

Lardeau Valley Community Presentation

April 5, 2016 School Board
Delegation

Presented by: Greg Underwood (greg.underwood.bc@gmail.com)

Lardeau Valley Needs a School

- Up to 100 Km travel and over 2 hours per day on a bus for some students is not something children under the age of 10 should have to do.
- Rural area with harsh winter conditions and a road that often experiences avalanches, slides, washouts which can lead to closures over multiple days.
- Rural communities present unique challenges.





- Closing Jewett would mean the loss of Strong Start which would affect many young children, even those that home school.
- The school is part of the fabric of our community and we should exhaust all possible options to make it more economically viable before we consider closing it.
- Once it's gone, it's gone for good.
- Let's find ways to work together to keep Jewett open because it is the best thing for the children, the community and the school district.







At Our School we
Respectful...
Do Your Best...
Prepared...
Responsible...

La famille
Maman
Papa
Grand-mère
Grand-père
Frère
Sœur

Quel temps fait-il?
Il fait froid.
Il y a du brouillard.
Il neige.
Il fait chaud.
Il vente.
Il fait du vent.
Il fait sombre.
Il pleut.





We don't want this to be Jewett one day!!



The current option being considered; move the school to LVCC, has many challenges that have not been considered

- There has been no consultation with the LVCC board or the Regional District thus far.
- The scoring for its economic benefits are missing many key details.
 - What are the costs associated with running the community centre?
 - Additional insurance costs
 - Upgrade costs to bring inline with the same standards other facilities are to be at.

- Space is already limited. For instance there is not room for Strong Start at LVCC.
- Is a public campground and recreation space. Children would be exposed to a variety of people that have not been vetted.
- LVCC supports emergency crews in the event of disasters like a forest fire or the slide in Johnsons Landing. There is an existing 5 year contract to provide emergency services.
- We're unsure there is adequate space to locate a portable because of the existing geothermal infrastructure, septic, camping spaces and the need to keep clear of snowfall from Community Centre roof

How can we work together to make Jewett more economically viable.

- We as a community view this as an opportunity to establish a stronger relationship and find ways to make our school the best it can by working with the school board in any way we can to reduce costs and improve our children's education.
- Our understanding is Faculty Condition Index report that states the building needs repairs is not a requirement that must be adhered to. So what is the best option long term? Loss of school facilities or a building that is slightly outdated but still safe?

- In order to properly assess how we can help we need more detailed information regarding the long term costs associated with maintaining and operating Jewett.
- We'd like to explore options to reduce costs
 - Explore additional partnerships to add revenue and utilize unused capacity.
 - Look at alternative green technologies to provide cheaper and cleaner utilities for the school.
 - Is there any maintenance and repairs the community can provide support with in order to reduce costs?

Thank You For Your Time

The Lardeau Valley Community really appreciates the board taking the time to speak with us on Thursday, April 7 at LVCC.

We look forward to discussing a plan to provide our children and community with the best education and resources possible.