

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

March 22, 2007

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: B. Holt, Acting Superintendent
SUBJECT: Possible Closure of the Regular Program at Mount Pleasant School
ORIGINATOR: C. McCabe, Executive Director

RESOURCE

STAFF: Jenise Bidulock, Randy Billey, Mike Brown, Josephine Duquette, Michael Ediger, Leanne Fedor, Andrea Furness, Kerry-Ann Kope, Roland Labbe, Sandra Mason, Bob Morter, John Nicoll, Larry Schwenneker, Cindy Skolski, Darryl Sutherland

RECOMMENDATION

That the closure of the Regular Program at Mount Pleasant School at the end of the 2006-2007 school year be approved.

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Recommendation

Based on the information received by the administration from the public and the Board of Trustees, it is recommended that the regular program at Mount Pleasant School close and that the students be designated to Lendrum School for regular programming. The Behaviour and Learning Assistance special education district centre at Mount Pleasant School will be relocated to Lendrum School the designated receiving school with the regular program.

School Closure Process and Public Meeting

On October 10, 2006, the Board of Trustees approved an *Annual Implementation Plan* which identified 10 district schools where the viability of the school or a specific program was of concern. Sustainability and Program Fit Reviews were undertaken at these schools which included a program fit review of the regular program at Mount Pleasant School. On January 16, 2007 the Board of Trustees received information on the results of the program fit reviews and initiated the provincially mandated process to consider the regular program of Mount Pleasant School for closure (Appendix I). The recommendation to close the regular program at Mount Pleasant School was considered in accordance with the criteria outlined in Board Policy FL.BP – School Closures (Appendix II).

A public meeting was held on February 15, 2007 to hear public representations regarding the potential closure of the regular program at Mount Pleasant School. The following arrangements were made prior to the public meeting. These meet or exceed requirements as set out in the *Closure of Schools Regulation*:

- Parents/guardians of students registered at the school received a letter notifying them of the public meeting and a Q&A that answers questions set out by the *Closure of Schools Regulation* (Appendix III)
- Parents also received a Question Submission Form to submit their individual inquiries, in addition to using letters and e-mails. The district did not respond to individual inquiries prior to the public meeting. Submissions were reviewed by the administration and representative questions were answered at the public meeting, following the opening presentation. This approach allowed all participants to benefit from the responses to the individual questions that were submitted.
- Notice of the public meetings appeared in The Edmonton Journal, Edmonton Sun, and the Edmonton Examiner.
- Public meeting notices were posted in five or more conspicuous places in the area or areas of the school or schools affected by the closure.
- Posters advertising the public meetings were e-mailed to principals and administrative assistants of schools identified for closure and receiving schools as well as any other schools that may be affected by closure to post.
- A letter was sent to the City of Edmonton providing notice of the public meetings and requesting that the municipality provide a statement to the board of the impact the closure may have on the community.
- The president of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues and presidents of the local community league received notification of the meeting and an invitation to attend.

The purpose of the February 15, 2007 public meeting was to share information and receive input from parents and community members about the possible closure of regular program at Mount Pleasant School. Of those people who attended the meeting, there were 29 parents, five community members, three principals, three school staff and seven other individuals, which included Tim McCargar from Community Services, City of Edmonton. The following trustees were in attendance; Board Chair Esslinger, Trustee Fleming, Trustee Colburn, Trustee Hansen, Trustee Nicholson, and Trustee Williams. District staff from the Superintendent's office and Planning Department were also in attendance.

The minutes and results of the public meeting are posted on the districts website at www.epsb.ca, as well as information regarding the possible closure of regular program at Mount Pleasant School including the Notice of Meeting sent to parents/guardians, and the PowerPoint presentation made at the public meeting.

Through the closure process of the regular program at Mount Pleasant School the district received the following input:

- Behavior and Learning Assistance Program needs to move to another school if the regular program is closed to allow integration.
- Lendrum enrolment is not that high so students may still be in combined grade classes.
- Some parents support Lendrum as the designated school and some support Parkallen as the designated school.

Rationale for Recommending Closure

Enrolment, Programs and Grade Organization

Mount Pleasant School was built in 1953, and a ten classroom addition was built in 1959. There are six portable classrooms on the site. The school has a capacity of 407 student spaces based on provincial calculations. However, based on the Alberta Learning Commission's class size guidelines the capacity would be 380 student spaces. Enrolment at Mount Pleasant School was 391 students as of September 30, 2006. Of these students, 61 are enrolled in the regular program, 324 students are enrolled in the Cogito program and six are enrolled in the Behaviour and Learning Assistance Program.

Mount Pleasant School's student enrolment by grade as of September 30, 2006 is as follows:

	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Total
Regular	0	14	9	12	8	9	9	61
BLA			1	2	3			6
COG	38	51	61	43	50	39	42	324

Educational Impact on Students

The students in the Mount Pleasant School regular program are in combined grade classes. In the spring of 2006 only three regular Kindergarten students pre-registered at Mount Pleasant School which forced the cancellation of the Kindergarten regular program for the 2006-2007 school year. The result will be that next year there could be no grade one students, and this will continue through the grades, further reducing enrolment and compromising the ability of staff to provide a quality learning environment.

The relocation of the Mount Pleasant School regular program and the Behaviour and Learning Assistance program to Lendrum School could provide more opportunities for single grade classes, and increased flexibility when organizing for instruction. A program fit review was also completed for Lendrum School at the same time as the Mount Pleasant School program fit review was done. The result of that review is that Lendrum School would be partnered with Avalon Junior High School allowing for the potential to be amalgamated into one Kindergarten to Grade nine school in the future. Lendrum School accommodates the majority of the elementary students in the attendance area, and it was determined that a multi-campus approach would allow the elementary and junior high programs to exist in the community for the long term.

Should parents request a registration in a school other than Lendrum School, students would be able to register in that school, provided the school provides the appropriate program.

Neighbourhood Population and Demographic Information

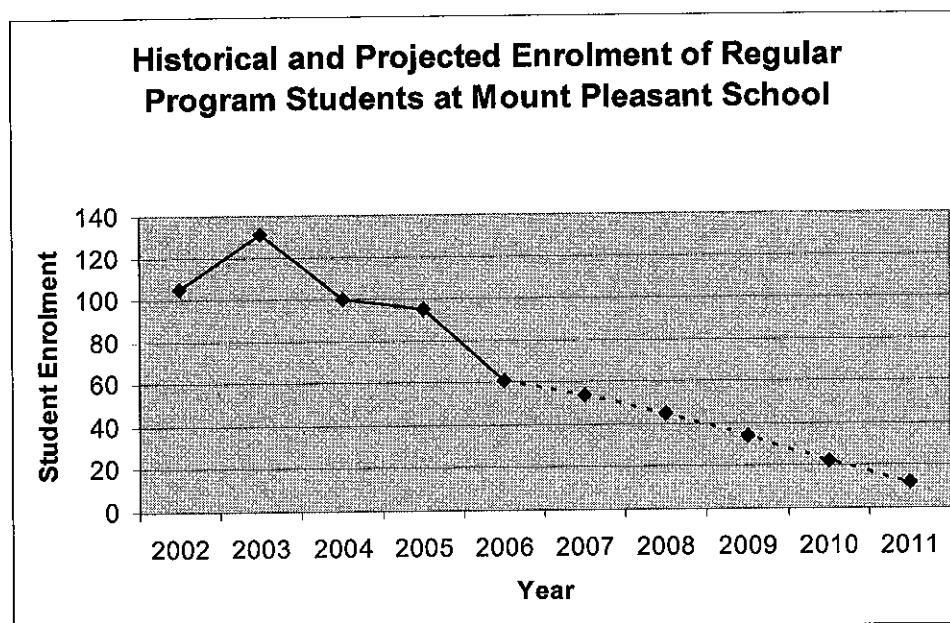
The Edmonton Public School district utilizes numerous demographic data sources to review, analyze and project student enrolment. Sources include federal census data, City of Edmonton census data, and public student information data derived from the district's own Student Information System. Data for non-census years includes federal government data (typically made available through Statistics Canada), provincial government data and the district's own Student Information System data. Federal census data is collected every five years by the federal government and is approved by the House of Commons as the population for Canada. The last federal census was in 2006, this data has not been approved or released,

so the current federal census is 2001. Municipal census data is also collected every five years and approved by City Council. The current municipal census is 2005.

The City of Edmonton acquires any civic, provincial or federal data, and formats it to match city defined neighbourhood boundaries. It is then distributed to various regional demographic data users including school districts, health regions and other community services groups or organizations. This ensures that all users receive the most current demographic data available in a consistent fashion.

The district's own Student Information System data provides historical and current public school student residency information by neighbourhood. This provides accurate data on trends and choices of Edmonton Public School students.

As part of its budgeting process, the district conducts an annual enrolment projection for the district as a whole and on a school-by-school basis. All external demographic data is used in addition to a review of historical and current student information data. External data is used extensively to monitor pre-school populations and residency patterns, while internal data is used to project enrolments up to five years into the future. Both external and internal data are used in congruence with one another in any district projection. The historical and projected enrolment in the regular program at Mount Pleasant School is as illustrated on the following chart:

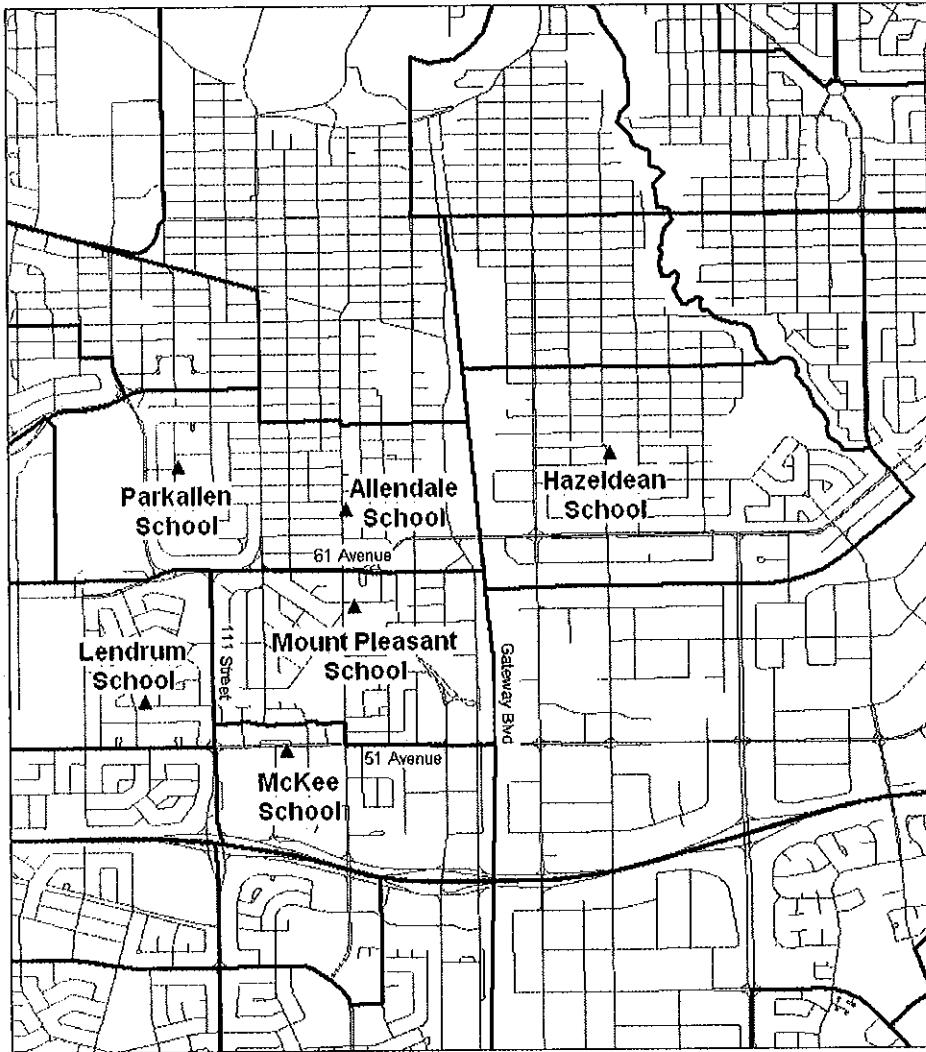


The District also utilizes a number of other sources when considering demographic data. These include but are not limited to:

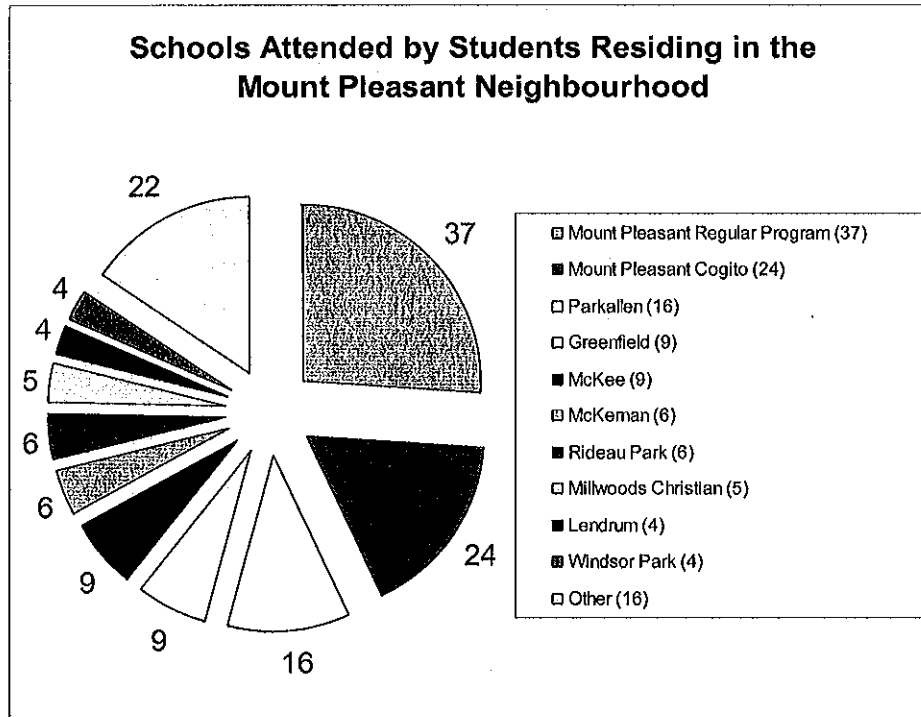
- The study of current population growth and attrition to a school on a community basis;
- Population and housing construction (City of Edmonton Building Permits);
- Annual analysis of demographic and economic forecasts (national, provincial and civic) from Canadian Housing and Mortgage Corporation;
- Direct input from principals on school enrolment and local conditions on a school by school basis.

The attendance area for the regular program at Mount Pleasant School consists of the Pleasantview neighbourhood.

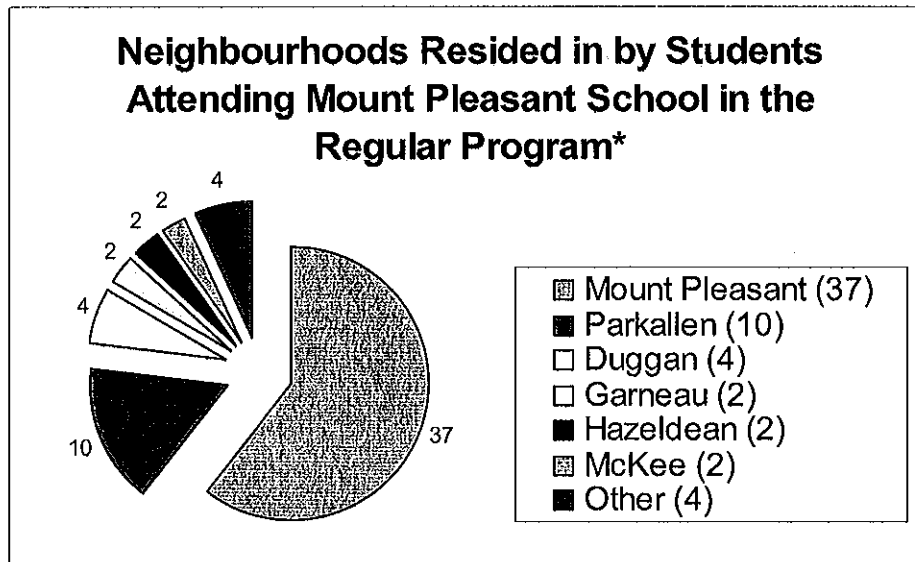
Mount Pleasant Attendance Area 2006-2007

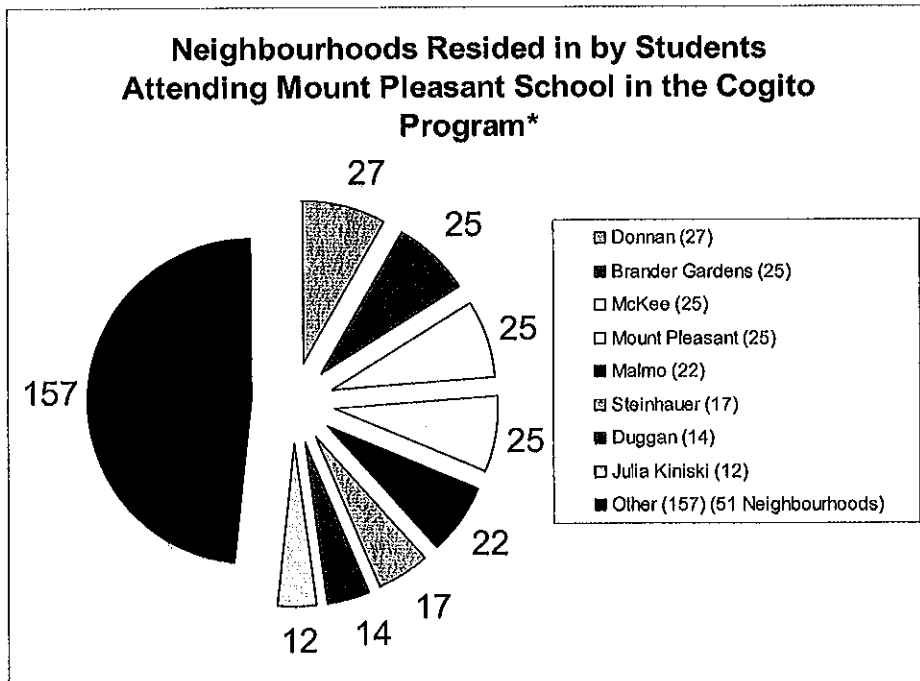


As shown in the following pie chart, there are 142 students residing in the Mount Pleasant attendance area, and of these students, 61 attend Mount Pleasant School. The chart also indicates the other schools attended by students who reside in the Mount Pleasant attendance area. This information is based on September 30, 2006 enrolment.



The following chart indicates the neighbourhoods Mount Pleasant School in which the current Mount Pleasant students reside. This information is based on September 30, 2006 enrolment.





Accommodation of Mount Pleasant School Regular Program and Behaviour and Learning Assistance Program Students

Currently there are 61 regular students enrolled at Mount Pleasant School and six Behaviour and Learning Assistance program students. The total number of students who reside in the Mount Pleasant attendance area is 142 of which 37 attend the regular program at Mount Pleasant School. The school aged population in Mount Pleasant neighbourhood has declined by an average of 19 per cent per year since 2002. There is also a decline in the proportion of resident students who choose to attend Mount Pleasant School for regular programming. Relocating the regular student program to another elementary school will result in:

- Increased regular enrolment at another elementary school and fewer combined grade classes; maximizing opportunities for educational programming flexibility.
- Increased opportunities for regular Kindergarten programming due to a greater Kindergarten student mass from which to draw and organize for instruction.
- Decrease amount of excess district space; reduction of three portables on school site.

During the Public Engagement sessions, feedback from parents of the existing regular program students indicated a strong desire that parents should select the elementary school their children would be designated to attend. Parents stated preference for Lendrum School or Parkallen School. Feedback also included that transportation should be available for regular students attending the designated school.

Should parents request registration in another school, other than Lendrum School, students would be able to register in that school, provided the school provides the appropriate program.

Cost to Staff and Operate the Educational Programs at Mount Pleasant School

The total funds allocated to Mount Pleasant School for 2006-07 was \$2,288,326. Instructional and Plant Operational and Maintenance funding is distributed by the province

on a per student basis. There are 16 unfunded student spaces in the building at a cost of \$7,281.

Cost to Maintain the Facility in Operable Condition or to Restore the Facility to Operable Condition

Mount Pleasant School received a provincial facility audit score of 230 in 1999. Edmonton Public Schools internal District Capital Inspection rated the facility as 'acceptable'. This school was partially modernized in 1998, and is in good condition to continue accommodating the Cogito Program.

Location and Accessibility of the School and the Proximity of Other Schools

There are four schools within a 1.6 km radius where student learning space is available: McKee, Lendrum, Allendale and Parkallen schools.

Transportation

Students in the Mount Pleasant School regular program who are relocated to another elementary school due to the closure of the regular program would be provided with yellow bus transportation. Currently many students attending the Cogito and Behaviour and Learning Assistance Program at Mount Pleasant School are using the yellow bus service. Students living in the Mount Pleasant attendance area who choose to attend the designated receiving school could be picked up at the school by buses used for the Cogito students, and transported to the receiving school at the designated receiving school rate.

Yellow bus service would be available for elementary students to their receiving elementary school. The transportation fee would be subsidized by the district at the rate set for students who attend their designated receiving school.

Impact of Closing the School on the Community

There would be no discernable impact to the community as a result of the potential closure of regular elementary programming at Mount Pleasant School, as the school building will continue as an operating school accommodating the Cogito program.

Input from the City of Edmonton

The City of Edmonton was invited to provide a community impact statement on the potential closure of High Park School as required by the *Closures of Schools Regulation*. The community impact statement is scheduled to be presented to City Council on Tuesday, March 20, 2007. When received a copy of their response will be forwarded to trustees.

Written Submissions Regarding School Closure

Throughout the consideration for closure process, written submissions were posted on a weekly basis in the trustee's on-line reading room. This is done in accordance with the *Closure of Schools Regulation* such that a board shall give due consideration to any written submissions on the proposed closure that it receives after the public meeting.

CS:cp

Appendix I Closure of Schools Regulation
Appendix II Board Policy FL.BP School Closure
Appendix III Notice of Meeting – Thursday, February 15, 2007

(Consolidated up to 170/2004)

ALBERTA REGULATION 238/97

School Act

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS REGULATION

Table of Contents

- 1** Definitions
- 1.1** Non-application of sections
- 1.2** Exemption from requirements
- 2** Closure of schools, etc.
- 3** Policies and procedures for closure of schools
- 4** Notification of proposed closure
- 5** Public meetings
- 6** Decision on closure
- 7** Closure within school year
- 8** Expiry

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;257/2003

Non-application of sections

1.1(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 or to the operator of a charter school 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,

(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, or

(c) pursuant to section 2(b) if

(i) the school has more than one education program,

(ii) the students in the grades being closed are all in the same education program, and

(iii) the education program referred to in subclause (ii) is to be transferred to another school.

(2) Where a board plans to transfer an education program pursuant to subsection (1)(c)(iii), the board shall organize and convene an information meeting for the purpose of informing the parents of the students affected by the transfer of the transfer and the alternative arrangements for continuing the education program at another school.

AR 135/2003 s2;257/2003;170/2004

Exemption from requirements

1.2(1) 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.

(2) The Minister may, on the written request of a board, exempt the board from the requirements of sections 4 to 7 in respect of a closure if the Minister is satisfied that the board has consulted with the community regarding any change in grades and programs in one or more of the schools operated by the board.

AR 257/2003 s4;170/2004

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.

AR 238/97 s2;257/2003

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.

AR 238/97 s3;257/2003

Notification of proposed closure

4**(1)** Where a board is considering the closure of a school, the board shall

- (a) raise the matter by way of a 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;
- (b.1) information on the board's long-range capital plan;

- (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;
- (j) 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.

AR 238/97 s4;257/2003;170/2004

Public meetings

5(1) Where a board has given notice of motion 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.

AR 238/97 s5;257/2003

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;257/2003

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.

AR 238/97 s7;257/2003

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.

AR 238/97 s8;223/2002;257/2003

9 Repealed AR 223/2002 s5

BOARD POLICY FL.BP SCHOOL CLOSURE

[Policies](#) -> [Table of Contents](#) -> [Facilities](#)

Edmonton Public Schools Board Policies and Regulations

CODE: FL.BP
TOPIC: School Closure

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07-11-2006
ISSUE DATE: 08-11-2006
REVIEW DATE: 11-2011

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 authority of the Board is derived from the *School Act* and the Alberta Closure of Schools Regulation, which say that the Board of Trustees may:
 - a. close a school permanently or for a specified period of time, or
 - b. close entirely three or more consecutive grades in a school, or
 - c. transfer all students from one school building to one or more other school buildings on a permanent basis.

The process for closure of schools under this authority is explained in section C, Process for School Closure.

2. The board authorizes the administration, under the direction of the superintendent of schools and with consultation as determined by the Alberta Closure of Schools Regulation 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.

The process for this shall be in accordance with the Alberta Closure of Schools Regulation, which says that, the board will convene an information meeting with parents of the students affected by the transfer and the alternative arrangements for continuing the education program at another school.

Discontinuance or relocation of a regular program or an alternative program or a special needs program, is not a school closure. The process for discontinuance or relocation of an alternative program is addressed in HA.BP - Student Programs.

B. CRITERIA FOR RECOMMENDING SCHOOL CLOSURE

Before recommending the closure of a school to the Board of Trustees, the administration will develop viability benchmarks and school profiles through the Ten-Year Facilities Plan and will consider all of the following criteria:

- the educational impact on students in the school;
- the enrolment of the school and programs within the school;
- the population and demographic data;
- the amount and cost of excess space in the school;
- the cost to staff and operate the educational program at the school;
- the cost to maintain the facility in operable condition or to restore the facility to operable condition;
- the location and accessibility of the school and the proximity of other schools;
- the necessity to safeguard the health and safety of students, staff, and public;
- the need to consolidate or relocate existing programs;
- the impact of closing the school on the community taking into account existing or proposed development plans.

C. PROCESS FOR SCHOOL CLOSURE

The process for closure will be in accordance with the *School Act* and Alberta Closure of Schools Regulation

A process for school closure flow chart is provided for reference. In case of conflict between this policy and the flow chart, the policy shall prevail.

Reference(s):

HA.BP - Student Programs

School Act Section 58

Alberta Closure of Schools Regulation

Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2007-2016

Process for School Closure Flow Chart

Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation - School Infrastructure Manual



NOTICE OF MEETING

MEETING TO CONSIDER CLOSURE OF THE REGULAR PROGRAM AT MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL

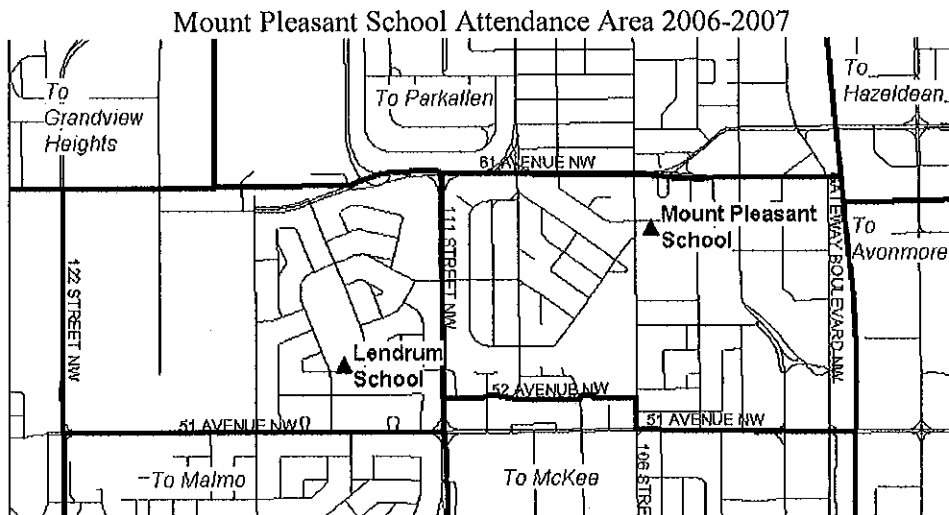
Date: Thursday, February 15, 2007
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Mount Pleasant School
 Gymnasium
 10541 – 60A Avenue

INFORMATION REGARDING THE POTENTIAL CLOSURE OF THE REGULAR PROGRAM AT MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL

1. How school closure would affect the attendance area defined for the regular program at Mount Pleasant School.

Mount Pleasant School, located at 10541 – 60A Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta offers grade 1 to 6 regular program and grades 1 to 4 Behaviour and Learning Assistance Program and Kindergarten to grade 6 for the Cogito alternative program. The Board of Trustees is considering the closure of the regular program at Mount Pleasant School.

The attendance area for the regular program at Mount Pleasant School consists of the Pleasantview neighbourhood. Currently, kindergarten is not offered in the regular program, this is a result of the low interest expressed in the spring of last year. The Cogito program is a district alternate program that accommodates students who live in the central and south central areas of the city. Like Cogito, the Behaviour and Learning Assistance special needs district program accommodates students from the south side of the city. Designated receiving schools are determined through the school closure process. At this time, if the regular program at Mount Pleasant School closes, all students residing within the Pleasantview neighbourhood in the fall of 2007, who want a regular program, would be designated to Lendrum School located at 11330 – 54 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta. Students who live within the Pleasantview neighbourhood would still have access to Mount Pleasant School if they wish to enrol in the Cogito program.



2. How the closure of the regular program at Mount Pleasant School would affect the attendance at other schools.

Mount Pleasant's enrolment as of September 30, 2006

	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Total
Regular	0	14	9	12	8	8	9	61
BLA			1	2	3			6
COG	38	51	61	43	50	40	42	324

Mount Pleasant's projected Enrolment for September 30, 2007

	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Total
Regular	0	12	12	8	10	7	7	56
BLA		1	2	1	2	3	1	10
COG	40	47	53	62	45	51	39	337

Students living in the attendance area for Mount Pleasant School's regular program would be designated to Lendrum School or another school as determined through the closure process. There are 142 public elementary students living in Mount Pleasant attendance area of which 34 attend the Mount Pleasant regular program. There are 61 students total in the regular program and this is projected to decline to 56 for September 2007.

Lendrum, the proposed designated receiving school, has capacity to accommodate 299 students and a current enrolment of 112 students. If all 142 public elementary students in the Mount Pleasant regular program attendance area choose to attend the designated receiving school the enrolment would 254 students. However, it is likely only those students currently attending Mount Pleasant's regular program would choose to attend the designated receiving school, and of these students some may choose other district schools.

The current utilization rates for other neighbouring schools are as follows: Allendale 51 per cent, Avalon 88 per cent, Lendrum 56 per cent, McKee 38 per cent, and Parkallen 45 per cent.

3. Information on the Board's long-range capital plan.

Edmonton Public Schools has a plan to build new schools in growth areas, renew existing schools in areas where enrolments are sustainable and transform the way facilities are managed into a model of efficiency for the future. Please find enclosed:

- brochure with information on Edmonton Public Schools Ten-Year Facilities Plan (2007-2016) and Three-Year Capital Plan (2007-2010)
- copy of the Ten-Year Facilities Plan (2007-2016)
- copy of the Three-Year Capital Plan (2007-2010)

Mount Pleasant School is located in the South Central Sector, which has a provincial utilization rate of 35 per cent for Kindergarten to Grade 9. A strategy to decrease the amount of excess space in this sector will be undertaken, that may necessitate program relocations, program closures and school closures, in order to maximize learning opportunities for students.

4. *The number of students who would need to be relocated as a result of the closure of the regular program at Mount Pleasant School.*

If Mount Pleasant School's regular program were to be closed, the 56 students projected to be enrolled for the fall of September 2007 would be designated to Lendrum School for regular elementary programming. There is space available in Lendrum School to accommodate all 142 elementary students who reside in the Mount Pleasant School attendance area in the event that all these students choose to attend their designated receiving school.

Students have direct access to the designated receiving school for their attendance area as defined by their residence. If Mount Pleasant School's regular program were to close, some students may choose other district schools. Should parents of Mount Pleasant School regular program request to register in a different school other than the designated receiving schools, students would be able to register in that school, and as long as the school provides the appropriate program and the student meets entrance criteria.

5. *The need for, and the extent of, bussing.*

Yellow bus service would be available for elementary students to their receiving elementary school. The transportation fee would be subsidized by the district at the rate set for students who attend their designated receiving school.

6. *Program implications for other schools and for the students when they are attending other schools.*

If the regular program at Mount Pleasant School were to close the students would be designated to Lendrum School or another school as determined through the school closure process. The implications for the designated receiving school would be an increase in enrolment. The attendance area for the designated receiving school would be larger and provide opportunities for continued growth. Students would have the opportunity to be accommodated in more single grade classes.

Edmonton Public Schools will continue to implement average class sizes recommended by the Learning Commission for the 2007-2008 school year. In the fall of 2006-2007 the district distributed additional funds to schools designated specifically for hiring additional staff to meet the smaller class size recommendations. Lendrum School can accommodate Mount Pleasant School regular program students and still meet the reduced class sizes.

Examples of educational opportunities and benefits that would be available to Mount Pleasant School regular program students through the elementary program offered at Lendrum School are outlined below.

School	Lendrum
Staffing	Increased regular program teaching staff for additional support, leadership and collaboration opportunities Experienced Literacy teacher on staff for programming support, if required Access to a Library Technician
Curriculum and Resource Program Benefits	Balanced Literacy for K to 6 Arts Enhanced programming Reading Recovery Program Character Education Program 4-6 French as a Second Language Early Reading Intervention Enrichment of curriculum through extensive field trips
Support Services	Daily Paired Reading and Echo Reading sessions Access to ESHIP
Facilities	Infusion of technology into curriculum areas Recently modernized computer lab. Large playground Easy access to classroom from bus loading zone Upgrade library Excellent facility with planned upgrades
Extra and Co-Curricular Activities	Enhanced participation and resources for school patrol, art club, hand bell choir, primary choir, senior choir Reader theatre Strong intramural program Gymnastics at Ortona Artist in Residence Author in Residence Focus on Performance Arts Partnerships with Avalon Junior High

7. *The educational and financial impact of closing the regular program at Mount Pleasant School, including the effect on operational costs and capital implications.*

Educational Impact

If the Mount Pleasant School regular program closes, students would become part of a larger peer group at the designated receiving school.

At the designated receiving school, there would be the possibility of a greater number of students at the same grade level and/or ability level, and increased opportunities for peer group interactions and age-appropriate activities. Depending on enrolment, the designated receiving school may need to hire additional staff. The designated receiving school would engage in welcoming and community building activities to support successful transition to the school.

Financial Impact – Operational and Capital

The current school budget for Mount Pleasant School is \$2,404,251, which includes staffing costs of \$2,157,158 and \$247,093 for Supplies Equipments and Services. If the Mount Pleasant School's

regular program was closed the majority of the above budgeted funds would still be allocated to Mount Pleasant School to provide the Cogito alternative program and Behaviour and Learning Assistance program. There would be no direct savings from the reduction of staff, as Mount Pleasant School would remain open to provide the Cogito and Behaviour and Learning Assistance programs.

8. *The educational and financial impact if the regular program at Mount Pleasant School were to remain open.*

Educational Impacts

If Mount Pleasant School were to remain open with its regular program, its projected student population would be 403 students (projected total for September 30th, 2007). The school would continue to offer regular programming for students in multi-grade class groupings for grades 1-6. As well, Mount Pleasant School would continue to offer the grades 1 – 4 Behaviour and Learning Assistance Program. The school would need to continue to combine regular grades into multi-grade groupings classes with no opportunity for single grade groupings, and it would be limited in programming options available for its regular students. The Cogito alternative program would continue to offer programming in single grade groupings, with at least two classes at each grade level.

The challenges for teachers working in the regular program in multiple subject areas or combined grade groupings could include:

- Limited flexibility when organizing for instruction related to student learning groups.
- Challenges in managing multiple curricular levels of instruction and assessment in a single subject area.
- Challenges in daily, unit and long range planning across numerous subject areas.
- Increased responsibility to meet varying individual needs of students across combined grades in a single classroom.
- May impact ability to select adequate resources to reflect range of student interests, abilities and needs in a classroom.
- Limited opportunities to share ideas, strategies and resources with other teachers of similar course offerings at the same grade level or in the same subject area in the same program.
- May impact opportunities to attend or engage in professional development opportunities in or out of district.

Financial Impact – Operational and Capital

Based on staffing and operating costs for the projected enrolment of 403 students, the total annual cost to operate Mount Pleasant School would be slightly over the current budget of \$2,404,251. Approximately \$419,300 would be needed to meet life cycle replacement needs of the facility.

9. *The capital needs of the schools that may have increased enrolment as a result of the closure of Mount Pleasant School.*

At Lendrum School, there are minimal costs associated with the potential accommodation of students from the Mount Pleasant School attendance area. Lendrum School is not identified on the district's current capital plan. Approximately \$127,923 would be needed to meet life cycle replacement needs of the facility.

10. What is the proposed use the school building if the regular program is closed?

Should the regular program at Mount Pleasant School be closed the school would remain open and operating as a site for the Cogito alternative program and Behaviour and Learning Assistance program. A reduced enrolment would allow some of the existing portables to be relocated from Mount Pleasant School to other schools

11. What are the impacts on Lease Agreements if the school were to be closed?

Tenants in the building will be provided with four options.

- a) The tenant (or tenants) may remain in the building for the remainder of the term of the lease;
- b) The tenant (or tenants) may express an interest to remain in the building for future lease renewal term;
- c) The tenant (or tenants) may terminate the lease at any time without penalty; or
- d) The tenant (or tenants) may express an interest to relocate to another district school.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information regarding the school closure process or to provide feedback, visit Edmonton Public Schools website www.epsb.ca and select the link to the planning website.

In accordance with the School Act Alberta Regulation 238/97 - *Closure of Schools Regulation* a board shall not make a final decision on the proposed closure of the regular program at Mount Pleasant School until at least three weeks have passed since the date of the public meeting. The Board will give due consideration to any written submissions on the proposed closure that it receives after the public meeting and prior to the final debate and decision at the public board meeting on Thursday, March 22, 2007.

Form for Return:
"Question Submission Form"

*Questions regarding the Board of Trustees' consideration of closure of the regular program at **Mount Pleasant School** may be submitted in writing prior to **Thursday, February 8, 2007** to the attention of:*

Jenise Bidulock, Director
Planning and Student Transportation
Centre for Education
1 Kingsway
Edmonton, AB T5H 4G9
Fax: (780) 425-0323
E-mail: School.Closures@epsb.ca

It is not possible to respond to individual questions or inquiries prior to the public meeting which is scheduled for **7:00 pm, Thursday, February 15, 2007 at Mount Pleasant School**. At the public meeting, representative questions will be responded to. Should your specific question(s) not be selected for response at the public meeting, you will have ample opportunity to direct questions to administration and you are invited to do so.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Your name and contact information is being collected by the EPSB as a record of stakeholder involvement.