

As a citizen of the Yale Valley I have a few requests. I will try to keep it brief; however I represent a lot of people. We request to know who appointed this BAT committee. What was the criteria for being appointed to this committee? Where is the representation from our community and from our school? Who appointed the members of this committee? It appears that there are many administrators on the committee yet relatively few cuts to administration in the recommendations. Why is that? We request to know when this committee first met, who put the closure of Yale School on the table?

We request a copy of the expenses and revenue from Yale School. How does the committee come to the figure of \$215,000.00? Does your revenue reflect both the state's contribution of \$324,222.00 for last year and the extra \$20,000.00 for being remote and necessary? What has the district received in property tax and timber tax revenue? Is your savings estimate including the space you will need for 50 or more students, when your website states that you are "out of room in every one of our schools" and that the district is using 22 portables as of last year.

May I give the board a handout? I am giving you the report to the Washington State House Appropriations Committee and Washington State Senate Ways and Means Committee on Remote and Necessary Small School Plants. I have copied only that portion which pertains to Yale Elementary School. Mr. Green serves on this committee. I would draw your attention to the fact that Mr. Green states that the capacity at Yale Elementary is 75-100 students. We appreciate that he acknowledges that the travel time would be 70-90 minutes or more to attend Woodland, however I would like to point out that for the majority of the kids it would be even longer. We also appreciate Mr. Green's recognition of the fact that "The communities served by Yale School are at a high elevation, (400' or so) than other Woodland Schools, which are at sea level. During the winter months transportation from that area to Woodland is exacerbated by road conditions and snow. The road is narrow, winding, and has significant elevation changes (1,000' to sea level)".

Does your savings estimate include bus costs, which will likely involve adding another bus? Do your savings include the loss of per child state revenue dollars for the many who will withdraw their students from the Woodland School District?

We request an accounting of the revenue the Woodland School District has received from the state, property taxes and timber taxes from the Yale precinct and how much of the excess (over the cost of operating the Yale School has been used for improvements at Yale School since the Woodland School District took over the Yale district.

We request to know the following; This committee must have known at some point that they would have their recommendations ready, yet they were not released until Friday, the 27<sup>th</sup>, the last day of school before spring break and the comment period ended the Monday following spring break at noon?

The notification to submit comments is in a word "suspicious".

As your website states "staff share the responsibility for communicating and interpreting the district mission, its policies, programs, goals, and objectives to members of the community" and yet there was no common courtesy to notify the Yale staff until 2:30pm on Friday the 27? Yale School had early release that day at 12:15, as did the rest of the district.

While I appreciate Mr. Green's response in extending the comment deadline to Tuesday, I question the intent of this committee and this school board. I understand that there are statutes and deadlines but you must have known that this comment period was going to occur. As for the timing, it is either an

oversight of magnanimous proportions or it is intentional because you do not truly want input, you have already made up your mind and you are simply going through the motions.

We request to know why so little effort was made to receive comments. If you truly wanted input there are many ways in which that can be achieved, so again I ask, did it not occur to anyone within this district that an effort needed to be made to notify people, when there are many low cost ways to do so. Why was no one from the community or Yale staff involved in this process, why was a flyer not sent home with Yale students, why was a mailer not mailed to all taxpaying citizens of this district? Why did you not activate the Yale phone tree? Why did Mr. Green not use his emergency phone message system to notify people?

The front page of your website has, for some time now stated that the school board meets in the WHS/WMS Library. Since this is not the case I ask you, what happens to the person that thinks they are coming to a board meeting and finds all of the doors locked. How would they know the meeting was elsewhere unless they called to find out? We live in an age where technology is increasingly important, however if you are going to have a website, it should be accurate especially about times and location of meeting that are "open to the public"

I have some correspondence for the board which includes letters from 14 students at Yale Elementary as well as 294 signatures on letters opposing the recommendation to close Yale school.

Many, many people commented on the Budget Advisory Recommendations through the efforts of Friends of Yale Elementary to get the word out. However, we find it shocking, alarming and unacceptable that there was a programming error that lost some of the comments. This is one of two things- an unintentional mistake, possibly due to not adequately preparing for the volume of comments your system was receiving or a "convenient mistake".

We would like to hear from your technology department about how this happened. You chose to use this method to receive these comments therefore the burden is on you to make sure the system works.

Due to these enormous errors on the part of the district in losing citizen comments- we ask that this process be halted immediately until you can find these lost comments or allow for a new and fair comment period.

We ask that there be representation from our community on this committee.

The comments that were received seem to be reflected in the tiering choices of most of the recommendations but not in regards to Yale School. Why is that?

We request that this board make things right, we request that you take the closing of Yale School off the table tonight.