

Letter campaign swamps council over Glenlyon expansion plan

BY BRIAN DAVIS

Over the past couple of weeks a letter campaign has been employed by both sides of the proposed Glenlyon School expansion. As a result Oak Bay council has been swamped with arguments, both pro and con.

So far 87 letters have been received at the municipal hall. For the most part, those that arrived during the first week were opposed to the school's expansion plans, while those coming in during the second week voiced support for the proposal.

Of the 87 letters, 26 do not want the expansion to take place, while 61 are in favour.

Those who have written in protest all live in the general area of Glenlyon's proposed new senior campus. Just over half of those supporting the proposal have some connection with the Beach Drive independent school (such as parents), or at least those are the ones who acknowledge that fact in their letters; the others, in voicing their agreement with the proposal, do not mention if they have any ties with Glenlyon.

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Although a couple of those who are for the expansion live in the general area of the school, as expected the early breakdown indicates a clear distinction between opposing vested interest groups.

At the moment

though, there is no proposal to argue over anymore.

Glenlyon, which initially presented Oak Bay council with a plan to add Grades 11 and 12 to its present 1-10 format, expand onto property it owns across Beach drive from its waterfront campus and to open the final three years to girls, withdrew its application last Tuesday (December 13).

In making this withdrawal request for the school, its architect, David Hambleton wrote, "We will further advise you when our client wishes this matter to be placed on the agenda

once again."

But Ald. Susan Brice, chairman of the land use committee that was to deal with the application, said she interpreted the school's request to withdraw the proposal from her committee's agenda as a total withdrawal, not simply a deferment.

In other's words, any further approaches from the school would have to begin at square one at the council level. ★