

Harewood Neighbourhood Association

May 18, 2021

School Trustees

Nanaimo-Ladysmith School District #68

395 Wakesiah

Nanaimo, BC V9R 3K6

Dear **Error! Reference source not found.:**

Re: **Elimination of two** community school positions

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal to eliminate two Community School Coordinator positions in the upcoming school district budget.

As you are probably aware, the Harewood Neighbourhood Association, (formerly the Harewood Project Society), was the 'founding' community group that enabled the School District #68 to apply for government funding for the Harewood Family of Community Schools. This long time relationship gives us insight into the workings of the community school programs. In fact we continue to work in partnership with community schools providing funding for the staff and most materials for the summer parks program at Centennial Park that includes recreation, literacy components and food for children 6-12.

Since 1997, HNA has again and again presented before and provided information to the school board re community school programs. It was May 15th and 24rd 2019 that we last wrote to the school board, re proposed changes in the delivery of community school programs. From that letter let me quote. *"It is indeed too bad the original school board policy re ongoing evaluation of community schools was not carried out, as we were led to believe it would."*

There is a good reason to mention that quote. Again, it appears promises that were made to and by the school board have not been kept.

1. The **School Board** passed a **motion** on May 29th, 2019, which required community consultation re proposed changes to community schools. *"The Board will maintain Community Schools for another year, and any proposed changes to be made in consultation with various partner groups."* As you are considering cutting two of the five Community School coordinator positions, can we ask if you have consulted partner groups regarding this proposal? If so, with whom did you consult?

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2. At that same meeting there was a request for the *“Community School Policy to be reviewed, updated and brought to the board.”* Staff responded *“we could do that”*.

Did this happen? If so, where can one view the policy?

There is little doubt the Covid pandemic has had an impact on the school district staff’s ability to complete the commitments made in May of 2019. Would it not be important to complete this work, before making cuts to staffing?
The Harewood Neighbourhood Association suggests that until such work is completed, the staffing should not be cut.

We ask that you consider carefully the actions you take, both for the future of community schools, and for the public’s faith in you.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response.

Kind regards,

Heather Campbell

President

Harewood Neighbourhood Association