

Have all options been exhausted to find a way to keep the school from closure? If so, what are the options?

The size and location of Queensland Downs School do not make it a suitable site for an alternative program or as an overflow bus receiver school. Establishing an alternative program or adding special needs classes in the school would not save the regular program.

If an alternative program were to be offered, some of these students would choose the alternative program, resulting in even lower numbers in the regular program.

What impact would closing Haultain Memorial School and keeping Queensland Downs School open have on proposed attendance areas, enrolment projections?

The impact of closing Haultain Memorial School and keeping Queensland Downs School open would result in a larger attendance area for Queensland Downs School and the same attendance area for Deer Run School. As a result, the attendance areas for each school would be unbalanced with the projected enrolment at Queensland Downs School higher and the projected enrolment at Deer Run School lower. Please refer to the charts on display for further information.

Why keep building new schools when this school is in perfect condition and you can have other children sent there?

Calgary's population growth is occurring in the new and developing areas on the outskirts of the city. Particularly for younger children, parents want schools to be closer to home.

Why were parents not consulted before the recommendation was made?

Making a recommendation and presenting it at the first meeting is part of the scope of our work. It is an important piece to ensure parents and schools are not pitted against each other during the community engagement process.

We recognized it was important to balance the school populations in schools of similar size and made a recommendation considering the fiscal responsibility of operating two schools instead of three including overhead costs and transportation.

What happens to funds raised and resources purchased through School Council?

Consultation with parents would be required to determine how best to reallocate such resources.

What happens to the school building?

In the case of Queensland Downs School, it is on 9.21 acres of Reserve land owned by the City of Calgary. If a school is declared "permanently surplus" to CBE needs then it will return to the City of Calgary.

Have you considered the impact and increased enrolment that could result if additional housing was approved on the two vacant school sites that the CBE returned to the City of Calgary in 2005?

Both sites are located south of Canyon Meadows Drive and would be in the proposed attendance area for Deer Run School. In the proposed administrative recommendation it is anticipated that there will be excess capacity at Deer Run School to accommodate any potential increased enrolment that may result in the event that residential housing is approved for those sites.

What will happen to the teachers from this school?

If a closure of Queensland Downs School were to be approved, teachers and staff would be transferred in accordance with the Calgary Board of Education's current staffing processes.

How would the children be divided – would parents have the opportunity to choose which school their students attended?

The proposed attendance areas for Haultain Memorial School and Deer Run School are aligned with residential district boundaries as defined by the City of Calgary. The proposed attendance areas also take into account barriers such as roadways and natural hazards such as escarpments. This alignment will divide the current attendance area for Haultain Memorial/Queensland Downs School.

Parents have the option to apply for their children to attend either Haultain Memorial School or Deer Run School as out-of-attendance area students provided there are space and resources available. Subsidized transportation is only provided for students to attend their designated school.

How will the transition from one school to the other be implemented? What will you do to ensure my child has a smooth transition given that some children will be split among two schools?

Should Queensland Downs School close, Principals will meet to determine an appropriate transition plan. Focus group feedback regarding community values and program continuity has been provided to the principals to help with transition planning. If needed, there is expertise within the Calgary Board of Education for transitioning students.

Will children with special needs continue to receive support? What about special needs accessibility?

Support for children with special needs is consistent from school to school across the CBE. If necessary, consultation with a strategist may occur dependent on the needs of the children and school. Any accessibility and support challenges will be addressed at that time.

Do either of the schools offer a lunch program?

Both Deer Run School and Haultain Memorial School offer a lunch program.

What impact will this have on class sizes?

Although there would be increased enrolment at Deer Run School and Haultain Memorial School, neither school would be operating at capacity. Principals are allocated funds based on their student enrolment and profile. It is the responsibility of the school principal to assign resources in order to best meet the learning needs of the students in the school within the guidelines provided.

What are the transportation and lunchroom fees?

Transportation fees are paid by parents. The fee for this year is \$165, with a family maximum of \$330. Students residing outside the walk zone for their designated school do not pay noon supervision fees. Students residing within the walk zone who choose to access a lunchroom program pay a noon supervision fee that is set by the school (this year at Deer Run School and Haultain Memorial School the fee is \$270). There is no family maximum for noon supervision fees.

Parents of eligible students experiencing financial hardship may apply for a waiver of transportation fees.

Will busing be provided to Haultain Memorial School?

As the provincial School Act requires Alberta school boards to offer transportation service for all students who reside more than 2.4kms from their designated school, all walk zone distances will fall under this 2.4kms distance. It is anticipated that the proposed walk zone for Haultain Memorial School will be the entire residential district of Queensland including Diamond Cove, therefore busing would not be provided. Walk zone boundaries are determined by the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), which consists of representatives from CBE Transportation Services, CBE Communications, elementary and middle school principals, special education, Calgary Association of Parent and School Councils and the Calgary Police Service, where their input is deemed beneficial.

Have you considered the effect a closure would have on daycares and dayhomes?

We are cognizant of the challenges faced by working parents regarding child care for their children during the school year. Circumstances related to daycares and dayhomes can change on a year to year basis. Therefore in looking at student accommodation, use of dayhomes and daycares is one consideration of many factors in addressing accommodation challenges.

Who owns the playground at Haultain Memorial School?

The Haultain Memorial School playground is owned by the Calgary Board of Education. The CBE is the primary user of the playground, using it throughout the school day, but welcomes the public before and after school hours. Although the land is owned by the City of Calgary, the playground became CBE property once it was purchased because it was funded by the Parent Association. As the owner of the property the CBE maintains, assumes liability for, and insures the playground.

What are the safety measures in place for Haultain Memorial School?

Safety and security measures are in place for all CBE schools. These measures are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Teachers are required to review safety and security plans regularly. Fire and lockdown procedures are adapted to meet the unique needs of each school site. The CBE is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace and learning environment for students, employees and others in the school.

When do we know for sure if the school is closing?

Only the Board of Trustees can approve the closure of a program. If, at the end of the community engagement process, the recommendation is that the Board of Trustees consider closing the school, this motion would have to be approved by the trustees. We anticipate the community engagement process to be completed by November 2009.

If they approved the motion to consider closure, a written notice would be sent out to parents and a public meeting held at which parents could ask questions or make comments. Three weeks or more after the public meeting, the trustees would debate and vote on a closure motion. It would be anticipated that the decision would be made before Spring Break, 2010.

What can be done to stop a closure?

The authority to make decisions about the closure of programs and/or schools rests solely with the Board of Trustees. Parent feedback may influence the Board's decision.

Parents have several avenues to make their voices heard in the community engagement process. Feedback can be given:

- through focus group members or principals
- through the Community Engagement Feedback form at <http://www.cbe.ab.ca/schools/ceop/feedback.asp>
- at the open house

All feedback received through the community engagement process is provided to the Board of Trustees.

With respect to the community engagement process, parents and community have the following opportunities for further input:

- Stakeholder report to the Board of Trustees when the administrative recommendation is presented;

If the Board of Trustees supports the administrative recommendation to consider closure of a program or school and move to the regulatory process:

- Parents/community members have input prior to the public meeting through the medium of questions or comments;
- At the public meeting, there is further opportunity for questions and comments;

- Further submissions can be made after the public meeting to the Board of Trustees;
- Stakeholder report to the Board of Trustees at the meeting at which Trustees are debating the consideration of closure motion.

When do parents and the Board of Trustees meet to discuss all options?

The purpose of the community engagement process is to gather information and feedback from community stakeholders. Members of the focus group will have three meetings with administration. Their responsibilities include taking information from meetings to the community and bringing input from the community to CBE administration.

At the open house parents and the community can find out more information, ask questions and provide additional feedback.

If a recommendation for a consideration of closure were to be taken forward and were to be approved by the Board of Trustees, parents would have the opportunity to ask questions of CBE administration at the public meeting. Though trustees would be present and would hear all the input, it would not be appropriate for them to be part of the discussion since they are the final decision-makers.