

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

March 22, 2007

TO: Board of Trustees  
FROM: B. Holt, Acting Superintendent  
SUBJECT: Possible Closure of High Park 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 High Park School at the end of the 2006-2007 school year be approved.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Recommendation**

Based on the information received by the administration from the public and the Board of Trustees, it is recommended that High Park School close and that the students be designated to Mayfield School for Regular and Literacy programming.

**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 High Park School. On January 16, 2007 the Board of Trustees received information on the results of the sustainability reviews and initiated the provincially mandated process to consider High Park School for closure (Appendix I). The recommendation to close High Park 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 5, 2007 to hear public representations regarding the potential closure of High Park 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 5, 2007 public meeting was to share information and receive input from parents and community members about the possible closure of High Park School. Of those people who attended the meeting, there were 32 parents, 68 community members, two principals, three school staff and 13 other individuals, who included MLA Dr. Bruce Miller, City Councillors Ron Hayter, Karen Leibovici, and Linda Sloan. The following trustees were in attendance; Board Chair Esslinger, Trustee Williams, Trustee Gibeault, Trustee Gibson, Trustee Hansen, and Trustee Nicholson. 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](http://www.epsb.ca), as well as information regarding the possible closure of High Park School including the Notice of Meeting sent to parents/guardians, and the PowerPoint presentation made at the public meeting.

Through the closure process some parents or community members expressed a desire to keep High Park School open for the following reasons:

- belief that the sustainability review process was flawed
- perception by the residents that the community will be rejuvenated in the near future as the community ages and new families move into the area
- concern that the small school atmosphere would be lost
- concern that there will be a negative impact on the quality of the neighbourhood
- new initiatives such as new programs, full-day kindergarten, year round schooling would save the school

### **Rationale for Recommending Closure**

#### **Enrolment, Programs and Grade Organization**

High Park School was built in 1954, and a two classroom and gym addition was built in 1960. The school has a capacity of 179 student spaces based on provincial calculations. However, based on the Alberta Learning Commission's class size guidelines the capacity would be 160 student spaces. Enrolment at High Park School was 90 students as of September 30, 2006. Of the 90 students enrolled, 61 students receive regular programming and 29 students are enrolled in the district site for Literacy programming at the school.

High Park 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 | 5            | 5       | 6       | 8       | 12      | 11      | 14      | 61    |
| LIT     |              |         |         |         | 10      | 10      | 9       | 29    |

### **Educational Impact on Students**

The rationale to consider the closure of High Park School is based on factors that include: low and declining student enrolment; a maturing neighbourhood with the number of school aged children in decline; the amount of excess space in elementary schools in this area of the city; and the changing needs of the neighbourhood population. The school experiences operational challenges, including the necessity to organize multiple grade classes; and having a limited capability to hire sufficient support and custodial staff to support the daily operations and care of the school and the needs of students. Consideration to close High Park School is consistent with a long term strategic approach to ensure that the learning needs of students are met and that programs are sustainable to serve the High Park community and Central West Edmonton for years to come.

High Park School offers a regular program for students in Kindergarten to Grade six, and a Literacy Special Education program for students in grades four to six. Student enrolment in Kindergarten to Grade six is insufficient to organize one class per grade. The school has organized combined classes for all grade levels, including a triple-combined class of 16 students in Kindergarten, Grade one and Grade two. Local resident elementary numbers are low, and many students living in the neighbourhood are choosing to attend other nearby schools. It is unlikely that resident school age population numbers would return to levels that would sustain a regular elementary program at High Park School, even if the demographics were to change such that older residents leave the neighbourhood and younger families move in. The amalgamation of the High Park School regular program and Literacy Special Education program with nearby Mayfield School would provide more opportunities for single grade classes and additional program resources.

Mayfield School accommodates regular programming from Kindergarten to Grade six and is a location for Early Education programs serving pre-kindergarten special needs students. Students attending High Park School and students living in the High Park neighbourhood would be designated to Mayfield School. The establishment of an optimal enrolment limit on the Early Education special education program at Mayfield School will ensure that High Park School students can be accommodated. Mayfield School has been recently modernized and could accommodate the students from High Park School.

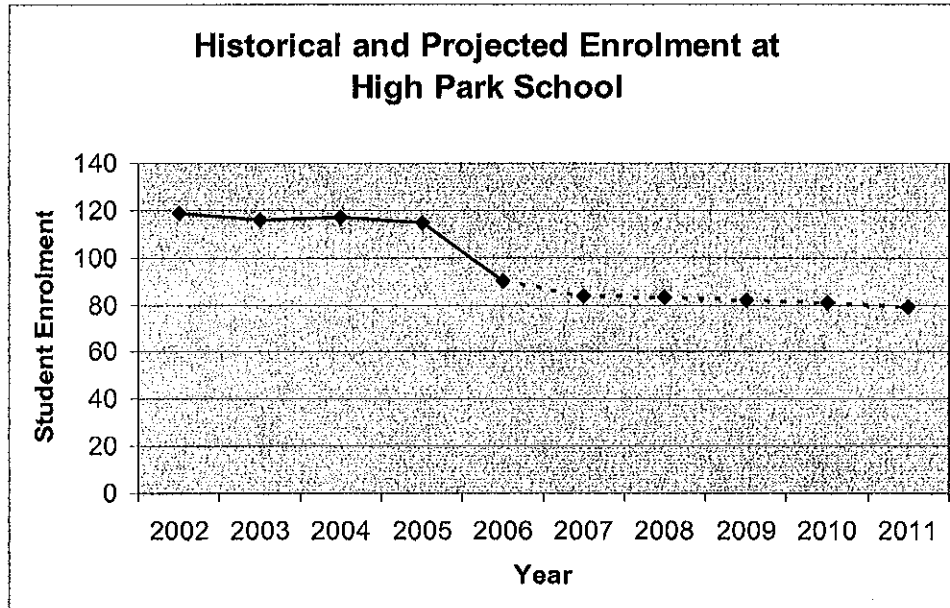
### **Neighbourhood Population and Demographic Information**

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 at High Park 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.

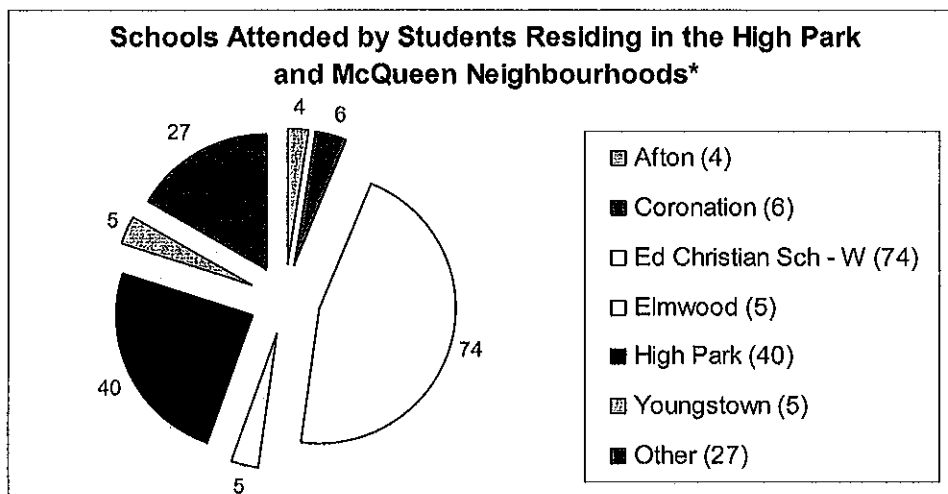
The current attendance area for the regular program at High Park School consists of the High Park neighbourhood, and the dual designated McQueen neighbourhood to High Park and

Coronation schools. The McQueen neighbourhood may be considered for single designation to Coronation School or a proposed Coronation/Westminster multi-campus school.

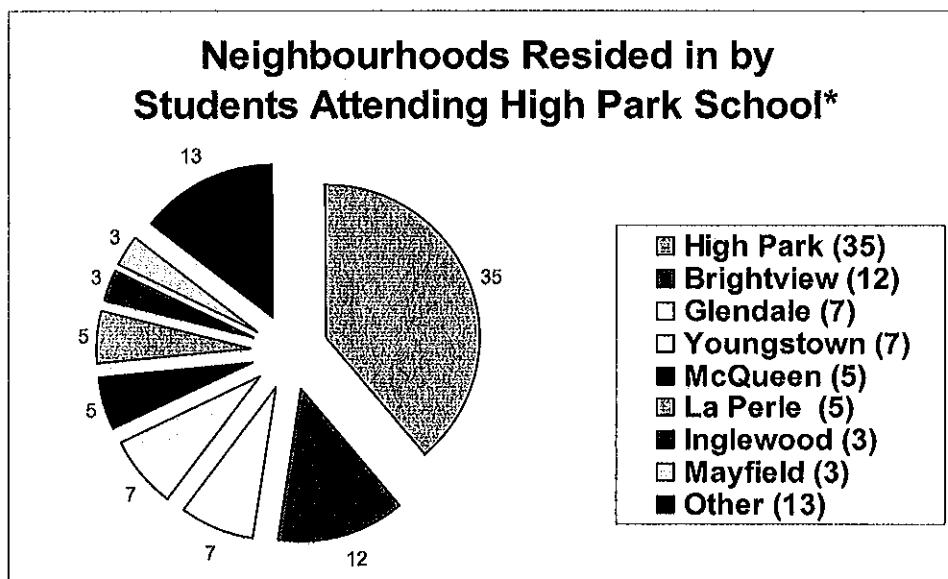
### High Park Attendance Area 2006-2007



There are 161 students residing in the High Park School attendance area. Of these students, 40 have chosen to attend High Park School. The following pie chart indicates the schools attended by students who reside in the High Park attendance area. This information is based on September 30, 2006 enrolment.



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



#### Accommodation of High Park School Students

If High Park School were to close, the 90 students currently registered would be designated to:

- Mayfield School for regular elementary programming (61 students);
- Mayfield School for special education district centre for Literacy programming (29 students).

Currently there are 10.744 full time equivalent staff positions at High Park School, consisting of 6.644 certified teaching staff including principal, 2.1 teacher assistants, 1.2 administrative support

staff, and a 0.8 custodial worker. Potential closure and relocation of High Park School students to Mayfield School would result in fewer combined grade classes, and other educational benefits would be available through enrolling students in a larger school setting.

In the event of relocation of students, efforts would be explored to ensure continuity with current staff, in particular for those students enrolled in the special education district program.

Should parents request registration in another school, other than Mayfield 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 High Park School**

The total allocations provided to High Park School for 2006-07 was \$798,848. Instructional and Plant Operational and Maintenance funding is distributed by the province on a per student basis. There are 89 unfunded student spaces in the building at a cost of \$50,703.

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

High Park School received a provincial facility audit score of 690 in 1999. Edmonton Public Schools internal District Capital Inspection rated the facility as 'acceptable'. The following factors contribute to the acceptable rating. The roof has reached the end of its usable life and needs to be replaced. In addition, the lighting needs upgrading. High Park School poses no immediate threat to the health and safety of students. Since 1990, records indicate that Facilities Services and the school have cumulatively spent \$680,574 on modifications and upgrades. Major expenditures include \$98,800 spent on replacing windows in 1991 and \$270,695 on providing hot water heating in 1998.

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

There are three schools within a 1.6 km radius where student learning space is available: Brightview, Britannia, and Mayfield schools.

#### **Transportation**

High Park School is located in transportation Zone 4. Currently there are 23 students receiving yellow bus service to High Park School, not including students being transported via parent provided transportation. Twelve of the transported students live in the West 1 Sector. Three students live in transportation Zone 5 east of St. Albert Trail, and eight students live in the West 2 Sector.

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 are no paid user groups or tenants at High Park School: The district owns the land where High Park School is located, which includes playfields and a playground. Under the *Joint Use Agreement* with the City of Edmonton, the sports fields and playground are maintained and administered by the city. This would continue as long as the district retains property ownership. There would be no impact on playfield and playground access if High Park School were to be closed. High Park School is available Monday to Wednesday evenings for community use outside of school hours by youth groups through the *Joint Use Agreement*. Community use groups under the *Joint Use Agreement* would be accommodated at other neighbouring district schools.

If High Park School were to be closed, the district would look at identifying potential tenancies with community and not-for profit groups and/or consider other potential district uses for the property. Discussions would be held with the High Park Community League regarding the short and long term use of High Park School building and site. Any potential disposition of the property would be subject to the *Joint Use Agreement* with the City of Edmonton and the provincial *Disposition of Property Regulation*.

**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 – Monday, February 5, 2007



(Consolidated up to 170/2004)

ALBERTA REGULATION 238/97

School Act

## CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS REGULATION

### Table of Contents

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## 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.

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### 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

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## NOTICE OF MEETING

### MEETING TO CONSIDER CLOSURE OF HIGH PARK SCHOOL

**Date:** Monday, February 5, 2007  
**Time:** 7:00 pm  
**Location:** High Park School  
 11031 – 154 Street  
 Gymnasium

### INFORMATION REGARDING THE POTENTIAL CLOSURE OF HIGH PARK SCHOOL

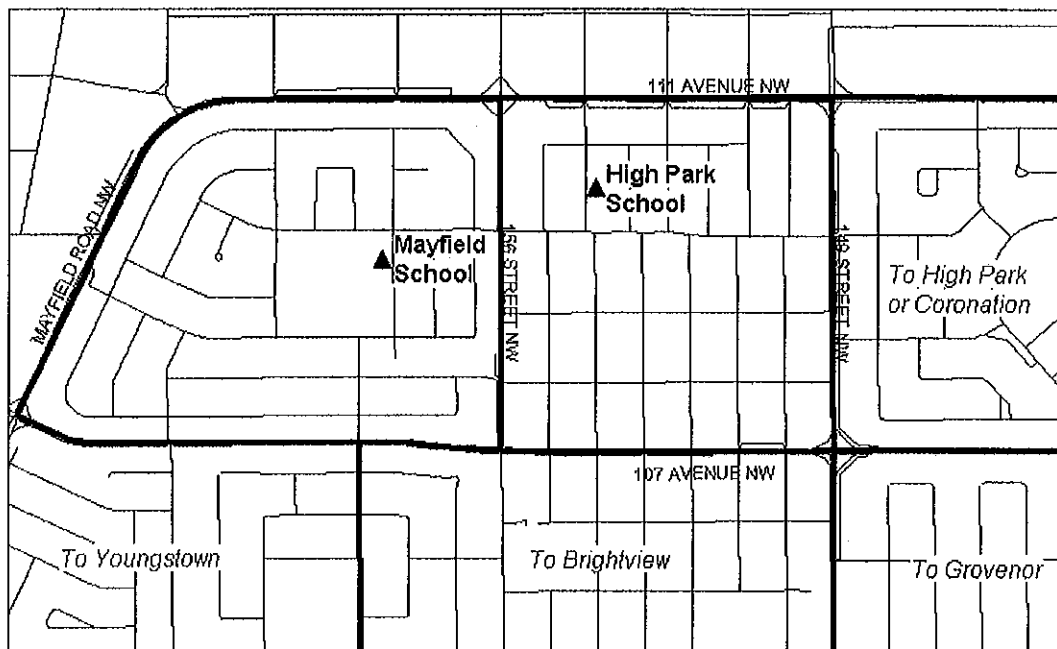
*1. How school closure would affect the attendance area defined for High Park School.*

High Park School, located at 11031 – 154 Street, Edmonton, Alberta offers a Kindergarten to Grade six regular program and grades four to six Literacy special program. The Board of Trustees is considering the closure of both the regular and Literacy programs at High Park School.

The attendance area for the regular program at High Park School consists of the High Park neighbourhood and the dual designated neighbourhood of McQueen. The Literacy program is a special district program that accommodates students who live in the north west and west areas of the city. In the event of closure of High Park School all students residing within the High Park neighbourhood in the fall of 2007 would be designated to Mayfield School located at 10950 – 159 Street, Edmonton, Alberta.

The dual designated neighbourhood of McQueen would be considered for re-designation solely to Coronation School or a proposed Coronation/Westminster multi-campus School, in the event of the schools being twinned.

High Park School Attendance Area 2006-2007





**2. How the closure of High Park School would affect the attendance at other schools.**

**High Park's enrolment as of September 30, 2006**

|         | Kindergarten | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Grade 5 | Grade 6 | Total |
|---------|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Regular | 5            | 5       | 6       | 8       | 12      | 11      | 14      | 61    |
| LIT     |              |         |         |         | 10      | 10      | 9       | 29    |

**High Park's projected Enrolment for September 30, 2007**

|         | Kindergarten | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Grade 5 | Grade 6 | Total |
|---------|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Regular | 5            | 5       | 6       | 6       | 8       | 13      | 14      | 57    |
| LIT     |              |         |         |         | 9       | 9       | 9       | 27    |

With a provincially-rated total capacity of 424 students, Mayfield School can accommodate all students currently enrolled in the regular and Literacy programs at High Park School. Current enrolment at High Park School includes students who reside inside and outside the High Park School attendance area. The September 30, 2006 enrolment at Mayfield School was 143 students (Kindergarten and grades one to six) and 70 students in the Early Education program for a total of 213 students. The projected enrolment for Mayfield School for September, 2007 prior to consideration of closure of High Park School, is 210 students (Early Education, Kindergarten and grades one to six).

If High Park School closes, an additional projected enrolment of 84 students (Kindergarten and grades one to six) would be designated to the Mayfield School for a projected enrolment for the 2007-2008 school year at Mayfield School of 294 students (Kindergarten and grades one to six).

Currently there are 161 public elementary students living within the High Park School attendance area. There are 63 students in the neighbourhood of High Park, and thirty-five of these students (55 per cent) currently choose to attend High Park School. Eight per cent attend Edmonton Christian School, three per cent attend Mayfield School, and the final 34 per cent attend 13 different Edmonton Public Schools.

In the dual designated neighbourhood of McQueen, which is shared with Coronation, there are 98 students. Five per cent of the students attend High Park School and six per cent attend Coronation School. The largest percentage, 70 per cent, attends Edmonton Christian School. The remaining nineteen per cent attend another eleven Edmonton Public Schools. On average 47.5 per cent of all elementary students district-wide attend their designated school. Some of the students currently attending High Park School could choose to attend district schools other than Mayfield School.

The current utilization rates for other neighbouring schools are as follows: Brightview 59 per cent, Coronation 58 per cent, Edmonton Christian (West 1, K – 9) 81 per cent, Grovenor 37 per cent, and Mayfield 97 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)

High Park School is located in the West 1 Sector, which has a provincial utilization rate of 33 per cent for Kindergarten to Grade nine. 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 High Park School.***

If High Park School were to be closed, the 84 students projected to be enrolled for the fall of September 2007 would be designated to Mayfield School for regular elementary programming (57 students) and special Literacy programming (27 students). There is space available in Mayfield School to accommodate all High Park School students.

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

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

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. In addition, there are no major changes anticipated to transportation services for students currently attending the Literacy program.

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

If High Park School were to close, the projected 57 regular students designated to Mayfield School could have access to single grade class groupings. There would be increased funds to purchase resources, curriculum-related resources, library upgrades, physical education equipment, technology upgrades and mathematics and science manipulative materials. Students could also have access to a wider range of options and opportunities to be involved in a wide variety of clubs, and leadership opportunities.

If High Park School were to close, the 27 students in the Literacy program would benefit in the same way as students in the regular program. They would also gain from the financial supports for inclusion in a larger school. As well, specialized teaching for students requiring special education programming can be more readily provided in a school with a larger population. Any students currently enrolled in the Literacy program at High Park School would be able to enrol at Mayfield School, or another Literacy program closer to the student's home.

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. Mayfield School can accommodate High Park School students and still meet the reduced class sizes.

Additional educational opportunities and benefits that would be available to High Park School students through the elementary program offered at Mayfield School are outlined below.

| <b>School</b>                                   | <b>Mayfield</b>  |
|---|--|
| <b>Staffing</b>                                 | Increased teaching staff for additional support, leadership and collaboration opportunities<br>Increased FTE Library Technician  |
| <b>Curriculum and Resource Program Benefits</b> | Strong focus on reading and writing enveloped by verbalization and visualization<br>Enhanced Kindergarten Programming<br>Animated Literacy in Kindergarten<br>Balanced Literacy for K to 6<br>Reading Recovery Program<br>Phonological Awareness Program<br>Cognitive Meta-cognitive strategy program<br>Academy of Reading Program<br>Music Supporting Literacy Program<br>4-6 Spanish as a Second Language |
| <b>Support Services</b>                         | Safe and Caring Schools<br>Access to ESHIP<br>After-school homework program  |
| <b>Facilities</b>                               | Infusion of technology into Curriculum areas<br>Newer computer lab.<br>Large playground<br>Easy access to classroom from bus loading zone  |
| <b>Extra and Co-Curricular Activities</b>       | Badminton<br>Cup Stacking Club<br>Spirit Club  |

7. *The educational and financial impact of closing High Park School, including the effect on operational costs and capital implications.*

*Educational Impact*

If High Park School closes, students in the regular program and Literacy program would become part of a larger peer group at Mayfield School.

At Mayfield 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, Mayfield School may need to hire additional staff. Mayfield 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 High Park School is \$865,874, which includes staffing costs of \$747,725 and \$118,149 for Supplies Equipments and Services. If High Park School was closed the above budgeted funds would be available for use in other schools. Direct savings from the reduction of a principal, head custodian and an administrative assistant would amount to \$186,714 per year. With the closure, approximately \$51,273 in operational and maintenance costs would be saved.

Based on the 2004 Capital Inspection Report of the facility's condition, the \$156,650 for upgrades at the school would not be required.

**8. *The educational and financial impact if High Park School were to remain open.***

***Educational Impacts***

If High Park School were to remain open, its projected student population would be 84 students (projected total for September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007). The school would continue to offer regular programming for students in multi-grade class groupings for Kindergarten and grades one to six. As well, High Park School would continue to offer the grades four to six Literacy program. The school would need to continue to combine grades into multi-grade groupings classes with no opportunity for single grade groupings, and it would be limited in programming options available for its students. As of September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006 High Park School had five Kindergarten students enrolled. For the 2007-08 school year, High Park School would offer a Kindergarten program only if enrolment exceeded 17 students, otherwise Kindergarten students would be directed to Mayfield School.

In addition, resources for the purchase of instructional materials and equipment would continue to be limited or further reduced.

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.
- 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 84 students, the total annual cost to operate High Park School is slightly under \$865,874. Approximately \$156,650 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 High Park School.***

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

**10. What is the proposed use of the school building if it is closed?**

Should High Park School be closed, the school would first be considered for use by the district for educational purposes, for example, district operations that are in leased space, leased to non profit organizations or sold. For example, closed schools have been used by the district for the Home School Centre, the Environment Education Centre, and the Rites of Passage Program. A few have been leased on a long-term basis to organizations such as NAIT, the Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation, and the City of Edmonton Community Services Department. A number of closed schools have been sold to: the City of Edmonton for green space, the Edmonton Society for Christian Education, and the Turkish Canadian Cultural Society.

**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](http://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 High Park 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.

