



# Engaging the Community – Youngstown School Discussion Results October 21, 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 Youngstown School, what is your preferred option for educating your children?**

## **GROUP 1**

- Teacher for every grade (ideal).
- Stay as is! No more than 3 grades/class.
- Video Conferencing is better than D.E. – Elementary option by V.C.
- 4 day school week.
- Home School/Move to another Division or another school within the Division.
- Utilize more of the skills within the community if there is a reduction in staff.
- Foreign student program?
- Specialty school?
- More parent involvement in the classroom.
- More trades taught at school – Make it a trade school.
- P.E. programs could be taught by one teacher and option courses Grades 1-6/7-12.  
The older children can mentor the younger children. e.g. music.
- To get more money we need more students.
- Attracting Business to Area to increase population.
- Cold rooms opened (leased out) to public for use. Eg. Continuing ed, businesses, hairdressing school.

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## **GROUP 2**

- Keep school the same as longer possible.
- Keep lobbying the Gov.
- Rotating specialist teacher.
- No more than 3 grades in elementary.
- Continuity in quality of Sr high courses.
- Specially teacher personally involve with VC classes.
- If VC class have person/person help must be Available.
- Parent volunteering to help in class/Teacher.

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### **GROUP 3**

- Keep teachers in the classroom while there is VC.
- Keep full programs.
- More time spent working with K-9 students to get them ready for High school.
- No Quad Classes.
- If moving High school to help with option is last resort (then use TA's to help in K-9 classes).
- Start time on bus at 7 a.m.
- Have Feeder Bus (Parents) meet/bus to make Bus ride shorter.
- Recruit kids to come to community through a special Program (Curling).
- VC at home.
- No stacking grades and alternating days, 1 day at school and help at home online.
- Right technology.
- Right teachers to teach VC courses.
- Have a work ethic.
- Work with home schooling (Public school board).
- 4 day week.

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### **GROUP 4**

- No more than 3 grades per classroom.
  - 4 day school week.
  - Bring more community clubs or services into the parts of the school that are not being utilized.
  - Video Conference equipment being made available for community use.
  - Place parameters on the VC to make sure that we achieve the best possible educational outcomes – best teacher for each course.
  - More support staff in place to assist teachers with extra loads.
  - Volunteers helping teachers.
  - Prefer VC to longer bus rides.
  - If the mandate is for fair and equal education then the formula for funding needs to be looked at again for rural schools.
  - VC courses needed to gain entrance to the university/college program each student wants.
  - Students who are using VC need access to the teacher who is doing the course if they need extra help.
  - No VC of core subjects in elementary.
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## **GROUP 5**

- Introduce Video Conferencing earlier.
  - 4 day school week.
  - Theme based school eg. Vauxhall Baseball Academy.
  - Bring in international students.
  - Integrate kindergarten kids.
  - Attract kids from surrounding areas.
  - Combine more classes if possible.
  - Video Conferencing the high school.
  - More work experience possibilities.
  - More distance learning courses.
  - Earlier computer literacy.
  - Circulating specialized teachers.
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## **GROUP 6**

- Community divided – Hanna, Oyen, Berry Creek.
  - Younger generation more comfortable with Video Conferencing.
  - Video Conference – use most qualified person to deliver course.
  - Art program expand beyond what already exists.
  - Promote Assets have.
  - School provides social interaction students need.
  - Businesses work to increase population two or three families at a time.
  - Focus on providing core courses well to ensure stability and faith in the program.
  - Stem video-conferencing from Youngstown out, (more) to ensure teacher numbers.
  - Provide courses for teachers to learn how to deliver and engage students using Video Conferencing.
  - Discipline is a concern.
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## **GROUP 7**

- Consider contracting transportation (if cost effective).
- Sharing administration with Hanna – would it work for other schools also?
- Consider boarding schools in larger centers (Hanna, Consort) for grades 8-12 or create niche school in Youngstown and attract students.
- Get division to approach AB ED for help re: address triple grading.
- Access training for VC.
- Jr. and Sr. high students have a say in education.
- VC for P.D. and Admin., Board meetings, etc...