

## SCHOOL CLOSURES &/or CONSOLIDATION

The Board of Education of SD85 (Vancouver Island North) believes in the efficient use of school buildings, associated grounds and/or facilities. The Board needs to give continuing attention to the matter of school closure and/or consolidating schools due to one or more of the following considerations:

1. Educational program effectiveness;
2. Factors involving student safety and building modernization needs;
3. Financial limitations of the school district;
4. Operational efficiencies;
5. Demographic changes within School District No. 85.

When school closure or consolidation is contemplated, the Board shall ensure that adequate advance notice and opportunities for community responses are provided.

### – REGULATION –

1. The Superintendent's management committee will monitor the five considerations.
2. When closure and/or consolidation is indicated, the matter will be brought forward as a recommendation to the Board at a public school board meeting.
3. In closing and/or consolidating schools, the Board of Education would provide one month's notice between the time a recommendation is made for closure and /or consolidation and the final decision by the Board. During the notice period, a meeting will occur to give all affected parties an opportunity for input.
4. The final decision of the Board will occur at a public school board meeting.

5. If the recommendation is approved, the Board of Education will provide written notification to the Parent Advisory Council, parents and notice will be published in school newsletters and local media outlets. In the case of school closure, the Community will be given a minimum of four months' notice prior to the commencement of the next school term.
6. The Board of Education will arrange meetings for the purpose of discussing the impact of a closure &/or consolidation with affected parties. The Board of Education will explore educational options for affected students.
7. When the decision to close and/or consolidate a school has taken place, the following activities will occur:
  - inform the Ministry of Education with written notification as per the Minister of Education's Order 194-08 (on 194-08) effective September 3, 2008.
  - adjust school attendance areas, if necessary
  - deal with staff changes in accordance with the collective agreement(s)
  - consider alternate use or building disposal.