



Calgary Board of Education

***FACILITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING***

711 – 2nd Avenue N.E., Calgary, AB, T2E 7W8 Telephone: (403)294-8726 Fax: (403) 777-8769

November 10, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In keeping with our commitment to you, we would like to inform you of administration's recommendation that will be presented to the Board of Trustees with respect to student accommodation at Dalhousie and West Dalhousie Schools. After our public engagement process with parents and stakeholders, the Department of Community Engagement and Operational Planning and the Director of Area I brought forward the two scenarios being considered, together with your input, to the system administrators on the Scenario Selection Team.

We appreciate the time and care that parents and the focus group have taken with this process. We would like to emphasize that your feedback through the focus group, open house, your voice and e-mail played a key role in determining how this recommendation was brought forward. We were faced with the difficult challenge of balancing all and sometimes competing values.

In keeping with the identified outcomes of establishing a sustainable, long term learning continuum for students and effective use of space and resources, the Scenario Selection Team supported the Director of Community Engagement and Operational Planning and the Director of Area I in recommending scenario 2. Accordingly, the following recommendation will go forward in a report to the Board of Trustees, through Superintendents' Team:

- That the Board of Trustees consider closure of the regular kindergarten to grade six program at Dalhousie School, in stages, effective June 30, 2010.

This would require that the Administration:

- Designate all kindergarten to grade six students residing in the residential district of Dalhousie to West Dalhousie School effective August, 2010 with the provisions that the regular program students currently attending Dalhousie School, who will be in grade five or six for the 2010 school year, will have the option to finish their division at Dalhousie School and that if fewer than 15 students per grade choose to remain at Dalhousie School, all students would be designated to West Dalhousie School.

The Department of Community Engagement and Operational Planning anticipates that at the Board Meeting on or about December 1, 2009, the Trustees will receive the report from administration.

A letter confirming the accommodation plan for Dalhousie and West Dalhousie Schools will be forthcoming in the spring of 2010.

We want to thank the focus group for their input and advice regarding the community engagement process and the desire to follow the recommended timeline initially established regarding the communication of this recommendation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Phil Carlton', is written over a faint, light blue circular stamp or watermark.

Phil Carlton
Director,
Community Engagement and Operational Planning

Cc: David Stevenson, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools
Frank Coppinger, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
Barb Kuester, Executive Director, Communications
Margaret McBride, Director, Area I
Flora Altieri, System Principal, Area I
Sheila Wasylyshyn, Executive Assistant, Board of the Trustees
Principal, Dalhousie School, David Dyck
Principal, West Dalhousie School, Gordon Choate