

An open letter to the residents of Dieppe Place from the Dieppe School Community Council

DIEPPE SCHOOL MIGHT CLOSE – HELP SAVE THE SCHOOL!!!

Regina Public Schools (RPS) trustees voted at their September 20 meeting to move forward with the closure of Dieppe School. Due to the current and projected low enrolment numbers, RPS is recommending that **Dieppe School be CLOSED** at the end of this school year (June 2012).

RPS trustees Carla Beck and Cindy Anderson did NOT support the vote to close the school.

The trustee representing Dieppe School, Angela Fraser, DID support the vote to move forward to close Dieppe School.

The next step in the process is that RPS will hold consultations with the community and the final vote will be before January 15, 2012. We aren't sure how much they will consult but there is a meeting planned in November to hear from families. *It is critical that as many people as possible attend this meeting to voice their concerns!!!*

The meeting with RPS will be held on Wednesday, November 2 at 7:00 p.m. at Dieppe School.

You must plan to attend this meeting and voice your concerns. Enrolment is down at Dieppe School but it is very difficult to attract students to a school that has been on the possible closure list for the past two years.

Dieppe School could become a Neighbourhood Learning Centre and be used for other activities. Vancouver is looking at other ways to use schools, share with the City, and generate revenue to keep schools in the community.

If you want a school in your community, you must lobby the elected members of the Regina Public Schools. Call the Dieppe RPS trustee Angela Fraser, call the other RPS Councillors as they will all be voting on the closure. Call the City Councillor, Mike O'Donnell and get him to lobby RPS.

RPS should be working to find ways to keep small schools open rather than closing them. There must be other options to attract students to the school.

Tell others in the community to contact the Board members even if they don't have children in the school. We all love having a school in our community!!

RPS future plans for Regina schools include enrolment numbers. Enrolment projections indicate that the enrolment at Dieppe School will be below 140 students into the future. RPS is using 140 students as the cut-off enrolment number to be the minimum number to keep an elementary school open.

The recommendations are based on projected enrolment numbers and do not take into consideration the importance of small schools in the community, the fact that research shows that students do better in smaller schools, and the fact that Dieppe is a subdivision in itself. As you know, the school provides a place of learning during the day and a venue for community organized events in the evening. Children thrive in local community schools.

The Dieppe Place Community Association uses the school in the evening for programs for local children. These programs provide activities for children in the evenings instead of looking for something else to do. The community needs the school!

DO YOUR PART TO HELP KEEP DIEPPE SCHOOL OPEN!

Contact the elected RPS trustees and plan to attend the November 2 meeting to voice your concerns.

Contact the City Councillor Mike O'Donnell and lobby him to help keep the school open: 545-7300 or email him on the City of Regina website - <http://www.regina.ca/Page1470.aspx>

Contact Regina Public Schools – review@rbe.sk.ca

Regina Public Schools Board – Elected trustees

Angela Fraser – she is the elected trustee for the Dieppe area and supported the vote to close the school
arfraser@sasktel.net
Telephone: 775-0368

Tim Stobbs
tim.stobbs@gmail.com
Telephone: 751-0365

Barbara Young – Chairperson of the Board
beyoung@accesscomm.ca
Telephone: 584-2040

Dale West
kennethdwest@gmail.com
Telephone: 585-1731

Cindy Anderson – did NOT support the vote to close Dieppe
cindyandersonrps@gmail.com
Telephone: 949-1684

Carla Beck – did NOT support the vote to close Dieppe
carlabeck@sasktel.net
Telephone: 530-3320

Katherine Gagne Vice-Chairperson
gagne@accesscomm.ca
Telephone: 585-6601

Document prepared by Dieppe School Community Council.
For more information contact:

Dawn Popescul
359-1474
tolpop@accesscomm.ca