

July 9, 2019

Dear SD62 Trustees,

We, the Citizens of South Langford for Sustainable Development, are writing to School District 62 to urge you to delay signing any land purchase deal associated with the parcels of land at 950 Worrell and 804 Latoria. As was made clear in the Planning, Zoning and Affordable Housing meeting on July 8, there is significant public unease over the proposed zoning. We believe that this current proposal needs to be examined carefully by the school district, as it presents both concerns and opportunities:

*1. Leadership Role for SD62.* The land offered to SD62 in this proposal is being leveraged to cut down on the amount of undeveloped forest that is critical to the health of families and school children. The SD62 Strategic Plan states that the District should “provide leadership in educational stewardship and environmental practices.” We ask the school district to advance this goal by working with citizens, the developer and City of Langford to create a new protected nature park in South Langford, while also securing a location for a school.

*2. ‘Species at Risk’ Legislation.* We believe that not enough research has been done by the City and the developer in regards to presence of endangered species habitat in the parcels. The federal and provincial governments show that these parcels of land contain ‘critical habitat’ for two species that have been designated as ‘Schedule 1, Endangered’ – the highest level of concern. The presence of the species, both protected under ‘Species At Risk’ legislation, has important implications to the nature of the proposed rezoning and could potentially impact the size and location of the school site. Until more information is gathered, we urge the school district to delay signing any deal that could be affected.

We believe the Trustees and Administration of SD62 have the best needs of our community in mind. We believe you understand that our growing region needs more schools, but not at the price of overdevelopment. SD62 should make sure that they get a deal that's good for everyone in the community, for the environment and for the future.

For these reasons, we ask that the Sooke School District (SD62) delay signing any land deal until these concerns are met. We are happy to meet with you to discuss this further.

Yours, on behalf of CSLSD,

Tim Allan

Sarah Hull

Frank Lyne

Nicole Polet

Sean Rodman

Megan Evans

CC:

Trustees: Ravi Parmar, Chair ; Dianna Seaton, Vice Chair ; Bob Beckett ; Wendy Hobbs , Margot Swinburnson, Bob Philips, Alison Watson; Superintendent Scott Stinson; Secretary Treasurer Harold Cull