

Calgary Board of Education

Minutes of the Public Meeting re: Discussion Respecting Consideration of Closure for the purpose of relocation, of the Kindergarten to Grade Three Traditional Learning Centre Program at Highwood School, held in the Highwood School Gymnasium, 11 Holmwood Avenue NW, Calgary, Alberta on Wednesday, February 17, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Board of Trustees:

Ms. P. King, Trustee – Wards 5 & 10
Dr. G. Lane, Trustee – Wards 6 & 7
Ms. L. Ferguson, Trustee – Wards 3 & 4
Ms. C. Bazinet, Trustee – Wards 12 & 14
Ms. K. Kryzcka, Trustee – Wards 11 & 13

Administration:

Ms. K. Barry, Moderator and Chair of the Public Meeting
Mr. R. Peden, Procedures Chair
Mr. D. Stevenson, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools
Ms. S. Church, Director, Area II
Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary
Ms. H. Numrich, Recording Secretary

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Copies of the *Agenda* entitled “Board of Trustees, Calgary Board of Education, Public Meeting, Discussion Respecting Consideration of Closure for the purpose of relocation, of the Kindergarten to Grade Three Traditional Learning Centre Program at Highwood School, Wednesday, February 17, 2010, which also contained information with respect to Purpose of the Meeting, Discussion Guidelines, and Written Submissions and Further Questions, were made available to those present and submitted for the record.

Ms. Barry called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and noted she would be Chair of the meeting and that the format of the meeting is determined by the Closure of Schools Regulation, thus it has a high level of structure regarding the information that must be presented. She introduced the Trustees present and the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) Administration. She noted also the attendance of Mr. J. Pedron, former Principal of Highwood School, present Principal of Sundance School and Ms. K. Dabbs, Acting Principal of Highwood School and gave recognition to the teachers and staff members that were in attendance.

Ms. Barry informed that the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of maintaining an accurate internal record of the proceedings and she noted that minutes would be available on the website at www.cbe.ab.ca prior to the Board of Trustees making its decision.

OPENING REMARKS

Deputy Chief Superintendent D. Stevenson expressed his welcome, thanked everyone for coming and for any previous time commitment they may have already made in relation to this matter. He spoke of the advisory and support role of Administration in these proceedings. He noted that the department of Community Engagement and Operational Planning (CEOP) had initiated and coordinated an engagement process with the community where meetings were held to address the opportunities and challenges associated with Highwood School. CBE was provided with feedback from the focus groups and open houses. On December 15, 2009 after deliberation, Trustees voted to consider closure for the purpose of relocation, of the Kindergarten to Grade Three Traditional Learning Centre Program at Highwood School. He noted that no determination has yet been made

and that there have been situations in the past, in matters such as this, where the Board has decided not to follow the administrative recommendation. He stated that the role of Administration is to provide the Board, school community and general public with relevant information and answers to questions.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING AND ROLE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ms. Barry welcomed Ms. L. Ferguson, Board Vice-Chair and Trustee of Wards 3 & 4.

Ms. Ferguson spoke about the Board of Trustees' role in the closure consideration process, presenting the following information on behalf of the Board of Trustees:

“On Tuesday, December 15, 2009, after discussion and debate at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, a motion was passed by the Board to give consideration to the closure for the purpose of relocation, of the Kindergarten to Grade Three Traditional Learning Centre Program at Highwood School.

The Board of Trustees has the sole responsibility and authority to make closure decisions and I want to make it clear tonight that no decision has been made at this time.

Based on information provided to us by Administration, a *Written Notice* Regarding the Consideration of Closure of this program has been issued by the Board of Trustees, but that is only one part of the information that has been, and will be, reviewed and considered by Trustees. In accordance with Alberta legislation and the Board of Trustees' Governance Policies and Procedures, before making any final decision on a matter such as this, the Board follows a process to secure additional community input.

That process involves providing important and relevant information to you – the *Written Notice* – and reviewing it with you. It also involves providing you and other concerned members of the public an opportunity to impact our decision by providing us with your input. Tonight, Trustees want to augment our understanding of the information presented in the *Written Notice* by hearing your observations, submissions and questions. That is why the Board of Trustees has organized and convened tonight's public meeting. Following tonight's meeting, you will have an additional opportunity to ask further written questions and make further written submissions.

Trustees, as the ultimate decision makers, are here tonight to listen and observe. Throughout tonight's discussion and throughout the closure consideration process, Trustees will be paying very careful attention to what you have to say.

All of the information collected during the closure consideration process will be weighed very carefully by Trustees before any final decision is made.

The Board of Trustees tentatively anticipates debating the merits of this matter and making a decision regarding this program closure consideration for the purpose of relocation, on Tuesday, March 23, 2010.

The Board's ongoing commitment is to provide educational programs and services in suitable facilities throughout Calgary. To honour that commitment, we as a Board, need to take into consideration student populations, the demand for programs, our available resources and any other factors that may be significant. Although we certainly may consider financial factors, such as costs of the school or program, there are many other equally important considerations that impact our examination of any school's circumstances --- student enrolment levels, our ability to resource instructional programming, the health and safety of students, accessibility, and on a system-wide basis, serving the overall interests of public education within our jurisdiction.

Consideration of closure is a very serious matter to the Board of Trustees and we clearly appreciate that it is very significant to the students, parents and other concerned members of the community. Because of that, we want to hear your input around this very important matter. We look forward to listening carefully tonight to your comments, observations and questions.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I thank you.”

REVIEW OF THE WRITTEN NOTICE

Ms. Barry indicated that copies of the *Agenda* and the *Written Notice Regarding Consideration of Closure for the purpose of relocation, of the Kindergarten to Grade Three Traditional Learning Centre Program at Highwood School* were available on the table at the back of the gymnasium.

Ms. Barry indicated that the public’s observations and questions form part of the material that the Board of Trustees will consider as they review the potential closure for the purpose of relocation, of the Kindergarten to Grade Three Traditional Learning Centre Program (TLC) at Highwood School and ultimately make a decision. It was pointed out that the public also has until 12:00 noon on Monday, March 22, 2010 to submit written follow-up questions and until 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 23, 2010 to provide further written submissions regarding this closure consideration.

Ms. Barry gave a PowerPoint presentation that provided an overview of the *Written Notice*. The following is a summary of the presentation given by Ms. Barry.

Issue

In response to parent demand for access to Traditional Learning Centre programming in Area II, a kindergarten to grade two Traditional Learning Centre program was initiated at Highwood School in 2008. The program was expanded to include grade three in the fall of 2009 and is intended to expand to grade four for the 2010-2011 school year. Parents were informed that this was a temporary location until space became available to allow for the anticipated growth of the program.

Student Accommodation Proposal

The student accommodation proposal includes the closure of the Traditional Learning Centre program at Highwood School for the purpose of relocation and the designation of these students to Dr. J.K. Mulloy School. In order to relocate the current kindergarten to grade three Traditional Learning Centre program at Highwood School, Calgary Board of Education is obligated under the Closure of Schools Regulation to consider this accommodation as a closure.

Rationale

The rationale for closing the kindergarten to grade three program at Highwood School is that CBE administration has been able to locate a facility with enough capacity to accommodate the growing demand for the Traditional Learning Centre program from the designated Area II communities. With the opening of Panorama Hills School, space is available at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School.

Information Section A: Implications for Affected Attendance Areas

Schools and Programs

Highwood School

Highwood School offers the Traditional Learning Centre program to students from kindergarten to grade three who reside in the residential districts of Beddington, Evanston, Hidden Valley, Huntington Hills, Kincora, MacEwan Glen, Sage Hill and Sandstone Valley. The school also offers a French Immersion program for kindergarten to grade six students who reside in the designated Area II communities.

Attendance at Highwood School

The chart provided on page 3 identifies September 30, 2009 enrolment at Highwood School. The total number of students accommodated at Highwood School is 350 students, of which 133 are accommodated in the French Immersion program and 217 students are accommodated in the Traditional Learning Centre program.

Dr. J.K. Mulloy School

Dr. J.K. Mulloy School offers a kindergarten to grade six regular program for students in the attendance area from the north west portion of the residential district of Huntington Hills. Students in grades four, five and six from the residential district of Panorama Hills are designated to Dr. J.K. Mulloy School. Grade four students from the residential district of Panorama Hills will be designated to the new school in Panorama Hills beginning the 2010-2011 school year.

Attendance at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School

Page 5 of the *Written Notice* contains the instructional space available and September 30, 2009 enrolment at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School. Dr. J.K. Mulloy School has a total of 290 students enrolled and has the capacity to accommodate 500 students.

Change of Designation

Page 5 of the *Written Notice* contains the student designation that will change effective the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year if the kindergarten to grade three Traditional Learning Centre program is closed for the purpose of relocation. Kindergarten to grade four students who reside in the residential districts of Beddington, Evanston, Hidden Valley, Huntington Hills, Kincora, MacEwan Glen, Sage Hill and Sandstone Valley would be designated to Dr. J.K. Mulloy School.

Consistent with Calgary Board of Education practice, students residing in the residential district of Huntington Hills would have priority to attend the Traditional Learning Centre program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School, provided that parents are interested in the program's philosophy and students are suitable for placement.

Projected Enrolment for Highwood School

On page 5 of the *Written Notice* the chart indicates the projected 2010 enrolment for Highwood School, if the kindergarten to grade three Traditional Learning Centre program at Highwood School were to close for the purpose of relocation. The student enrolment at Highwood School is projected to be 128 students in the French Immersion program.

Projected Enrolment for Dr. J.K. Mulloy School

The enrolment at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School will increase to 532 students, should the kindergarten to grade three Traditional Learning Centre program at Highwood School be approved for closure and the students from the Traditional Learning Centre program be designated to Dr. J.K. Mulloy School. Although Dr. J.K. Mulloy School has the capacity to accommodate 500 students, with the kindergarten students attending school for only half the day, the school would not be considered over capacity.

The chart on page 6 shows the projected 2010 enrolment for Dr. J. K. Mulloy School if the kindergarten to grade three Traditional Learning Centre program were relocated to Dr. J.K. Mulloy School from Highwood School. No changes to the regular program are included in this projection.

There are 226 regular program students projected (146 of those are from Panorama Hills) at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School and 306 students projected from the Traditional Learning Centre program. With the middle school in the residential district of Panorama Hills scheduled to open in 2012, the students from the residential district of Panorama Hills will be designated to the new school leaving adequate space at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School for the Traditional Learning Centre program to continue growing.

Currently the closure of the kindergarten to grade 6 regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School is under consideration as a separate process.

Information Section B: Implications Relative to CBE's Long Range Capital Plan

Capital Plan

A decision to close the Highwood Traditional Learning Centre program for the purpose of relocation would have no implications relative to the CBE's long range capital plan which is comprised of the *School Capital Plan 2010-2013* and the *Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2009-2018*. The Calgary Board of Education's *Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2009-2018* provides detailed site, building, program and planning information for each school building.

As noted on page 6 of the *Written Notice*, both documents are available from any CBE school or can be accessed on the CBE website. The web address is <http://www.cbe.ab.ca/documents.asp> and also appears in the *Written Notice*.

Information Section C: Implications with Respect to Busing

Busing

All students in the Traditional Learning Centre program at Highwood School are bus eligible and would continue to be bus eligible unless they reside within the proposed walk zone for the Traditional Learning Centre program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School. There would be no implications for busing.

Appendix 1 on pages 12-14 of the *Written Notice* summarizes the eligibility criteria, fees and parent/guardian responsibility relating to student transportation. *Administrative Regulation 6095-Student Transportation* is available on the CBE website at:

<http://www.cbe.ab.ca/policies/policies/AR6095.pdf>

and provides information regarding the administration of transportation services.

Information Section D: Educational, Programming & Staffing Impacts

Educational Impact on Highwood School if the TLC Program is not Closed

Given that the Traditional Learning Centre program is projected to expand to grade four for the 2010-2011 school year, Highwood School would be near capacity for the 2010-2011 school year and is projected to exceed the capacity in the following year. Without the relocation of the Traditional Learning Centre program, administration would anticipate limiting the intake of students at kindergarten for the 2011 school year.

The chart on page 8 provides the enrolment projection if the Traditional Learning Centre program at Highwood School is not closed. Highwood School would be near capacity for the 2010-2011 school year with a projected enrolment of 434 students. Note: Kindergarten students are counted as half time, as they only attend school for half of the day.

Educational Impact if the Highwood TLC Program is Closed

This consideration of closure is for the purpose of relocation and therefore has minimal educational impact on students in the Traditional Learning Centre program.

Funding is provided on a per student basis and schools are resourced according to the number of students. With increased enrolment at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School, the principal would have greater flexibility in determining how to effectively allocate physical and human resources to best serve the learning needs of students.

There will be a significant decline in enrolment at Highwood School. The projected enrolment for the kindergarten to grade six French Immersion program is 128 students. Administration will continue to monitor enrolment and engage parents in future accommodation plans to meet student needs.

Staffing Impact

Staffing resources are allocated to schools on a per school base allocation, student enrolment and student profile. Resource allocation levels would be adjusted at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School to reflect the projected student enrolment and profile for 2010-2011; the majority of the allocation would follow the students. Further adjustments would be made should there be any discrepancy between the projected student enrolment/profile and the actual September 30, 2010 student enrolment. Deployment of both resources and staff is at the discretion of the principal. Based on the number and

individual needs of students enrolled at a school, the principal determines how to effectively allocate physical and human resources to best serve the learning needs of students.

Should the kindergarten to grade three Traditional Learning Centre program at Highwood School be closed and relocated to Dr. J.K. Mulloy School, the certificated staff assigned to the Highwood Traditional Learning Centre program would have the choice to move with the students to Dr. J.K. Mulloy School, in accordance with the Calgary Board of Education's current staffing processes. Final staffing decisions cannot be made until the actual number of students and their unique learning needs are determined.

Teachers who choose not to move with the students to Dr. J.K. Mulloy School would be transferred in accordance with the CBE's current staffing processes. Final teacher staffing decisions take place in the fall of each school year, based on the September 30th actual enrolments.

Support staff would be identified for transfer/layoff and considered for placement in accordance with the CBE's Staff Association Collective Agreement and current staffing processes.

Facility Operations staffing levels would be assessed in accordance with the CUPE Local 40 Collective Agreement and caretaking staffing formulae.

Information Section E: Financial & Capital Implications

Financial and Operational Impacts

The financial and operational cost is negligible as the Highwood School facility will continue to be operational. The financial and operational costs are not key factors in the consideration of closure of the Traditional Learning Centre program at Highwood School; both physical and human resources are allocated according to student enrolment/profile and would follow the students to their designated schools.

Capital Impacts

Classroom dividers and baffles have been purchased for Dr. J.K. Mulloy School out of the Program Renewal and Expansion budget at a cost of \$12,000. A request to the Modernization Committee has been submitted for the construction of four walls to address the open area concerns at a cost of \$70,000 (should the consideration of closure not be approved this expenditure would not be required). These expenditures do not impact the request in the *Three Year Capital Plan* for modernization funds for Dr. J.K. Mulloy School.

Information Section F: Future Facility Plans

It is anticipated that Highwood School would continue to be used for Calgary Board of Education programming.

Ms. Barry introduced Mr. P. Carlton, Director, Community Engagement and Operational Planning, to chair the remaining items.

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

There were no previously submitted or anticipated questions received before this evening's public consultation meeting.

OPEN DISCUSSION – COMMENTS & QUESTIONS FROM PARENTS AND PUBLIC

Mr. Carlton provided a brief review of the discussion guidelines, which are noted on the back of the *Agenda*. He reiterated that the Trustees were present to hear the public's input and that they will ultimately be the sole decision makers regarding the status of the K-3 TLC Program at Highwood School and it would not be appropriate in the middle of the process for Trustees to respond directly to questions or to engage in debate. He asked that questions be directed to him as the meeting Chair and he would provide a response or he would direct the question to an appropriate CBE Administrator for response.

Mr. T. Khoo, a parent, inquired as to what is the criteria being considered in the decision making process for the consideration of closure of the TLC program at Highwood School?

Mr. Carlton provided a description of the Community Engagement and Operational Planning (CEOP) department process and the regulatory process in closure considerations as follows:

- CEOP staff meet with Area Directors to identify issues and challenges. The suggested accommodation considerations are required to be brought to the Board of Trustees before the end of the school year (June).
- This information is shared with principals and the Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils in order to inform school councils.
- CEOP determines a priority list, including those challenges that must be attended to that year.
- CEOP works with the Area Director to develop a community engagement plan and engages the community by providing information, involvement, consultation, or collaboration. The type of community engagement is determined by the issue. Mr. Carlton noted that in this Kindergarten to grade 3 TLC consideration for relocation, it was indicated to parents when this program started at Highwood School that it was a temporary location and parents were consulted for their input.
- A recommendation is brought to the Board of Trustees in the form of a written report by Administration with a recommendation, the reasons for the recommendation and supporting documentation such as enrolment, educational impact, community engagement process, meetings and feedback.
- The Board of Trustees debates, asks questions of Administration and decides if there is enough information to proceed with a consideration of closure. If so, they pass a motion to move into the regulatory closure process.
- The regulatory closure process requires publication to stakeholders in a notice (*Written Notice*) that includes all of the items in the Closure of School Regulations, Section 4-7. It is also a requirement that the public meeting be advertised two weeks prior to the meeting and a full three weeks after the public meeting, must be given to allow time for further questions, before the Board makes its decision. Administration is required to comply with the school closure regulations. Trustees then ask questions of Administration, debate and make a decision. He noted that the opportunity is always available for stakeholders to address the Board at every public meeting for a total of 3-5 stakeholder reports for 3 minutes each.

Ms. M. Berntzen, requested clarification of what will happen to the K-4 regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School?

Mr. Carlton replied that as is indicated in the *Written Notice*, there is a separate consideration of closure process being undertaken regarding the regular program at Dr. J. K. Mulloy School; a public meeting has been held and the Board of Trustees has not made their decision yet.

Ms. M. Berntzen, asked if the K-4 regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School does not close how will it affect the growth of the TLC program at that school?

Mr. Carlton replied that should the K-4 regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School not close, it will have limited impact on the TLC program growth since the grades 5-6 students from Panorama Hills make up the majority of that population. He noted that it is anticipated that in 2012 those students will be moving to a new middle school in Panorama Hills which would leave the regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School with less than 75 students.

Ms. M. Jessop, a parent and community member, commented that if half of the students are from Panorama Hills and half from other communities has any consideration been given to leaving TLC programs both at Highwood School and Dr. J.K. Mulloy School? If so, why was the decision made to consider closure of the TLC program at Highwood School?

Mr. Carlton replied that there is no TLC program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School at this time. The grades 5-6 students are from Panorama Hills and will move to a new middle school when it opens in 2012, leaving a Kindergarten to grade 6 regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School of less than 75 students. He noted that when the Kindergarten to grade 2 TLC program was placed at Highwood School two years ago, it was indicated to parents at that time that it was a temporary location as it was projected to grow and would require a larger facility.

Ms. M. Jessop asked if there had been any consideration given to closing the regular program at Highwood School and making it a TLC school?

Mr. Carlton replied that there is no regular program at Highwood School as it was closed 4-5 years ago. He stated that there is a Kindergarten to grade 6 French Immersion program and the Kindergarten to grade 3 TLC program at Highwood School now.

Ms. M. Jessop asked if there had been any consideration given to closing the French Immersion program at Highwood School?

Mr. Carlton replied that CEOP will be monitoring the French Immersion program enrolment and working with parents regarding the accommodation challenges facing that group.

Ms. D. Wilson asked about the plan for grade 5 TLC students and whether CBE is planning for increased enrolment in Kindergarten to grade 4 TLC and whether CBE plans to expand Dr. J.K. Mulloy School to grade 5 TLC and beyond?

Mr. Carlton replied that the trend shows anticipated growth at the Kindergarten to grade 4 level, and there are no plans to extend the TLC program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School past grade 4.

Mr. T. Khoo asked Mr. Carlton to expand on the comment previously made regarding monitoring the Kindergarten to grade 6 French Immersion at Highwood School and the challenges associated with that.

Mr. Carlton responded that the Kindergarten to grade 6 French Immersion program at Highwood School has had a relatively stable enrolment of 125 - 140 students over the past few years. They are looking at that with French Immersion parents, to see if this is an appropriate number to work with, or whether other opportunities might be available. They may consider other accommodation opportunities that could come forward soon.

Mr. G. Hill asked about the history of enrolment at Highwood School? What have been the peak periods of enrolment?

Mr. Carlton responded that a number of years ago Highwood School offered French Immersion program and a regular program and there were close to 400 students. Over time, as the community has grown and stabilized, and the population growth leveled off and slightly declined. When enrolment in the regular program declined it was closed. Highwood School accommodated only a French Immersion program. Three years ago when there were three French Immersion programs at King George, Highwood and Greenview Schools, a decision was made to leave the French Immersion program at Highwood School and to close the program at Greenview School. This allowed for the opportunity to initiate growth of the TLC program at Highwood School. It started as a Kindergarten to grade 2 program with the understanding that it was a temporary location. Mr. Carlton provided the following statistics in regards to French Immersion enrolment at Highwood School: 2006 – 193, 2007 - 179; 2008 - 155.

Ms. Berntzen asked Mr. Carlton to speak to the structural changes anticipated for the Dr. J.K. Mulloy School building, as the open concept has been a concern to many parents. She also asked if the plan to put in walls was because there were anticipated problems?

Mr. Carlton displayed floor plans of the Dr. J.K. Mulloy School building to the audience and Trustees. He noted that it is a two story building. The concern that was raised by parents at an open house was that there are six double classrooms, and the four classrooms that face the library have no walls. For less noise disruption, the proposal is to add wall dividers. Baffles have been purchased to serve as moveable dividers for each of the double classrooms on both floors. This will create single class settings but leave flexibility for teachers if they choose to regroup in another fashion. Mr. Carlton noted that if the TLC Kindergarten to grade 3 program at Highwood School does not close for relocation the dividers will be utilized either at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School or elsewhere in the CBE.

Ms. Berntzen asked what grades will this effect and will this be done be September?

Mr. Carlton stated that in speaking with the principal of Dr. J.K. Mulloy School, the plan is to utilize the lower level for TLC classrooms, should the Kindergarten to grade 3 TLC program at Highwood School be relocated. If the decision is made for relocation, the modernization committee will release the funds for re-construction and they would endeavour to have it ready for the next school year, and if not, definitely for the following year in order to allow for growth of the program. The dividers were ordered by the principal who selected the dividers that he felt would best meet their needs and would satisfy parental concerns.

Ms. Berntzen asked if the permanent walls are not built before school opens in September what would the plan be for the division between the library and the classrooms?

Mr. Carlton responded that there are currently dividers between the library and classrooms but they do not go all the way up to the ceiling. They are striving to have the permanent walls completed in time.

Mr. G. Hill asked Mr. Carlton to explain the value of the TLC program, and inquired if it helps with academics?

Director S. Church responded that the TLC program is based on academic rigor. Some of the unique characteristics of the program include: students wear uniforms; parental commitment to daily homework; students participate in daily character circle activities and learn about virtues and the traditional concept of students in rows. She noted that more information in regards to the TLC program is available on the website and that the principal of Highwood School would also be able to provide future information and/or brochures and materials regarding the TLC program.

Ms. D. Wilson inquired what would the plan be if the requested \$70,000 for walls were denied?

Mr. Carlton replied that the \$70,000 request for walls has already been approved, pending the outcome of this consideration of closure decision.

Mr. K. Lim commented that if Highwood School has a maximum capacity of 400, and a status quo of 34, it is 34 over capacity. If the TLC program moves to Dr. J.K. Mulloy School with a capacity of 500, and the projected enrolment is 532, it will be 32 over capacity. He asked how are we ahead in this plan?

Mr. Carlton responded that Kindergarten students only attend for a half day and should be counted as half time, which reduces the projected number to below 500. He noted that in 2012 when the grades 5 and 6 students leave, there will be ample room for projected growth. The projected growth for the Kindergarten to grade 4 TLC program, based on past trends, is that by 2014 Dr. J.K. Mulloy School would be at capacity.

Mr. K. Lim asked what is the cost of the move to relocate the TLC program to Dr. J.K. Mulloy School?

Mr. Carlton replied that the consideration is to relocate the Kindergarten to grade 3 TLC program and that Highwood School would remain operational; therefore, there is no cost benefit. Dr. J.K. Mulloy School would remain open and the resources for the TLC students would follow the students.

Ms. L. Hansen, Highwood School Council Chair, asked where students will go for grade 5 if Dr. J.K. Mulloy School is full for grade 4?

Mr. Carlton replied that currently grade 5 students are designated to Balmoral School for grades 5-8, and that enrolment will continue to be monitored. If accommodation becomes a challenge, they will look for other opportunities.

Ms. D. Wilson commented that the TLC students have been designated to three different schools and that it is her belief that parents feel that it would be nice to know whether or not they will be re-designated again. She expressed her belief that perhaps it is someone else's turn for redesignation.

Mr. Carlton responded that he recognizes that there have been a number of changes in order to accommodate this program and appreciates that parents have been flexible, adaptable, and supportive. If redesignation were to be considered they would determine what would be most appropriate to ensure ease of transportation and continuity maintained for students. He stated that he will take these comments seriously, and that he and the planners have noted the concern.

Ms. M. Berntzen suggested that the CBE come up with a long term plan for the junior high students in the TLC program. She commented that if the plan is to move a program in order to allow for its growth, a long term plan should be in place that will involve the least amount of disruption for students.

Mr. Carlton stated that he agreed with the statement that a long range plan is needed for the TLC program. He stated that he will be working with the Area Director in that regard and noted that other factors may come into play that may influence their ability to not even have to make any change to designations.

CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Carlton directed attention to the back of the *Agenda* and reminded those in attendance that follow-up questions from this meeting must be received by the CBE on or before 12:00 noon on Monday, March 22, 2010 and written submissions must be received by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 23, 2010. He pointed out that it is not possible to direct personal responses to each question; that all questions submitted would be reviewed for relevancy and repetitiveness and those selected for response would be answered on the Calgary Board of Education website at <http://www.cbe.ab.ca>. Mr. Carlton thanked everybody for attending the meeting and for providing respectful comments and input.

Mr. Carlton noted that it is anticipated that the Board meeting to discuss the consideration of closure, for the purpose of relocation, of the Kindergarten to Grade Three Traditional Learning Centre Program at Highwood School would be Tuesday, March 23, 2010, since the regulation requires a full three weeks between the public meeting and the board meeting to make the decision. The public's observations, comments and questions are valued and will form part of the material that Trustees will consider as they review the matter and ultimately reach a decision. He advised that the public's input at the meeting this evening has been an important contribution to the Board's decision-making process.

Mr. Carlton declared the meeting closed at 8:07 p.m.

Note to Reader:

The Minutes of the Public Meeting re: Discussion Respecting Consideration of Closure for the purpose of relocation, the Kindergarten to grade 3 Traditional Learning Centre Program at Highwood School, held in the gymnasium, 11 Holmwood Avenue NW, Calgary, Alberta on Wednesday, February 17, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. include the major points of discussion - they are not a verbatim transcript of the meeting.