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PROPOSAL IN BRIEF

**SUBMITTED
TO THE
ABBOTSFORD SCHOOL BOARD
DISTRICT #34**

NOVEMBER 28, 1994

**SUBMITTED BY: A GROUP OF ABBOTSFORD
PARENTS INTERESTED IN STARTING A
TRADITIONAL MODEL SCHOOL IN ABBOTSFORD.**

ABBOTSFORD TRADITIONAL SCHOOL

Introduction

In recent years, parents have become increasingly concerned about how prepared their children will be when they leave the public school system. Competition in the future economy will require solid skills and capabilities, and parents want their children NOT to be at a disadvantage in getting access to best colleges and universities. Across the country parents are seeking alternatives to the public school system as evidenced by increasing numbers choosing home schooling or independent schools. It is important for parents to have a choice within the public school system.

We believe that parents can work constructively with the local school district to establish a school that will deliver a consistent, structured education, with clearly defined standards of academic achievement. While supporting the traditional values of home and society, the Abbotsford Traditional school would produce independent, self-disciplined, life-long learners, ready to take their place in our ever changing society.

MISSION STATEMENT

WE BELIEVE THAT CHILDREN WILL BECOME GOOD CITIZENS, CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING THEIR GOALS, IF THEY ARE GIVEN A CONSISTENT, STRUCTURED EDUCATION, WITH HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS, IN AN ENVIRONMENT THAT SUPPORTS TRADITIONAL VALUES OF HOME AND SOCIETY

Structure

-The Abbotsford Traditional school would operate as a part of the Abbotsford public school system. Spending per pupil would be the same as that currently within the district. Resources and funding for special needs students would reflect those available to all schools in the district. The school would operate under an open catchment policy using a first come first served principle.

-The school district, under advisement of the school council (consisting of parents, teachers, and the principal) would carry the responsibility of hiring a principal who shares and affirms the philosophy of the traditional model school. The council, headed by the principal, would hire teachers who would also share the philosophy of the school. The principal, teachers and parents would work together to achieve superior, measurable results.

-Parental involvement will be based on adherence to and support for the traditional philosophy.

-The school will offer a well rounded curriculum to students from kindergarten to grade eight with an option to carry through to grade twelve as enrollment and location permit. There would be an emphasis on single grade classes.

Objectives

-The principal and teachers would be committed to proven teaching techniques, emphasizing direct instruction while meeting the individual student's needs.

-The school curriculum would adhere to the requirements of the Ministry of Education. The School Act and its contents would be the basis for all disciplinary actions.

-The school would have a consistent, structured approach emphasizing basic skill development and mastery of knowledge (in measurable terms) in phonics, reading, comprehension, grammar, handwriting, mathematics, computer literacy, social studies, physical sciences, music, art and physical education.

-Regular reporting of student progress to parents would take the form of letter grades, comments and parent-teacher conferences.

-Detailed school policy would not only cover teaching methods, curriculum and materials, but also deportment, appearance, discipline and homework. The council would develop a dress code for staff, and a simple, casual, affordable uniform for the students.

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Summary

We have investigated the Langley Prairie Fundamental school, and the Surrey Model school, and we believe that a similar school in Abbotsford would satisfy a large demand of Abbotsford students. The Abbotsford school district currently offers educational choices such as French immersion, Programme Cadre, New Beginnings, Career Technical Centre (CTC), International Baccalaureate (IB), career preparation, continuing education (ACE), advanced placement program (AP), APEX, etcetera, and we too would like to have a choice for our children. We believe the Abbotsford Traditional school will be successful and enrich the community in which it serves. We believe that with the support of dedicated parents, along with the skilled administration, school board trustees and teachers, the logistics of deciding on a school building, principal, funding, etc., will not be a problem. We look forward to your prompt response to our proposal, and are ready to work with you on this exciting project.

Interim Council:

Iris Rodrigues	854 3853	Chairperson
Joanne Field	852 5831	Co-chair
Karla Nelson	852-8133	Co-Chair
Kim Dirksen	850 2610	Secretary
Laura Williams	864 9207	Treasurer
Lisa LeGear	852 4928	
Shelaugh Thomson	855-1949	

- Abbotsford

5. DELEGATIONS

(a) Mrs. Iris Rodrigues - Traditional Model School

Mrs. Rodrigues introduced herself and her committee. Mrs. Rodrigues outlined the structure, and objectives of the traditional model school. She quoted the mission statement as follows, "We believe that children will become good citizens, capable of achieving their goals, if they are given a consistent, structured education, with high academic standards, in an environment that supports traditional values of home and society." Mrs. Rodrigues requested approval in principle for the traditional model school by January 9, 1995.

Trustees posed several questions to the delegates with regard to funding and housing of the school. It was suggested that an ad hoc committee be struck to consider a traditional school model. The committee would be comprised of the seven members of the parent group, one trustee, a representative of the A.D.T.A. and the Superintendent. The Secretary-Treasurer would act as a resource to the committee on issues of operating and capital funding.

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It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the delegation be received AND THAT an ad hoc committee be struck to consider the matter of a traditional school model AND THAT the committee be made up of: seven members of the parent group, one trustee (Trustee Fandrich), a representative of the Abbotsford District Teachers' Association, and the Superintendent AND THAT the ad hoc committee report back to the Board by January 23, 1995.

CARRIED

November 22, 1994

Board of School Trustees
School District 34
2790 Tims Street
Clearbrook, B.C.

Attention: Chairman and School Trustees

Re: Traditional Model School Presentation, November 28 Public Meeting

The Abbotsford Traditional School Advocates will present a proposal at the public School Board meeting on November 28, 1994. To facilitate an effective and informative discussion we have attached a copy of the proposal in brief. We hope after studying the proposal and listening to the presentation that you will be able to approve in principle our proposal. We will also ask that a supportive liaison officer be appointed between the School District and our interim council. We look forward to our meeting on Monday, and request that we receive a decision on this matter at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Iris Rodrigues, Chairperson

Joanne Field, Co-Chair

Karla Nelson, Co-Chair