



Wetaskiwin
Regional
Public
Schools

C.B. McMurdo School

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"Bee-ing
our best" with
Year Round
Education

Date: December 12, 2011

PUBLIC MEETING
Strategic Facilities Plan
Tuesday, January 31, 2012
7:00 p.m.
CB McMurdo School Gym

Dear Parents and Guardians;

The CB McMurdo School Parent advisory committee is hosting a public meeting to review and discuss the Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools (WRPS) Board of Trustee's Strategic Facilities Plan direction document. The document indicates that during the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Trustees will consider the following:

- the closure of C.B. McMurdo School
- the relocation of the elementary and junior high school year-round program to another school within the City of Wetaskiwin; that school's grade configuration would become a K - 9 school.

WRPS Superintendent, Dr. Terry Pearson and Trustee Ed Zacharko will be in attendance to review the Strategic Facilities Plan Direction document and to answer questions from participants.

The attached document is the background and summary of the Board of Trustees **considerations** for future deliberations and is part of the ongoing public consultation process.

We hope to see you at the meeting on January 31, 2012.

Yours in Education,

Mrs. C. Fiveland
Principal
CB McMurdo School

Mrs. Cordalee Fiveland
Principal

Mrs. Sandra Wilson
Vice - Principal



Media Release

For Immediate Release: October 6, 2011

10-Year Strategic Facilities Plan Public Consultations Update

A comprehensive review of all educational facilities in the Division was undertaken by the Board as a result of the 2008 – 2009 public consultations. The intent of the review was to create educational spaces that are sustainable, given reductions in educational funding from the Government of Alberta due to declining student enrollment over the last 15 years and increasing costs. The recommendations contained in the Stantec Strategic Facilities Plan Report were to include facility replacement, modernization, right sizing, reconfiguration or no change.

The Board of Trustees considered the feedback received from the public during the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 public consultations and the Stantec Report so that it could develop a 10 – Year Strategic Facilities Plan. At its September 27, 2011 meeting, trustees accepted as information the Board's Strategic Facilities Plan Direction document, which is the Board's response to the feedback from the public and the recommendations contained in the Stantec Strategic Facilities Plan Report.

The release of the Board Strategic Facilities Plan Direction document is intended to continue the public consultation process. The Board will be holding public meetings across the Division over the coming months to get further feedback on the ideas contained within the Board's Direction document. "There is still a lot of work and discussion that must happen at the Board and community level prior to the Board making any decision about the addition of modular classrooms, modernizations to existing schools and the possible construction of a new school," said Deanna Specht, Board Chair. As part of this process, over the next four to five years the Board will involve communities in discussions of the possible closure and reconfiguration of some schools within the Division.

It is critically important to the Board to hear from students, parents, staff and community members given the challenges the Board faces. The Board needs to hear suggestions or alternatives to the ideas contained the Board Strategic Facilities Plan Direction document to better meet the needs of students.

"Given that the Board has worked hard over the last three years to increase the number of people who attend the public consultations, it will not be making hasty decisions nor will it exclude parents from continued involvement in the discussions and decision-making process," said Deanna Specht, Board Chair. "The Board's Direction document will be published for everyone to see. The Board has given direction to administration to research and report back on our schools, as outlined in the plan. **THERE HAS BEEN NO DECISION TO CLOSE ANY SCHOOL!** The plan is written in a way that may include the possible closure of schools because that is the process required by Alberta Education. There is still much to be looked at and discussed. I can assure parents that if, and I say if, a school closure is the possible outcome, the Board will consult with parents and the community. Transparency is a priority of the Board, so please ignore rumors and get the facts. If you have any questions or concerns, suggestions or alternatives talk to your school trustee and get accurate information," stated Board Chair Specht.



Media Release

For Immediate Release: October 6, 2011

The Board has some very difficult decisions to make over the next ten years, as part of the development of a Ten-Year Strategic Facilities Plan, because it must rely on capital funding for modular classrooms, school modernizations and new school construction from the Provincial Government. The timelines outlined in the Board's Strategic Facilities Direction document may indicate a shorter time frame but that is because it is based on the submission of the Board's Capital Plan to the Government in the Spring of 2012. Based on the Board's past experience with funding for capital construction projects, it will take eight (8) to ten (10) years to get this type of capital funding. Currently there is a 1.4 billion dollar backlog for capital construction projects across the Province and the Board's Capital Plan will only be a small part of the many capital construction funding requests received by Alberta Education.

Please remember, if you hear rumors that any particular school in the division is going to close very soon, that information is FALSE. Please work with your local school board trustee and school council to ensure that you have accurate information so that you can provide the Board with feedback on its Strategic Facilities Plan Direction document.

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For further information contact:

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Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools
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Dr. Terry Pearson
Superintendent of Schools
Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools
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Board Strategic Facility Plan Direction

Background

Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools' student enrollment has declined from 4,868 in 1995 to 3,792 in 2010, a decline of 1,076 students. The Division's student enrollment is projected to decline by a further 200 students over the next ten years. As a result of the above projected student enrollment trend, the Division's base grant from Alberta Education is projected to cumulatively decline over the next ten years.

During the 2008 – 2009 school year the Board of Trustees consulted with parents and members of the community to gather input on the equitable delivery of programs and services to students throughout the school division. The intent of the public consultations was to generate program and service delivery ideas and alternatives that would ensure the needs of students were met.

As a result of the 2008 – 2009 public consultation process the Board of Trustees commissioned Stantec to develop a Strategic Facilities Plan that would provide recommendations for each of the 21 existing school facilities. Recommendations could include, but were not limited to replacement, modernization, right-sizing, reconfiguration or no change.

The Stantec report was submitted to the Board of Trustees in the Spring of 2010. The Board of Trustees subsequently engaged in multiple community consultations regarding the recommendations contained in the Stantec Strategic Facilities Plan.

Upon receipt of the responses and recommendations provided by the public, the Board of Trustees engaged in a number of Board Strategic Facility Planning workshops to determine which recommendations to adopt, modify, or reject.

As the result of the Board's deliberations at their Strategic Facility Planning workshops, the Board determined the following Strategic Facility Plan Direction would be **considered** by the Board of Trustees as part of the Board's future deliberations and as part of a continuation of the public consultation process initiated by the Board in 2008 - 2009.

Board Strategic Facility Plan Direction

During the 2011 – 2012 School Year

- Consider the closure of Rosebrier School
 - Consider the relocation of Rosebrier students to attend Clear Vista School
- Consider the relocation of the Off-Campus Program located at Lynn Lauren School to Centennial School
 - Consider relocating the Technology Department to Lynn Lauren School
 - Consider relocating the Early Education and Family Wellness Centre (EEFWC) to Lynn Lauren School
- Consider the submission of a Board Facilities Capital Plan to the Government of Alberta that:
 - Requests the addition of modular classrooms to Falun School to accommodate the Lakedell and Pipestone school students.
 - Requests the modernization of Buck Mountain Central School to accommodate the students from Alder Flats and Winfield schools, and the grade reconfiguration of Buck Mountain Central School from a 7 to 12 junior / senior high school to a K to 12 school.
 - Requests the addition of modular classrooms to Griffiths-Scott Middle School to accommodate the students from Millet School, and the grade reconfiguration of Griffiths-Scott Middle School from a 5 to 9 middle school to a K – 9 school.

During the 2012 – 2013 School Year

- Consider the closure of Pipestone and Lakedell schools
 - Consider the temporary grade reconfiguration of Falun School to a K – 4 and Pigeon Lake Regional School to a 5 – 12 school until such time as the Government of Alberta approves the addition of modular classrooms to Falun School.
 - Upon the addition of modular classrooms to Falun School
 - Reconfigure Falun School back to a K – 6 and Pigeon Lake Regional School back to a 7 – 12 school

During the 2013 - 2014 School Year

- Consider the closure of Gwynne School
 - Consider the relocation of Gwynne elementary students to attend Norwood School
 - Consider the relocation of Gwynne junior high students to attend Queen Elizabeth Junior High School
- Consider the relocation of the Queen Elizabeth Junior High School French Immersion program to Parkdale School or to another school within the City of Wetaskiwin; that school's grade configuration would become a K - 9 school.
- Consider the closure of C.B. McMurdo School
 - Consider the relocation of the elementary and junior high school year round program to another school within the City of Wetaskiwin; that school's grade configuration would become a K - 9 school.

During the 2014 - 2015 School Year

- Consider the closure of Alder Flats and Winfield schools
 - Consider the relocation of Alder Flats and Winfield students to attend Buck Mountain Central School
 - Consider the grade reconfiguration of Buck Mountain Central School from a 7 to 12 junior / senior high school, to a K - 12 school.
- Consider the closure of Millet School
 - Consider the grade reconfiguration of Griffiths-Scott Middle School from a 5 to 9 middle school, to a K - 9 school.
 - Consider the relocation of Millet School students to attend a K to 9 Griffiths-Scott School.