

**Sundance Community Student Accommodation Meeting  
Fish Creek School  
February 7, 2006**

Issues

- Exploding growth in south Calgary.
- CBE is challenged to keep up with the growth.
- Another challenge with declining enrolment at inner city schools.
- Alberta Education has set guidelines that we work toward an overall 85% utilization rate.
- In Area V, we have nineteen accommodation issues we are trying to deal with in addition to two new schools, one expansion and one consideration for school closure.
- Area V has over 25,000 students and encompasses the schools south of Glenmore Trail to the city limits, and to the city limits east and west.

This meeting is beginning the process of providing and gathering data in conjunction with the Community Engagement and Operational Planning Department. We need to talk to communities around accommodation issues and get input around the development of possible scenarios. A scenario development team will work together to develop realistic scenarios. Then, this information will be shared with the larger community. Once the feedback is gathered and considered by stakeholders, Naomi will make a recommendation to take forward for approval. All feedback will be considered in the process.

Last year, there was some initial thinking around the issues facing the Sundance community. The participants made a recommendation to take the issues out to the broader community.

A decision has been made around the transition for the Chaparral community due to the opening of their new K-4 school. Students currently in grade 3 at Fish Creek School will be given the choice of remaining at Fish Creek for grade 4, or attending the new school.

The good news for this community is that both schools in the Sundance community are needed and have a viable future.

We have been working on a long-term plan for French Immersion in the south. There is a French Immersion program at Dr. E. P. Scarlett, but a junior high location is needed within the next 2 years.

Q. *Does the capacity of the school number take into consideration the new class size guidelines?*

A. Currently we are governed by the Alberta Infrastructure formula for determining utilization using square metres.

Q. *Do the numbers shown for the Sundance community count the grade 5 & 6 students from Chaparral?*

- A. The numbers shown in the presentation are the number of students who live in the Sundance community. If you add Chaparral students, it averages about 65 students per grade.
- Q. *When is the new school opening in Chaparral?*
- A. The school will be opening in the fall of 2006. The number of students attending Fish Creek School will decline, so there will be room to offer the grade 3 students the choice of remaining for grade 4 in 2006 if they wish.
- Q. *Is Sundance going to be offering an English program along with French Immersion for next year?*
- A. Scenarios will be considered – this could be an option. We have two schools in the community, so we need to think together about how to use them. Dr. Croskery, Chief Superintendent has stated that the community students have the first right of refusal for the schools and programs within the community. So far, we have come up with four scenarios to look at.
- Q. *Are the numbers correct? Many students have moved in over the year since September 30.*
- A. There has been an overall increase of 22 students since September 30. We will need to look at students who have moved into the school and in what communities they reside. Out of boundary students are considered differently. We look at the intake rate – Sundance does have a high intake rate. So, when projections are prepared this is taken into consideration. There are many factors to consider, but we know that by 2010 there is a huge difference between number of projected students and capacity. We want to have a plan in place to deal with this difference.
- Q. *Do the scenarios include the grade 5 and 6 students from Chaparral attending Fish Creek?*
- A. The long-term projections show Fish Creek can accommodate these students into the future.
- Q. *Could we make Sundance School a K-4 school and Fish Creek grades 5 & 6?*
- A. This is certainly an idea that can be considered.
- Q. *Long term will the French Immersion program fill Sundance School? Is this program sustainable?*
- A. Yes. We may even need to consider another site as well as language programs are very well subscribed to in the south.

- Q. *Could Fish Creek accommodate all the English Kindergarten students from Sundance School if necessary? It is really full now.*
- A. There are only about 25 students projected for Kindergarten at Sundance next year. So, it would not be a huge influx of students.
- Q. *Is there a concern that there are a higher number of older students at Fish Creek School?*
- A. There is currently a higher number of grade 5 and 6 students. We would like to see a balance.
- Q. *What consideration has been made for the families who have a Kindergarten child with older siblings?*
- A. The CBE policy is that we do need to give consideration to siblings as long as there is room and resources to accommodate them. All circumstances would be considered on a one by one basis. It is important to try to keep siblings together and it is also important to keep students with their peer groups.
- Q. *Another scenario suggestion is that you put portables on the new school in Chaparral so the grade 5 and 6 students can attend there also. This would save on bussing costs, travel time, etc.*
- A. We know that there is space in the community to accommodate the grade 5 and 6 students from Chaparral. We would expect to use existing structures before going to portables.
- Q. *Drop off and pick up outside Fish Creek School is a nightmare. More students coming will not help.*
- A. The community will need to work together around the traffic issues.
- Q. *What are parents from Sundance School being told for next year?*
- A. There is a meeting at Sundance School this evening at 7:30 pm to review the same information that was presented here.
- Q. *Why is Chaparral School only K-4?*
- A. Trustees made a motion to keep youngest kids closest to home, so the new schools are being built as grade K-4 with middle schools for grades 5-9. McKenzie Lake middle school will open in 2006 and Shawnessy/Somerset middle school will open in 2008.
- Q. *Has there been consideration for MidSun to become a middle school?*

- A. MidSun is very full. The soonest we could consider this is 2010.
- Q. *What is the timeline for a new French Immersion junior high?*
- A. We have been looking at Harold Panabaker. We met with the community last week. There will be nothing in place for this fall. Because of the opening of the new middle school in Shawnessy/Somerset in 2008, both Harold Panabaker and Robert Warren will experience drastic decline in numbers. Wherever the French Immersion program is housed, it will include both continuing and late immersion.
- Q. *Are preschool numbers accurate?*
- A. Students go back and forth between the Catholic School and public school systems depending on the availability of schools in the community. However, they are usually accurate overall.
- Q. *What is the possibility of Scenario 3 happening? Does waiting to 2007 bring any particular challenges for next year?*
- A. We need help in identifying the challenges and opportunities around each of the scenarios. Each of them is possible if we work hard at it. We don't know the answers yet.
- Q. *What happens if the numbers of students don't go down too much if the students from Chaparral want to stay?*
- A. There are currently 70 students from Chaparral registered in grades K-3. The 12 grade 3 students will be given the option to stay for grade 4 next year. There are currently 83 students pre-registered in Kindergarten for the new Chaparral School.
- Q. *What is the number of grade 5 students from Chaparral in Fish Creek School next year?*
- A. There are 45 students attending Maple Ridge School. In addition, we usually get about 12 students from other schools.

You are invited to take a green sheet, think about the scenarios presented or possible new ones, write down your input and send them in to the school. The next step is to create a working group to look at the input and develop scenarios to present to the larger community.