

## Group seeks York's input on school consolidation plans

### York event to be held on Thursday

By **Lynn Szymanski**  
yorkweekly@seacoastonline.com  
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YORK — Several community forums have been scheduled to allow residents the opportunity to voice their opinions on the school consolidation issue.

Sponsored by the Community Wellness Coalition of the KEYS Region (Kittery, Eliot, York, and South Berwick), the goal of the forums is to collect diverse citizen input and questions about the proposed mergers.

"It's really about listening to people," said coalition Coordinator Diane Brandon.

York residents will have their opportunity to participate in these forums, titled "We Can Hear You Now," from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 1, at the Village Elementary School.

Eliot and South Berwick residents spoke out Monday at Marshwood High School. The first forum, held in Kittery on Oct. 23, involved 26 individuals.

"It was a small group, but we had a very vigorous discussion," Brandon said. Moderators asked participants to imagine both the positive and the negative results of a merger, which resulted in a long list of possible outcomes.

Results of the forums are posted on the Community Wellness Coalition Web site at [www.keysregion.org](http://www.keysregion.org). The results will be sent to the Maine Department of Education as well as to the York and Wells-Ogunquit Reorganization Planning committee, which is working on plans for a possible school merger.

A follow-up forum designed to give local and state officials an opportunity to respond to the questions and comments from the three initial forums is scheduled for 7 p.m. Nov. 13 at the Kittery Trading Post Conference Room.

On its Web site, the Community Wellness Coalition is described as a community support organization with a mission to "develop and support collaborative projects which lead to individual, family and community well-being in southern York County."

Founded in 1997, the organization was created by a diverse group of community leaders who recognized the need for integrating and developing resources for the region.

For information, go to [www.keysregion.org](http://www.keysregion.org).