



Engaging the Community - Veteran Discussion Results June 5, 2008 Meeting

Question 1 - Are you in favour of the Division lobbying for the restoration of local taxation?

Pros

- More control over taxes brought in
- More control over spending
- Still receive grants from the government to supplement

Cons

- Have to raise rates to receive same amount of funding in smaller communities
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Question 2 - If student enrolment continues to decline and funding is continuously reduced and the school board has to make a decision about the future of Veteran School, would **combining more grades** be your preferred option when teaching staff has to be reduced? Why? Why not?

Pros

- Nil
- Keep school open

Cons

- Depriving Kids
- Individuality is less
- Extra attention is less
- More difficult for teacher in lesson planning and takes extra time
- We are lowering the quality of education when we combine grades more than 2
- If triple grading a student only receives 1/3 of the teacher time
- When taking certain subjects like (social & science) in double grades they only take one year & everyone takes that year. i.e. everyone in 3 & 4 takes Social 4 one year and then the next take Social 3. So what do you do when you triple grade?
- Richer province and now less funds toward education.
- We already triple 7, 8, & 9 all of the time, 3, 4, & 5 part time (3days a week), ECS, 1 & 2 part time (afternoons when E.C.S. is here 3 days a week) – How can we combine more grades?
- We don't want it to change at all.

Question 3 - If student enrolment continues to decline and funding is continuously reduced and the school board has to make a decision about the future of Veteran School, would **offering more courses through V/C and/or Distance Education** be your preferred option when teaching staff has to be reduced? Why? Why not?

- Not have any more than 20% of courses taught by V/C or 2 courses a semester
- Don't want to have students removed from the community
- Still need to have someone with some knowledge of the course in the school
- Great to have specialty courses brought in
- What happens with kids that fall behind?
- Great for schools to have tours in places they could not get to go to
- Keep the curriculum from changing every year
- Teachers might not like to teach with technology
- What about special needs kids
- Teachers or aids on receiving end for supervision
- What happens with bad weather at either end of transmission
- How do they get help at home if they have questions

Question 4 - If student enrolment continues to decline and funding is continuously reduced and the school board has to make a decision about the future of Veteran School, would **moving the junior high school students to the nearest** school be your preferred option when teaching staff has to be reduced? Why? Why not?

1976 – High School moves to Consort

If Jr. High moves

Disadvantages:

- Property values drop
- Business – harder time to attract families
- No basketball or Volleyball teams – less social activities in Veteran
- Parents might consider home schooling or go to Coronation
- Longer bus times for students – not good for making good grades
- More driving for parents – students might not get to do after school activities
- Larger class sizes in Consort
- Teachers would lose their jobs

Advantages:

- More options (maybe) because more students in Consort
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Question 5 - If student enrolment continues to decline and funding is continuously reduced and the school board has to make a decision about the future of Veteran School and the teaching staff has to be reduced, would you prefer attempting to

- i. combine more grades; and
 - ii. offer more courses through V/C and Distance Education; and
 - iii. move the junior high school students to nearest school?
- Could we bring Sr. High to Veteran?
 - Registering home schooled students through our school
 - We should just spend the money and it's the government's responsibility to provide the education and good roads to get there.
 - No strings attached to the money, we should be able to spend the money how it can best be utilized for our school
 - To answer our question: Therefore none of the above
 - i. Combine more grades:
 - Okay if we could scrap achievement tests
 - ii. More courses through V/C
 - More variety
 - Saves money
 - iii. Move junior high to Consort
 - Nothing good could come of this
 - Their social life moves to that town and its harder to keep track of kids and loses community
 - Enrolment wouldn't all go to Consort
 - Send junior high ONE day a week for classes such as shop, home ec
 - New top models won't solve problem, its rural/urban problem
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Question 6 - If student enrolment continues to decline and funding is continuously reduced and the school board has to make a decision about the future of Veteran School, would you prefer to **close your community school** when teaching staff has to be reduced?

- We thought this is a ridiculous question as no one has a preference to close their school
- We do not mind having more grades in one classroom as long as the #'s are not in excess
- We have heard this question for over 40 years and nothing has changed
- Lets split one of the bigger schools and bus them to our smaller community to keep our school open
- Have special programs (drama, music) that would be an attraction to bring children to one specific school for these programs
- Restructure the division so there's equality in all rural schools
- Formulas do not fit rural communities

- Why is the government not 'giving' us the funds that we need? School is mandatory.
- Why wouldn't the Provincial government want to give us the money we need? Absurd!! It should be expected according to Alberta Education!
- What are the school surpluses being spent on now?
- What are the limitations that they can spend it on?