

***What impact will moving the regular students from Dalhousie have on current out-of-attendance area students and their siblings who may not as yet be enrolled?***

It is up to the principal to determine if the school has the space and resources available to accept out-of-attendance students. As an out-of-attendance area student, parents are responsible for getting their child to the school as they will not be eligible for transportation.

***Will out-of-attendance area students be able to complete their education at West Dalhousie?***

Typically, out of attendance area students are able to finish their division when a designation changes. Divisions end at kindergarten, grade 3 and grade 6.

***Has the CBE thought about re-designating students from Sherwood and Nolan Hill to a different school?***

The Sherwood /Nolan Hill designation will be evaluated annually as with all student designations for new and developing communities. If the designations for the Sherwood and/or Nolan Hill communities were to change, general practice is to allow students to finish their division at the school where they started, in this case West Dalhousie School.

***Has CBE considered developing the two schools as a campus if allowing the Grade 5 and 6 students to stay?***

Regardless of the implementation scenario chosen, principals will work together with staff, parents and students to design a plan that will facilitate a smooth transition for the students, schools and community.

***In Scenario 2, will older siblings (grades 5 and 6) of students designated to West Dalhousie School have the option to go to West Dalhousie School as well?***

Yes, these students will have the option to choose to attend West Dalhousie School. If fewer than 15 students per grade choose to remain at Dalhousie School, all students will be designated to West Dalhousie School.

***Would the following implementation scenario work?***

2010: Kindergarten to grade 4 to West Dalhousie; Grades 5 and 6 stay at Dalhousie

2011: Kindergarten to grade 6 to West Dalhousie; Grade 6 who were at Dalhousie for grade 5 in 2010 move to West Dalhousie

Projected enrolment for this scenario does not exceed the capacity of either school. If too few students choose to finish their division at Dalhousie School in Implementation Scenario 2, this may be necessary regardless.

***What will happen to the teachers from this school?***

If a closure of the regular program at Dalhousie were to be approved, teachers and staff would be eligible to apply for other positions in the system, in accordance with the Calgary Board of Education's current staffing processes.

***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 families may be split among two schools?***

Should the regular program at Dalhousie 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.

***Does West Dalhousie School offer a lunch program?***

Currently West Dalhousie School offers a lunch program Monday to Thursday. Friday is an early dismissal day and students do not stay for lunch. Organizational decisions such as these are reviewed on a year to year basis by the principal.

***What are the transportation and lunchroom fees?***

Subsidized 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. There is no family maximum for noon supervision fees. Fees for transportation and lunchroom are reviewed on an annual basis and are subject to change.

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

***Will the after school care program be expanded at West Dalhousie?***

This is dependent on whether or not the service provider has an interest and the ability to expand the after school care program. It is also dependent on the space limitations of the gym, where the program is currently housed.

***Could CBE add portables to West Dalhousie school to help alleviate the space issues?***

Additional portables units require permits and installation is a significant cost. Each site needs to be evaluated as to whether or not it is possible to add portables. In this case, because there are alternative possible student accommodation plans, portable units would not be a consideration at this time.

***Will increased numbers at West Dalhousie School result in larger classroom sizes?***

Class sizes would not necessarily increase as a result of the closure of the regular program at Dalhousie School. 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.

***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.

***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 considers closing the regular program at Dalhousie school, this motion would have to be approved by the trustees.

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.