

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

March 8, 2005

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Recommendation Arising from the Forest Heights, Fulton Place, Hardisty, Strathearn and Terrace Heights Schools' Cluster Study Re: Hardisty School

ORIGINATOR: C. McCabe, Assistant to the Superintendent

RESOURCE

STAFF: Rick Bell, Jenise Bidulock, Randy Billey, Michael Ediger, Brian Fedor, Leanne Fedor, Andrea Furness, Kerry-Ann Kope, Roland Labbe, Randy Leal, Elvira Loewen, Shirly McNeill, Jamie Pallett, Deanne Patsula, Larry Schwenneker, Cindy Skolski

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the administration be authorized to undertake the provincial and board mandated processes to consider the closure of Hardisty School.
2. That in conjunction with the recommendation above, the administration bring forward information to the Board of Trustees regarding:
 - a. Upgrades to Ottewell School,
 - b. upgrades to any schools that may be considered through the closure process to accommodate regular, alternative and special needs programs;
 - c. programming enhancement for students at any schools that may be receiving schools for students through the closure process;
 - d. other matters relating to the implementation of the recommendations.

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In accordance with the Closure of Schools Regulation, and pursuant to the School Act, school boards have the authority to close schools. Hardisty School is eligible for closure in accordance with Board Policy FL.BP (Appendix I), which identifies space utilization (under 40 per cent) and/or an average enrolment per grade, and/or high cost of operation and maintenance as criteria for such selection.

Background

This recommendation is brought before the board in conjunction with a study completed in schools in this area of the city with the goal being to improve programming opportunities and learning environments for students. The study was planned to result in recommendations to the board for the consideration of one or more of the following:

- the relocation or consolidation of programs;
- the upgrading and preservation of existing space;
- the closure of schools;

- the demolition or decommissioning of space; and
- an alternative arising from the community consultation process.

Hardisty School

Background

According to City of Edmonton demographic data, the number of pre-school and elementary school age children has declined steadily in the neighborhood around Hardisty School since 1974. (Appendix II) Based on these numbers it is projected that the population of school age children in the Hardisty catchment area will continue to decline.

Hardisty School was opened in 1958 and has a capacity for 1159 students. The September 30, 2004 enrolment at the school was 331 students, which represents a 33 per cent utilization rate. Enrolment at Hardisty has been declining steadily since 1974. (Appendix III)

Rationale

Projected enrolment for next year is 65 students in grades 5 and 6 and 257 students in grades 7 through 9 for a total of 322 students. There are 501 public grades 7 to 9 students living within Hardisty School's attendance area. The school's junior high school attendance area includes the neighbourhoods of Capilano, Forest Heights, Fulton Place, Gold Bar, Terrace Heights as well as Jackson Heights in Millwoods. Only 127 of the students residing within its attendance area currently choose to attend Hardisty while the remaining 374 students are registered at other district schools.

Locally, from within the neighbourhoods of Capilano, Forest Heights, Fulton Place, Gold Bar and Terrace Heights Schools', there are 368 public grades 7 to 9 students. Only 122 of those students currently choose to attend Hardisty School. From that local population of public grades 7 to 9 students, 246 are choosing to attend other district schools.

Appendix IV includes an illustration of Hardisty School's total capacity, student population and student enrolment.

Educational Considerations

There are 25 teachers and 15 support and custodial staff at Hardisty School. Closure and relocation of Hardisty School students as above would result in fewer combined grade classes, and other educational benefits would be available through enrolling students in a larger school setting. Program offerings at neighbourhood junior high schools are: languages (Mandarin Bilingual, French, ESL), advance placement, art, band, computer studies, drama, fashion, foods, industrial arts, outdoor education, study skills and learning strategies, and visual communications.

Relocation of Students and Programs

If Hardisty School were to close, the 322 students would be tentatively designated as follows:

- Regular junior high to Ottewell School
- Logos junior high to Edith Rogers School or Dan Knott School
- Logos grades 5 and 6 to Fulton Place School

- Strategies to L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy
- Community Living Skills to Kate Chegwin School or T.D. Baker School

Some students might choose other nearby public junior high schools. The utilization rates of other possible receiving junior high schools are Dan Knott School, 62 per cent Edith Rogers School, 84 per cent, Kate Chegwin School, 88 per cent, Kenilworth School, 90 per cent, Ottewell School, 92 per cent and T.D. Baker School, 94 per cent. With modifications, space would be available in these schools to accommodate students from Hardisty School.

In the relocation of students, every effort would be made to ensure as much continuity as possible with current staff, in particular for those students in district center programs for students with special needs.

Should parents request a registration in a different school other than the designated receiving school, students would be able to register in that school, (provided the school provides the appropriate program,) even if pre-enrolment deadlines are past.

Capital and Financial Considerations

Hardisty School's audit score is 600. \$1.7M would be required to modernize Hardisty School to modern day standards. Savings in terms of operational costs of approximately \$330,000 per year annually would be realized if Hardisty School were to be closed.

Transportation Considerations

Regular and Logos Christian junior high students would be provided with district subsidized ETS passes to attend their receiving or other school. No major changes are anticipated to the transportation for students currently attending the Logos Christian, Strategies, Community Learning Skills and Community Learning & Behaviour Skills programs.

Hardisty School

Date School Opened	Capacity	Current Enrolment	Projected Enrolment Sept 2005	5 Year Projected Enrolment
1958	1159	331	322	270
Enrolment Declining Since	Number of Students in Catchment Area	Number of these Students Attending Hardisty School	Number attending Other District Schools	Number of Staff Currently at Hardisty School
1974	501	146	355	46FTE

Hardisty School

*Audit Score	Cost to Renovate	Operational Cost Savings	Increases or Decreases to Transportation

			Costs
600	\$1.7M	\$330,000	Depending on the number of new ETS riders, minimal increases to costs

* Provincial audit score is calculated by Alberta Infrastructure and indicates the relative condition of the building. A high audit score (600+) indicates a school requiring major upgrades.

Timeline and Next Steps

Approval of this recommendation would authorize the administration to undertake further consultation with parents and communities. At the end of that process, the board would make a decision regarding recommendations that the administration would present regarding the closure of Hardisty School. This approach is consistent with the applicable provincial regulation and the board’s policy.

It is anticipated that enrolments at Hardisty, Kenilworth and Ottewell Schools’ of students who reside in Mill Woods will significantly decrease when the new junior high school in Burnewood/Meadows opens.

JB:RL:pn

- APPENDIX I Alberta Regulation 238/97 – Closure of Schools Regulation and Policy FL.BP School Closure
- APPENDIX II Neighborhood Demographic Information
- APPENDIX III Historical Enrolment and Capacity
- APPENDIX IV Total Capacity, Student Population, and Student Enrolment
- APPENDIX V Projected Changes to Enrolment in Schools Impacted by Recommendations

Alberta Regulation 238/97 – Closure of Schools Regulation

School Act Section 58

Closure of schools, etc.

58 The Minister may make regulations

- (a) authorizing a board to
 - (i) close a school permanently or for a specified period of time,
 - (ii) close entirely 3 or more consecutive grades in an elementary school,
 - (iii) close the entire junior high school program or the entire high school program in a school, or
 - (iv) transfer all students from one school to one or more other schools;
- (b) governing procedural and other requirements a board must comply with when doing anything described in clause (a).

1988 cS-3.1 s42;1997 c25 s12

Division 2

Operation and Management

Powers of separate school boards

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS REGULATION

Definitions

- 1 In this Regulation,
- (a) "closure" means any action referred to in section 2;
 - (a.1) "Ministers" means, for the purposes of sections 6 and 7, the Ministers determined under section 16 of the *Government Organization Act* as the Ministers responsible for Part 7 of the *School Act*;
 - (b) "school" year means the 12-month period beginning on September 1 and ending on the following August 31.

AR 238/97 s1;223/2002

Non-application of sections

- 1.1 Sections 4 to 7 do not apply to a closure that occurs
- (a) in connection with the transfer by one board to another board of the ownership of real property on which a school building is located and the school building will continue to be used for the instruction or accommodation of students, or
 - (b) as a result of the Minister's having directed the board to dispose of the school building pursuant to section 200(3) of the Act.

Exemption from requirements

- 1.2 The Minister may, on the written request of a board or on the Minister's initiative, exempt a board from the requirements of sections 4 to 7 in respect of a closure that occurs
- (a) as a result of the board's inability to comply with section 57(2) of the Act, or

- (b) for health or safety reasons.

Closure of schools, etc.

- 2 A board may
 - (a) close a school permanently or for a specified period of time,
 - (b) close entirely 3 or more consecutive grades in a school, or;
 - (c) repealed AR 257/2003 s5,
 - (d) transfer all students from one school building to one or more other school buildings on a permanent basis.

Policies and procedures for closure of schools

- 3 A board may develop, and implement policies and procedures with respect to closure of schools that are not inconsistent with this Regulation.

Notification of proposed closure

- 4 (1) Where a board is considering the closure of a school, the board shall
 - (a) raise the matter through a notice of motion at a regular meeting of the board, and
 - (b) in writing notify the parents of every child and student enrolled in the school who, in the opinion of the board, will be significantly affected by the closure of the school.
- (2) A notice referred to in subsection (1)(b) shall set out the following:
 - (a) how the closure would affect the attendance area defined for that school;
 - (b) how the closure would affect the attendance at other schools;
 - (c) the number of students who would need to be relocated as a result of the closure;
 - (d) the need for, and extent of, busing;
 - (e) program implications for other schools and for the students when they are attending other schools;
 - (f) the educational and financial impact of closing the school, including the effect on operational costs and capital implications;
 - (g) the educational and financial impact if the school were to remain open;
 - (h) and (i) repealed AR 257/2003 s7;
 - (i) the time and location of the public meeting referred to in section 5(1)(a).
- (3) A notice referred to in subsection (1)(b) may set out the following:
 - (a) the capital needs of the schools that may have increased enrolment as a result of the closure, and
 - (b) the possible uses of the school building or space in the school building if
 - (i) the entire school is being closed, or
 - (ii) 3 or more consecutive grades in the school are being closed entirely.

Public meetings

- 5 (1) Where a board has given notice of motions at a regular meeting of the board that it is considering the closure of a school, the board
 - (a) shall organize and convene a public meeting for the purpose of discussing the information provided to the parents under section 4,
 - (b) shall provide an opportunity for the council of the municipality in which the school is located to provide a statement to the board of the impact the closure may have on

the community, and

- (c) may hold other meetings with respect to the closure at times and places as the board may determine.

- (2) The date and place of the public meeting referred to in subsection (1)(a) shall be
 - (a) posted in 5 or more conspicuous places in the area or areas of the school or schools affected by the closure, for a period of at least 14 days before the date of the public meeting, and
 - (b) advertised in a newspaper circulating within the area or areas of the school or schools affected by the proposed closure, on at least 2 occasions as close as is practicable to the date of the meeting.

- (3) At least 2 trustees of the board shall attend the public meeting referred to in subsection (1)(a)

- (4) A board shall ensure that minutes of all public meetings held under this section are prepared.

Decision on closure

- 6 (1) A board shall not make a final decision on the proposed closure until at least 3 weeks have passed since the date of the public meeting referred to in section 5(1)(a).
- (2) A board shall give due consideration to any written submissions on the proposed closure that it receives after the public meeting referred to in section 5(1)(a).
- (3) A board
 - (a) shall by resolution decide whether to close the school, and
 - (b) if the decision is to close the school, shall forthwith notify the Ministers in writing of the decision.

AR 238/97 s6:223/2002

Closure within school year

- 7 (1) All school closure procedures shall be initiated and completed within the school year in which the decision to close the school is made.
- (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), on the written request of the board, the Ministers may extend the school closure procedures beyond one school year.

Expiry

- 8 For the purpose of ensuring that this Regulation is reviewed for ongoing relevancy and necessity, with the option that it may be re-passed in its present or an amended form following a review, this Regulation expires on November 1, 2008.
- 9 Repealed AR 223/2002 s5.

AR 238/97 s8:223/2002

Board Policy FL.BP School Closure

CODE: FL.BP
TOPIC: School Closure

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11-09-2001
ISSUE DATE: 25-09-2001
REVIEW DATE: 09-2006

The board believes that the closure of schools is an important consideration in ensuring the responsible use of the resources placed in its trust; making efficient use of the district's school space; and safeguarding the health and safety of students, staff, and the public.

A. SCOPE AND AUTHORITY

1. The board reserves to itself the authority to close an entire school or three or more consecutive grades in a school.
2. The board authorizes the administration, under the direction of the superintendent of schools and with appropriate consultation, to:
 - a. close or permanently relocate fewer than three consecutive grades in a school, or
 - b. temporarily relocate any number of grades from one school to another.
3. Discontinuance of a special needs program or an alternative program is not considered a school closure and is addressed in HA.BP Student Programs.

B. CRITERIA FOR SCHOOL CLOSURE

An entire school or three or more consecutive grades in a school may be considered for closure if one or more of the following criteria are met:

1. Total enrolment as of September 30 in the current school year is below the following levels:
 - a. elementary (K to 6) - an average of 15 students per grade, or
 - b. junior high (7 to 9) - an average of 30 students per grade, or
 - c. senior high (10 to 12) - an average of 120 students per grade.
2. The space utilization rate as defined by the provincial government as of September 30 in the current school year is less than 40 per cent.
3. The cost of keeping the school in operable condition or restoring it to operable

condition is deemed by the board to be unreasonably high.

4. Closing the school is deemed by the board to be necessary to safeguard the health and safety of students, staff, or the public.
5. Parents and guardians of a majority of students enrolled in the school on September 30 in the current school year agree that closure should be considered.

C. PROCESS FOR SCHOOL CLOSURE

1. Where the board is considering school closure, it shall raise the matter through notice of motion at a regular board meeting, and ensure that the following are carried out:
 - a. A written communication, the contents of which are consistent with policies established by Alberta Learning, is sent to the parents of every student enrolled in the school who, in the opinion of the board, would be significantly affected by the closure of the school.
 - b. A public meeting is held, with at least a simple majority of trustees present.
 - c. The time, date, and place of this meeting are publicized in accordance with policies established by Alberta Learning.
 - d. The City of Edmonton is provided an opportunity to provide to the board a statement of the impact the closure may have on the community.
2. Following the public meeting attended by trustees, there shall be a period of at least three weeks for parents and community members to present to the board further responses to the proposed closure.
3. The administration may hold additional public meetings, consult with parents at other schools, or provide other opportunities for public involvement as appropriate, at any time.

Reference(s):

[HA.BP](#) - Student Programs

[School Act](#) Section 58

Alberta Learning's [Closure of Schools Regulation](#)

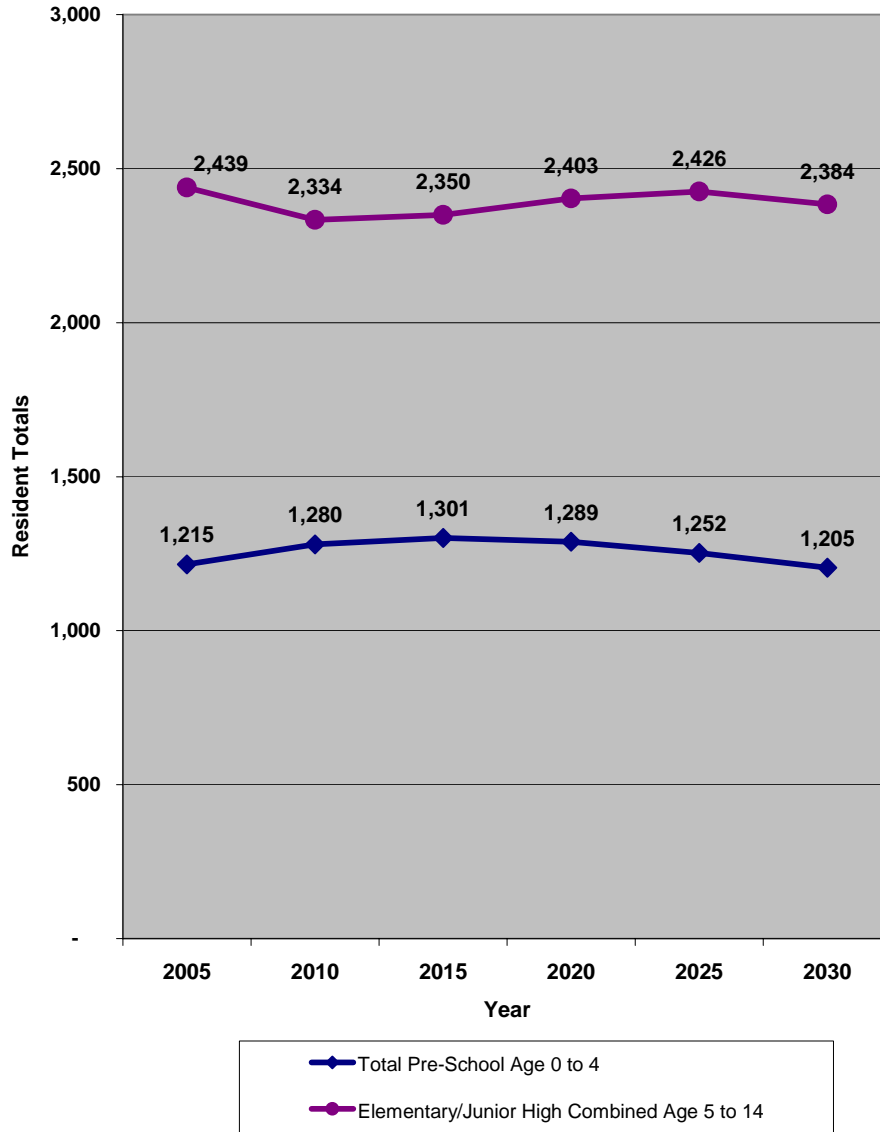
[Alberta Infrastructure](#)- see School Capital Manual 2002-2003 Section 5.2.1 Utilization Rate and Section 5.2.2. Area, Capacity and Utilization Procedures

Neighborhood Demographic Information

25 Year Projection by Age Group

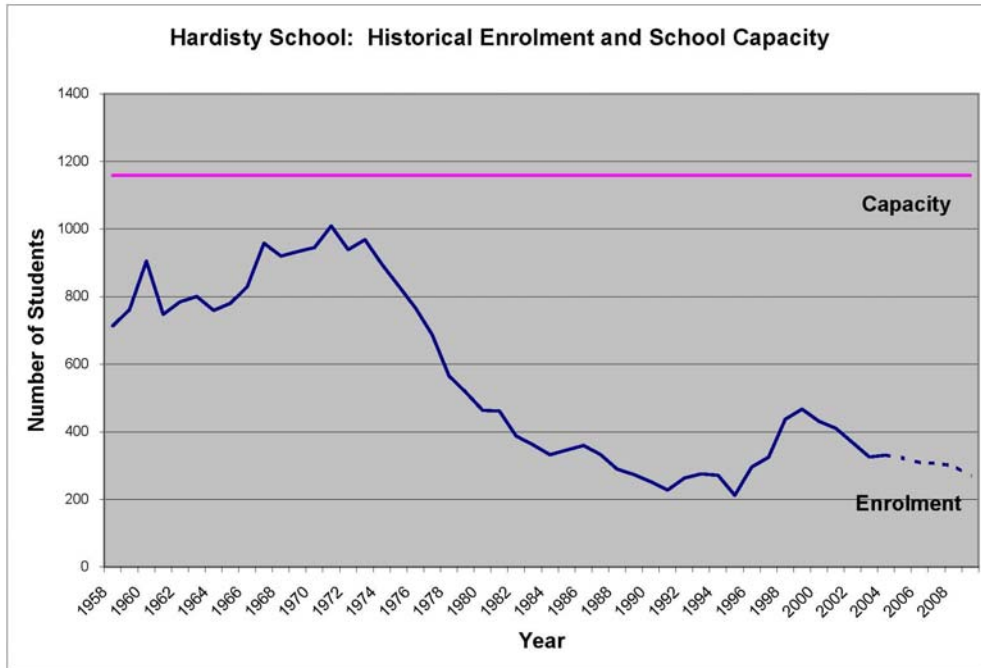
Forest Heights, Fulton Place, Strathearn, Terrace Heights, Capilano, Gold Bar, Bonnie Doon, Cloverdale, Holyrood Neighbourhoods

Source Data: Edmonton Population and Employment Forecast to 2030 (draft February 2005)



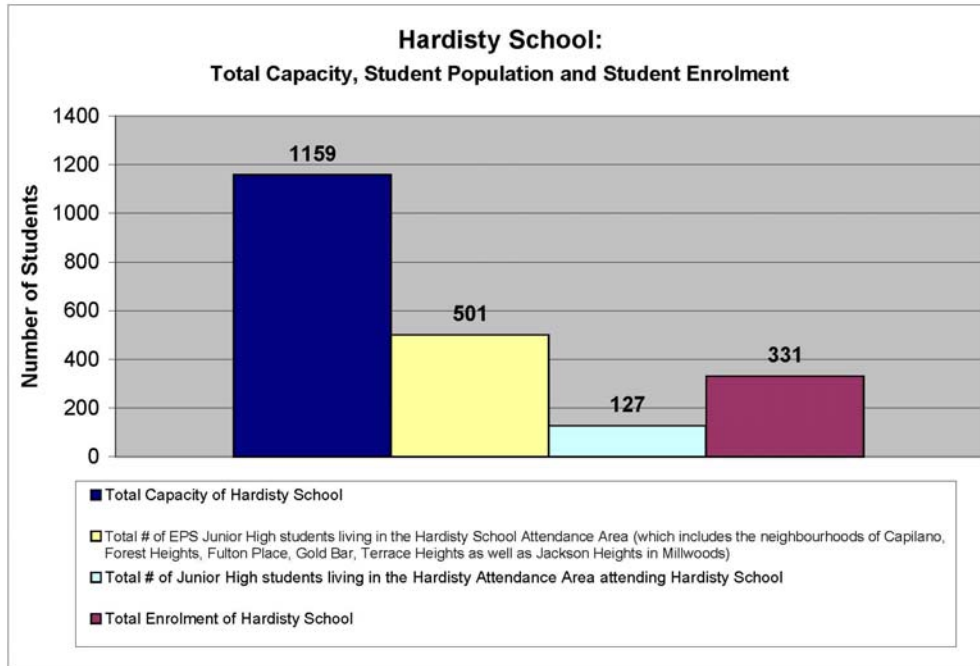
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Historical Enrolment and Capacity



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Total Capacity, Student Population, and Student Enrolment



March 8, 2005

Projected Changes to Enrolment at Schools Impacted by the Recommendation

Refined Option B: Closure of Hardisty School

If Hardisty School were to close, the 322 students would be tentatively designated as follows:

- Regular junior high students to Ottewell School
- Logos Christian (5-6) students to Fulton Place School
- Logos Christian junior high students to Edith Rogers School or Dan Knott School
- Strategies junior high students to L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy
- Community Living Skills and Community Learning & Behaviour Skills junior high students to Kate Chegwin School and/or T.D. Baker School

Enrolment Projections for 2005-2006 *

Enrolment information is based on projected enrolment for September 30th, 2005.

Ottewell School

Net Capacity: 750

Utilization Rate: 92%

	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9		TOTAL
Ottewell School	208	237	245		690
Hardisty Regular (7-9)	36	36	56		128
TOTAL	244	273	301		818

Ottewell School	FTE Enrolment: 690	Adjusted Enrolment: 692
Hardisty School	FTE Enrolment: 128	Adjusted Enrolment: 128
TOTALS	<u>818</u>	<u>820</u>

Utilization Rate with relocation of Hardisty School Regular students: 109%

- Assumes all students will go to their designated school

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Fulton Place School

Net Capacity: 471

Utilization Rate: 63%

	Kinder. **	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	TOTAL
Fulton Place School	36	38	47	44	61	17	12	255
Hardisty School Logos (5-6)						28	35	63
TOTAL	36	38	47	44	61	45	47	318

Fulton Place School FTE Enrolment: 255 Adjusted Enrolment: 295

Hardisty School FTE Enrolment: 63 Adjusted Enrolment: 63

TOTALS 318 358

Utilization Rate with relocation of Hardisty School Logos Christian (5-6) students: 76%

* Assumes all students will go to their designated school

** Kindergarten students have been calculated as 1.0 FTE to show the impact of full day Kindergarten.

Edith Rogers School

Net Capacity: 492

Utilization Rate: 75%

	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	TOTAL
Edith Rogers School	113	128	117	358
Hardisty School Logos (7-9)	30	34	30	94
TOTAL	143	162	147	452

Edith Rogers School FTE Enrolment: 358 Adjusted Enrolment: 368

Hardisty School FTE Enrolment: 94 Adjusted Enrolment: 94

TOTALS 452 462

Utilization Rate with relocation of Hardisty School Logos Christian (7-9) students: 94% * Assumes all students will go to their designated school

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Dan Knott School

Net Capacity: 664

Utilization Rate: $421/664 = 63\%$

	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	TOTAL
Dan Knott School	122	145	128	395
Hardisty School Logos (7-9)	30	34	30	94
TOTAL	152	179	158	489

Dan Knott School FTE Enrolment: 395 Adjusted Enrolment: 421

Hardisty School FTE Enrolment: 94 Adjusted Enrolment: 94

TOTALS	489	515
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Utilization Rate with relocation of Hardisty School Logos Christian (7-9) students: 78%

* Assumes all students will go to their designated school

L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy

Net Capacity: 1,192

Utilization Rate: 61%

	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	TOTAL
L'Académie Vimy Ridge	106	114	122	142	116	84	684
Hardisty School Strategies (7-9)	8	5	5				18
TOTAL	114	119	127	142	116	84	702

L'Académie Vimy Ridge Academy FTE Enrolment: 684 Adjusted Enrolment: 726

Hardisty School FTE Enrolment: 18 Adjusted Enrolment: 18

TOTALS	702	744
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Utilization Rate with relocation of Hardisty School Strategies (7-9) students: 62%

* Assumes all students will go to their designated school

Kate Chegwin School

Net Capacity: 628

Utilization Rate: 83%

	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	TOTAL
Kate Chegwin School	166	168	163	497
Hardisty School Community Learning Skills and Community Learning & Behavior Skills (7-9)	0	3	14	17
TOTAL	166	171	177	514

Kate Chegwin School FTE Enrolment: 497 Adjusted Enrolment: 521

Hardisty School FTE Enrolment: 17 Adjusted Enrolment: 51

TOTALS	514	572
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Utilization Rate with relocation of Hardisty School Community Learning Skills and Community Learning & Behavior Skills (7-9) students: 91%

* Assumes all students will go to their designated school

T.D. Baker School

Net Capacity: 768

Utilization Rate: 704/768 = 92%

	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	TOTAL
T.D. Baker School	214	234	242	690
Hardisty School Community Living Skills and Community Learning Behavior Skills (7-9)	0	3	14	17
TOTAL	214	237	256	707

T.D. Baker School FTE Enrolment: 690 Adjusted Enrolment: 704

Hardisty School FTE Enrolment: 17 Adjusted Enrolment: 51

TOTALS	707	755
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Utilization Rate with relocation of Hardisty School Community Learning Skills, Community Learning & Behavior Skills (7-9): 98%

* Assumes all students will go to their designated school