

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 10, 2005

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: Strathearn School Closure
ORIGINATOR: C. McCabe, Assistant to the Superintendent

RESOURCE

STAFF: Jenise Bidulock, Randy Billey, Leanne Fedor, Pamela Hall, Sandra Irving, Jane Klaray, Kerry-Ann Kope, Roland Labbe, Randy Leal, Shirly McNeill, Pat Niven, Deanne Patsula, Gerri Porter, Amy-Irene Seward, Cindy Skolski, Colin Willows

RECOMMENDATION

That the closure of Strathearn School at the end of the 2004-2005 school year be approved.

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Rationale for Recommending Closure

Strathearn School was opened in 1952 and has a provincially rated capacity for 670 students. September 30, 2004 enrolment at the school was 102 students in kindergarten through grade 6 and 80 students in grades 7 through 9 for a total of 182 students. Enrolment at Strathearn School has been declining steadily since 1960 (Appendix I). Of the 182 students enrolled at Strathearn School, 94 are in regular elementary programming and 8 students receive elementary special needs programming. In junior high, 68 students receive regular programming and 12 students receive special needs programming.

Projected enrolment for next year is 96 students in kindergarten to grade 6 and 82 students in grades 7 through 9 for a total of 178 students. Current pre-enrolment at Strathearn School as of May 4, 2005 is as follows: 104 students in the regular program (69 regular elementary and 25 regular junior high) and seven students in special needs programs (four in elementary and three in junior high) for a total of 111 students. There are 371 public elementary and junior high students residing within Strathearn School's attendance area. Ninety-seven of those students currently choose to attend Strathearn School while the remaining 274 students are choosing to attend other district schools (Appendix I). (Elementary attendance area: 148 students residing and 53 attending; Junior High attendance area: 223 students residing and 44 attending).

The City of Edmonton's 25 year demographic projections for these areas, included in the *Edmonton Population and Employment Forecast Allocation Study 2000 to 2025* and updated in the draft *Edmonton Population and Employment Forecast Allocation Study 2005 to 2030*, indicates that the number of pre-school and elementary and junior high age children has declined in the area steadily since 1996. As well, the projection for the number of school age children shows an overall decline to the year 2030 (Appendix II). Based on district enrolment history and trends, census data from 1996 to 2001, and civic population projections for the next twenty-five

years, it is anticipated that the viability of Strathearn School will continue to decline. Strathearn School is eligible for closure in accordance with Board Policy FL.BP (Appendix III) which identifies space utilization (under 40 per cent), and/or an average elementary enrolment below 15 students per grade, or an average junior high enrolment below 30 students per grade, and/or the cost of keeping the school in operable condition or restoring it to operable condition being deemed by the board to be unreasonably high.

If Strathearn School were to be closed, savings in operational costs of approximately \$214,000 per year would be realized by the district. The Strathearn School building is in good condition with a provincial audit score of 390. Upgrades to the facility, estimated at \$1.5M would be required to bring it to current standards.

Accommodation of Strathearn School Students

If Strathearn School were to be closed, the 178 students projected to be enrolled in the fall would be designated to Rutherford School for regular elementary programming (93 students) and special needs Behaviour and Learning Assistance programming (3 students), to Kenilworth School for regular junior high programming (66 students) and to Ottewell School for special needs junior high Opportunity program (16 students). There is space available in each of these schools to accommodate all Strathearn School students.

Appendix IV represents elementary and junior high students who live in the Strathearn School attendance area and the Edmonton Public Schools they attend. There are 148 public elementary students living within the Strathearn School elementary attendance area. Fifty-three elementary students (36 per cent) currently choose to attend Strathearn School. Nineteen per cent attend Holyrood School, 7 per cent attend Rutherford School and the remaining 38 per cent attend other district elementary schools. Currently 51 per cent of all elementary students district-wide attend their designated school.

There are 223 public junior high students living within the Strathearn School junior high attendance area. Forty-four junior high students (20 per cent) currently choose to attend Strathearn School, 25 per cent attend Kenilworth School, 20 per cent attend Ottewell School and the remaining 35 per cent attend other district junior high schools. Currently 46 per cent of all junior high students district-wide attend their designated school.

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

There is a direct ETS route from Strathearn School to Kenilworth School. Junior high students would be provided with subsidized ETS passes. Yellow bus service would be available for elementary students to their receiving elementary school. No major changes are anticipated to transportation services for students currently attending the elementary Behaviour and Learning Assistance and junior high Opportunity programs. The transportation fee would be highly subsidized by the district at the rate set for students who attend their designated receiving school.

Consultation

On December 14, 2004, the board approved a recommendation that groups of schools in areas of the city with low enrolments be examined for the purpose of addressing improved educational opportunities for students. Strathearn School was clustered with Forest Heights, Fulton Place, Hardisty, and Terrace Heights schools. Cluster Studies commenced early in the new year and were coordinated by the Planning Department. Planning staff consulted with principals, and in various meetings with school staff, parents, school councils, program representatives and the broader community. The overall objective of the consultation process was to provide participants with the opportunity to work with the district to realize the following outcomes:

- Enhanced programming for students;
- Improved educational and co-curricular opportunities for students;
- Improved facilities and learning environments for students; and
- Improved use of school space.

Following from the Cluster Study in which Strathearn School was considered, the recommendations approved by the Board of Trustees on March 8, 2005 were as follows:

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

Following the March 8, 2005 board meeting, the following arrangements were made prior to the public meeting that was scheduled for April 11, 2005:

- Parents/guardians of students registered at the school received a letter informing them of the public meeting along with the Notice of Meeting information package (Appendix V)
- Advertisements were placed in the Edmonton Journal, Sun and the Examiner
- Flyers were posted in a minimum of five conspicuous places in the community
- A mail drop was arranged to ensure all members of the community were informed of the meeting
- A letter was sent to the City of Edmonton requesting a community impact statement and provided notice and invitation to the public meeting
- Community League Presidents received notification of the meeting and an invitation to attend

The public meeting was scheduled and conducted in accordance with the requirements of the School Act and Closure of Schools Regulation (Appendix VI). It was intended to provide the district with the opportunity to present information to the public and receive their input regarding the proposed closure of Strathearn School. The meeting was held Monday, April 11, 2005 at Strathearn School. Two hundred and seventy-seven parents, community members and students from the Strathearn community attended the meeting at which district staff provided information

about Strathearn School. Also in attendance were nine trustees, two other elected officials and twenty-eight district staff.

Attendees were provided with information about the implications of the closure for students, the community and the district, the implications of keeping the school open and information about the implementation of closure. Information regarding the district's long range capital plan was provided in the Notice of Meeting information package in items 8, 9 and 10. Further information on capital plans was provided at the public meeting.

Concerns and Issues

The administration has identified, through the closure process, the following issues and concerns identified by parents and community members that need to be addressed. The ways in which each of these could be addressed are as follows:

- Designated Receiving Schools
- Class Sizes
- Cost of Transportation and Lunch Fees
- Improved Educational Opportunities
- Future Use of Closed Building and School Site
- Programming Needs
- Parent-Raised Funds
- Capital Investment
- Alternative Programs

Designated Receiving Schools

- Consider changing or adding school(s) currently identified as the designated receiving school, should Strathearn School close

It is proposed that Kenilworth School be the receiving school for the regular junior high program students from Strathearn School and Ottewell School be the receiving school for the Opportunity program students. Kenilworth School can accommodate Strathearn students however, with to the need to reduce class sizes, Kenilworth School may require the addition of portable classroom space. This is dependent on enrolment and would be required only if enrolment increased significantly whether or not Strathearn School is closed and students are designated there. Ottewell School can accommodate the Opportunity program without expansion and its location enhances the balanced distribution of special needs programs within this sector of the city.

Class Sizes

- Ensure class size initiative is implemented at the designated receiving school(s), should Strathearn School close

Edmonton Public Schools is required to lower average class sizes by the 2006/07 school year to the levels recommended by the Learning Commission. In the fall of 2004/2005 the district distributed additional funds to schools designated specifically for staff to meet the small class size recommendations. It is anticipated that the district will once again work with principals to ensure schools are working toward meeting the recommendations.

Schools with enrolments of 300 to 400 students have more flexibility to hire staff to meet the recommendations for smaller class sizes. Because there are more students, a school with a higher enrolment has a greater opportunity to be able to organize single grade classes. Occasionally, the

need for combined classes is necessary to accommodate odd numbers of students however, in larger schools, there is a greater ability to keep smaller numbers in all classes whether they are straight classes or combined classes. If the need for a slightly higher number of students within a class occurs, schools with higher enrolments have the resources to be able to provide support for that class by hiring additional assistance or reorganizing the class for a portion of the day.

Cost of Transportation and Lunch Fees

- Determine the impact on the district to subsidize transportation and lunch fees, should Strathearn School close

If Strathearn School were to be closed, elementary students residing in the Strathearn School attendance area would be eligible for subsidized yellow bus transportation to their designated elementary receiving school. Designation to any nearby elementary school may require the addition of one bus. For students residing in the Strathearn School attendance area and attending their designated school, lunch fees for supervision would be waived by the district through to their completion of grade 6 at their designated school. Junior high students would be eligible to purchase subsidized ETS bus passes regardless of what junior high school they choose to attend. The transportation fees would be highly subsidized by the district at the rate set for students who attend their designated receiving school.

Improved Educational Opportunities

- Identify details of improved educational opportunities for students including class sizes, should Strathearn School close

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

School	Rutherford
Staffing	Increased teaching staff for additional support, leadership and collaboration opportunities Experienced Strategies teacher on staff for programming support, if required Increased FTE Library Technician
Curriculum and Resource Program Benefits	Accelerated Reading Program Renovated library with culled and renewed collection, including leveled books K-6 French as a Second Language
Support Services	Faculty College St. Jean education student study support Daily Paired Reading and Echo Reading sessions Continued support of contracted social workers Full lunch program
Facilities	Four computer pod in each classroom Large new playground Climbing apparatus for playground activity Easy access to classroom from bus loading zone Completion of essential modernization of facility
Extra and Co-Curricular Activities	Enhanced participation and resources for school patrol, art club, hand bell choir, primary choir, senior choir, science Olympics Arts focus on drama, movement and visual arts

Additional educational opportunities and benefits that would be available to Strathearn School students through the junior high programs offered at Kenilworth School and Ottewell School are also outlined below.

School	Kenilworth (for students in Regular program)	Ottewell (for students in the Opportunity program)
Staffing	Subject area specialists beyond core subjects Language specialists Full-time library technician	Subject area specialists beyond core subjects Language specialists Enhanced library technician support Increased teaching staff for Additional support and leadership
Curriculum and Resource Program Benefits	French as a Second Language (Beginner and Intermediate) French Immersion and Late French Immersion site Career and Technology study courses Construction Technology Specialized instructors in all subject areas Minimum of 2 classes per option Gr. 7 & 3 for Grades 8 & 9 Separate phys. ed. for boys and girls at each grade level	Beginner and Intermediate French programs Enrichment in all core subjects Paired-reading program Career and Technology Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction and Fabrication • Information Processing Computer assisted instruction Environment and outdoor education
Support Services	Home-room continuity over full 3 years On-site school store Closed campus Peer mentoring program Bully-free program Positive recognition program Pro-active at-risk counseling 80% of students utilize School Zone Extra support program for before and after school Teacher mentor program	Home-work monitoring program Peer support program Peer-paired tutoring program Teach lunch time help sessions High school prep program Snack Shack hot lunches Guidance and counseling Fitness-wellness centre Career shadowing
Facilities	2 full computer labs Computer assisted instruction in all core and option classrooms, including smart boards, overhead projectors, etc. 2 gymnasiums CTS labs including Construction Technology	Main entrance and classrooms wheelchair accessible Two gymnasiums Three IBM networked computer labs Classroom computers Snack Shack food service Computerized Learning Resource Centre Two Construction and Fabrication labs Modern science labs Renovated music room

School	Kenilworth (for students in Regular program)	Ottewell (for students in the Opportunity program)
Co-Curricular Activities	French Immersion Trips Math Contests Field Trips that support curricular outcomes Band grades 7-9 Band Concert Trips Performances at the school or in the community Drama presentations Outdoor Education Trips	Science Olympics Math contests Band program/trips Drama presentations
Extra Curricular Activities	Choir Guitar lesson program Cheerleading team Social activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dances • French Week Student Council Clubs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch Drama • Ski club • Grade 9 Shakespeare production 	Student Council Band program Cheerleading program/team Athletics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter-school competitive teams, boys and girls, junior and senior categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wrestling ○ Slow Pitch Clubs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike • Chess • Citadel Club Journal Games

Future Use of Closed Building and School Site

- Ensure future use of closed building and land meets community expectations, should Strathearn School close

If Strathearn School were to be closed, the district would first look for other district uses for the building. Should the district conclude that there are no other district uses for the building, it would work with the community league and the City of Edmonton and ensure that any other future use of the building and school site is appropriate. The district may also consider issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) from the community non-profit sector to explore possible partnership opportunities. The district would also explore whether or not other educational bodies or community service oriented agencies might be interested in the building as tenants over the short to medium term.

Programming Needs

- Ensure programming needs of students (e.g. Reading Recovery) are met at the receiving school should Strathearn School close

The programming needs of all Strathearn School elementary students, including Reading Recovery, would be met by the resources and supports that would be available at Rutherford School. Similarly, the programming needs of all Strathearn School junior high students would be

met by the resources and supports that would be available at both Kenilworth and Ottewell schools.

Parent-Raised Funds

- Ensure that funds raised by the parent council and society are handled in accordance with board policy, should Strathearn School close

Funds raised by the parent council and society will be handled in accordance with board policy and regulations.

Capital Investment

- Further define extent of capital investment and ensure capital investment will impact classrooms and learning spaces, should Strathearn School close.

For the purposes of accommodating students from Strathearn School, minimal capital investment would be required at Rutherford School. Investment of capital funds would be required for minor renovations to consolidate elementary programs on the main and second floors of the building, to accommodate the Behaviour and Learning Assistance program and to consolidate tenants in the basement space at the school. There is sufficient space within Rutherford School to meet the district's class size targets at that school. The Rutherford School building is in need of a general upgrade estimated at \$ 3.23M, regardless of whether or not the attendance area is expanded to include the Strathearn School elementary program.

Kenilworth and Ottewell schools require no renovations to accommodate the proposed junior high program designations. Although Kenilworth School may require the addition of portable space to accommodate the lower class size initiative, this additional space would be required whether or not Strathearn School is closed. An additional \$3.2M is required in the long-term at Kenilworth School to complete essential and general upgrades which, again, will be necessary regardless of whether or not Kenilworth School's attendance area is expanded to include the Strathearn School regular program.

Alternative Programs

- Investigate alternative and special needs programs that would be suitable for Strathearn School

The following alternative programs are being investigated to determine if there is a current demand district wide for alternative programs:

- Cogito Alternative Program in Millwoods and north area of the city
- Logos Alternative Program in Millwoods
- Spanish Academy Alternative Program in the north area of the city
- Behaviour and Learning Assistance district sites program for Fraser and Mary Butterworth schools
- Pre-advanced placement has been approved by the board as a junior high alternative program. No sites have yet been identified, however, the requirements to place these programs at Strathearn School would not be met. The criteria for such placement would include a junior high program with at least 50 students per grade, in order to sustain single grade classes for the academic program. Another criteria would be schools in areas of the city that do not already contain academic programs.

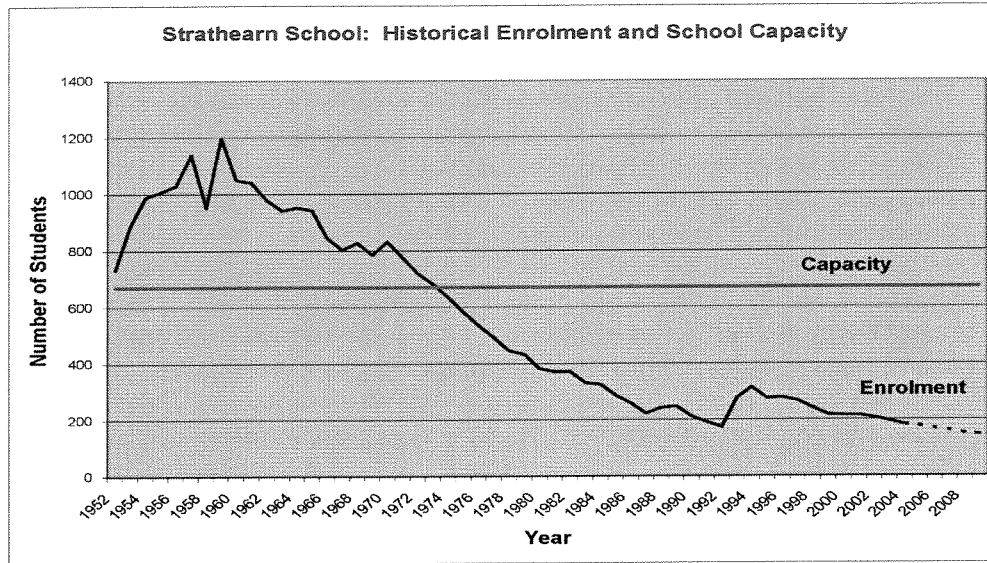
Input from the City of Edmonton

The City of Edmonton was invited to provide a community impact statement on the potential closure of Strathearn School. A copy of their response is attached (Appendix VII). The playground at Strathearn School is owned and maintained by the City of Edmonton and would be available for community use. There are rentals in the school gymnasium on Monday evening (adult Ukrainian dance) and Tuesday evening (adult basketball) and in the art room Tuesday evening (adult art class). There are no rentals on Wednesday or Thursday evenings. There is a youth Irish dance class on Friday evening. The district would consider community access to gymnasiums in any future lease arrangements and would continue to work with the City of Edmonton if any additional issues or concerns arise.

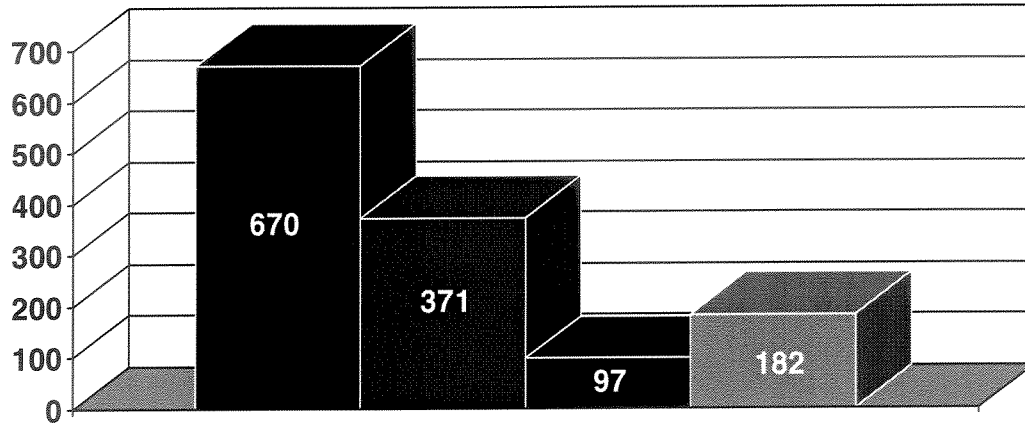
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APPENDIX I	Strathearn School Enrolment History and Total Capacity, Student Projection, and Student Enrolment
APPENDIX II	City of Edmonton Neighbourhood Demographic Information
APPENDIX III	Board Policy FL.BP School Closure
APPENDIX IV	Elementary and Junior High Students who live in the Strathearn School Attendance Area and the Edmonton Public Schools they Attend
APPENDIX V	Notice of Meeting
APPENDIX VI	School Act
APPENDIX VII	City of Edmonton Community Impact

STRATHEARN SCHOOL ENROLMENT HISTORY AND TOTAL CAPACITY, STUDENT PROJECTION, AND STUDENT ENROLMENT

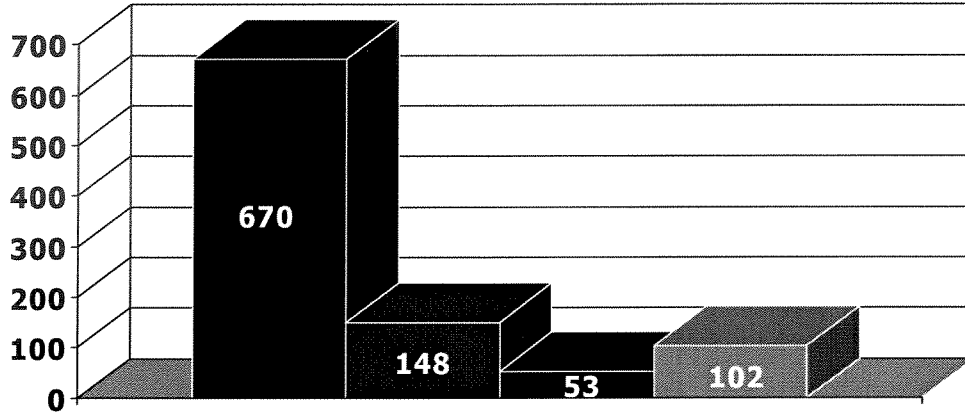


Total Capacity, Student Population and Student Enrolment of Strathearn School



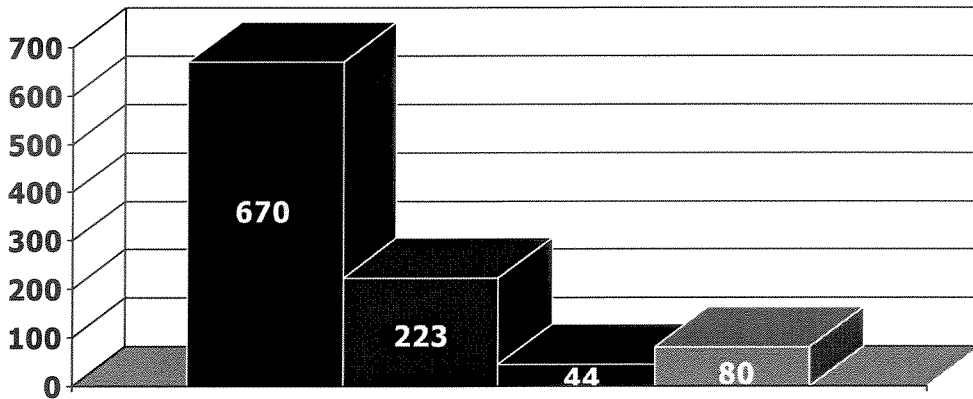
- Total Capacity of Strathearn School
- Total # of EPS Elementary and Jr high students in Strathearn Attendance Area (which includes the neighbourhoods of Cloverdale, Holyrood, Rutherford-Bonnie Doon and Strathearn)
- Total # of Elementary and Jr high students living in the Strathearn Attendance Area attending Strathearn School
- Total Enrolment of Strathearn School

Total Capacity, Elementary Student Population and Elementary Student Enrolment at Strathearn School



- Total Capacity of Strathearn School
- Total # of EPS Elementary students in Strathearn Attendance Area (which includes the neighbourhoods of Cloverdale and Strathearn)
- Total # of Elementary students living in the Strathearn Attendance Area attending Strathearn School
- Total Enrolment of Elementary Students at Strathearn School

Total Capacity, Junior High Student Population and Junior High Student Enrolment at Strathearn School



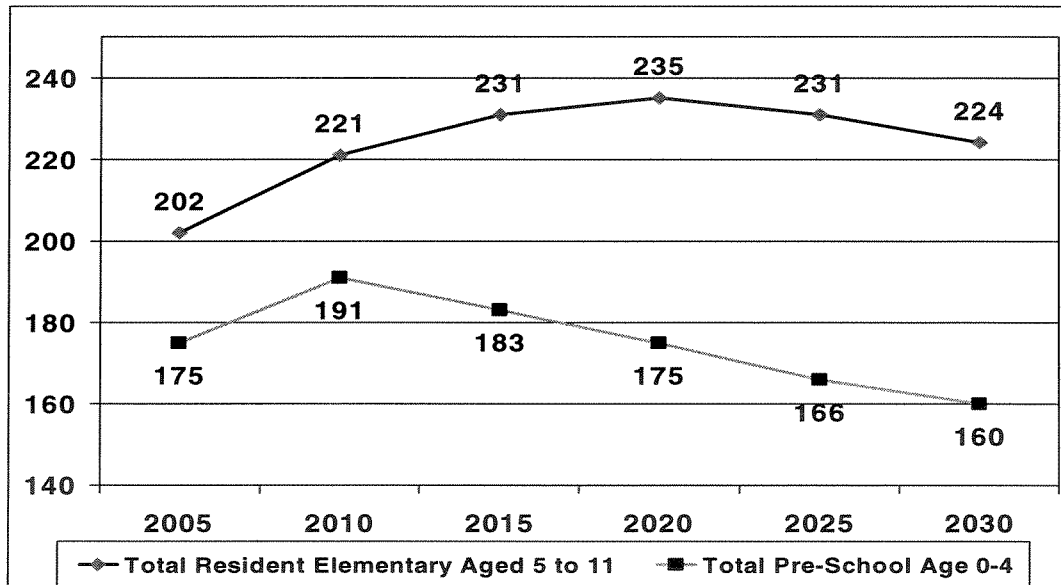
- Total Capacity of Strathearn School
- Total # of EPS Junior High students in Strathearn Attendance Area (which includes the neighbourhoods of Cloverdale, Holyrood, Rutherford-Bonnie Doon and Strathearn)
- Total # of Junior High students living in the Strathearn Attendance Area attending Strathearn School
- Total Junior High Enrolment of Strathearn School

CITY OF EDMONTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Neighborhood Demographic Information

**Strathearn School 25 Year Elementary Projection
for Attendance Area of Strathearn and Cloverdale
Neighbourhoods**

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

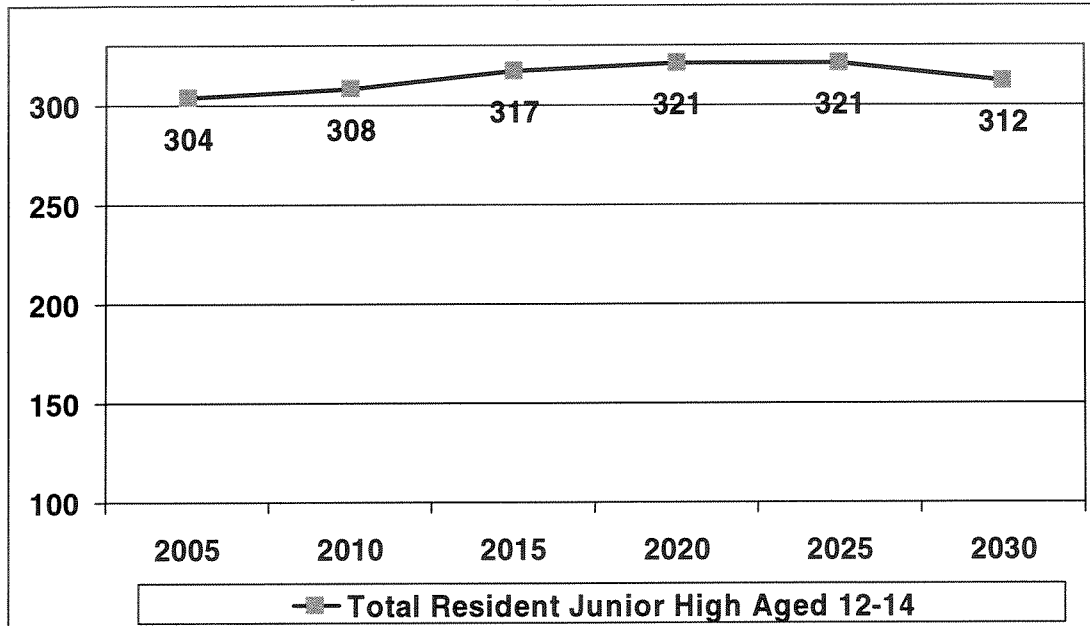


CITY OF EDMONTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Neighborhood Demographic Information

**Strathearn School 25 Year Junior High Projection
for Attendance Area of Bonnie Doon, Cloverdale, Holyrood &
Strathearn Neighbourhoods**

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



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: 11-09-2001

ISSUE DATE: 25-09-2001

REVIEW DATE: 09-2006

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

A. SCOPE AND AUTHORITY

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

B. CRITERIA FOR SCHOOL CLOSURE

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

1. Total enrolment as of September 30 in the current school year is below the following levels:
 - a. elementary (K to 6) - an average of 15 students per grade, or
 - b. junior high (7 to 9) - an average of 30 students per grade, or
 - c. senior high (10 to 12) - an average of 120 students per grade.
2. The space utilization rate as defined by the provincial government as of September 30 in the current school year is less than 40 per cent.
3. The cost of keeping the school in operable condition or restoring it to operable condition is deemed by the board to be unreasonably high.
4. Closing the school is deemed by the board to be necessary to safeguard the health and safety of students, staff, or the public.
5. Parents and guardians of a majority of students enrolled in the school on

September 30 in the current school year agree that closure should be considered.

C. PROCESS FOR SCHOOL CLOSURE

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

Reference(s):

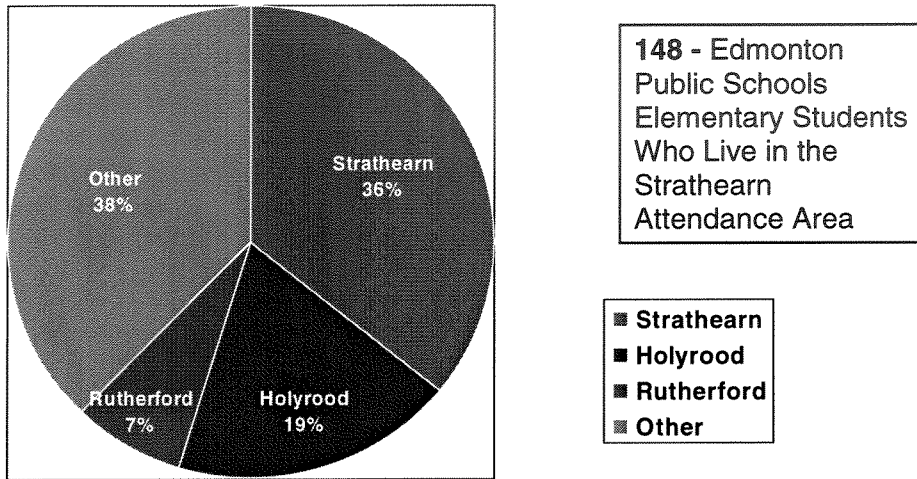
HA,BP - Student Programs

School Act Section 58

Alberta Learning's Closure of Schools Regulation

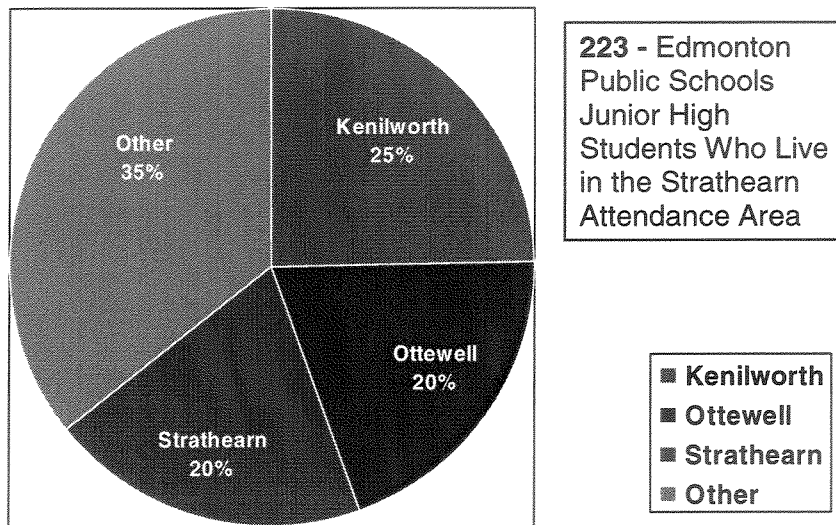
Alberta Infrastructure- see School Capital Manual 2002-2003 Section 5.2.1 Utilization Rate and Section 5.2.2. Area, Capacity and Utilization Procedures

Elementary Students who live in the Strathearn School Attendance Area and the Edmonton Public Schools they Attend



Average of 51% of Elementary Students attend their Neighbourhood Elementary School

Junior High Students who live in the Strathearn School Attendance Area and the Edmonton Public Schools they Attend



Average of 46% of Junior High Students attend their Neighbourhood Junior High School

NOTICE OF MEETING

MEETING TO CONSIDER CLOSURE OF STRATHEARN SCHOOL

Date: Monday, April 11, 2005
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Strathearn School Gymnasium

Information regarding the potential closure of Strathearn School

1. **How would school closure affect the attendance area defined for Strathearn School?**
 The current attendance area for Strathearn Junior High School would remain unchanged should Strathearn School be closed. If the school were to be closed, students residing within the Strathearn School attendance area would be designated to Kenilworth Junior High School at 7005 – 89 Avenue.
2. **How would the closure affect the attendance at other schools?**
 Should Strathearn School be closed, the school's students would be designated as follows:
 - Regular and Behaviour & Learning Assistance elementary students to Rutherford School
 - Regular and Opportunity junior high students to Kenilworth School

Elementary Enrolments (i.e. based on projected enrolments for September 30 th , 2005)	
Rutherford School	133
Strathearn School	96
Totals (Sept. 30, 2005)	229

Junior High Enrolments (i.e. based on projected enrolments for September 30 th , 2005)	
Kenilworth School	445
Strathearn School	82
Totals (Sept. 30, 2005)	527

- Totals above assume that all students will go to their designated school.

3. **How many students would need to be relocated as a result of Strathearn School closing?**
 The school's total enrolment projected for September 30th, 2005 is 173 students (i.e. elementary and junior high), therefore 173 students would need to be relocated if the school were to close.

Should parents of Strathearn students request the registration of their child (or children) in a different school other than their designated receiving school, they would be able to

register in the school of their choice, provided their chosen school offers the appropriate program, even if pre-enrolment deadlines have past.

4. What is the need for, and extent of bussing?

There is a direct ETS route from Strathearn School to Kenilworth School. Junior high students would be provided with subsidized ETS passes. Yellow bus service would be available for elementary students to the receiving elementary school. No major changes are anticipated to transportation services for students currently attending the elementary Behaviour & Learning Assistance and junior high Opportunity programs.

5. What are the program implications for other schools and for the students when they are attending other schools?

Should Strathearn School be closed, the school's students would be able to continue their grade level programs (i.e. regular and special education) at their new schools. The accommodation of elementary students at Rutherford School would allow students to receive more effective programming.

Program offerings at neighbourhood junior high schools include: languages (Mandarin Bilingual, French, ESL), art, band, computer studies, drama, fashion, foods, industrial arts, outdoor education, study skills and learning strategies and visual communications. Program offerings at neighbourhood elementary schools include: languages (German Bilingual, French Immersion, Ukrainian International Bilingual), Logos Alternative and Sports Alternative.

6. What are the educational impacts of closing the school?

In a larger elementary school with more than one class per grade, students can be placed in the best learning environment to match each student's learning needs. More flexibility is also provided in larger elementary schools for grade groupings, often reducing or eliminating the need for double or triple-combined grades.

In a larger junior high school, students would receive a wider range of options and opportunities for extra-curricular activities. There would be increased availability of high quality equipment, computers and materials for all students. The junior high libraries of both schools would be combined to extend the available library collection and a wide range of science and music equipment would be available. There would also be more opportunities for students with special needs to have access to small group programming.

Should students be relocated, every effort would be made to ensure that as much continuity would be maintained in terms of programming for all students, in particular for those in district center programs for students with special needs.

7. What are the educational impacts of the school staying open?

If Strathearn School were to remain operational, its total elementary and junior high student population would be 173 students (i.e. projected total for September 30th, 2005).

The school would need to combine grade classes and it would only be able to offer limited programming options for its students. In addition, resources for the purchase of instructional materials and equipment would continue to be limited or further reduced.

8. What are the financial impacts including the effects on operational costs and capital implications of closing the school?

Approximately \$214,000 in operational and maintenance costs would be saved if Strathearn School were to be closed. Based on the 1999 provincial audit of the facility's condition, the \$1.5M required for an essential upgrade at the school would be a cost saving.

9. What are the financial impacts including the effects on operational costs and capital implications if the school were not closed?

Approximately \$214,000 in operational costs would continue to be borne each year by the district if Strathearn School were to remain open. Based on the 1999 provincial audit of the facility's condition, at some time in the future the district would be need to secure funding in the amount of \$1.5M for an essential upgrade at the school.

10. Would there be a need to upgrade existing space or build new school space as a result of increased enrolment in other schools?

If Strathearn School were to be closed, all elementary students would be designated to Rutherford Elementary School and all junior high students would be designated to Kenilworth Junior High School. Both Rutherford and Kenilworth Schools would receive equipment and upgrades to their buildings to ensure that the enhanced needs of all students in terms of space and educational opportunities are fully met.

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

It is not district practice to predetermine the future use of a school building prior to closure. In the past the school buildings have been used by the district for educational purposes, 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 schools have been sold to the City of Edmonton for green space, the Edmonton Society for Christian Education, the Turkish Canadian Cultural Society.

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

Tenants in the building will be provided with three 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 terminate the lease at any time without penalty; or
- c) The tenant (or tenants) may express an interest to relocate to any other district school.

For more information regarding the school closure process or to provide feedback, visit Edmonton Public Schools website <http://planning.epsb.ca/schoolclosures>

SCHOOL ACT

(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.



COMMUNITY
SERVICES

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. BOX 2359
EDMONTON, ALBERTA
T5J 2R7

April 26, 2005

Mr. Angus McBeath
Superintendent of Schools
Edmonton Public School Boards
Center for Education
One Kingsway Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5H 4G9

RECEIVED
APR 26 2005

Dear Mr. McBeath:

Community and Emergency Services has been provided the opportunity to provide feedback to the Edmonton Public School Board on the proposed closure of the Wellington, North Edmonton, Terrace Heights and Strathearn schools. We appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts on the possible impacts these closures may have.

Our Department is aware of community concerns regarding these sites. While we cannot speak for these communities, we trust that you have received comments from them regarding these possible closures.

We understand that if the schools are closed, they will still remain in the Edmonton Public School Board inventory until they are declared surplus by the Board. The City will continue to maintain adjacent sports fields to meet community needs. Should the Edmonton Public School Board decide to declare these sites surplus, the City would evaluate our need to acquire them and determine if we should act on our first right to purchase included in our Joint Use Agreement.

We have concerns regarding the possible impact of these closures on the community's ability to access gyms for recreational and physical activity needs. We understand that some of these schools may be leased to other agencies if closed. Please consider if the community access to these gyms could be included in any future lease arrangements.

Some of these sites have new or redeveloped playgrounds. We wish to ensure investments the City has made in this community infrastructure will continue to benefit the community. Can you provide any assurances of this continued benefit?

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss any of the information we have shared, please contact Rob Smyth, Manager of Strategic Services, with Community and Emergency Services at 496-8301.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deryl Kloster", with a horizontal line underneath.

Deryl Kloster
General Manager

DK/jb

c. Rob Smyth, Manager, Strategic Services Branch