

January 20, 2010

Board of Education Moves To Open Consultation Around Potential School and Program Restructuring, Consolidation And Closures

At their January 19th public meeting, the North Vancouver Board of Education moved to open consultation processes to address:

1. **Potential consolidation and closure** of a limited number of elementary schools including Blueridge, Seymour Heights, Plymouth, and Fromme Elementary Schools.
2. **Potential consolidation of alternate programs** to accommodate the diverse needs of our students through reconfiguration, relocation, or potential closure of alternate programs (Keith Lynn Alternate Secondary School, Youth Learning Centre, Therapeutic Day Program, 3<sup>rd</sup> Step and Windsor House).
3. **Preliminary research into the potential restructuring of elementary French Immersion** including the possibility of a single-stream (French-only) elementary school or schools.

The Board's direction is in accordance with [Policy 610: Closure of Schools \(Permanent\)](#). A Public Information Meeting will be held and a series of workshops will be conducted in March and April to engage partner group representatives in discussions regarding potential consolidations, closures and restructuring of programs. The workshop series will serve to identify and examine alternatives, including community use, the implications of potential closures, and the transition processes that would best address identified concerns. The Board's decisions regarding consolidation, restructuring and closure of elementary schools and alternate programs are tentatively scheduled for the Public Board Meeting on April 20, 2010.

In their deliberations, Trustees acknowledged that discussions regarding potential school closures and consolidations as well as program restructuring have taken place during several years of active dialogue and consultation with the community. The Board appreciated the contribution of community representatives to the *Towards the Future for Schools* community consultation in 2008 and 2009. These School District-wide discussions reviewed the factors of declining enrollment, surplus capacity, aging facilities and financial challenges. The dialogue continued in the fall of 2009 with the *Budget Challenge 2010* series of public consultation meetings to identify and discuss restructuring options for the next several years of fiscal restraint.

The North Vancouver Board of Education is committed to preserving and enhancing the quality of instructional services and educational opportunities for students within public education in North Vancouver, while maintaining the viability of schools within all areas of the community.

All members of our community are invited to a Public Information Meeting at Sutherland Secondary School on February 3, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Please visit [nvsd44.bc.ca](http://nvsd44.bc.ca) > [Meetings and Updates](#) for more details.

Parents and members of our community are encouraged to provide any written input regarding these consultations by an e-mail addressed to [restructuring2010@nvsd44.bc.ca](mailto:restructuring2010@nvsd44.bc.ca). Please provide the name of the school and/or program in the SUBJECT line. This input will be considered by our working groups. Responses will be provided through our website under the heading of **Restructuring 2010**, which will include a section for Frequently Asked Questions.