

OUR VISION OF EDUCATION IN POWELL RIVER IN 2030 – May 6, 2010

Comments by Participants

- ✓ Balancing our traditions and values with all new technology. Helping our children cope with new challenges, but keeping family integral to their education.
- ✓ A revamped education system that is not grade based. The focus is more on individual learning styles, and interests with more emotional support for students.
- ✓ Celebrate the teachers & students of today! Dissolve the walls of higher learning and make learning experiential. Prepare our kids to become citizens of the world.
- ✓ More help in classrooms for teachers / would help with diverse learners & levels.
- ✓ More hands-on projects to raise interest.
- ✓ We need to offer activities that support students social/emotional well-being – community building, musical events, team building – to help them feel belonging, valued and promote a peaceful world. Quality Schools – belonging, acceptance.
- ✓ Experiential, student-led, individualized learning to promote creativity, love of learning, community, communication, problem solving, critical thinking, ability to learn, adaptability. Research-based, resource-supported.
- ✓ I'd like to see “high tech” capabilities taught to the kids to teach them to live a “low tech” life, eg. internet research to learn to live off the land.
- ✓ It is natural to learn. We must cover certain required aspects of learning and have one area of learning that is practical each term (learn by doing). This may take the shape of job shadowing or working in a garden or building, baby-sitting, etc. We end up giving back to the community through the practical service course.
- ✓ Get teachers who care and make a good learning environment, and acknowledge in the classroom that each student learns in different ways.
- ✓ Technology and more balance. Not so much emphasis in newer and better – more thought to using what we have as a tool, not a life focus.
- ✓ I think there should be more technology for schools.
- ✓ Healthy Living & Healthy Environment – Addressing concerns related to obesity and consumption – food production and on-site food cultivation at schools. Promoting healthy diets, healthy choices and connecting to environment.
- ✓ Community mentoring – don't lose human connections.
- ✓ Open classrooms – outdoor, open source spirit induced. Respect students as teachers – teachers as students, more choice. Evolution of consciousness.

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- ✓ It was good to hear ideas from young, not so young, all backgrounds, etc. . . . but all talking about getting along and being conscious of our planet's needs.
- ✓ Provide more resources for the emotional health of our children. Greater emphasis on media literacy so children have the skills to filter various information they are exposed to.
- ✓ When students aren't motivated, they turn to cell phones and facebook. School becomes a chore. This happens because elementary and middle school is too monotonous. Too much sitting still. We need more hands-on and outdoor activities to spark passion for learning. Mini-BOAT programs for elementary. Agriculture environment. Have workers teach students what they know. Let grade 3, 4, 5 & 6's choose courses they want. If we create motivation in children, the rest will follow.
- ✓ Allow for opportunities to explore curriculum rather than narrowing the focus and rushing through things to meet a deadline – provincial exams. These exams really limit learning, as students can't explore in depth.
- ✓ Getting back to some of the "basics". Finding the fine line between using and learning about technology and "unplugging".
- ✓ Broader teaching. More hands-on world experience, less stand & deliver. Make it real.
- ✓ I would like to see the educational curriculum changed to meet the ever changing evolution our children are advancing through. A stagnant curriculum is boring – let's evolve with them.
- ✓ Classrooms must meet the needs of our students – emotionally, socially, academically & technologically. We are preparing our kids for a world we cannot even imagine yet!
- ✓ Teaching & modeling through RESPECT for self, for others and for our world we will help our students to live empowered, engaged & satisfying lives into 2030 and beyond.
- ✓ Fabulous evening & energizing activities. Students will have to become self-starters (entrepreneurs) & we'll have to prepare them for a world that is largely unknown – challenging.
- ✓ Continue teaching unique programs like dual credits, giving/showing a wide variety of opportunities.
- ✓ Students should be taught to be sustainable in a tactile way. They learn the newest technology so they are not behind globally in the job market. Virtual schooling would save money and be extremely convenient but there needs to be a social aspect involved in some way.
- ✓ Don't tell, Shaw! Show our kids how we can make a difference. Show them how to live sustainably and show them what will happen if they don't.
- ✓ Bike lane to Lund (there isn't even a shoulder!).

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- ✓ LOVE, Diversity, Understanding, Knowledge.
- ✓ Important to train students to think, communicate & adapt – change is constant. Train for ability to learn, rather than specific current (later outdated) job skills. Important to remember social skills.
- ✓ Project based learning in groups to give the broad base of skills that students will need in a rapidly changing world.
- ✓ The world now is very informationally international which has separated us from each other even more. Personal contacts decrease - harms education by changing our values in such a way that education itself becomes a chore. Information is now taken for granted. If the school system could encourage and develop interests in students, a domino effect could change future generations through the parents as well.
- ✓ Developing flexible, critical thinkers who can teach themselves and adapt is essential. Students need to be able to travel through school as they develop!
- ✓ International/global video conferencing to learn different cultural teaching and new ideas/methods. Actually taking classes out of the classroom and show them kinds of places where their work will actually be used.
- ✓ 2030 – I think in 2030 all students should each get a built-in I-pad to help them learn and take them farther in life.
- ✓ Challenge students to take advantage of their learning. Inspire “outside of the box” learning and teaching methods.
- ✓ Let’s focus on:
 - Inclusive leadership & interpersonal relations;
 - Deconstructing hierarchical view of education, i.e. welders can learn as much or more than doctors;
 - Focus on community building skills;
 - Communication skills!!
 - Focus on cooperative models vs. competitive.
- ✓ Vision 2030 – Schools will continue and have a greater focus on community (parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, etc.) involvement. It’s great to educate children on subjects and we need everyone to be involved to support, mentor and to model the values, learning and concepts we teach in the classroom. As well, classrooms can continue & increase project based learning and integrating concepts. When studying a subject area, look at all aspects – Math, Socials, English, as opposed to insular learning. Make connections.
- ✓ I-Pads for each desk in each class.
- ✓ Regardless of technology, time, etc., one of the things that schools must continue to do is teach core values of mutual respect and decency. We will move away from knowledge-based to skills-based learning, but the core skills and values will always be needed.
- ✓ Get I-Pads for each school and for each class (you would use less paper).

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- ✓ I believe we must encourage writing even in this digital age. We must have large homeroom classes but split into intimate groups in each class, differing daily. We also need a nexus point, a meeting place of learning and fun, a library, but an extra-curricular centre – a place where Knowledge and Eagerness go hand in hand to learn.
- ✓ Creative ways to emphasize the importance of literacy skills – engaging parents and making learning a family affair.
- ✓ Applied behavior analysis – goals – inclusive in classrooms (it is happening). Keep it going – more technology in classrooms [so] that inclusion can grow.
- ✓ If we were able to find a way to bring in young families to Powell River with children – this would mean more tax dollars to fund education – however our population is aging and Powell River is becoming a retirement community – not as many taxes – less money for school funding.
- ✓ Change the system so that students understand why they're learning and that it's important, and so they're learning because they want go. 60 years ago poorer kids went to immense lengths to achieve education. How can we get back the desire to learn in the youth? Place more value on education; it's not a task – it's a gift they're lucky to get.
- ✓ I believe that children need to have technology available to them but also need to be taught how to live locally. Students also should be able to progress at their own speed.
- ✓ Teaching our kids things that will help them in the world. A more personal relationship with the teacher – trust – respect. Different approaches to teaching – learning styles.
- ✓ Healthy, active lifestyle: “Teaching” isn't enough. Build a culture!?! Force some action?!
- ✓ An educational focus early on for sustainability and environmental issues for all students and preparation for global change in the form of basic skills.
- ✓ We need more group learning.
- ✓ A balance between emotional/social intelligence/skills vs. the need for technological intelligence to be competitive in the world.
- ✓ I see school communities using technology for their benefit, NOT BEING USED by it like now.
- ✓ Big worry about growing divide between “have” and “have not” will be exacerbated by new communications technology.

/jg

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Here is some further feedback from the Vision in Education 2030:

In 2030, our classrooms should be designed to help students learn how to learn - their world will be changing so rapidly that they need to be equipped with strategies to help them change to keep up. Technology will play an increasing role.

Classrooms will be places where students learn life skills, including globally responsible behaviour.

Classrooms will be places where student programs are much more individualized - designed to meet the needs of each student, taking into account their learning style.

What did I hear??

- 1) Go green
- 2) Movement toward other methods of transport - not gas or diesel
- 3) Back with specialization - big stores like Walmart go downhill
- 4) Live closer to work; walk or bike; create smaller communities within communities
- 5) don't want to sit in desks for hours anymore
- 6) don't want teachers teaching toward tests; therefore that becomes whole curriculum
- 7) want teachers to be more up to speed re technology
- 8) want teachers; just don't want boxes anymore
- 9) industry has to become involved; has to contribute to education with dollars; has to set up relationships with schools.
- 10) Courses like the BOAT program have a large component that deals with collaboration; project learning; working in groups; time limits; we need to copy this model in our schools.
- 11) Still a need for cultural studies; maybe

even more so; as we become a global community

12) Respect, caring, relationships all need to be nurtured even more in our volatile global world

13) A need to make sure what employers are saying about some of the lacks re skills upon graduation are met

14) If colleges don't change stand and deliver model; our incoming new teachers will probably continue to "stand and deliver".

15) cell phone issue has to be dealt with.....somehow

16) we need schools because being with our friends is really important

17) Language skills, vocabulary, the ability to speak in front of others, the ability to communicate effectively with others is a very important component for schools to address. We also don't write as well as we used to and this is still an important skill.

18) As information gathering, answers to questions is a close and quick as Google; remembering facts not nearly as important as it was. However, learning to ask the computer the right questions, learning to assess the value of knowledge received from the computer, learning how to perform complex tasks is very important.

19) Learning to network with the global world needs to be taught

20) Making our schools for the whole community is much needed; bring all ages into the buildings and have all work together. The whole community teaching the child is much needed.

Doug

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What did I hear?

1 The Mill will continue to down size and its importance to the economy of Powell River will decline

2 Powell River could continue to develop as a community that attracts retirees, artists, people who can work from home

3 Powell River will be valued as a safe and secure community. Its relative isolation could become its biggest asset.

4 Conversely population growth from the Lower Mainland may lead to development up the Sunshine Coast and Powell River may become more highly populated and reached more easily by improved transportation links, eg Fast Cat ferries.

5 People who choose to live in PR will value its focus on Sustainability, its EcoTourism, its Food Security projects. These activities may be part of its economic future.

6 There should be a halt to box store development and continued focus on supporting small specialty stores as we see on Marine.

7 Our waterfront around the old golf club area could be developed for retirement condos and a senior care facility.

8 People in PR tend to feel a connection if they live in the community and are somewhat blinkered about the rest of the world unless they travel out side.

9 Students in Powell River need to get out and see beyond Powell River. Need to engage students so that more young people take advantage of the many opportunities offered through Brooks to experience more than is available in this town. Need to see more and think more about the wider world. Acquire a global prospective with a curriculum that fosters this

10 Complacency the enemy of engagement.

11 Parents and students feel that the social and emotional needs of students are very

important.

12 Parents want caring, nurturing school environments for their children.

13 Students want to have teachers they can talk to and develop relationships with.

Would like to have teachers they can go to for individual help.

Aboriginal students want to feel the system welcomes them and addresses their needs.

Cross cultural programs important to facilitate global awareness

14 There is a general feeling that the emotional and behavioral needs of students are becoming so immense that the idea of teaching to a regular curriculum is almost impossible

15 Bring services to address students behavioral needs etc into the school and integrate them with better communication between service providers.

16 Technology is everywhere. Accept it, use it. It is part of students' lives. Need to teach how to handle information not how to access it.

17 Should be a focus on how to synthesize, analyze and communicate information effectively .

18 Social skills are still important. Continue to focus on communication skills, oral language, personal interaction.

19 Consider how young children are spending their time . They should not always be glued to computers or computer games. High need for good teachers .

Productive play , Hands On Learning, Real experiences , Field Trips.

20 Real projects engage students. Learning goes on outside schools and classroom walls. How to involve community as resource people

20 Students are engaged when the work is relevant and seems real and purposeful.

Field trips for all ages . Current course load is huge and many high school students take

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on a big load with student jobs to contend with.
21 Need to have all levels of the system on the same page (Industry, Universities, Ministry of Education) to effect real change.

Mary James