

Vancouver Board of Education  
Public Meeting – Budget 2010  
Churchill Secondary School  
March 24, 2010

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*Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.*

**Attendance:** 11 adults

5 district staff  
4 Administrators  
1 student worker

**Process:** Power Point Presentation  
Small Group Discussion  
Report out

**Feedback:**

Parents discussed the closure of small schools and asked what accommodations would be made, from a family perspective, to accommodate families if their school was closed. The importance of family groupings and neighbourhood schools is important. The parents also questioned what other options would exist for students whose schools were closed.

The parents discussed the importance of choice in education. They emphasized that mobility for students (i.e. the ability to move to different schools) and flexibility in the structure of schools is important. The parents also said that schools which offered special courses (e.g. Nootka Arts) and other course offerings were important. In their discussion of school options, the option of middle schools was discussed.

The parents were very concerned about the fate of non-enrolling teachers saying “we cannot lose any of our non-enrolling staff”. It was felt that the non enrolling staff are essential to the running of a school. In particular they mentioned the importance of teacher-librarians. The expertise of non-enrolling teachers, for example librarians who knew the new technology of libraries, was very important. They also mentioned that schools cannot afford to lose any administrators or other non-enrolling staff such as LAC support. In reference to the question “What is essential in school” one parent said that she found it difficult to answer this question because, in her opinion, everything we now have in schools is essential.

Parents also discussed revenue options including using VLN to bring in students from other districts. One parent also suggested that we tap into our own staff and develop curriculum which could be sold to other districts.

In terms of generating revenue, one parent suggested that we are not charging enough for rental of our facilities to organizations such as Girl Guides etc. As part of this discussion, the parents also mentioned that it is important that there is equity across the district in terms of resources and services.

Centralization of registration including on-line registration was also discussed as a way of saving staff time/money.

Finally one parent at the end of the meeting said that it was “disheartening” that we have to meet to discuss budget deficits.