



**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 46 (SUNSHINE COAST)**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
AGENDA**

Tuesday, December 13, 2016 from 9:30-12:00 p.m.
School Board Office – Gibsons, BC

- 1) Rural Engagement
- 2) School Growth Plans
- 3) Communication plan (*standing item*)



November 22, 2016

Ref: 191775

To: All Board Chairs, Superintendents, Secretary Treasurer and All School Districts

Dear Colleagues:

As you know, in June of 2016, the Government announced the appointment of MLA Linda Larson as the Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Education. As part of her review of rural educational practices and rural education funding, Parliamentary Secretary Larson is tasked with creating a Rural Education Strategy by the end of the 2016/17 school year. Input from a range of stakeholder groups such as parents, the public, school district staff, Boards of Education, partner organizations, and local governments is an integral part of this strategy.

All feedback received will help shape the final report and the development of recommendations for the future. The main goal is to find long-term solutions for the unique challenges facing rural school districts while considering the important social, cultural, and economic roles that schools play for small communities.

I am pleased to announce that the consultation process for the rural education review has been officially launched. Details on the engagement process and ways to participate, including an online discussion forum, can be found at <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/ruraleducation/>.

In addition to encouraging your staff to participate in the online discussion forum –open until January 9, 2017 at 4:00pm, you are invited to participate in a short online survey at <https://interceptum.com/s/en/ruraleducation-nov2016> using the password

On behalf of Linda Larson, Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Education, thank you for taking the time to participate in the conversation on rural education in British Columbia.

Sincerely,

George Farkas
Assistant Deputy Minister

Introduction

The Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Education would like to engage with parents, education stakeholders and community organizations in a conversation about rural schools to help develop an integrated rural education strategy.

The online discussion will be open for feedback November 15, 2016 to January 15, 2017.

All of the input that is submitted will be considered by the Parliamentary Secretary for the purpose of preparing a Report on Rural Education by Summer 2017 that includes recommendations for the future.

Questions

How important is each of the following factors when defining Remote Schools or Rural Schools?

	Very Important	Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not Important
Size of community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Size of school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Population density of school district	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Distance between schools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Distance to major population centre	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you have other relevant factors not listed, please suggest them here:

How important is each of the following factors when defining Rural School Districts?

	Very Important	Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not Important
Size of communities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Size of schools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Population density of school district	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Distance between schools in district	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you have other relevant factors not listed, please suggest them here:

How important is each of the following operational and educational challenges associated with delivering educational programs in rural communities / rural schools?

	Very Important	Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not Important
Staff recruitment and retention	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Training and professional development for staff (e.g. transitioning to the new curriculum)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ability to deliver a range of educational programming and/or specialized programs for students	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transportation / Travel time for students	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of curricular & extra-curricular opportunities, such as sports teams or field trips	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Geographic and weather-related conditions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintenance of facilities (i.e. deferred maintenance)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ability to optimize space in school facilities (i.e. capacity utilization)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall operating costs for rural school facilities (i.e. utilities, staffing, supplies, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How well do each of the Geographic Factors in the Funding Allocation System address the business requirements associated with the operation of rural schools?

	Extremely Well	Very Well	Well	Not Well	Not Well At All	Not Very Well
Small Community Supplement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Low Enrolment Factor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rural Factor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climate Factor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sparseness Factor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Student Location Factor and Supplemental Student Location Factor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Over the past 10 years, (in general) has your school district's student enrolments been:

- Increasing
- About the Same
- Decreasing
- Don't know

If this enrolment trend has changed within the past two school years (2015/16 and 2016/17), please explain.

From your perspective, how do changes to student enrolment trends within your school district impact the delivery of educational programs and school district operations? Please explain.

In addition to K-12 educational programs, for what other purposes are your school facilities being used?

(Please select all that apply)

- Public library
- Museum
- Recreational / sports
- Adult / Community / Continuing Education programs
- Seniors
- Pre-Kindergarten
- Healthcare services
- Parent or community meetings
- Political meetings
- School facilities are not being used for anything else
- No additional use
- Other
- Don't know

If you selected, "Other", please specify:

On average per school, how much time would you estimate are the facilities be used for programs or activities not directly related to the delivery of educational programs?

- 0-5 hours per week
- 6-10 hours per week
- 11 – 14 hours per week
- 15+ hours per week
- Don't know

By your approximation, how many schools have closed within your school district in the past 5 years?

- None
- 1 – 5
- 6 – 10
- 11+
- Don't know

In situations where schools are closed, how does this affect the local (or surrounding) communities, students, and the school district?

(please limit your response to 600 characters or fewer)

What percentage of your students identify as Aboriginal?

- 0% - 20%
- 21% - 40%
- 41% - 60%
- 61% - 80%
- 81% - 100
- Don't know

Do you have specific Aboriginal education programs or initiatives geared towards any of the following categories:

(Please select all that apply)

- Aboriginal culture
- Environmental concerns
- BC's History, including Residential Schools
- Economic hardship
- Health & wellness
- None
- Other

If you selected, "Other", please specify:

If you are experiencing unique challenges or difficulties in delivering educational programs to Aboriginal students in your school district, please explain.

In your opinion, what is the strength of your school district's working relationship with the groups and organizations below?

	Very Strong	Strong	Adequate	Weak	Very Weak
Local/Municipal government	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regional government	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local MLA(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Business organizations such as Chambers of Commerce	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local charities such as Lions or Rotary Clubs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local environmental organizations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other community organizations (i.e. non-profit societies, cultural organizations, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you have any other feedback or examples that you would like to share related to rural education or rural schools in British Columbia?

To better understand who is responding to this survey, please consider providing a bit of information about yourself. These questions are optional.

Are you:

- A member of a local Board of Education in BC
- An employee of a school district in BC
- Other

If you said, "Other", please specify:

If you are an employee of a school district, are you:

- A superintendent or assistant/associate superintendent
- Secretary treasurer or senior business official
- School-based administrator
- Teacher
- Support staff
- Other (please identify)

If you said, "Other", please specify:

How long have you worked within the BC public K-12 education sector?

- 0-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 16-20 years
- 21-25 years
- 25+ years
- Not applicable

In what region of British Columbia do you live in?

- Cariboo
- Kootenay
- Mainland / Southwest / Fraser Valley
- Northcoast
- Northeast
- Thompson / Okanagan
- Vancouver Island
- Nechako
- I live outside of B.C.

Conclusion

Thank you for providing your feedback.

Please click "Submit" below to submit your responses.

All of the input that is submitted which will be considered by the Parliamentary Secretary for the purpose of preparing a Report on Rural Education by Summer 2017 that includes recommendations for the future.

Privacy Policy

COLLECTION NOTICE:

Personal information collected will inform the Ministry of Education under the authority of s.26(c) and 27(1)(e) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. If you have any questions about the collection, use and disclosure of your personal information, please contact:

Kim Abbott
Executive Director, Resource Management and Corporate Services Division
Ministry of Education
Victoria BC Kim.Abbott@gov.bc.ca



Welcome to the conversation about rural education.

In the summer of 2016 Premier Christy Clark tasked Parliamentary Secretary Linda Larson to work with the education sector, the public and community stakeholder groups, as well as Donna Barnett, the Minister of State for Rural Economic Development, to create a Rural Education Strategy by the summer of 2017.

The Parliamentary Secretary is looking for feedback from British Columbians and interested stakeholders to provide a range of different perspectives on the challenges and opportunities facing school districts and communities for her consideration.

The purpose of this engagement is to explore rural school funding and educational practices, as well as the role educational programs and schools play in rural communities across the province. The purpose of this site is to gather feedback from families and community members through an open, online dialogue. All comments received will be reviewed and a final report, with recommendations for the future, will be released near the end of the 2016/2017 school year. Read more about the several ways to participate ([/ruraleducation/ways-to-participate/](#)) between now and the end of the 2016/2017 school year.

Please share your thoughts in the online discussion below until January 9, 2017 at 4pm:

Discussion 1: What is your definition of a rural school? (<http://engage.gov.bc.ca/ruraleducation/2016/11/17/topic-1-what-is-your-definition-of-a-rural-school-remote-school-and-rural-school-district/>)

Posted on November 17, 2016
40 comments

Different people have different opinions on what defines "rural" and what defines "remote". Sooke and Williams Lake are communities with similar populations, yet schools in those communities... Read More (<http://engage.gov.bc.ca/ruraleducation/2016/11/17/topic-1-what-is-your-definition-of-a-rural-school-remote-school-and-rural-school-district/>)

Discussion 2: What are the positive impacts in the community? (<http://engage.gov.bc.ca/ruraleducation/2016/11/17/topic-2-rural-school-impacts/>)

Posted on November 17, 2016
27 comments

Schools have always played an important part of rural communities. In addition to being the educational centre, they may also form a social and community hub; hosting community events and gatherings.... Read More (<http://engage.gov.bc.ca/ruraleducation/2016/11/17/topic-2-rural-school-impacts/>)

Discussion 3: How are schools being used? (<http://engage.gov.bc.ca/ruraleducation/2016/11/17/topic-3-use-of-school-facilities/>)

Posted on November 17, 2016
26 comments

School buildings can often be empty on evenings and weekends but could be used in a variety of ways by different community organizations. They may host youth groups, art and cultural events and... Read More (<http://engage.gov.bc.ca/ruraleducation/2016/11/17/topic-3-use-of-school-facilities/>)

Discussion 4: Share your rural education story (<http://engage.gov.bc.ca/ruraleducation/2016/11/17/topic-4-share-your-rural-education-story/>)

Posted on November 17, 2016
24 comments

Rural education is more than just buildings and grades. An education that addresses the individual needs of a student and prepares them for life and career upon graduation will have positive societal... Read More (<http://engage.gov.bc.ca/ruraleducation/2016/11/17/topic-4-share-your-rural-education-story/>)



Ways to Participate

You can provide feedback in the following ways until January 9, 2017 at 4p.m.

1. Join the conversation in the online discussion (<http://engage.gov.bc.ca/ruraleducation/2016/11/17/topic-1-what-is-your-definition-of-a-rural-school-remote-school-and-rural-school-district/>) on rural education
2. You may send your comments by email to Rural.Education@gov.bc.ca (mailto:Rural.Education@gov.bc.ca?subject=Rural Education Strategy)
3. You can send your comments by mail to:

Ministry of Education
Resource Management and Corporate Services Division
PO Box 9151
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9H1

4. Stakeholder groups, such as school boards, sector associations and local governments can submit their thoughts in formal submissions by January 9th at 4pm by emailing Rural.Education@gov.bc.ca (mailto:Rural.Education@gov.bc.ca?subject=Rural Education Strategy) (all stakeholder invitations and submissions will be posted publicly).
5. School district staff with technical knowledge, such as superintendents and secretary treasurers, are being canvassed through a survey about issues around funding, facilities, and educational programming.
6. Share this with a Friend (<http://engage.gov.bc.ca/ruraleducation/share-this-with-a-friend/>)



(<http://engage.gov.bc.ca/ruraleducation/share-this-with-a-friend/>)

Based on the online discussion and stakeholder submissions, a draft discussion paper will be posted to this site for further public and stakeholder comment in early 2017; also the Parliamentary Secretary will host a series of regional meetings to discuss what she has heard online and through stakeholder submissions.



(<https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=http://engage.gov.bc.ca/ruraleducation/ways-to-participate/>)



(<https://twitter.com/home?status=http://engage.gov.bc.ca/ruraleducation/ways-to-participate/>)



(<http://engage.gov.bc.ca/ruraleducation/2016/11/17/topic-1-what-is-your-definition-of-a-rural-school-remote-school-and-rural-school-district/>)

