



# ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY MEETING - Veteran Ballot Results Thursday, June 5, 2008

Are you in favour of the Division lobbying Alberta Education for the restoration of local taxation?

Yes 10  
No 25  
Blank 10

If student enrolment continues to decline and funding is continuously reduced and teaching staff has to be reduced and the school board has to make a decision about the future of Veteran School please indicate the order of priority that you would like each of the following to occur:

	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	Blank	No	Yes
1. combining more grades in one classroom:	12	9	2	2	3	11	5	1
2. offer more courses through V/C and/or Distance Education	16	13			2	8	4	2
3. move the junior high school students to the nearest school	1	2	12	8	3	11	8	
4. combine more grades, offer more courses through V/C and Distance Education and move the junior high school students to nearest school	1	2	7	12	3	12	8	
5. close your community school					25	12	8	

**Comments:**

- Population is too sparse in Special Areas to restore local taxation
- Great! Lets go back to 1940 and have a one-room school house with one teacher!! Now that's progress. We are going backwards very fast. There are NOT options in this day and age. Sorry – you've got to do better than this as our representatives
- Just go on as is
- The only option is to move the Junior High! There are no other choices or options available
- Spend the money you have and keep hammering the government for more money
- We want more! Why should Edmonton Schools have Shop and Home Ec. Classes when we don't

- Most of the valedictorians for most of the years since our high school was taken from Veteran have been from students who took their schooling from Grades 1-9 in Veteran. We must be doing something right in our little country school!
- Formulas don't fit rural schools, thank you for lobbying on the behalf of the small schools and for all you do for us. You are many times between a rock and a hard place and in an often thankless position. We are all guilty of not doing our part in writing or phoning out elected officials. Bless you for all you do.
- None of these options are remotely acceptable. The current multiple grading and video conferencing is fine, but any more it lessens the quality of education for OUR CHILDREN! Press the government for adequate funding, not just for the status quo, but let's raise the bar!! Let's improve our school for once instead of slowly depreciating it!!
- A longer bus ride for students is unacceptable. The school day is already long enough. Something should be done to keep small schools alive and therefore small communities. We need more programs available to our kids so they have the same chances as kids from large urban centers. My family for one is considering moving to improve my kids chances of success and opportunities.
- VC should be used when beneficial, not mandated in situations where there is no advantage. I fear that moving the junior high would be the first phase, and then moving the elementary would soon follow.
- The school is a critical key to the survival of a small community. Down sizing or eliminating the availability of education in Veteran will detract from the viability of the future of a small town. Education is a provincial government responsibility and the quality of that education shouldn't vary based on which sector of the province we choose to live in.
- These are not options. We live in oil rich Alberta, let's educate our children. An educated society is a strong one.
- Why is Special Area's funding ending
- I don't feel right voting on this until 2 years from now.
- I think we have one of the wealthiest provinces in Canada. Suck it up. Keep our small communities alive. We are the people that pay your wages. I'm sure there are many more questions than above that also need to be transportations. Cut administration.
- I do not like or agree with these options. This shouldn't even be an issue. The government is responsible for our children's education and we shouldn't be punished for our small population. Money should never be an issue in a wealthy province such as ours. If government ministers are able to receive a 30-40% wage increase, our schools deserve a raise as well, no matter our enrolment. Money is wasted in horrible ways in this province and I don't feel putting money into schools is a waste, it is an investment.
- Do not favour closing of our school; also do not favour moving the junior high to nearest school. Not in favour of having 3 or 4 grades in one classroom with 1 teacher.
- As a resident of Alberta who pays taxes, I am disappointed in the people in charge of government spending that are not distributing our tax dollars equally to give all Alberta children the same opportunity as the next kid to receive the same learning environment!!
- We need to support our schools equally to cost of living raises for government. As a tax payer parent I would like less meetings on how to downsize our school and more constructive ideas on how to maintain or make what we have better also as parents and tax payers we should have more say on how our current dollars are spent as core subjects and core teachers are more important than others (ie. Band)

- I have spent time in Veteran school and think we have a great staff, but I have also seen how the teachers work very hard with the grades they have and some are spread thin. I really don't want to lose our junior high; I think it would hurt the community or the school. V/C may be our best option under the right circumstances. There are more questions to be answered. We need to lobby the government for more funding for rural schools.
- School is the hub of a small community. Veteran has a great combined school, community library. We need a school in Veteran! Attendance at meeting is an indication that Veteran needs a school.
- Would like to keep small schools going.
- V/C and/or distance education should only be used for higher grades, not elementary.
- Before tonight I would have said yes to the restoration of local taxes. I would like to see stats on how much goes out of this area/comes back. We really don't like any of these choices!!! We need our school desperately or we need to ask the provincial government to take some of the strings off. We are not fools who need to be told how best to spend our money. Let us decide what level of education our kids need and how we want to ensure they get it.
- Not more than 2 grades – only non core subjects should have more than 2 grades (art, drama, music, gym). Kids should stay in their home town – parents are more involved – school sports, students may have a harder time to make the team moving to a larger center.
- Spend surplus and see what happens in the next few years.
- The government should be not beating up farmers and rural communities with its own BSE disease. BS Education funding letters need to be sent by everyone and their dog to get grassroots attention. It is not just the board priority but everyone's. Newspapers and individuals need to step up.
- I don't like any of the options and I'm afraid if I vote on order of importance it will mean that I am in favour.
- Good meeting – keep up the community information.
- Government should be asked for money for program changes that they implement (new text books, back when ECS was required to have a teacher vs. an aid when I grew up) as they require higher levels, new technology the government must be prepared to pay. We could save a teacher by hiring a capable other person, call them what you want (Aid). At the meeting tonight there should be more brain storming for ideas. We and you need to look outside the box. Try to come up with new ideas, not just move kids and close schools.
- We live in the wealthiest province in Canada yet the rural remote communities, agriculture and the hands on wrench turning oil patch working families that are vital – extremely vital to the profits in the province seem to be forgotten when it comes to keeping the schools and communities and hospitals viable. No settling – get more, demand it. We are not going to take the wheels off the bus because we are told we aren't populated heavily enough.
- V/C and /or Distance Education are only viable for the higher grade, not elementary. Thank you for having this meeting.
- I think this school should be able to stay open, but if need be join classes and bring back our 10, 11 &12.