

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

March 25, 2008

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: Possible Closure of Woodcroft School
ORIGINATOR: T. Parker, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE

STAFF: Donna Barrett, Jenise Bidulock, Bruce Coggles, Will Deys, Michael Ediger, Leanne Fedor, Kerry-Ann Kope, Roland Labbe, Ron MacNeil, Sandra Mason, Bob Morter, Ann Parker, Lorne Parker, Tanni Parker, Cindy Skolski, Betty Tams

RECOMMENDATION

That the closure of Woodcroft School at the end of the 2007-2008 school year be approved.

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School Closure Process and Public Meeting

On September 11, 2007, the Board of Trustees approved the *Annual Implementation Plan* which identified five District schools where the viability of the school was of concern. Sustainability and Continuation Reviews were undertaken at these schools which included Woodcroft School. On January 29, 2008 the Board of Trustees received information on the results of the reviews and initiated the provincially mandated process to consider Woodcroft School for closure (Appendix I). The recommendation to close Woodcroft School was considered in accordance with the criteria outlined in Board Policy FL.BP – School Closures (Appendix II).

A public meeting was held on March 3, 2008 to hear public representations regarding the potential closure of Woodcroft School. The following arrangements, which meet or exceed requirements as set out in the provincial *Closure of Schools Regulation*, were made prior to the public meeting:

- Parents/guardians of students registered at the school received a letter notifying them of the public meeting and a Question and Answer (Q&A) document that answers questions set out by the provincial *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 meeting appeared in the *Edmonton Journal*, the *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 meeting 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. Each school was to post the advertisements.
- 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 Chair of the Board of Trustees regarding 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 meetings and an invitation to attend.
- Written submissions were posted on a weekly basis in the Trustee's on-line reading room. This is done in accordance with the provincial *Closure of Schools Regulation* such that a Board shall give due consideration to any written submissions on the proposed closure.

The purpose of the public meeting held on Monday, March 3, 2008 at Woodcroft School was to share information and receive input from parents and community members about the possible closure of Woodcroft School. Of the participants who signed in at the meeting, there were 32 parents, 34 community members, two principals, 17 District staff and 38 others, which included a provincial electoral candidate, as well as community league presidents for Ritchie and Woodcroft neighbourhoods. The following Trustees were in attendance: Board Chair Esslinger, Trustee Colburn, Trustee Fleming, Trustee Gibeault, Trustee Huff, Trustee Rice, Trustee Ripley and Trustee Shipka. District staff from the Superintendent's office and Planning Department were also in attendance.

Minutes of the meeting and the PowerPoint presentation were posted on the District website at www.epsb.ca.

Feedback Received During School Closure Process

Through the closure process, parents and community members have expressed a desire to keep Woodcroft School open for the following reasons:

- belief that the Sustainability Review Process was flawed
 - There was limited time between notification of the Sustainability Review and its completion to address enrolment concerns
 - Data provided by the District was biased and flawed
 - The benchmarks were inconsistently applied to Woodcroft School in comparison to other District schools
- belief that the addition of an alternative program would attract neighbourhood students back to the school and will attract students from outside the Woodcroft neighbourhood to the school. Alternative programs suggested were Cogito, Science, French Immersion, and Sports.

- belief that partnerships between local agencies and amenities with the school would support the success of the alternative programs listed above
- belief that additional child care or pre-school agencies in the building would increase student enrolment
- concern that the small school atmosphere would be lost
- concern that there would be further negative impacts on the quality of the neighborhood, already affected by negative socio-economic factors
- 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, or through housing strategies in the community
- limited support from the District in terms of marketing the school to the greater community

Recommendation

Woodcroft School is recommended for closure because of low and declining student enrolment and the school is located in a mature neighbourhood with the number of school aged children in decline. There is excess student space in elementary schools located in this area of the city. Consideration to close Woodcroft 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 Woodcroft neighborhood and the West 1 Sector for years to come.

Currently, there are three District alternative programs within the Westmount attendance area. The Chinese Mandarin Bilingual program is offered at Dovercourt School, Awasis at Prince Charles School, and I.B. Middle Years at Westglen School.

The viability of schools in the immediate area, and the West 1 Sector are dependent on taking students from other sectors to increase enrolment. Currently, 52 per cent of the students enrolled in West 1 Sector live outside the sector, many of whom will have access to a local Alberta School Alternative Procurement (ASAP) school in 2010.

Enrolment, Grade Organization, Capacity, Staffing and Operational Costs

Woodcroft School offers a regular program for students in Kindergarten to Grade six, and a Behaviour and Learning Assistance Program for students in Grades one to six. Student enrolment is insufficient to organize one class per grade. The school has organized multi-grade groupings for all grade levels except Kindergarten.

Enrolment at Woodcroft School was 94 students on September 30, 2007. There were 95 students enrolled as of December 20, 2007. Of the 95 students enrolled, 79 students are registered in the regular program, and 16 students are registered in the Behaviour and Learning Assistance Program.

Woodcroft School's student enrolment and grade configuration as of December 20, 2007 is as follows:

	Kinder -garten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Total
Regular	12	11	12	10	6	11	17	79
BLA – Div I		2	1	4				7
BLA – Div II					4	1	4	9
TOTAL	12	13	13	14	10	12	21	95

Current Grade Organization

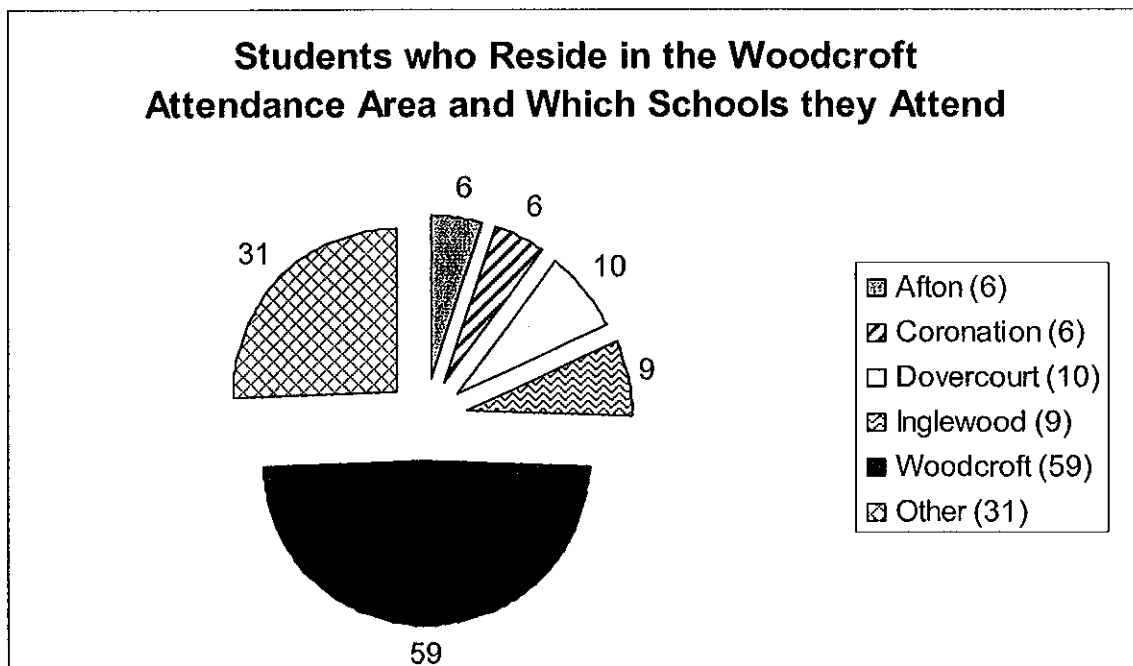
Regular Program (December 20, 2007)

- Morning Kindergarten 12 students
- Combined Grade 1, Grade 2 23 students
- Combined Grade 3, Grade 4 16 students
- Combined Grade 5, Grade 6 28 students

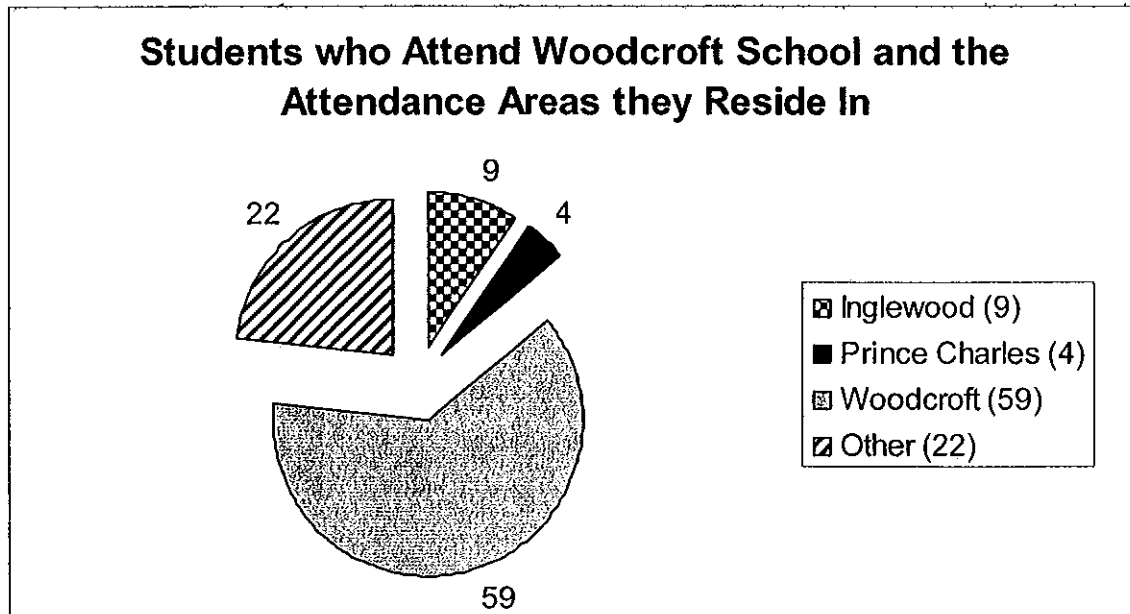
Behaviour Learning Assistance Program

- Combined Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3 7 students
- Combined Grade 4, Grade 5, Grade 6 9 students

There are 121 EPSB elementary students residing in the Woodcroft School attendance area. As shown in the following pie chart, 59 students attend Woodcroft School and the remaining 62 students attend various other District schools. This information is based on September 30, 2007 enrolment.



The following chart indicates the neighbourhoods in which current Woodcroft School students reside. This information is based on September 30, 2007 enrolment.



School Capacity

Woodcroft School was built in 1955. The provincial capacity is rated for 254 students. However, based on the Alberta Commission on Learning (ACOL) class size guidelines, the capacity is 220 student spaces. When you compare Woodcroft School's enrolment to either measure of capacity both result in under utilization of space.

Cost of Staff and Operations for the Educational Programs

Currently there are 11.817 full time equivalent staff positions at Woodcroft School, consisting of 6.887 certified teaching staff including the principal, two teacher aides, one administrative assistant, and one custodian. The total operating and instructional allocations provided to Woodcroft School for 2007-08 was \$873,216. Instructional and Plant Operational and Maintenance funding is distributed by the province on a per student basis.

Recommended Designated Receiving School

The current 21 Grade six students will move to junior high school next year. If Woodcroft School were to close, the remaining 62 regular program students would be designated to another elementary school such as Dovercourt School. The administration is recommending Dovercourt School for a number of reasons.

- Dovercourt School is closer to most Woodcroft residents than Inglewood or Coronation schools.
- There are better pedestrian connections at controlled crossings between Woodcroft and Dovercourt neighbourhoods.

- Both Woodcroft and Dovercourt schools are located in the Westmount School junior high attendance area and designating Dovercourt as the receiving school would leave the Westmount Junior High attendance area intact.
- Amalgamation of the Woodcroft School regular program with Dovercourt School will provide more opportunities for single grade classes and additional program resources.
- There would be increased funds to purchase curriculum-related resources, library upgrades, physical education equipment, technology upgrades and mathematics and science manipulatives. Students could also have access to a wider range of options and opportunities to be involved in a variety of clubs and leadership opportunities.
- Dovercourt School can accommodate students from Woodcroft School and continue to meet the Alberta Commission on Learning class size guidelines.

If Woodcroft School were to close, the remaining 12 Behaviour and Learning Assistance Program students attending Woodcroft School will be designated to Callingwood School, or provided access to another existing Special Education District Centre closer to where they reside.

Transportation

Yellow bus service will be available for elementary students to their receiving elementary school. The transportation fee will be subsidized by the District at the rate set for students who attend their designated receiving school. No major changes are anticipated to transportation services for students in the special education program.

Woodcroft School is located in Transportation Zone 4. There are 13 students who are transported to the District Special Education Centre at Woodcroft School. Eight students live in Transportation Zone 4 and five students live in Transportation Zone 5. These do not include students under parent provided transportation.

Impact of Closing the School on the Community

Woodcroft School is located on non-reserve land, which the District owns, with no other school facility adjacent to the site. The land includes playfields. Under the *Joint Use Agreement* with the City of Edmonton, the sports fields 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 access if Woodcroft School were to be closed. The playground at Woodcroft School is owned and maintained by Edmonton Public Schools and this would continue.

Should Woodcroft School be closed, the school will first be considered by the District for educational purposes, for example, District operations that are in leased space, lease to non profit organizations or sold. Closed schools have been leased on 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. The District will consult with stakeholders prior to determining the future use of the closed facility.

Woodcroft School provides after hours use on Monday and Tuesday evenings for three hours per night by Tait's Twirlers dance group by means of an evening host. There are currently

two leases in the school: Children's Care Ltd., a private out of school care using one classroom, and the Olympian Swim Club using one classroom. Alternative accommodations would be explored for the rental and lease groups.

WD:CS:cp

- Appendix I Closure of Schools Regulation
- Appendix II Board Policy FL.BP School Closure
- Appendix III Notice of Meeting – Monday, March 3, 2008

(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
<u>Board Policies and Regulations</u>		

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 WOODCROFT SCHOOL

Date: Monday, March 3, 2008
Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Location: Woodcroft School
 Gymnasium
 13750 Woodcroft Avenue

INFORMATION REGARDING THE POTENTIAL CLOSURE OF WOODCROFT SCHOOL
1. How the school closure would affect the attendance area defined for Woodcroft School.

Woodcroft School, located at 13750 Woodcroft Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, offers a Kindergarten and Grades 1 to 6 regular program and Grades 1 to 6 Behaviour Learning Assistance Program. The Board of Trustees is considering the closure of both the elementary and Behaviour Learning Assistance Program.

The Woodcroft School attendance area consists of the Woodcroft neighbourhood. In the event of the closure of Woodcroft School, the Woodcroft attendance area will remain unchanged. The District is proposing that students residing within the Woodcroft attendance area be designated to Dovercourt School. Confirmation of the designated receiving school will be determined in consultation with parents of Woodcroft School during the School Closure Process. Dovercourt School is located at 13910 - 122 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta.

The Behaviour and Learning Assistance Program is a Special Education District Centre program that accommodates students whose residences are broadly distributed throughout West Edmonton. Special Education District Centres do not have an attendance area. The District endeavours to place students at a school within the same transportation zone as they reside. Woodcroft School is located in Transportation Zone 4. Currently students from Transportation Zone 4 and 5 attend Woodcroft School.

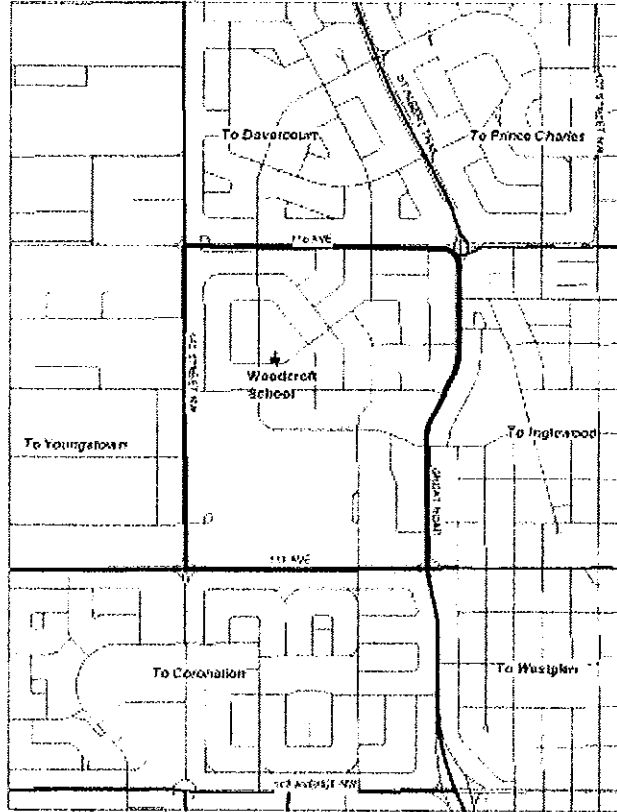
Leadership Services will consult with parents and the principal to determine the best location for individual Special Education students. There will be space for students next year in the Behaviour Learning Assistance Program at Callingwood School which is located at 17335 - 76 Avenue.

Current Enrolment and Programs (December 20, 2007)

2007/08	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Total
Regular	12	11	12	10	6	11	17	79
BLA- Div. I		2	1	4				7
BLA - Div. II					4	1	4	9
Total	12	13	13	14	10	12	21	95

Current enrolment at Woodcroft School includes students who reside inside and outside the Woodcroft attendance area.

The following map illustrates Woodcroft School's attendance area for 2007-08:



2. How the closure of Woodcroft School would affect the attendance at other schools.

Dovercourt School has a capacity of 400 student spaces according to the District's calculation of the Alberta Commission on Learning (ACOL) guidelines. Dovercourt School can accommodate all students currently enrolled in the regular program at Woodcroft School. September 30, 2007 enrolment at Dovercourt School was 233 students. Dovercourt School provides programming for regular elementary, Chinese (Mandarin) Bilingual Program, and is a District Special Education centre for the Literacy Program. The projected total enrolment for September 2008 prior to consideration of closure of Woodcroft School is 233 students (Kindergarten and Grades 1 to 6).

If Woodcroft School closes, an additional projected enrolment of 65 regular students could be designated to Dovercourt School for a projected total school enrolment of 298 students for the 2008-09 school year.

Currently there are 121 public elementary students living within the Woodcroft School attendance area. Fifty-nine students (49 per cent) currently choose to attend Woodcroft School. Ten students attend Dovercourt School, nine students attend Inglewood School, six students attend Coronation School, four students attend Edmonton Christian School, and three students attend Prince Charles School. The remaining 30 students attend other District elementary schools. Some of the students currently attending Woodcroft School could choose to attend District schools other than Dovercourt School.

As mentioned, Leadership Services will consult with parents and the principal to determine the best District centre location for individual Special Educations students.

The current ACOL school capacity for other neighbouring schools are as follows: Dovercourt School 400 student spaces, Inglewood School 320 student spaces, Prince Charles School 340 student spaces, Westglen School 300 student spaces, Westmount School 600 student spaces, and Woodcroft School 220 student spaces.

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 (2008-2017) and Three-Year Capital Plan (2008-2011)
- copy of the Ten-Year Facilities Plan (2008-2017)
- copy of the Three-Year Capital Plan (2008-2011)

Woodcroft School is located in the West 1 Sector, which is made up of mature neighbourhoods. 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 Woodcroft School.*

The current 21 students in Grade 6 at Woodcroft School will move to junior high school next year. If Woodcroft School closes, the remaining 62 regular program students will be designated to Dovercourt School for regular elementary programming. There is space available in Dovercourt School to accommodate all regular program Woodcroft School students. The remaining 12 Behaviour and Learning Assistance Program students attending Woodcroft School will be designated to Callingwood School, or provided access to an existing Special Education District centre closer to their resident address.

Students have direct access to the designated school for their attendance area as defined by their residence. If Woodcroft School closes, some students may choose other District schools. Should parents of Woodcroft School request to register in a different school other than the designated receiving schools, students will 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 will be available for elementary students to their receiving elementary school. The transportation fee will be subsidized by the District at the rate set for students who attend their designated receiving school. No major changes are anticipated to transportation services for students in the Special Education program.

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

If Woodcroft School closes, the regular program students designated to Dovercourt 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. Dovercourt School can accommodate students from Woodcroft School and continue to meet the Alberta Commission on Learning class size guidelines.

If Woodcroft School closes, students in the Behaviour and Learning Assistance 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. Additionally, for those students wishing to receive programming closer to home, they may choose to attend a Special Education District centre in the area.

Educational opportunities and benefits that would be available to Woodcroft School students through the elementary program offered at Dovercourt School are outlined below.

School	Dovercourt
Staffing	Increased teaching staff for additional support, leadership and collaboration opportunities Potential for single grade groupings in the regular program Increased FTE Library Technician
Curriculum and Resource Program Benefits	Balanced Literacy for K to 6 Music Specialist French Specialist Full Time Librarian Grades 4-6 French as a Second Language Strong Character Education Program Cultural Support for all students Chinese International Program Chinese New Year
Support Services	Partnership Daily Paired Reading Access to ESHIP
Facilities	Infusion of technology into Curriculum areas Computer lab (30) School was modernized in 1999 United video streaming and LCD's projectors in all classrooms 3 Document cameras for use with LCD projectors Large new playground built in 2002 Community League Waterpark and Skating Rink
Extra and Co-Curricular Activities	Participation and resources for school patrol, hand bell choir, primary choir, senior choir, running club, etc. Student Leadership activities Student Recycle Team Journal Indoor Games Strong intramural program Chinese Cultural activities Lion Dance Team

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

Educational Impact

If Woodcroft School closes, students in the regular program will become part of a larger peer group at Dovercourt School.

At Dovercourt School, the students will be exposed to a greater number of students at the same grade level and/or ability level and experience increased opportunities for peer group interactions and age-appropriate activities. Depending on enrolment, Dovercourt School may need to hire additional staff. Dovercourt 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 Woodcroft is \$944,029, which includes staffing costs of \$849,063 and \$94,966 for Supplies Equipment and Services. If Woodcroft School is closed, the budgeted funds will be available for use in other schools. Based on Capital Inspection Report, Woodcroft School is in poor condition and needs life cycle replacement of major components, which is typical for a facility of this age and design. If Woodcroft School close(s), \$2.7 million for upgrades at the school will not be required.

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

Educational Impacts

If Woodcroft School remains open, its projected student population is 93 students for September 2008. The school will continue to offer regular programming for students in multi-grade class groupings. As well, Woodcroft School will continue to offer the Grades 1-6 Behaviour and Learning Assistance Special Education programming. The school will need to continue to combine grades into multi-grade groupings and it will be limited in programming options available for its students.

In addition, resources for the purchase of instructional materials and equipment will 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
- Decreased 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

- Limited 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 93 students, the total annual cost to operate Woodcroft School would be consistent with this year’s budget of \$873,216.

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

Dovercourt School was modernized in 1998 and is in good condition. Dovercourt School is able to accommodate the potential increased student enrolment without additional capital.

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

Should Woodcroft School be closed, the school will first be considered by the District for educational purposes, for example, district operations that are in leased space, lease to non profit organizations or sold. Historically, 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 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 Woodcroft 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 Tuesday, March 25, 2008.

