

Calgary Board of Education

Minutes of the Public Meeting re: Discussion Respecting Consideration of Closure of Queensland Downs School and All Programs Contained Therein, held in the gymnasium, 199 Queen Charlotte Way SE, Calgary, Alberta on Thursday, January 7, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Board of Trustees:

Ms. P. Cochrane, Board Chair, Trustee – Wards 8 & 9
Ms. C. Bazinet, Trustee – Wards 12 & 14
Ms. L. Ferguson, Trustee – Wards 3 & 4
Ms. P. King, Trustee – Wards 5 & 10
Ms. K. Kryczka, Trustee – Wards 11 & 13
Dr. G. Lane, Trustee – Wards 6 & 7

Administration:

Mr. P. Carlton, Moderator and Chair of the Public Meeting
Mr. R. Peden, Procedures Chair
Ms. N. Johnson, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Ms. J. Rogerson, Director, Area V
Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Copies of the Agenda entitled “Board of Trustees, Calgary Board of Education, Public Meeting, Discussion Respecting Consideration of Closure of Queensland Downs School and All Programs Contained Therein”, Thursday, January 7, 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.

Mr. Carlton called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and noted he 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. He made introduction of the Trustees present and the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) Administration. He noted also the attendance of Ms. J. Hugill, Principal of Queensland Downs School, Mr. T. Barkley, Principal of Hautain Memorial School, and Ms. M. Ray, Principal of Deer Run School. He also gave recognition to the CBE teachers and staff members that were in attendance.

Mr. Carlton informed that the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of maintaining an accurate internal record of the proceedings and he noted that minutes would be available on the website at www.cbe.ab.ca prior to the Board of Trustees making its decision. Copies of the *Written Notice Regarding Consideration of Closure of Queensland Downs School and All Programs Contained Therein* were available on the table at the back of the gymnasium.

Mr. Carlton indicated that the public’s observations, comments and submissions form part of the material that the Board of Trustees will consider as they review this potential closure. He pointed out that the public also has until 12:00 noon, Monday, February 1, 2010 to submit follow-up questions and until 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 to provide further written submissions for the Trustees regarding this closure consideration.

OPENING REMARKS

Chief Superintendent N. Johnson welcomed the members of the community to the meeting and thanked them for the significant time commitment that many of them have previously made in relation to this matter. She spoke to the advisory and support role that Administration plays up to and following the formal legislated closure consideration process. She stated that Administration have engaged with the community in public consultation to address the opportunities and challenges associated with Queensland Downs School and its programs. Many members of the community made contributions to that initial work, for which she expressed sincere appreciation. That work was undertaken as part of Administration's advisory role to the Board of Trustees. On December 1, 2009, Administration put forward a recommendation to the Board of Trustees and after deliberation the Board decided to consider the closure of Queensland Downs School and its programs. She pointed out the fact that the Board of Trustees is considering the closure of a school, but no decision has been made to date. Because the Board of Trustees has sole authority and responsibility for the closure consideration process, Administration's role since December 1, 2009 has been and will be to provide the Board, the school community and the general public with full and total support in providing relevant information and answers to questions.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING AND ROLE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Carlton drew attention to the back of the agenda and reviewed the purpose of the meeting. He welcomed Ms. P. Cochrane, Board Chair and Trustee of Wards 8 & 9.

Ms. Cochrane 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 1, 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 of Queensland Downs School and all programs contained therein.

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 final 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 on Tuesday, February 2, 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 want to thank you."

REVIEW OF THE WRITTEN NOTICE

Mr. Carlton gave a PowerPoint presentation that provided an overview of the *Written Notice*. The following is a summary of the presentation.

Issue

A key issue for the consideration of closure of Queensland Downs School and all programs contained therein is excess capacity at all three elementary schools in the residential districts of Queensland, Deer Run, Deer Ridge and Diamond Cove.

There is a total capacity of 1075 student spaces between the three schools and with the projected enrolment for 2010, there would only be 562 students in the residential districts of Deer Run, Deer Ridge, Queensland and Diamond Cove to fill those spaces.

The student accommodation proposal includes the closure of the Queensland Downs School and all programs contained therein.

Rationale

In order to maintain two kindergarten to grade six regular program schools, one north of Canyon Meadows Drive and one south of Canyon Meadows Drive, and to effectively balance our fiscal responsibilities related to programming and plant operations and maintenance, Queensland Downs School is the proposed site identified for consideration of closure. The goal is to balance the attendance areas for the schools that remain open in order to better utilize both schools. Haultain Memorial School is more centrally located north of Canyon Meadows Drive and within the residential district of Queensland. Deer Run School is the only school located south of Canyon Meadows Drive in the residential district of Deer Run.

If Queensland Downs School stayed open, the attendance area for Deer Run School would remain unchanged; resulting in continued underutilization of the facility and Queensland Downs School would be near capacity. Deer Run School is the larger school and in order to utilize this school more effectively, the attendance area for Deer Run School needs to expand.

Currently, the residential district of Deer Ridge is divided: students in the northern portion of the residential district are within the boundary for Haultain Memorial School/Queensland Downs School

and students in the southern portion of the residential district are within the boundary for Deer Run School.

Currently students in the Deer Run residential district are not all designated to the same school. The northern tip of the residential district (Deer River Estates, Meadowbrook Apartments and Sun Creek Coach Homes) is designated to Haultain Memorial School or Queensland Downs School and the rest of the residential district is designated to Deer Run School.

Maintaining one school north of Canyon Meadows Drive and one school south of Canyon Meadows Drive provides the opportunity to designate all students from these two residential districts to the same school – Deer Run School.

Section A: Implications for Affected Attendance Areas

Current Attendance Areas

A map was shown on overhead illustrating the current attendance areas for the students in the regular program at Deer Run, Haultain Memorial and Queensland Downs Schools. It was noted that students at Haultain Memorial School and Queensland Downs School have the same attendance area and students within the boundary have the option to attend either school. Based on the current 1.2 km walk limit, the northern section of Diamond Cove is outside the walk limit and currently one student receives subsidized transportation.

Students in the Deer Ridge residential district are not all designated to the same school. The northern portion of the residential district is designated to Haultain Memorial School or Queensland Downs School and the southern portion is designated to Deer Run School.

Students in the Deer Run residential district are not all designated to the same school. The northern tip of the residential district (Deer River Estates, Meadowbrook Apartments and Sun Creek Coach Homes) is designated to Haultain Memorial School or Queensland Downs School and the rest of the residential district is designated to Deer Run School.

Schools and Programs

Charts were shown on overhead, depicting the September 30, 2009 enrolment for Queensland Downs School, Haultain Memorial School and Deer Run School.

Queensland Downs School offers the regular program for students from kindergarten to grade six from the residential districts of Queensland, Diamond Cove, Deer Ridge, Deer Run and out of attendance area.

Queensland Downs School has a total of 173 students, including 5 students from outside the school's attendance area; it has a student capacity of 325; 89 students attending Queensland Downs School are from Queensland/Diamond Cove and 76 students are from Deer Ridge.

Haultain Memorial School offers the regular program for students from kindergarten to grade six, attending from the residential districts of Queensland, Diamond Cove, Deer Ridge, Deer Run and out of attendance area.

Haultain Memorial School has 300 student spaces and has an enrolment of 141 students excluding the 170 students from McKenzie Towne that moved to their new school when it opened in January 2010.

The number of students attending Queensland Downs and Haultain Memorial Schools from Queensland and Diamond Cove residential districts is fairly evenly distributed – there are 89 students attending Queensland Downs School and there are 118 students attending Haultain Memorial School.

The majority of Deer Ridge students designated to either Queensland Downs or Haultain Memorial School are attending Queensland Downs School due to proximity - there are 76 students attending Queensland Downs School and there are 9 students attending Haultain Memorial School.

Both Queensland Downs School and Haultain Memorial School are underutilized facilities.

Deer Run School offers a kindergarten to grade six regular program. Students are designated to Deer Run School from the residential districts of Deer Run and Deer Ridge. Deer Run School also offers a pre-kindergarten program.

Deer Run School has instructional space to accommodate 450 students and, as of September 30, 2009, had an enrolment of 260 students in the kindergarten to grade six regular program and 2 students in the pre-kindergarten Early Development Centre.

Effective the 2009-2010 school year, Deer Run School accommodates an Early Development Centre, offering a pre-kindergarten program for “at risk” preschoolers. The Early Development Centre (EDC) is an early intervention program designed to provide developmentally appropriate educational programming for preschool children with identified special needs. Deer Run School provides service to the south areas of Calgary and James Short Memorial School serves the north areas of the city.

The attendance area for the Deer Ridge residential district is split - students from the northern portion of Deer Ridge residential district are within the boundary for Haultain Memorial/Queensland Downs Schools and students in the southern portion of Deer Ridge are within the boundary for Deer Run School. As of September 30, 2009, enrolment from the Deer Ridge residential district at the three schools was as follows: 76 students at Queensland Downs School, 9 students at Haultain Memorial School and 55 students at Deer Run School.

Proposed Attendance Areas

The map, noted on page 6 of the *Written Notice*, was shown on overhead, illustrating the proposed attendance areas that would take effect if Queensland Downs School is closed.

Change of Designation

Page 7 of the *Written Notice* shows the student designations that will change if Queensland Downs School and all programs contained therein are closed.

- Students living in the residential districts of Deer Run and Deer Ridge, including Deer River Estates, Meadowbrook Apartments and Sun Creek Coach Homes will be designated to Deer Run School.
- Students living in the residential districts of Diamond Cove and Queensland will be designated to Haultain Memorial School.
- The pre-kindergarten program at Deer Run School would not be relocated as a result of the proposed school closure.

Projected Enrolment for Haultain Memorial School:

For September 2010, Haultain Memorial School is projected to have 115 students from the residential districts of Queensland and Diamond Cove and 25 from outside the school's attendance area (including 9 students from Deer Ridge and 7 students from Deer Run).

If Queensland Downs School and all programs contained therein are closed, 85 students would be designated from Queensland Downs School to Haultain Memorial School for a total projected enrolment of 225 students.

Projected Enrolment for Deer Run School:

For September 2010, Deer Run School is projected to have 54 students from the residential district of Deer Ridge and 188 students from the residential district of Deer Run as well as 13 students from outside the school's attendance area. The pre-kindergarten Early Development Program is projected to have 10 students.

If Queensland Downs School and all programs contained therein are closed, 67 students would be designated from Queensland Downs School to Deer Run School for a total projected enrolment of 332 students. The majority of these 67 students reside in the portion of Deer Ridge which is within the current boundary for Queensland Downs School.

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

A decision to close Queensland Downs School and all programs contained therein provides an opportunity to continue to work towards an 80 percent to 85 percent space utilization within the jurisdiction 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. Both of these documents are available from any CBE school or can be accessed on the CBE website at:

<http://www.cbe.ab.ca/aboutus/documents.asp>

Section C: Implications with Respect to Busing

Administration anticipates an impact on busing costs as a result of the implementation of the accommodation proposal.

Currently, 61 students who live within the attendance area for Queensland Downs School would be eligible for subsidized transportation to Deer Run School.

Appendices 2 and 3, on pages 18 and 19 of the *Written Notice*, provide the proposed Walk Zone Maps for Haultain Memorial School and Deer Run School.

If Queensland Downs School and all programs contained therein close, the new transportation service area and walk zone will take effect for the 2010-2011 school year. There will be no busing to Haultain Memorial School.

Administrative Regulation 6095 - *Student Transportation* is available on the CBE website and provides information regarding the administration of transportation services, and can be accessed at: <http://www.cbe.ab.ca/policies/policies/AR6095.pdf>.

Also, Appendix 1 – Transportation Information 2009-2010 summarizes eligibility criteria, fees and parent/guardian responsibilities relating to student transportation. This Appendix is on pages 15 to 17 of the *Written Notice*.

Section D: Educational, Programming & Staffing Impacts

Educational Impact if School is not Closed

The ability to best meet the learning needs and interests of a smaller number of regular program students may be more challenging with fewer staff. Additionally, the range of subject expertise may be limited, as would the range of extra- and co-curricular activities. For example, with few staff the principal may be constrained in the ability to have expertise in specialty areas like Physical Education, music and technology.

There will be three underutilized schools, which may lead to constraints organizing students into classroom groupings for instruction.

Educational Impact if School is Closed

Principals would have greater flexibility in determining how to allocate resources to best serve the learning needs of students. As funding is provided on a per student basis and schools are resourced according to the number of students, students would continue to have access to teachers and staff with expertise in a wide variety of disciplines.

Staffing Impact

Staffing resources are allocated to schools based on a per school base allocation, student enrolment and student profile. Should Queensland Downs School and all programs contained therein close, resource allocation levels would be adjusted at Haultain Memorial and Deer Run Schools to reflect the projected student enrolment and profile for 2010-2011. 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.

One benefit of a larger student population is the ability to take advantage of efficiencies inherent in a larger staff. Final teacher staffing decisions take place in the fall of each school year, based on the September 30th actual enrolments.

Teachers would be transferred in accordance with the CBE's current staffing processes. Final teacher staffing decisions will take place in the fall of 2010, based on actual enrolments.

Support staff would be 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.

Section E: Financial & Capital Implications

The financial and operational impacts for educational programming are not key factors in the consideration of closure of Queensland Downs School and all programs contained therein. Both physical and human resources are allocated according to student enrolment/profile and would follow the students to their designated schools.

Plant, Operation and Maintenance funding is allocated by the Provincial Government based on student enrolment. Consolidating programs in residential districts with multiple underutilized facilities is therefore desirable to support fiscal responsibility and appropriate allocation of resources.

There is no known capital impact associated with the proposed school closure since no renovations or modernizations are required to accommodate the increased number of students at either Haultain Memorial or Deer Run Schools.

Section F: Future Facility Plans

At this time there are no plans to utilize Queensland Downs School for other CBE educational programming.

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

The following questions were either received prior to this public consultation meeting or were anticipated by Administration.

Question: *Why didn't you recommend closing Haultain Memorial School? I believe Queensland Downs School is more central than Haultain Memorial School and keeping it open would mean no busing would be required.*

Response: Administration considered a number of factors in developing the recommendation to consider the closure of Queensland Downs School. Three maps were shown on overhead to help illustrate some of the key considerations and complexities.

The first map illustrated the proposed administrative recommendation to consider the closure of Queensland Downs School. When reviewing the proposed attendance area and the rationale for the recommendation:

- The goal is to balance the attendance areas for the schools that remain open.
- Deer Run School is the largest school. In order to utilize this school more effectively, the attendance area for Deer Run School needs to increase.
- Haultain Memorial School is more centrally located within the residential district of Queensland and therefore no transportation will be required to Haultain Memorial School.
- Designate all students from the Deer Ridge residential district to the same school.
- Designate all students from the Deer Run residential district to the same school.

The second map shown on overhead illustrated the same proposed attendance area as the administrative recommendation, showing Queensland Downs School as the school that remains open for students north of Canyon Meadows Drive. Although this option would provide balanced catchment areas for the two schools that remain open as well as designate all students from Deer Ridge and Deer Run to the same school, this option was not selected by Administration for consideration for the following reasons:

- Queensland Downs School is not centrally located in the Queensland residential district and therefore students from Diamond Cove would require transportation to Queensland Downs School. This would mean that transportation would be required to both schools that would remain open as students from Deer Ridge would still require transportation to Deer Run School.
- Establishing the school boundary along Canyon Meadows Drive to balance the catchment areas would result in students being out of the attendance area for a school that is within walking distance.

A third map shown on overhead illustrated keeping the current attendance area for Queensland Downs School and Deer Run School if Haultain Memorial School were considered for closure. This option was not selected by Administration for consideration for the following reasons:

- The attendance areas for the two schools that remained open would not be balanced. Queensland Downs School, which has instructional space for 325 students, would be at or near capacity and Deer Run School, which has instructional space to accommodate 450 students would be approximately 50% utilized.
- Keeping the attendance area the same would mean that students in Deer Ridge would not be designated to the same school. It would also mean that students in Deer Run would not be designated to the same school. Deer River Estates, Meadowbrook Apartments and Sun Creek Coach Homes would not be designated to Deer Run School.

Transportation to Queensland Downs School from Diamond Cove would be required in this option.

Question: *Was consideration given to the use of Queensland Downs School by students from Wilma Hansen School and the proximity of the two schools?*

Response: This is a valid concern and we recognize the benefits of the proximity of the two schools; however, in meeting our objective of effectively balancing space and resources this was not a deciding factor.

A decision to close Queensland Downs School and all programs contained therein would not preclude the students at Wilma Hansen School from accessing the gym at Haultain Memorial School, and also continuing any mentoring or buddy programs.

Question: *I am really concerned that the closure of Queensland Downs School will impact day homes and daycares. Was this a consideration?*

Response: 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 day homes can change on a year-to-year basis. Therefore, in looking at student accommodation, use of day homes and daycares is one consideration of many factors in addressing accommodation challenges.

There may also be the opportunity for a potential lease for before-and-after school care at Haultain Memorial School or the community centre.

Question: *Have you considered the impact of this closure on the residents of Deer Ridge and the splitting of the current peer group at Queensland Downs School?*

Response: We are aware of the impact of potential school or program closures on student peer groups when addressing effective use of space and resources. Past experience indicates that most students are resilient and generally adapt well to change.

Currently students residing in Deer Ridge are almost evenly split in their attendance at Queensland Downs School and Deer Run School. With the proposed change to the attendance area all students residing in Deer Ridge would be designated to Deer Run School.

Question: *Is it true that if Queensland Downs School remains open and Haultain Memorial School were to close no busing would be required?*

Response: Given the geographic size of the affected attendance areas busing would be required in order to consolidate student populations from these three schools into two.

If the administrative recommendation was to consider the closure of Haultain Memorial School busing to Queensland Downs School would have been required.

OPEN DISCUSSION – COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

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 Queensland Downs School and all programs contained therein. He pointed out that 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.

Ms. S. Allan, parent of Queensland Downs School, commented that the proposed recommendation does a lot to put the students of each residential district together. She expressed the belief that the people living in the Deer Valley area do not find that to be important; that they are members of the whole area. She said that after the community engagement process she came to realize that there are six portables at Deer Run School. She asked if consideration was given to removing those portables,

and wondered why we are busing students in to the portables, when there are schools throughout the City in need of portables.

Mr. Carlton responded that if those six relocatables were removed, the capacity of Deer Run School would be down to 300 students. The CBE requires two classrooms for the Early Childhood Development Centre, and the population would then put the school over capacity and would allow a low opportunity for any future growth in the community. He pointed out that even if a fewer number of the relocatables were removed we would still have three schools within an area where only two are required.

Ms. Allan shared the belief that options have not been looked at, such as the creation of a middle school in the area, considering that enrolments are down at all three schools as well as at the junior high school Wilma Hansen.

Mr. Carlton shared that consideration was given to the enrolment at Wilma Hansen and that the CBE continues to look futuristically about what the needs may be in growing communities. He noted that filling up a school can inhibit any opportunity to be flexible in terms of further growth in particular areas of the city.

Ms. Allan noted her understanding that Wilma Hansen currently buses students in to it from other communities that do not have a school, and that there is still a lot of available space in the school. She remarked that we are not just talking about closing a school and moving children in one group to another school, but that we are splitting the students up. She felt that for some of the students it will be difficult to leave their friends, and for others it may be even more difficult if they also have to ride the bus.

Ms. C. Coady, parent of Queensland Downs School, commented that it seems to her that every time there is an issue of funding, or having to take into account budgeting matters, children always seem to lose either their school or busing or extra-curricular activities. She expressed concern that if Queensland Downs School is closed, the before and after school daycare program that is across the street from the school will not be able to take the children to and from the daycare to Haultain School because they don't have a bus system in place and they don't want to walk that far. She noted further concern that some of those young children might be left on their own to take care of themselves before and after school. An additional concern she expressed was that the community centre beside Haultain Memorial School is open to the public and anyone can go on the grounds.

Mr. S. Faivre, parent of Haultain Memorial School, felt there should not be any concerns about safety at the community centre as parents are there with children before and after school. He was of the belief that children can adapt quite easily to change, and that it may be harder on the parents.

Ms. J. Turner, parent and member of the community, noted that Queensland Downs School has larger playing fields with baseball diamonds, which Haultain Memorial School does not have. She stated there are high density residential areas close to Queensland Downs School, and that the school is used as an election polling station because of its central location. She asked if a charter or private school might be placed in either Haultain Memorial School or Queensland Downs School if one of them was to close.

Mr. Carlton stated that the decision of the placement of a charter school or private school was not in the purview of the CBE. If Queensland Downs School were to close and become surplus to the needs of the CBE, it would either be turned over to The City of Calgary or to the province. The province would determine whether or not they would place a program or charter school in the building.

Mr. S. Campsall, parent and Chair of Haultain Memorial School Parent Council, noted his thanks for the community engagement process that took place and for transparency that was provided. He stated it is not an easy matter to close a school, as there are many families that could be affected by a closure of one of the three schools in their neighbourhood. He noted his surprise that Canyon

Meadows Drive was not originally an attendance area boundary because it is a very busy road and he would not be comfortable if his children had to cross it as many as four times a day. He shared his belief that there are benefits with the location of Haultain Memorial School, such as it is not surrounded by busy thoroughfares or the commercial district; it is situated quite centrally and is surrounded by residential; it has a large ball diamond, tennis courts, a soccer pitch and an ice rink in close proximity that is available for hockey and skating. Mr. Campsall shared that the parents and staff of Haultain Memorial School have in the past and will in the future welcome incoming students and accept them with open arms.

Ms. A. Vergo, parent of Queensland Downs School, shared her concerns about safety and security, noting that Haultain Memorial School is an open concept school, which does not provide closed doors. She expressed the belief that in a child's mind, a door relates to a feeling of security. She noted that Queensland Downs School is a closed campus on private CBE property during the school hours, which can't be said about Haultain Memorial School. She noted her belief that public access is important to all people, but she did not feel it to be appropriate in this era of keeping children safe and secure.

In response to a question of safety and security of the student body at Haultain Memorial School, Mr. Carlton said that the CBE ensures that processes and procedures are put into place by the school principal to manage the risks appropriately. He noted that the CBE ensures that all of its schools are safe. The CBE has not done any particular study to determine whether one particular design – closed concept or open concept – is safer than the other. He was unaware of any such study having been undertaken by other school districts.

Ms. S. Wadman, resident of Queensland, expressed concern about children having to walk from the Queensland district to Haultain Memorial School in the cold winter months. She felt that the proposal of having no bus transportation for students to Haultain Memorial School was unacceptable, particularly in the winter months. She pointed out that some students have to be walked by a parent who sometimes has to bring along younger children because they don't drive or don't have a vehicle to drive.

Mr. Carlton stated that the walk limit is within the range that is expected for all students in the CBE. The provincial mandated walk zone, for which the CBE is obligated to provide transportation, is 2.4 km. The CBE has made a decision to establish walk zones that are well within that 2.4 km range.

Ms. Wadman asked what plans are being made for students who require special needs or a modified education program and what would happen to the resources currently being provided to those students.

Mr. Carlton stated that the resources would follow the child in accordance with their particular profile, in order to meet their educational needs.

Ms. D. Mowat, parent of children who attended Haultain Memorial School for the past three years and who now attend McKenzie Towne School, shared a letter from Ms. S. Macson, who is a parent of Haultain Memorial School. Ms. Macson's letter was filled with praise for the teaching environment, the staff, and the parent council involvement at Haultain Memorial School, which she noted contributed greatly to her children's success with both their education and their personal development. Ms. Mowat shared that her son entered Haultain Memorial School with learning disabilities and medical problems. The school embraced him and helped support him and by the end of last year he was learning at the grade standard. She noted that her children are sad to have left their friends and teachers at Haultain Memorial School. Ms. Mowat read from a letter that she had written prior to her family leaving the school, which expressed her family's gratification, admiration and respect for everyone at Haultain Memorial School. She concluded her comments with the statement that sometimes change is not a bad thing.

Mr. Carlton suggested that the letters written by Ms. Mowat and by Ms. Macson could be submitted for the record after the meeting.

Ms. J. Schmunk, parent of both Queensland Downs School and Haultain Memorial School, noted that she was a parent representative on both school councils and that they are both good schools with wonderful teachers. Ms. Schmunk shared that her daughter now attends Wilma Hansen School, which went into lock down on one occasion; that they were outside for gym when a gunman was roaming the vicinity. She pointed out that Wilma Hansen is on the same field as Queensland Downs School. She remarked that there are a lot of teenagers at Wilma Hansen School and she was of the belief that things are changing in the community due to the teenagers in the area and not because of any other outstanding forces. She felt that there is a need to look at and embrace and welcome having a school that can adequately accommodate the students of their communities. Ms. Schmunk commented on the positive side of having a stage in the gym at Haultain Memorial School, allowing for a better view of the student concerts.

Ms. T. Mandin, parent of Queensland Downs School, shared that she would be fine with change as she was of the belief that change can be good. She expressed her hope that some of the teachers would be transferred for children to have that familiarity if a school closure occurs. She stated that she would appreciate having a choice of sending her child to either Deer Run School or Haultain Memorial School, subsequent to determining what resources would be available at the two schools.

Mr. Carlton noted that all of our schools are experiencing the need to be attendant to the variety of medical and physical needs of students. He pointed out that students who wish to attend a school that is out of their attendance area must meet with the principal of the school of their choice to ascertain that space and resources are available to them. Where students are accepted as out-of-attendance, they must pay for busing as well as lunchroom fees where applicable.

Ms. E. Chivers, resident of Queensland, noted her now grown children all attended Queensland Downs School and then Wilma Hansen School. She stated that she understands the issues at hand and appreciates what the Board has to consider. She expressed hope that it will be a fair and balanced decision. Ms. Chivers asked what would happen to Queensland Downs School if it were to close. She shared her concern that it might sit and become a run-down eyesore, which she felt could lower the value of the homes in the community.

Mr. Carlton stated that where we have a school that is not being utilized for programming, the Facilities and Environmental Services has made a commitment to maintain the school in a proper manner and to attend to any vandalism that may occur. When a school is declared surplus to the CBE needs, action is taken to follow our processes and procedures and negotiations are undertaken with The City and the province to allow them to move forward in their processes. In response to a question about the ability for outside agencies to use the gym and facilities when a school is closed, Mr. Carlton said that matter is reviewed with the CBE and The City of Calgary's Parks and Recreation to see what the potential is for maintaining that use.

Mr. S. Faivre noted that there is a community pre-kindergarten centre situated beside Queensland Downs School, which he expects should be able to facilitate a before and/or after school program if the demand dictated that. He was hopeful that no one would leave their young children unattended for any time. He expressed that if children are expected to walk outside when it is cold, they should dress accordingly.

Ms. S. Allan commented on other options that she felt needed to be explored such as the middle school concept and busing students in from other communities. She believed that Queensland Downs School should not close; that keeping it open would allow many children to continue to safely walk to school instead of having to bus them.

Miss Wadman, student, noted she attended Queensland Downs School for seven years and that she believes it is a great school. She said she did not understand the reasons for closing the school. She

noted that the gym is used by sports teams and for after-school sports by students from Wilma Hansen School and she asked if consideration was given to where they might go if the school is closed.

Mr. Carlton noted that the gym at Haultain Memorial School is the same size as the one at Queensland Downs School, which the students from Wilma Hansen would be able to access.

Ms. S. Lazariuc, parent, stated that she was a survivor of when Haultain Memorial School first opened and there was a split of students between it and Queensland Downs School. She noted that she liked the fact that her child will be going to school with all of the children from his community. Ms. Lazariuc questioned what might happen to the play structures that parent councils worked so very hard at building – would they be able to move with the students?

Mr. Carlton noted that unless a move was pre-planned at the time of building the playground structures, they would not be moved. He said that it has been heard from communities who have had their school closed that the playgrounds continue to be used before and after school and on weekends.

Ms. L. Sayles, resident of Deer Valley, commented on some of the experiences she encountered with enrolling her child in various schools. She noted that she participated in closure considerations when the CBE followed the Learning Environment Action Plan (LEAP) process. She agreed that all the schools in the Deer Valley community are very good schools. Ms. Sayles shared her belief that children can be very resilient, but they would still go through a mourning and grieving process. She noted that sometimes we don't like change and even resist it, but she felt it would be helpful to keep minds open to it.

Ms. S. Hagerman shared the effects of a school closure on a personal friend of hers, noting that some people are more sensitive than others and the effects of school closure may be more lingering for them. She asked whether Haultain Memorial School would be able to accommodate the 61 students who live within the attendance area for Queensland Downs School, but are proposed to be bussed to Deer Run School if Queensland Downs School is closed.

Mr. Carlton stated that if the recommendation as proposed is approved, those 61 students would have to apply for enrolment at Haultain Memorial School because they would be considered to be out of the attendance area.

Ms. Hagerman noted that there are currently 75 available spaces at Haultain Memorial School and it is hoped that the principal would willingly accept those students that are within walking distance of the school.

Breanna and Tara, students of Queensland Downs School, noted a concern about the possibility of sports teams losing their access to the large gym that is at Queensland Downs School. They shared that students like their teachers at Queensland Downs School and it would be sad to separate them if teachers have to relocate to other schools. They noted also that the daycare located across the street from their school is really a benefit for the younger kindergarten students and for the before and after school students. They asked if any thought was given to asking the children their opinion about the potential school closure before a decision is made.

Mr. Carlton remarked that it is understood that the students will miss their teachers, and that the point is commonly made when consideration is given to closing a school. With regards to the sports teams, it is hoped that a relationship between Haultain Memorial School and Wilma Hansen School can be established to allow the sports teams to continue to play in a larger gym.

Ms. D. Harwood, parent of a special needs child, asked whether there would be special buses for special needs children. She pointed out that some children that have special needs aren't always understood by the bus driver, and some of the students can be disruptive.

Mr. Carlton stated that the CBE's transportation team works very closely with the special education specialists in determining which special needs students require transportation and what types of transportation they require. That requirement could be access to a regular bus, or curb-to-curb service, and some special needs students may even be able to walk to their school. He noted that the transportation team also dialogues with our transportation service providers to ensure that drivers understand where there are particular student needs. All of our routes are now secured with bus drivers and our carriers are working towards making the special education routes first priority to ensure that appropriate and consistent drivers are in place. Information about bus safety is shared between teachers and students.

Ms. L. Luchansky asked if teachers have been asked for their opinions about the potential closure of Queensland Downs School.

Mr. Carlton responded that under our Executive Limitations, we are obliged to engage staff in conversations related to any decisions that may impact them. Staff members were consulted as part of the engagement process to provide feedback on opportunities and challenges that they envisioned. He shared that as mentioned in the programming section of the *Written Notice*, the teachers see an inherent benefit when there are more teachers on staff; challenges were also raised, including the possibility of having to surplus teaching positions. It is believed that, regardless of what school a student attends, the important aspect is the existence of a relationship between the teacher and the student and the content of that student's learning.

Ms. Luchansky noted that in a democratic society, she holds a strong belief that it is every parents' right to have the choice of where they send their children to school; and whether it be Queensland Downs or Haultain Memorial, she felt that they should be allowed to make that choice in moving forward. She stated that the *Written Notice* appears to have a lot of material that speaks to school capacity, utilization and future growth and she expressed that all of those aspects are currently available at Queensland Downs School.

Mr. G. Lavery, stakeholder, noted that the gym at Haultain Memorial School has been removed from the rental pool, leaving Queensland Downs School gym the only one that has drop-down basketball hoops on either side. The next closest gym that would be available is Cardinal Newman Catholic School or Fish Creek School. He noted that when his children attended Wilma Hansen School and played their sports tournaments at Haultain Memorial School, it was deemed too far for them to walk and so they were bused there. Mr. Lavery commented that there will be approximately 60 kids that will be displaced through their sports program, plus about 120 kids that currently play basketball on weekends at Queensland Downs School.

Ms. B. Maclean, long time resident of the community and day home operator, noted there is a lot of vandalism in the summer months and people come in time and again to clean up the graffiti. She noted her concern that if Queensland Downs School is closed it might be vandalized regularly.

Kenton, student, asked if students residing in Deer Ridge, close to Canyon Meadows Drive, would be bused to Deer Run School if Queensland Downs School were to close.

Mr. Carlton responded that students living in Deer Ridge, north of Canyon Meadows Drive, would be bused to Deer Run School if Queensland Downs School were to close.

Kenton shared his experience and belief that having to walk a ten-minute distance to school on cold winter days is not acceptable.

Ms. C. Mackenzie shared her belief that Queensland Downs School is easier to find and more easily accessible than Haultain Memorial School. She noted that it is always being said that our kids need to be physically active; therefore, they should be walking to school whenever possible and not having to be bused. She shared that the one child that was being bused from Diamond Cove was quite often walked to school by his older brother. Ms. Mackenzie noted there is safety in numbers when it comes

to students walking to and from school. She noted that a child who currently attends Queensland Downs School has cerebral palsy and she questioned how students with physical disabilities would be accommodated in a two-storey building.

Mr. Carlton stated that the principal in deploying and organizing the school would look at what the obligations are and the commitment required to find ways in which to accommodate the learning needs of all of their students.

Ms. Mackenzie asked about parking at the community centre beside Haultain Memorial School, wondering if they have any concerns about parents parking there to drop off and pick up their children.

Mr. Carlton noted he was not aware of any concerns having been expressed.

Ms. Mackenzie noted that the day care provides hot lunches for the students who are under its care, and she noted this to be an important factor in regards to ensuring the nutritional needs of children are met. She asked if any thought was given to the potential impact on the day care centre if Queensland Downs School were to close.

Mr. Carlton noted that the CBE is cognizant of the needs and concerns related to child care, and it is one of many factors, but it is not an influential factor in relation to student accommodation.

Ms. Mackenzie shared that the students of Queensland Downs School take part in fieldtrips every month to Fish Creek Park where they learn about the wetlands and the wildlife. She believed that the ability for students to have such a learning experience that is within walking distance from their school is invaluable.

Ms. J. Zimmerman, parent of Queensland Downs School and Wilma Hansen School, noted she moved into the community a number of years ago because of the closeness of the schools. She noted that she lives just beyond Canyon Meadows Drive in Deer Ridge, in a location where it is being proposed to bus students to school. She noted her concern that parents will have to pay fees for busing, when previously their children could walk to school. A further concern she shared was about lockdowns at Wilma Hansen School and she questioned if a lockdown occurred over the lunch period, where the children would go if they could not go home – she pointed out that such a situation had happened and the students were directed to go to Queensland Downs School.

Mr. Carlton stated that the principal at Wilma Hansen would develop a crisis plan for lockdowns, determining where the most accessible and safe location would be.

Mr. J. Foster posed a question to Chief Superintendent Johnson, asking if she would consider backing a proposal that continued the Haultain Memorial School boundaries all the way across Canyon Meadows Drive and to the east. In regards to Deer River Estates, he noted there are only three students residing there that attend Haultain Memorial School.

Chief Superintendent Johnson remarked that his suggestion has been put forward and the Trustees have heard it – it is now a consideration for the Trustees.

Ms. S. Allan shared her opinion that busing is such a controversy and she did not understand the need to bus students.

Mr. Carlton noted that in relation to this student accommodation proposal, there are 60 students who reside outside of the walk zone for Deer Run School. He pointed out that if Queensland Downs School were to remain open, there would remain to be busing needs for those students who reside in Diamond Cove. Mr. Carlton stated that regardless of whether there are five students or fifty students on a bus, the cost for that busing service is the same.

Ms. Allen noted that she would prefer to see a lesser number of students taking the bus to school. She shared that Queensland Downs School was the first school to be built in the community, giving it historical significance.

Ms. C. Petersen, parent of Queensland Downs School students, noted her concern that her children may not be able to take in extra-curricular school activities if they have to ride the bus.

Mr. Carlton shared that the principal may find other opportunities during the day for those students to be engaged in school activities.

Ms. J. Turner questioned whether the CBE has done any research to find out why charter schools are attracting children out of the communities. She shared some advantages of having a community school, including family involvement in the community and she expressed that it is important to have viable schools in the community. She noted that many people buy homes in the older communities because they have schools within walking distance and they don't want their children to have to be bused. She expressed that children who are bused to a school very rarely participate in extra-curricular events and sports.

Mr. Carlton noted that following the government's announcement that it would support charter schools the CBE undertook an internal review and embarked on the creation of numerous alternative programs to allow more options to CBE students. He noted that we have many communities throughout the city that back in the 1970s built two or three schools in their neighbourhoods. Throughout the years the enrolments at those schools peaked and then dropped and most of those schools today have leveled off to a point where the new growth in the communities is not enough to stabilize, which has led the CBE to look at how to most effectively use space and resources.

Mr. M. Brennan asked about the property on which Queensland Downs School is situated.

Mr. Carlton remarked that the school building and the immediate surrounding land is considered a building envelope. The playing fields are The City of Calgary property.

Ms. T. Goebel, parent of Queensland Downs School, shared that her son has cerebral palsy and he will not be as resilient as other students might be. She commented that they chose the school because of its location so that he could walk to school with his peers, which helps to build his independence and self esteem. She expressed the belief that this will be lost if he has to board a bus and require assistance to do that, and it will be difficult for him if his comfort level that he has gained with his teachers is taken away.

Ms. S. Lazariuc noted she attended a public meeting last October in Deer Run about the closure of two green spaces – one on the community centre side of the Deer Run School, and the other in Deer Ridge. She expressed her understanding that if those green spaces are deemed to be surplus, one of The City's proposals is to put in low-income housing. She asked if there are conversations between The City and the CBE about future residential development in the communities, and would there be enough room between the two schools to accommodate an influx of students.

Mr. Carlton noted the CBE staff that review student accommodation projections are in constant communication with The City of Calgary. It is believed that the two schools, Haultain Memorial and Deer Run, would be able to attend to any future growth that may come out of future development in the communities.

Mr. B. Ashby, community member and grandparent of Queensland Downs School, shared his understanding of the need for the closure consideration process, and his hope that all options are reviewed with an open mind. He remarked that all three schools in the area are good schools. He shared a concern that the actual number of students residing in Diamond Cove alone is not reflected in any of the documents, but instead they are grouped in with the Queensland students. He felt that the students most likely to be impacted by closure are those residing in Deer Ridge. He noted that

most parents have an awareness of one school only and he asked if consideration was given to having open houses in each of the three schools before any final decision is made about closure. He also asked about the required process if a CBE student wished to attend a Catholic school.

Mr. Carlton responded to the question about having an open house at Deer Run School and at Haultain Memorial School, noting we are cautious about how we proceed in those kinds of situations; we are governed by the *Closure of Schools* Regulation, and some people might view that occurrence as a pre-determined outcome of the process by creating the perception of bias. The trustees have asked the Administration to bring forward all considerations of closure for the forthcoming school year to have the information prior to the Spring break, which would allow time both administratively and also to provide a three-month opportunity for transition planning for students who would be impacted by those potential moves. Regarding the process requirements for admission to the Catholic School Board, one must be a Catholic to attend their schools, but that is not in our purview to discuss. Mr. Carlton informed that we have ten students from Diamond Cove who attend Haultain Memorial School, and three students from Diamond Cove who attend Queensland Downs School. He noted that the CBE has an obligation to provide transportation to any child who attends a CBE school and lives inside the transportation service zone.

Mr. O. Fech, stakeholder, noted his belief that the only people who should make the final decision on the closure of a school is the people or taxpayers themselves. He questioned whether the comments made by parents and students are being heard, and if they are, then he believed the school should not be closed.

Mr. Carlton responded that this is a regulatory process in the *School Act* and it dictates that the Board of Trustees is the sole decision maker in these matters.

Ms. K. Boggs, parent of Deer Run School, shared some personal impacts in relation to finding out at her first parent council meeting, the loss of a teacher, the loss of a school in the community and the potential loss of a playground. She remarked that there is no mention of costs in this potential closure and she questioned what it costs to operate a school and what the value is of the school.

Mr. Carlton said the school is on reserve property and if the school was to be declared as surplus to the needs of the CBE and revert to The City, it would be done at the price of \$1.00; if it reverts to the province, there would be no money exchanged. There would be no change in the plant operation costs, and given that McKenzie Towne School has just opened, it would balance the closing of a school here. He pointed out that the funding follows the child and the schools are resourced based on a per pupil basis. Those resources pay for the school staff and principal and for the operations of the school.

Mr. Carlton noted that the CBE is operating three under-utilized schools in these particular communities and six new elementary schools will be opening in our system, creating 12,000 additional student spaces. The CBE enrolment has gone up by approximately 550 students. These circumstances cause disconnect with how we can provide the resources and plant operation and maintenance for those six new schools; therefore, a balance must be struck in order to balance our budget in a fiscally responsible manner.

Ms. L. Luchansky commented about the student spaces at both Queensland Downs School and Haultain Memorial School, noting her feeling they speak for themselves in terms of ability to accommodate any future growth in the communities. She noted that people feel very strongly about their communities, as expressed at this meeting. She questioned the discussion at this meeting being about why the school should be kept open instead of being about ways in which to keep the school open, such as considering the expansion of boundaries, bringing other children into the school, or making the school a partial junior high school.

Ms. C. Coady reiterated her concerns about safety and the health and well being of children. She was hopeful that the Trustees would take into consideration everything that was shared at this public

meeting. She spoke about the importance of the day care that is across the street from Queensland Downs School and noted her belief that it is imperative it remain viable to stay open to the community. She expressed her high regard for the teachers and staff of Queensland Downs School.

Ms. C. Mackenzie asked why six portables were kept at Deer Run School, and for what duration the portables were unused. She noted that some time ago there were portables at Queensland Downs School and when the enrolments dropped and they became unused they were moved to other schools that were in need of them.

Mr. Carlton responded that two of the relocatables at Deer Run School are being used for the pre-kindergarten program. He noted that should future development take place in the community, those portables could be fully utilized.

Ms. L. Vossler, parent of Deer Ridge community, asked about busing fees and whether the charges would be applied if the service was not used.

Mr. Carlton said no, that the resource is based on the eligible students; every year, families who are in the transportation zone are sent a contract and they then determine whether or not they wish to access that subsidized transportation. He pointed out that if the student is within the transportation zone but decides not to use the bus services, the student is still eligible to stay in the lunch program at no cost. He noted further that parents can claim a portion of the lunchroom fees on their income tax return because it is considered a form of child care; however, they can not claim the transportation fees.

Ms. Vossler expressed her frustration with the proposed school attendance boundaries, noting it does not make sense that even though a school is within walking distance of her home it is not the designated school for her child. She expressed concern that her child will have a difficult transition to a different school. She praised the teachers and staff of Queensland Downs School.

In regards to allowing parents the choice of where their children attend school, Mr. Carlton reiterated that choice remains to be an option - students may attend a school out of their school attendance area if the conditions that are applicable to those situations are met.

Mr. C. Wardrop asked what the difference of cost would be in closing Queensland Downs School as opposed to closing Haultain Memorial School.

Mr. Carlton stated that the costs of operating, regardless of which school stays open would be negligible. He noted that Haultain Memorial School is most centrally located in the Queensland residential district and for the Diamond Cove residential district, and no busing would be required within the two residential districts to Haultain Memorial School. If a recommendation had been made for the consideration of closure of Haultain Memorial School, there would be a requirement to bus students from Diamond Cove as well as from the Deer Run community to Deer Run School. Administration does not anticipate any expansion of the footprint of either school.

Ms. S. Allan noted that no matter the decision outcome by the Board of Trustees, there will be disappointment by some. She thanked the Board for listening to the public's comments.

Ms. C. Mackenzie shared her belief that both the Haultain Memorial School gym and the Queensland Downs gym are used to a great extent and she asked if the CBE receives revenue from the teams that utilize the gyms. She questioned also whether the Administration feels there is sufficient time to accommodate both Wilma Hansen School and all of the rest of the sports teams clubs if there ends up being only one gym available.

Mr. Carlton responded that the CBE has a joint-use agreement with The City of Calgary for the outside use of the gymnasiums after school hours. He was of the belief that such agreement was at a cost recovery for the extra caretaking that is required. He noted that should Queensland Downs School close, our rental personnel would need to have a conversation with The City of Calgary about

the opportunity to utilize the Haultain Memorial School gym, which he believed is not being utilized by outside sports clubs or teams at this time.

Mr. S. Faivre asked a question about the class sizes at the two schools.

Mr. Carlton noted the class size initiative requires the CBE to work towards a 17 to 1 ratio at the kindergarten to grade 3 level, a 23 to 1 at the grades 4, 5 and 6 level, a 25 to 1 at the grades 7, 8 and 9 level, and a 27 to 1 at grades 10, 11 and 12. He noted that principals, in organizing their school, look at the number of students in a particular grade and grade configurations and will determine how to best make up those ratios.

CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Carlton thanked everybody for attending the meeting and for providing respectful comments and input. He 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, February 1, 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>. Written submissions must be received by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 2, 2010.

Mr. Carlton clarified that the Board meeting to discuss the consideration of closure of Queensland Downs School and all programs contained therein would be on or about Tuesday, February 2, 2010. The Regulation requires a full three weeks between the public meeting and the board meeting to discuss the motion. 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 this meeting has been an important contribution to the Board's decision-making process.

Mr. Carlton declared the meeting closed at 9:48 p.m.

Note to Reader:

The Minutes of the Public Meeting re: Discussion Respecting Consideration of Closure of Queensland Downs School and All Programs Contained Therein, held in the gymnasium, 199 Queen Charlotte Way SE, Calgary, Alberta on Thursday, January 7, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. include the major points of discussion - they are not a verbatim transcript of the meeting.