

School will remain in session during Olympics for Vancouver students

BY KELLY SINOSKI, VANCOUVER SUN FEBRUARY 16, 2009

Vancouver students won't be getting the two weeks off from their studies during the 2010 Olympic Games.

The Vancouver school board voted 8-1 Monday night to keep school in session during the Games.

Trustee Ken Denike opposed the move, suggesting secondary schools be closed during the event.

Trustee Mike Lombardi said the decision was made to keep the schools open "so the teaching and learning could go on."

He added trustees also felt a school closure would disrupt families, who would have to find childcare during that time and affect special needs students.

The school board will now work with other Metro Vancouver school districts, Vanoc, TransLink and the provincial government to ensure a good transportation network is in place so that staff and students can get to school.

"The real challenge now for us is to roll up our sleeves with Vanoc and TransLink to come up with a transportation plan," Lombardi said.

West Vancouver is one of two districts — along with Sea to Sky — that has already decided to close schools for two weeks during the Olympics.

Delta, Richmond and Surrey schools will remain open, but New Westminster and Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows are still considering their options.

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