

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 10, 2005

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

RESOURCE

STAFF: Jenise Bidulock, Randy Billey, Josephine Duquette, Les Duxbury, Michael Ediger, Leanne Fedor, Kerry-Ann Kope, Greg Kushnir, Roland Labbe, Randy Leal, Shirly McNeill, Pat Niven, Deanne Patsula, Gerri Porter, Amy-Irene Seward, Cindy Skolski,

RECOMMENDATION

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

* * * * *

Rationale for Recommending Closure

Terrace Heights School was opened in 1959 and has a provincially rated capacity for 321 students. The September 30, 2004 enrolment at Terrace Heights School was 99 students. Enrolment at Terrace Heights School has been steadily declining since the early 1960's (Appendix I). This decline was interrupted in the late 1980's when Terrace Heights School became the designated receiving school for the Jackson Heights neighbourhood in northeast Mill Woods. Following the opening of Jackson Heights School in September, 2002, enrolment has been declining steadily again until present. Of the 99 students enrolled at Terrace Heights School, 20 students receive Strategies district centre programming. The remaining students receive regular programming. This includes 9 kindergarten students, 9 grade 1 students, 10 grade 2 students, 14 grade 3 students, 12 grade 4 students, 15 grade 5 students and 10 grade 6 students.

Projected enrolment for next year is 87 students. Current pre-enrolment at Terrace Heights School as of May 4, 2005 is as follows: 48 students in the regular program and 6 students in special needs programs for a total of 54 students. There are 106 public elementary students living within the Terrace Heights School attendance area (Appendix I).

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, elementary and junior high school age children in the area has been declining steadily since 1974. 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 Terrace Heights School will continue to decline.

Terrace Heights 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, and/or the cost of keeping the school in operable condition or restoring it to operable condition being deemed by the board as unreasonably high as criteria for selection.

If Terrace Heights School were to be closed, savings in operational costs of approximately \$95,000 per year would be realized by the district. The Terrace Heights School building is in good condition with a provincial audit score of 340.

Accommodation of Terrace Heights School Students

If Terrace Heights School were to be closed, the 87 students projected to be enrolled at the school in the fall, would be designated to Forest Heights School both for the regular program (79 students) and the Strategies program (8 students). There is space available at Forest Heights School to accommodate all Terrace Heights School students.

Appendix IV represents elementary students who live in the Terrace Heights attendance area and the Edmonton Public Schools they attend. There are 106 public elementary students living within the Terrace Heights School elementary attendance area. Fifty-two elementary students (49 per cent) currently choose to attend Terrace Heights School. Twenty per cent attend Fulton Place School, 5 per cent attend Waverly School and the remaining 26 per cent attend other district elementary schools. Currently 51 per cent of all elementary students district-wide attend their designated school.

Students have direct access to the school in their designated attendance area as defined by their residence. If Terrace Heights School were to close some students may choose other district elementary schools. Should parents of Terrace Heights School students request that their children be registered in a school other than the designated receiving school, 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.

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 Strategies program. 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. Terrace Heights School was clustered with Forest Heights, Fulton Place, Hardisty and Strathearn 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 Terrace Heights 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 Terrace Heights School.
2. That in conjunction with the recommendation above, the administration bring forward information to the Board of Trustees regarding:
 - a. the modernization of Forest Heights School;
 - b. upgrades to any schools that may be considered through the closure process to accommodate regular, alternative and special needs programs;
 - c. programming enhancement for students at any schools that may be receiving schools for students through the closure process; 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 7, 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 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 requirements of the School Act and the 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 Terrace Heights School. The meeting was held Thursday, April 7, 2005 at Terrace Heights School. Forty-eight parents, community members and students from the Terrace Heights community attended the meeting at which district staff provided information about Terrace Heights School. Also in attendance were eight trustees, one other elected official and sixteen district staff.

Attendees were provided with information about the implications of the closure for the 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 school closure consultative 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 School
- Class Sizes

- Cost of Transportation and Lunch Fees
- Future Use of Closed Building and School Site
- Programming Needs
- Parent-Raised Funds
- Improved Educational Opportunities
- Capital Investment

The ways in which these issues and concerns could be addressed is outlined below.

Designated Receiving School

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

It is anticipated that, with the consolidation of elementary students from Terrace Heights School and the Terrace Heights neighbourhood at Forest Heights School, that school's viability would be sustained for the long term. This gives consideration as well to the reasonable expectation of continued success in the delivery of the alternative program offered at Forest Heights School. It should also be noted that the Forest Heights School and Terrace Heights School communities share the same community league, with the amalgamation of their two original leagues having taken place a number of years ago.

The administration surveyed parents of regular program and Strategies program students at Terrace Heights School to determine their preferences for designated receiving schools. A total of 76 surveys were distributed and 53 surveys were returned. Twenty three parents indicated a preference for Forest Heights School, six parents indicated a preference for Fulton Place School, six parents indicated a preference for Clara Tyner School and seventeen parents indicated a preference for a variety of other district schools.

Class Sizes

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

If Terrace Heights School were to be closed, students residing in the Terrace Heights School attendance area would be eligible for subsidized yellow bus transportation to their designated elementary receiving school. Designation to Forest Heights School would likely require the addition of one bus. For students residing in the Terrace Heights 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. The transportation fee 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 Terrace Heights School close

Additional educational opportunities and benefits that would be available to Terrace Heights School students through the elementary regular and Strategies programs offered at Forest Heights School are outlined below.

School	Forest Heights
Staffing	Increased teaching staff for additional support and leadership 0.5 FTE Library Technician Music specialist Increased opportunity for teacher collaboration
Curriculum and Resource Program Benefits	Kindergarten program for the Regular and German Bilingual students Straight grades in math, language arts and science for the Regular and German Bilingual students Commencement of French as a Second Language in grade 4 Ninety minutes of music instruction per week (including hand bells) Home reading and reward program
Support Services	Teacher Assistant support in language arts and math for the Regular and German Bilingual students YMCA Out-of-School care on-site German Bilingual pre-school program on-site Lunch program
Facilities	Installation of video-streaming planned for 2005-2006 Two gymnasiums
Extra and Co-Curricular Activities	Will continue to offer the same number of music field trips and concerts, including choir (gr. 3-6), Bennett Centre overnight camp, School at the Legislature, Christmas concert and Spring Concert Increase in the number of field trips (currently bi-weekly) Will continue to offer the same number of clubs and events, including intramurals, running, Oktoberfest, Community Christmas, Spring Fling and Gala Night In 2005-2006, ten half-days for grades 3 and 6 students to participate in Centennial events

Future Use of Closed Building and School Site

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

If Terrace Heights 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 are met at the receiving school (e.g. Reading Recovery), should Terrace Heights School close

The programming needs of all Terrace Heights School elementary students, including Reading Recovery, would be met by the resources and supports that would be available at Forest Heights School.

Parent-Raised Funds

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

For the purposes of accommodating students from Terrace Heights School, minimal capital investment is required at Forest Heights School. Investment of capital funds would be required for minor renovations to return some spaces to their original classroom configurations, thus ensuring the number of classrooms required to maintain or meet the district's class size targets. It is estimated that this renovation would cost approximately \$100,000.

The Forest Heights School building is in need of a general upgrade (i.e. full modernization) estimated at \$4M, regardless of whether or not the attendance area is expanded to include the Terrace Heights School elementary program. This upgrade is identified in the district's current three-year capital plan and it will be reviewed as part of the normal process of preparing the district's annual capital plan. If Forest Heights School is chosen by parents of Terrace Heights School students as their school of choice, then capital upgrades could occur sooner than is currently indicated in the capital plan. Should a large number of Terrace Heights School parents choose to have their children attend another school, then capital upgrades could occur at that school depending on the extent to which enrolment increases.

Input from the City of Edmonton

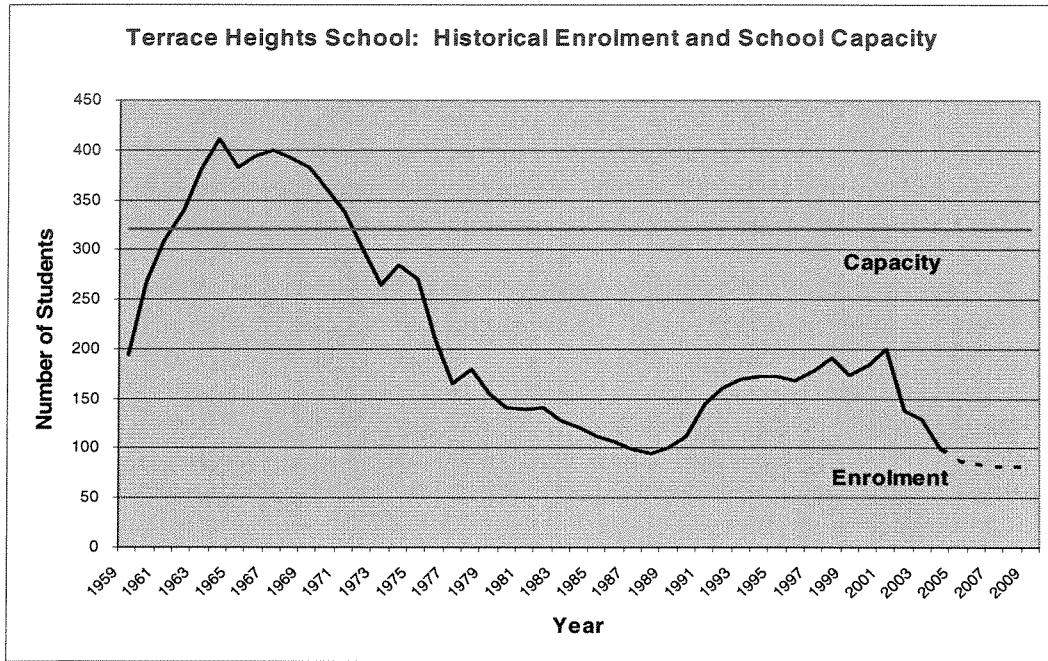
The City of Edmonton was invited to provide a community impact statement on the potential closure of Terrace Heights School. A copy of their response is attached (Appendix VII). The playground at Terrace Heights School is owned and maintained by the City of Edmonton and would be available for community use. There are no evening or weekend gymnasium rentals at Terrace Heights School because it is a one custodian school. 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.

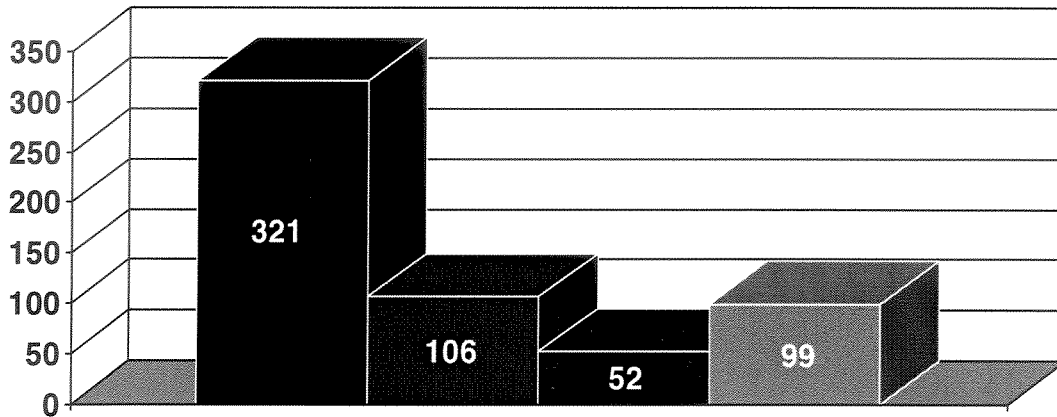
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APPENDIX I	Terrace Heights School Enrolment History and Total Capacity, Student Projection, and Student Enrolment
APPENDIX II	City of Edmonton Neighbourhood Demographic Information
APPENDIX III	Board Policy FL.BP School Closure
APPENDIX IV	Elementary Students who live in the Terrace Heights 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

TERRACE HEIGHTS SCHOOL ENROLMENT HISTORY AND TOTAL CAPACITY, STUDENT PROJECTION, AND STUDENT ENROLMENT



Total Capacity, Student Population and Student Enrolment at Terrace Heights School



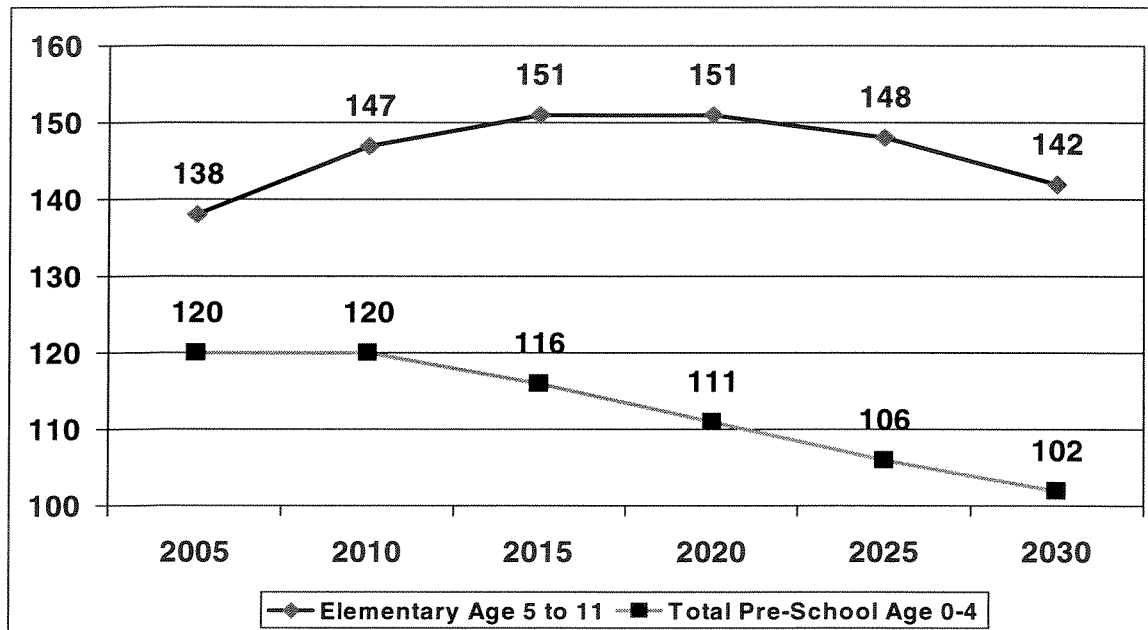
- Total Capacity of Terrace Heights School
- Total # of EPS elementary students living in the Terrace Heights Attendance Area (which includes the neighbourhood of Terrace Heights only)
- Total # of elementary students living in Terrace Heights Attendance Area attending Terrace Heights School
- Total Enrolment of Terrace Heights School

CITY OF EDMONTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

25 Year Projection by Age Group

Terrace Heights Neighbourhood

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



BOARD POLICY FL.BP SCHOOL CLOSURE

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

Edmonton Board Policies and Regulations	Public	Schools
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CODE:	FL.BP	EFFECTIVE	DATE:	11-09-2001
TOPIC: School Closure		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):

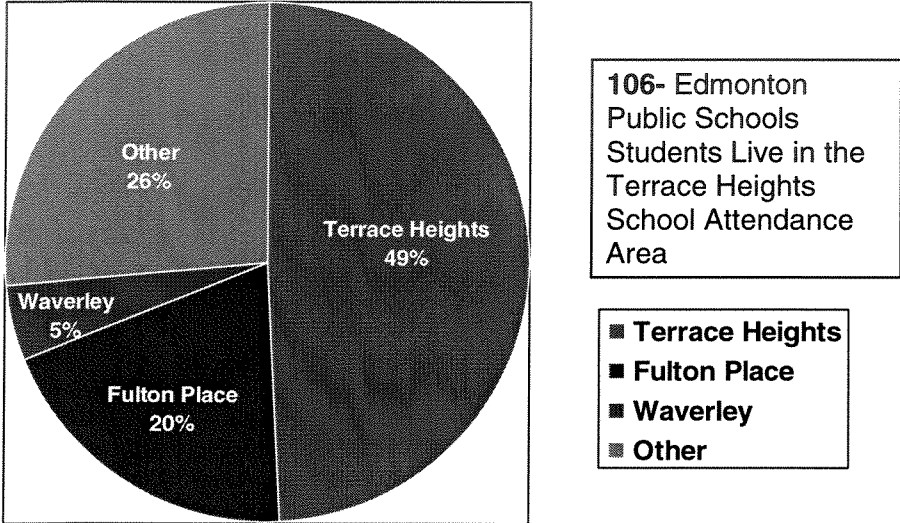
HA.BP - Student Programs

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 Terrace Heights School Attendance Area and the Edmonton Public Schools they Attend



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

NOTICE OF MEETING

MEETING TO CONSIDER CLOSURE OF TERRACE HEIGHTS SCHOOL

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2005
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Terrace Heights School Gymnasium

Information regarding the potential closure of Terrace Heights School

1. How would school closure affect the attendance area defined for Terrace Heights School?

If Terrace Heights School were to be closed, the current attendance area for Terrace Heights School would remain unchanged. If the school were to be closed, students residing within the Terrace Heights School attendance area would be designated to Forest Heights School at 10304 – 81 Street.

2. How would the closure affect the attendance at other schools?

If Terrace Heights School were to be closed, the school's students would be designated as follows:

- Regular elementary students to Forest Heights School
- Strategies elementary students to Forest Heights School

Elementary Enrolments (i.e. based on projected enrolments for September 30 th , 2005)	
Forest Heights School	223
Terrace Heights School	82
Totals (Sept. 30, 2005)	305

- Totals above assume that all Terrace Heights students will choose to go to their designated school

3. How many students would need to be relocated as a result of Terrace Heights School closing?

The school's total enrolment projected for September 30th, 2005 is 82 students, therefore 82 students would need to be relocated if Terrace Heights School were to be closed.

Should parents of Terrace Heights 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?

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 Strategies program.

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

If Terrace Heights School were to be closed, the school's students would be able to continue their grade level programs at their new school. The accommodation of students at Forest

Heights School would allow students to receive more effective programming with fewer combined classes and more resources.

Program offerings at neighbourhood elementary schools include: languages (German Bilingual, French Immersion, Ukrainian International Bilingual), Logos Christian 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.

Should students from Terrace Heights School 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 Terrace Heights School were to remain operational its projected student population would be 82 students. The school would need to combine grade classes and would only be able to offer limited programming options for 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 \$95,000 in operational and maintenance costs would be saved if Terrace Heights School were to be closed. Within the foreseeable future, no further capital investment would be required as the school has been fully modernized.

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

Approximately \$95,000 in operational costs would continue to be borne each year by the district if Terrace Heights School were to remain open.

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 Terrace Heights School were to be closed, all elementary students would be designated to Forest Heights School. Forest Heights School would receive equipment and upgrades to the building 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.

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

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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.



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 27 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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Deryl Kloster
General Manager

DK/jb

c. Rob Smyth, Manager, Strategic Services Branch