

Opportunities and Challenges
Dalhousie School, Open House
November 4, 2009

Scenario 1:

Closure of the regular program, kindergarten to grade 6 effective June 30, 2010

Opportunities:

Challenges:

- Busing (transportation to & from school)
- Curriculum changes for the children
- Class size
- To sudden a bulge of students

Comments:

- This should not happen!
- Most should NOT come – going to be packed!
- If this decision is made there is acknowledge that it is not going to change therefore parents can plan for the move.

Scenario 2:

Staged closure of the regular program, kindergarten to grade 4 effective June 30, 2010 and phase out of grades 5 & 6

Opportunities:

- Preferred option (at Dalhousie)
- They would continue to learn Spanish
- Familiarity
- My son is currently in gr. 5 he has established friends and routines at this school. In addition he attends the before and after school program which is greatly needed by our family due to our schedules. I would hate to see him moved for his last year and upset his routine. If the CBE does decide to move the students over – I believe the “phase out” would be ideal – at least for our family. Thank you for the open house.
- This would ease a number crunch at West Dalhousie for 2010/11 by keeping numbers more even over the next few years.

Challenges:

- English program funding will be affected
- “Stranding” the last grade 6 students in Dalhousie.
- Traffic issues.

Comments:

- I feel this would be the best scenario for all involved to help keep numbers down and therefore strive for those optimal teacher student ratios that the CBE recommends. If scenario #1 occurs I think it will be too big a change for our school with increased traffic, buses and children.
- Without a doubt scenario 2 is a more attractive option for my family because of less students in our school for the next 2 years.
- Uncomfortable with the fact that should scenario 2 be chosen, the decision could then be reversed should the grade 5/6 enrollment be low at Dalhousie Elementary. This would leave little time to prepare the child moving & other logistical matters.
- Preference would be scenario 2 but in the end would rather have a firm decision that will not change.
- More gradual integration and more even population growth – scenario 2 strongly preferred.
- I support the staged closure scenario. I feel this would be less disruptive to the Gr. 5/6 students; to transition once to Jr. High, instead of twice, to West Dalhousie and then to HDC. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.
- As a resident that lives on Buckboard Road. I would like to know how children who are transferred will get to this school. Buckboard already has a “speeding problem” with out of boundary parents who drive.

Questions:

- If scenario 2 is chosen but many parents request for their kids in 5&6 to go to West Dalhousie School will they allowed to move to the point that scenario 2 is no longer viable?
- How many families will have a child in grade 5 or 6 in Dalhousie – or a child in K-4 @ West Dalhousie?
- I hope the YMCA can expand their program at West Dalhousie to accommodate children and parents in the community.