaging the Community – Delia School Discussion Results January 21, 2009 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 Delia School, what is your preferred option for educating your children?

GROUP 1

- Don't want our high school closed – will lose kids out of division, both High School and Junior High.
 - Bus from Craigmyle to Hanna needs to stop – stop the drain from the school.
 - Previously lost students for sports – CTS courses; Hopefully CTS lab will solve part of the problem.
 - Video conferencing can be successful – needs to be looked at
 - a) self-motivation of kids
 - b) number of students in class
 - c) receiver-sender switch occasionally
 - d) better than distance learning
 - e) train people to be video conferencing specialist – especially send from Delia:
 - f) not for core courses
 - Cut aides not teachers. Cut central office staff, not people who work with kids.
 - Don't cut anything – go after province to increase funding for eastern AB rural.
 - Motivate H.S. students to go for more credits – get paid \$ per credit.
 - Reexamine how we combine grades and classes. There are schools that do innovative groupings that are working successfully.
 - Look at 4 day school week in order to save money.
 - Don't combine grades more than 2. Fight for keeping only 2 grades at most combined.
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GROUP 2

- Multi grades.
- Specialty school.
- Class sizes.
- Video conferencing *.
- These are better alternatives than Delia closing.
- Bus rides too long – homeschooling would be a better option.
- Green school.

GROUP 3

- Combined grades
 - already combined up to grade 9 – mostly 2 grades.
 - could make 3 classes but need to make sure appropriate Assistants are allocated.
 - V.C. courses;
 - would rather have this than loss of grades/teachers.
 - Many kids may be being homeschooled.
 - If opportunities are lost (core classes) parents will go to where child will get what they need for career.
 - Specialized school – whatever community focused on: sports, trades.
 - Increase school fees or yearly fundraiser – could this help to keep a school open.
 - Modify the school week to 4 days.
 - find other ways to use school increase funds.
 - gym, fitness center.
 - Work with community to attract young families.
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GROUP 4

- More concern about the budget than the student.
 - No triple grading – hard on teachers and students.
 - Video conferencing is an option
 - creates challenges with non-independent learners.
 - supports need to be put in place. For teachers and students.
 - Travelling teachers – sharing teachers during week @ different schools.
 - video conferencing.
 - specialized classes.
 - Teacher support – for teachers and aides.
 - Multi-grading should be kept to a manageable class size.
 - Erosion of community – school holds community together
 - K to 12 school is incentive to move to Delia.
 - economic repercussions to businesses with no high school students.
 - Lobby to government for more financial support
 - reassess outlook on rural areas.
 - Busing issues – too long on bus when commuting to Hanna or other schools.
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GROUP 5

- Can we bring students from other schools into ours instead of our students going to other schools? Eg: CTS trailer.

- The school is the heart of the community. It draws families in. If there is no school, families won't come and the situation will get worse.
 - Using video conferencing and distance learning to allow students to work at their own pace instead of combining classes. Concerns over diploma/departmental exams with combined classes. Resource room rather than grades in high school.
 - Why can't we as individual schools save \$ to put towards our own school's future. Give each school its own discretion for saving \$ for our needs.
 - Revitalize the community and it will draw more students in and families.
 - Why are the smaller schools taking the brunt when its not the smaller schools losing the students. Closing schools in smaller communities may lead to students going to another division. Eg: Golden Hills. When a town such as Hanna has 2 schools that aren't being utilized well, should one of them not be looked at for closing before the only school in a smaller community.
 - Uncertainty within parents/community leads to people making their own choices:
Eg: Private or Catholic schools.
 - CTS should stay here. Could look at a building here that could be converted.
 - Be more flexible with teachers. Eg: Specialized teachers teaching in more than one school. Teach in one school in 1st semester and another school in 2nd semester.
 - Find a calling card to make the school unique to draw students. Eg: Rodeo School in the south.
 - **Have the school board/division/Province recognize our numbers if they increase and not continue to talk of our school closing when the problem lies not with our enrollment **
- Keep addressing gov't – the same solution will not work for rural and urban schools.
 - Continue to work with village/community to try to entice graduating students to return to the community and start families of their own here.
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GROUP 6

- Small classes very beneficial – kids don't fall through cracks.
- Part-time splits (with core subjects by themselves), or split classes
- No extra busing.
- Build new school between Morrin and Delia and combine the two schools.
- Combine Hanna schools.
- Bring in foreign students.
- Why bring in CTS portable when empty space being utilized?
- If high school closes, elementary siblings will follow.
- Some current classes full.
- Fill unused space with community services. (4-H, dance, playschool)
- People need to stay within school boundaries. (extra curricular)
- Grade 13
 - decreased homework,
 - not such a demanding curriculum
- If families are pulled out, taxes lost.
- 4-day school week.

- save busing.
 - electricity.
 - heating costs.
 - Lack of high school will deter families from moving here.
 - This school has incredible community backing – both financially and “emotional.”
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GROUP 7

- Governments need to use surplus in PLRD.
 - Prefer 4 day week to losing any part of Delia.
 - Starland should be providing some funding.
 - Close the Colony schools and put the children into nearest school.
 - Consider combining more grades for optional subjects (not core subjects) eg. Music, Art, Gym.
 - DO NOT CLOSE OUR HIGH SCHOOL.
 - Use more Video Conferencing to enhance subject availability at the school.
 - Maintain status quo as is because there is a trend of families moving out of the cities. There is an increased amount of preschool children in the community.
 - As a community, we need to increase the sports programs available to children as this is a drawing factor to the community.
 - PLRD should spend the surplus on Small Schools Grants.
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GROUP 8

- Triple Grading – not best, but possible with Aides or Parents.
 - Video Conferencing – has to be the right teacher.
 - Rotating Teachers between schools – not good.
 - Long Bus rides – students will go to closer schools. e.g. Drum from Verdant Valley.
 - #1 Spend Surplus – Alberta Govt. will not give PLRD more money till you spend the surplus.
-surplus isn't dropping.
 - Correspondence classes.
 - Parents help with vocational training under teacher supervision.
 - Lobby M.L.A.
 - Rural Areas need more funding/Different Formulas.
 - Funding from Industry.
 - Move Hanna Elementary to High School – use money from sale of Land.
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GROUP 9

- Video conferencing (focus on option courses as well as core.)
- provide courses that schools can't provide on own.
- Investigate "Specialty Schools"
- Individual lobbying of the local and provincial governments.
- Keep High School in Delia.