

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 11, 2001

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Gerry Gibeault, Planning and Policy Committee
Trustee Svend Hansen, Planning and Policy Committee
Trustee Janice Melnychuk, Planning and Policy Committee

SUBJECT: Policy and Regulation Update: FL.BP School Closure

ORIGINATOR: Gary Reynolds, Department Head

RESOURCE
STAFF: Manfred Malzahn, Faye Parker

RECOMMENDATION

That the revised board policy FL.BP School Closure (Appendix I), be approved.

* * * * *

Three changes to the policy are proposed:

1. Revision of Section A to:
 - make a distinction between a permanent relocation and a temporary relocation of students
 - clarify the board's current practice which is that the administration, under the direction of the superintendent, has the authority to temporarily relocate any number of students from one school to another
 - require that there be consultation when the administration relocates students.
2. Revision of B.2. to refer to the space utilization rate as defined by the provincial government, rather than the district-defined space utilization rate. The rationale for this change is that the province's proposed method of calculating space utilization is supported by the district, and makes the district-defined rate obsolete.
3. Addition of B.5. to indicate that a school may be considered for closure if a majority of parents agree. The formal school closure process would still be required. This is recommended to give the district some additional flexibility in considering the reconfiguration of schools (e.g. moving three or more consecutive grades) if parents are supportive.

Essential elements of the policy that would remain the same include:

- School closure can only be considered if a school meets specific criteria
- School closure is discretionary on the part of the board; i.e. the policy is enabling, not prescriptive
- Public consultation is given high priority

The amended policy would be consistent with the requirements of the *School Act* and the provincial government's regulation on school closure (Appendix II).

MM:mm

APPENDIX I - Proposed Revision of FL.BP School Closure
APPENDIX II - Alberta Regulation 238/97 Closure of Schools