



# **Amalgamation of Trustee Electoral Areas & Reduction of Two Seats**

Presentation to the Langley Board of Education

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## **Request to the Board - March 2008**

**To have a public discussion re  
consideration of amalgamation of the  
Trustee Electoral Area and reduction of  
two trustee seats**



## Board's Response

*“ The Board sees this as outside of their mandate and would not be inviting a discussion of this kind at this time.”*



# Board of Education

## Policy # 1000 - School Board Powers and Duties

*“ It is in close contact with public opinion ...”*

*“ It is attentive to representation and recommendation emanating from its staff through the Langley Teachers' Association, ... and from delegations of concerned citizens.”*



# Ministry of Education

## Trustee Variation Guidelines

*“The purpose of these guidelines is to assist any person or group to provide the information the Minister of Education requires to make a decision regarding a request to change trustee electoral areas or the number of trustees in a school district.”*

D. Duerksen,  
Governance and Legislation, MoE



# Ministry of Education

## For consideration by Minister

*“...provide the broad information the Minister will require to make a decision i.e., a resolution passed by the board...respecting the proposed change.”*

D. Duerksen,  
Governance and Legislation, MoE



## MoE Expectation

CLEARLY, for the Ministry of Education this is **NOT** a question outside of a Board's mandate but rather public discussion is **required** and a resolution by a Board of Education in support of amalgamation of electoral areas and/or reduction of trustee seats would be entertained by the Minister.



## Facts

- Board has been asked for public discussion, which is within its mandate.
- Board can move to request an amalgamation of areas and/or reduction of seats.
- The Minister will entertain a Board's request to go forward with amalgamation and/or reduction.



# Voter Parity

| Township       |             | City    |      |
|----------------|-------------|---------|------|
| Bech           | 5848        | McVeigh | 1760 |
| Burton         | 5660        | Cody    | 1144 |
| Hogeterp       | 5565        |         |      |
| Ross           | 5346        |         |      |
| Paterson       | 5075        |         |      |
| <i>Pona</i>    | <i>5029</i> | *       |      |
| <i>Gilmour</i> | <i>4121</i> | *       |      |
| <i>Leonard</i> | <i>2711</i> | *       |      |



# Residency

City trustees live in the Township and vice versa

*Why should residency of voters matter?*

Trustee decisions affect all students in the district  
regardless of where they live.



# Truthiness

- *characterized by truth*
- *variation of straightforward truthfulness*
- *quality of stating concepts or facts one wishes or believes to be true, rather than concepts or facts known to be true*



## Reduction of Trustee Seats

- Langley is a geographically small area
- Comparison of funding not applicable



# Trustee Responsibilities

| <b>District</b> | <b>Trustees</b> | <b>Head Count</b> | <b>Head Count/Trustee</b> | <b>Schools</b> | <b>Schools/Trustee</b> |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| <b>Surrey</b>   | <b>7</b>        | <b>67,112</b>     | <b>9587.43</b>            | <b>126</b>     | <b>18</b>              |
| Langley         | 7               | 19,871            | 2838.71                   | 47             | 6.7                    |

MoE - January 2008 - (HC & # of schools)

## Data - January 2008

| District   | Trustees | Head Count | Head Count/Trustee | Schools | Schools/Trustee |          |
|------------|----------|------------|--------------------|---------|-----------------|----------|
| Surrey     | 7        | 67,112     | 9587.43            | 126     | 18              |          |
| Langley    | 5        | 19,871     | 3974.20            | 47      | 9.4             | Proposed |
| Burnaby    | 7        | 25,734     | 3676.29            | 56      | 8               |          |
| Richmond   | 7        | 23,172     | 3310.29            | 51      | 7.3             |          |
| Central OK | 7        | 21,665     | 3095.00            | 43      | 6.14            |          |
| Langley    | 7        | 19,871     | 2838.71            | 47      | 6.7             | Current  |
| Abbotsford | 7        | 19,432     | 2776.00            | 48      | 6.86            |          |
| W. Van     | 5        | 6,853      | 1370.60            | 17      | 3.4             |          |
| Mission    | 5        | 6,774      | 1354.80            | 22      | 4.4             |          |



# Cost Accounting

- Conferences
- Weekly courier charges
- Meals
- Technology provision
- Photocopying
- Retirement dinners, etc.
- Other “invisible” costs



## Expectation

The Board will take the initiative to engage  
in a thoughtful discussion.

As role models,  
our students deserve no less from trustees.



# Questions?



<http://members.shaw.ca/amalgamateschoolboard>

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