

Deer Run School, Haultain Memorial School
And Queensland Downs School
World Café
October 5, 2009

Common Question: What is your understanding of the proposed plan?

- Change boundaries and close Queensland Downs School(QLD) because of declining enrolment ** (2 responses)
- Decision made by looking at map and deciding on Haultain Memorial School(HMS) because it was centrally located in the area
- Other considerations were important and needed attention
- Keep Deer Run School(DR) and HMS open- fill the schools without too much disruption
- HMS in a central location –QLD School out of walk zone
- Diamond Cove is in walk zone
- If you leave QLD School and close HMS then more kids out of walk zone
- Walk zone .8 km for elementary
- When QLD School closes the students in the school will be split between DR School and HMS
- One parent lives closer to HMS but will be designated to DR School
- Lots of busing involved, 80 kids more bused ** (2 responses)
- Closing QLD School will create the need for more busing
- Recommendation is supposed to bring a cost saving, now that we have to transport, how is that saving?
- How many would need to be bused if they decided to close HMS and keep QLD School open?
- Increasing the population at DR School means busing
- QLD School had room for 175, HMS 135, total capacity is 325- we could put all students into QLD School
- DR School would not change, yes, everyone could fit into QLD School but this would mean no room for growth
- Would not matter – do not need the space as the projections show that we are no longer growing
- Numbers are based on last years numbers
- Small number from Diamond Cove – 10 students
- It comes down to fiscal responsibility
- Proposal is HMS is more responsible for transporting students, but QLD School will still need busing
- Approximately 47% of QLD School student body will be bused
- Some physical needs will be required through transportation
- Prior to change – walk limits for HMS and QLD School are the same
- Which is more responsible? 80 plus students transported or keeping the school open?

- Enrolment is declining in all 3 schools therefore that's why this has begun
- HMS harder to retrofit for special needs learners – QLD School is very handicap accessible
- Should the population grow in the future, it seems easier to retrofit a building with portable such as QLD School over HMS
- What happens when/if population increases considerably when the elderly move away?
- How did they determine the walk distance?
- What accommodations will be made for day homes in the area? Can they go to HMS if they are in DR School?
- Deciding which school will close?
- Who decides on boundary changes?
- Recommendation, consultation process
- Boundary changes
- Deer River Estates is going to DR School
- Didn't know Diamond Cave went to HMS
- Proposed allocations
- Deer Ridge students – bused? ** (2 responses)
- Understanding that there wouldn't be any buses
- 2.4 k now (walk distance) is twice the distance as it used to be
- High escarpment to Deer Ridge
- Process – a slim chance of CEOP changing their minds
- Clear understanding
- Not enough kids to keep all the schools open, have to close a school
- QLD School closing; we understand that is the recommendation
- Boundary will be changed for Canyon Meadows
- Deer Run area is being kept together
- All have read documents
- Best for kids
- Understand that this is what is best
- Fiscal responsibility is the understanding
- No community center support – proximity is best
- Location is very important and that is why HMS has been chosen
- Diamond Cove is so much further away
- Deer Ridge students moving to DR School
- Busing to DR School
- Expanded the walk zone is that a good thing?
- Not having to cross Canyon Meadow
- 2.8 walking
- Fiscally CBE – no busing is necessary
- Not written in stone that all young kids need a bus or can walk
- Recommendation for young students, k-4 to have busing, Deer Ridge Estates and upper Deer Ridge – perhaps all students
- Siblings is an issue

- Distance a consideration
- Community centers are close by
- Emergency evacuation to community center
- QLD School is evacuations site for Wilma Hansen
- Why not Don Bosco Junior High as an evacuation site? ** (2 responses)
- Snow in the field to QLD School has been an issue in the past
- Wilma Hansen had to evacuate
- Is there an issue if older and younger student are together on the same field?
- Daycare at the community center?
- Boys and Girls club were at the community center
- Once mandated lunchroom is started, the community center would not be needed
- No daycare? What could the daycare or after care center do near QLD School?
- Insurance issues? Van? Bus? Lunch area?
- 3 schools in a small area; numbers dropped need to consolidate into 2 schools
- Proposed schools to stay open HMS and DR School because of geography and numbers
- McKenzie Towne housed in HMS until 2010
- Deer Run and Deer Ridge areas to go to DR School
- Out-of-attendance based on space – discuss it with principal because no transportation
- Could tell community is aging, not as many young children

Question #1: How are you feeling about the plan? What is your reaction to the plan?

- Prefer HMS to stay open
- I like the schools going together – community involvement is good; the community is not split
- With this proposal it is them vs. us, once we are combined it will be better as it is will be one school, one community
- I love the Queensland Downs community kids as I am a bus driver
- A centralized school works better
- The issue is not about which school, its about kids being split/separated away from their friends
- QLD School has more to lose by closing it
- Wilma Hansen will lose the gym
- How dare you close my school?
- Daycare in the Queensland Downs area will lose business as they provide hot lunches and students walk to school. The daycare could possibly close if too many students have to leave because they are now designated to DR School or HMS.

- Wilma Hansen has grade 9 students that mentor students at QLD School
- Wilma Hansen uses QLD School as an emergency evacuation site
- Continuity is better with students going to QLD School and then to Wilma Hansen- students already know some of the Jr. High students
- QLD School is on a major bus route
- What does HMS lose if they close?
- HMS and Canyon Meadow are on a major bus route and close to Canyon Meadows Drive
- HMS's playground is shared
- QLD School park has junior high paraphernalia (needles etc)
- Wilma Hansen and QLD School has synchronized start and end times
- Don Bosco also is a part of the synchronization between Wilma Hansen and QLD School
- Kids not out all at once, staggered times allow for shared fields
- Concerns that either way kids will be bused
- Surprised because the schools have been here a very long time
- Had a sense that there in not enough students
- The social environment and culture can not transfer when they close a school
- Has an alternative program been considered? French Immersion?
- Has CBE even done anything to see if there is an interest?
- Fred Seymore too close, offers French Immersion, would not consider one in the area
- Fiscally it is necessary to close one school
- Reaction – upset because of new walk zone
- A reason why families moved to the community because children could walk to school
- With the upheaval we don't want bad feelings between communities
- This closure will impact all 3 schools in the community no matter what
- There will be a huge culture shock for students
- Get all parents together to plan transition and welcome
- Scary for children and hard for parents
- Parent upset about the plan
- Have any of "our" (meaning parents) thoughts been taken into account?
- What does daycare have to do with it?
 - Kids can stay at school for lunch program
 - Daycare looks after students before/after school, parents would have to pay extra for lunch
 - Daycare cannot pick up at HMS
 - Daycare has been here many years; its part of the community
- QLD School open – proximity to junior high
- Easy transition because same site
- It's a community
- Shocking that enrolment going down
- Enrolment is accurate within 2% because Calgary Census used

- Was something missed in how this proposal was made?
- Proximity
- Feel study was well rounded
- Devastated because did not have a clue about the proposal
- Logically understand one school needs to close; emotionally hard for parent with special needs child
 - Student has a severe medical condition, on an IPP, does not handle changes, can walk to school now, busing will be more difficult, splitting friendships
- DR School logically understand one school and needs to close; emotionally hard
 - DR School is the designated school
 - DR School is a good school and program; it has a lot to offer, the school recognizes city wide Peace Hero's, recognizes as anti-bullying and welcoming
 - DR School will accept kids with needs and welcome them- tea/admin model
 - Kids in community accepting
 - Number of kids can't come to school
 - School only has minimal accessibility; can't do ramp and stairs
 - QLD School has adaptations made already for special needs
- Us and them now need to make it a "we" as a family
- Since 1999 there have been rumours that HMS was going to close
- Gradual decline of population, then McKenzie Town opened
- Relief that there is a process, it's organized and parents are involved
- No matter where the kids go they will get a great education
- Community it values the staff and supporting schools
- Change to (social) friends will be hard
- Scared and shocked
- Not happy
- Bought house one block from QLD School
- Family history in school; lives 6 houses away
- Happy about moving kids into one school
- Could have walked to school now are bused
- Abrupt and sudden
- Fast/shocked, thought nothing would happen until January
- Decision was made, parents did not have a chance for input
- School is convenient
- We can build the same culture in any school
- Number of kids can't come to school
- School only has minimal accessibility; can't do ramp and stairs
- QLD School has adaptations made already for special needs
- Talk about good for the entire community
- We bought a house because we saw a community school

- Concerns the playground at HMS is shared with the community association. Half of the playground was paid by the community and half by the CBE- safety a concern for kindergarten children
 - Other schools have a “no trespassing” regulation sign during school hours.
 - The HMS community uses it during the day
 - We would like to ensure safety/security of the playground
 - QLD School field is fenced
 - DR School playground is open
 - HMS’s kids will be mixing with kindergarten
 - Positive feeling about mixing with kindergarten
- Will there be renovations to an open concept school especially for “lock down”?
- QLD School field is fenced
- DR School playground is open
- HMS’s kids will be mixing with kindergarten
- Positive
- McKenzie Towne kids (are housed at HMS) and it is hard on the kids to get them together for birthday parties and finding reps for parent council
- Good community in one place now
- At first anxious
- Good things about both
- Looking forward to a larger community
- People in building educate children
- Awkward because the community is split
- It takes away the line between the community because they would all go to Wilma Hansen
- Keeps social groups together
- How long did you know about the proposal?
- First heard it was DR School that was to close
- QLD School population is being split down the middle
- All kids in Cubs together- split will be difficult
- Deer Ridge goes to QLD School hall for soccer, Cubs, pre-school
- Loss of a whole social group for the kids

Question #2: How could this proposed plan enhance the learning opportunities for students?

- Free pre-school at DR School
- All kids at one school is a positive
- Reduces the “wall” of 2 schools in 1 community
- More kids equals more opportunity
- Kids connect in neighbourhood so now at school, they’ll do that as well
- Concern that DR School is being lost

- No more “rivalry” between schools
- Melding the teaching staff from both schools would be nice
- Ability to learn how to adapt to change
- Kids are excited to be in one building together and growing with peers
- It was better to combine QLD School and HMS than closing DR School
- Students entering and accepting in new environment – stress global understanding and building community, forge new friendships
- Building tolerance among students and adaptation to change
- More fundraising, volunteers, opportunities for students
- Break down the “us and them”
- Parents can learn a lot from the students
- New programming might occur with a bigger population could equal more options. Bigger population equals exposure to a larger range of students needs and culture
- Parent population could share new idea with one another
- Allows staff to grow and work together
- Might be good for students to have more of a “choice” re: teachers
- Increased population equals an increased staff – may get an A.P. back ** (2 responses)
- More resources and type of teachers (ie specialist, specialized programs)
- Having all people in the community go to the same school and know each other is a huge benefit
- Allows kids to go to the community school and interact with peers
- Added students and volunteers and parents will allow sharing of ideas and resources and programs
- Bigger population equals broader input
- Increased volunteer base – get to see new people, both schools have established volunteer bases
- Larger population equals fewer combined grades or increased options to allow for the right teacher with the right student
- A larger population equals multiples of one grade so opportunities for learning, shared field trips, shared ideas etc.
- Some programs only cater to larger schools so the growth would be beneficial
- Sharing of new, fresh ideas from students
- Programs that are grade specific become less expensive (ie: 3 grade 1 classes share the cost vs. just one)
- Community that learns together plays together
- New people will allow for more social mixing, variety of needs/cultures
- Able to keep programs (music program, PE programs)
- More kids equals more programming and specialists
- Cost per student reduced if you’ve got more kids registered
- Parent Council can share information
- Smaller population means smaller staff (no AP, lost music teacher at DR School)

- More resources could be shared in 2 buildings rather than 3
- A bigger population means more specialists, resources or assistants
- Receiving new students will teach virtues of acceptance
- Promote parent communication
- “New blood”: more involvement in Parent Council, more programs, new ideas and opportunities to share
- More kids means an increased budget which increases programs, specialists, increased cultural programs and educational opportunities
- Enhances community spirit and connects extra-curricular community efforts with school
- This might encourage Wilma Hansen to visit both DR School and HMS more
- Would a larger population base help foster a before/after school program?
- Starting the transitions early will help process

Question #3: What would need to happen to foster a sense of community and blending of cultures in each of the program locations in this proposed plan?

- We’re already blending
- Already a diverse community
- Languages not an issue – English is the primary language
- They are all public schools
- Already living in the same groups/culture
- Everybody needs to see the other culture therefore open up your school to others
- HMS already dealing with new cultures based on history – looked at ways to welcome students
- Already have a parent group organized to be welcoming
- CBE blew apart previous 3 year plan
- Timing is key
- When would we start reaching out?
- Have one or two attend council meeting
- Probably too early yet
- Teach children acceptance as well
- Easier at the elementary level – don’t know about the rivalry
- Learn how to co-exist
- Children more adaptable at this age
- Kids already have connections through Guides, etc.
- In some ways it should be easy – same kids attend 2 different schools but live on the same block
- Information travels via the playground or Co-op
- Heard nothing but good things about DR School
- Will there be time for students to visit their new schools before QLD School closes?
- Arrange a day like grade 6 orientation to junior high

- Use existing volunteer groups to reach out
- Will have 4 months after Board of Trustees make their decision
- Could have council meetings at the new locations, but response was not as positive – ie: attendance, but some did start attending meetings at HMS
- It needs to start right away, not wait until September
- Make sure kids are involved
- Make sure DR School and HMS kids are welcoming
- Easier in QLD School and HMS because numbers coming in are similar to numbers already there
- Parents getting together; family social
- Open house programs for parents and kids
- Inviting students to events (ie Sports Day)
- Multi-school field trips
- Hard with staff as well; students looking forward to “getting” same teachers
- What will happen to QLD School staff? They’ll be surplus and given opportunity to apply
- The principal will be surplus
- It’s going to be complicated again
- Some kids will have a tough time when best friends are separated
- Wonder if there could be continued links between DR School and HMS, maybe a grade at a time
- Adopt a buddy
- Computer skills – share projects
- Set up “tech pen pals” now between schools
- We really are one community (DDQ) very connected through sports, etc.
- Biggest concern is the culture shift
- When McKenzie Towne came the kids were great
- Same community so much easier
- Work on transition - lots of communication – a gradual transition
- Parents will need transition time as well
- QLD School parents need to think about welcoming
- Concerned that there’s going to be tension *** (3 responses)
- Hard not to stay in own little clique
- Promote
- HMS has a strong parent council and QLD School is starting to grow; opportunity for parent council to become even stronger
- Looking forward to increased opportunities for a bigger council
- Adopt some of the special events, ie: movie night
- Why did they put the two schools so close together? Due to population in the 70’s
- Can they build a sidewalk or paved path across the field? (from QLD School to HMS)
- Welcoming programs from receiving schools so we all gain from the process
- Teachers, if they moved, would be a comforting thing

- Kids will feel culture shock – but not for long. It's the parents that will take longer to adjust
- A couple of open houses to build community
- Pancake breakfast/ice cream social
- Combined activity day
- Orientation
- Time capsule – represents the new beginning
- 2 jars of sand blending together . . .
- Open house for parents at Wilma Hansen but we need one at DR School and HMS after decision is made
- Host new families coming to the school
- Parents – communication – marquis signs regarding open house to hit parents not yet at school. Our public (QLD School) is not aware of open house. Open invitation to all for Open House at Wilma Hansen. (Deer Run Community Center and Queensland Downs Community Association both own sign boards). The more people who can attend Wilma Hansen's open house the better instead of facing a "mob" later
- Make the effort to inform now may increase community involvement
- Community awareness
- Kids welcomed
- In-depth transitioning plan
- DR School and HMS assembly with QLD School students
- Special activities to make new friends before they even have to move
- Co-ordinating field trips
- Current school teachers check with students at QLD School to discover worries/stresses/concerns to address them or even at DR School and HMS in case there is worries there as well
- Switch classes – grade 3's for example attend a day at each others school
- Grade 6 committee to discuss as we are tonight (blended) to give ownership. Gives some control back to the kids.
- Leadership skills
- Sense of community
- Take kids on a walking trip to the school
- Special needs kids may need extra transitioning

Question #4: What are the programs at your child's current school that you would like to see continue in a new location?

- Out of school care
- Lunchrooms/private – next door in community center
- Outdoor school ***** (5 responses)
- Out of school activities
- Professional days
- Music programs – no music teacher at DR School **(2 responses)

- Music specialist ** (2 responses)
- P.E. specialist
- Swimming lessons for all k-6 ***** (5 responses)
- Terry Fox *** (3 responses)
- Intramurals – teacher volunteers ** (2 responses)
- Ice-cream social
- Family night/movie night/family dance – pizza/pop/glow stix, family events to incorporate the whole family **** (4 responses)
- Reading night – family reading night/I love to read night ** (2 responses)
- Extra curricular – badminton, dance, parent/student/teacher volleyball, floor hockey
- Inline skating- Alien – Inline **** (4 responses)
- Artist in residency program *** (3 responses) (Hoja Theatrical Group)
- Field trips ** (2 responses)
- Casinos ** (2 responses)
- Opera sharing ** (2 responses)
- Entrepreneurs in grade 6
- Volunteer in community
- Fish Creek Park *** (3 responses)
- Multi-cultural activities – “changing of the 6 senses”
- Language
- Bow Valley Ranch
- Patrols *** (3 responses)
- Naturalist
- Science fair
- Fine art activities
- One World Drumming – 2 responses
- Three Left Feet
- Hitman Hockey Club
- Cricket
- Olympic events – COP – guest appearances
- Assemblies ** (2 responses) – ie: motivation speakers
- Alphabet Club – kindergarten/grade 1
- Library program – half time with literacy support teacher
- Literacy support programs – beginning in grade 1 ** (2 responses)
- “Crime not to Read” program with Constable Moffat – a trip to the library
- Teaching parents early literacy skills
- Meeting the needs of individual students – ie: IPP students
- Small class sizes to meet needs of individual
- Small school atmosphere
- Coming home for lunch
- Walk to school ** (2 responses)
- No busing ** (2 responses)
- Music program – DR School lost music teacher ** (2 responses)

- Drama teacher
- Photography club ** (2 responses)
- Mentoring between junior high and elementary **(2 responses)
- To help with the transition to junior high
- Safe and comfortable so that the transition is not as scary
- Student secretary **(2 responses)
- Parent/teacher conference – teachers letting students think for themselves
- Reward “Golden Pencil” **(2 responses)
- Not just academic award – being recognized for social developments
- Teachers should have to add on music
- Christmas concert is a concern
- Students really love the music program
- More money would allow a music program
- Music is an important aspect of the learning curriculum
- Before and After school program in the community center
- Community center and school are an important connection
- Day homes nearby
- Connection between teachers and community center members
- Outdoor programs **(2 responses) (in the community center)
- QLD School creates – “World” events
- Singing at “seniors” home across the street
- Leadership
- Buddy reading/math program ** (2 responses)
- Buddy system with the different schools
- Calgary Reads Program ** (2 responses)
- Student of the month
- Student Council program
- Warm Feet For the Streets
- Social issue awareness
- Stampede School, Bird School/Science Centre
- Recycling
- Skiing at COP ** (2 responses)
- Bookfair
- Holiday Gift Shop – to buy Christmas gifts
- Small groups or one-on-one pull out
- Parent volunteer/Ed assistants
- Clubs: sports, science club/technology
- Homework club – connecting students as they get older
- Leighton Centre
- Public

Question #5: What advice could you provide regarding implementation?

- Good to change locations of meetings, to see the other schools and how needs are changing
- Open House – have all pertinent information and people there
- Share the correct information
- Be caring
- Important to let the children know there are new children coming “into the family”
- Make the children feel welcome
- Best needs of the whole community
- Social function for adults, children and adults & children
- Foster sense of whole community
- Hold a welcome to Our school
- Lots of communication – website
- Impact on children in the Deer View Kindercare (24 children), 14 of which go back for lunch
- Visit other schools
- Transition for all children and especially those who need more time to adjust
- Transition for children currently at the two proposed remaining schools
- Important that programs are not lost and are known prior to staffing
- Handi-cap accessibility looked at prior to movement of children. There are at least 4 children that would be affected. Contact Special Ed. for strategies
- Busing
- Incorporating melding the communities/schools into one
- Melding of school councils
- Plan a sole event, early, once Trustees decision is known (ie treasure hunt, sports day, joint field trips)
- Consideration of the change for Deer Ridge – bused and smaller groups going to larger environment
- Environment and social changes for students
- Staffing key – especially for Special Needs
- Start community connection now
- Speak to someone who can mediate people’s fears/wants
- Student swap for a half day
- Get councils talking to each other to plan events
- Feel children at this age (for the most part) are resilient
- What experiences can the HMS students share with the other children? (from their experience with having McKenzie Towne students housed with them in their school)
- Day home/care transitions

Other Questions:

- Will there be a resource person to help with the transition?
- Could QLD School visit HMS before they close?

- Could HMS visit QLD School?
- Could QLD School visit DR School?