

RE: QSD enrolment, rate of change, and K to grade 5

From : Facilities2014 SD69 <Facilities2014@sd69.bc.ca> Tue, Mar 04, 2014 11:33 AM

Subject : RE: QSD enrolment, rate of change, and K to grade 5

To : Warren Munroe
<publicconsultationadvocacy@shaw.ca>

Mr. Monroe:

Qualicum School District uses software provided by Baragar Systems based in White Rock, BC to develop enrolment projections for the district as whole as well as individual schools. We have been using this demographic software suite for almost ten years and are very satisfied with accuracy of the projections provided to support our staffing and budget process.

Today over 95 School Districts serving 2.3 million pupils across Canada and the United States use Baragar Systems. The School Districts range in size from 1,500 to 260,000 pupils.

Baragar's Demographic Dynamics package is an interactive enrolment projection software package that facilitates analysis of future staffing and capital requirements for the next 15 years.

One set of accurate projections are provided, by grade and by program, for each school, as well as, for the District as a whole. Baragar allows demographic factors that affect enrolment to be isolated and projected separately. The software presents historic data and trends for variables which are key for accurate enrolment projections such as: separating magnet programs from regular programs, and separating in-boundary from out-of-boundary students so that informed assumptions can be made regarding each subset. Annual history of births plus the population age 1 to 17 from 1990 to present are provided for each catchment area – this information is not currently provided in any other school demographic software package.

As a District, we value the use of information provided by Baragar in supporting capital budgeting and staffing decisions. We need to rely on credible data and sound analysis for policy and resource allocation decision-making.

At the front end of our facility review process, we engaged the community in a focused conversation about enrolment projection/forecasting data options and reached agreement that we would use Baragar as the best option available to use for this purpose.

The community members and staff present at those discussions were clear that they preferred to spend their time at the outset identifying issues relating to an extended period of enrolment decline. The next steps involved discussing options and solutions to the problems identified earlier. Baragar projections and methods were agreed to as the data source to be used in this work and it was further agreed not to engage in debate about the projections.

To go back to that tired debate at this point would mean that we were being untrue to the process we have established and take the focus from the real issues at hand. Any attempt to suggest/imply a grassy knoll conspiracy theory is disrespectful of the work that trustees, staff, and the community has done collaboratively to this point.

The enrolment forecasts (both school by school and district as a school) done using Baragar software differ because the demographic data behind it and the cross-boundary trends are updated annually in order to give us the most up-to-date information possible to support our decision-making - as I said earlier, it is a tool that is dynamic in nature.

Rollie Koop
Superintendent

-----Original Message-----

From: Warren Munroe [mailto:publicconsultationadvocacy@shaw.ca]

Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 11:48 AM

To: Lynette Kershaw; Ross Milligan; Julie Austin; Eve Flynn; Barry Kurland; Facilities2014 SD69

Subject: QSD enrolment, rate of change, and K to grade 5

To the Board of Education, Qualicum School District,

As mentioned, the Baragar enrolment forecast presented at the end of November 2013 is lower and stays much lower to 2027 than the enrolment forecast presented at the beginning of October 2010.

Will the enrolment decline more than expected as Baragar foretells?

One way to check is to look at the rate of change in enrolment. Another is to look at the change in enrolment for the K to grade 5 students. These charts are available via

<http://www.wminfomatics.com/PopGeog/articles.html>

and click on

Qualicum School District Facility Review. Enrolment Rate of Change or go to

http://www.wminfomatics.com/WManalytics/Articles/140228/QSDFR_RoC.html

Could you please provide the method used by Baragar to create the 2013 enrolment forecast for the Qualicum School District?

Could you please include an explanation of why the 2010 and 2013 enrolment forecasts for the Qualicum School District are different?

Yours truly,

Warren Munroe
