



Media Release

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For Immediate Release

Board Approves Consultative Process for School Closure

The Greater Victoria School District voted yesterday to consider school closure. According to Superintendent of Schools John Gaipman, this is due to continued declining enrolments. The Greater Victoria School District has 2,400 fewer students in 2005 than it did in 1999 and may lose as many as 1,500 students over the next three years. Province wide 128 schools have been closed since 2001.

Trustees will consider closing Burnside Community School. Burnside has a present population of 77 students and is projected to have 65 students registered in September, 2006. This Board certainly understands the importance of neighbourhood schools. "It is unfortunate; however, once a school declines to a certain population, it has to be considered for closure due to the impact it places on the students and the school system", said John Gaipman, Superintendent.

In order to provide an opportunity for a broad-based consultation, the School District has scheduled two meetings designed for input, feedback and dialogue. The meetings will take place in the Burnside School gymnasium. The first meeting, where background information will be provided, is scheduled for Wednesday, January 25, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. and the second meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. A further meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 9, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tolmie Board Room, during which the Board will debate and vote on school closure. "Public input is important to our consultation process", said Superintendent John Gaipman. "Community input is valued and will be thoroughly considered."

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