

CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Public Meeting re: Discussion Respecting Consideration of Closure of the Kindergarten to Grade 6 Regular Program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School, held in the Dr. J.K. Mulloy School Gymnasium, 7440 – 10 Street NW, Calgary, Alberta on Monday, February 8, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Board of Trustees:

Ms. P. Cochrane, Board Chair, Trustee – Wards 8 & 9
Mr. G. Dirks, Trustee – Wards 1 & 2
Ms. L. Ferguson, Trustee - Wards 3 & 4
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. Susan Church, Director, Area II
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 the Kindergarten to Grade 6 Regular Program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School”, Monday, February 8, 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 7:00p.m. He stated that 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 introduced the Trustees present and the Calgary Board of Education Administration. He noted also the attendance of Ms. B. Swanson, Principal of Dr. J.K. Mulloy School and gave recognition to the teachers and staff members that were in attendance.

Mr. Carlton stated 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 the Kindergarten to Grade 6 Regular Program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School* were available on the table at the back of the gymnasium.

OPENING REMARKS

Chief Superintendent N. Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked those who have committed significant time in relation to this matter. She spoke of the advisory and support role of Administration in these proceedings. She 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 the kindergarten to grade 6 regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School. Calgary Board of Education was provided with feedback from the focus groups and open houses.

On December 15, 2009 after deliberation, Trustees voted to consider closure of the kindergarten to grade 6 regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School. She 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. She 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

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. P. 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 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 of the kindergarten to grade 6 regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy 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 Calgary Board of Education 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, March 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 school 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."

Mr. Carlton 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 of the regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School and ultimately make a decision. It was pointed out that the public also has until 12:00 noon on Monday, March 1, 2010 to submit written follow-up questions and until 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 to provide further written submissions regarding this closure consideration.

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 given by Mr. Carlton.

Issue

The key issue is that there are four elementary schools (Alex Munro School, Catherine Nichols Gunn School, Dr. J.K. Mulloy School and Huntington Hills School) in the Huntington Hills residential district, and there are not enough kindergarten to grade six regular program students in the residential district to support these four schools.

With the opening of the new Panorama Hills School in August 2009, kindergarten to grade three students who were bused to Dr. J.K. Mulloy School are now designated to the new school in Panorama Hills. Kindergarten to grade 4 students will be designated to the new school beginning the 2010-2011 school year. A new grade 5 to 9 middle school is scheduled to open in August 2012 in the residential district of Panorama Hills.

Student Accommodation Proposal

The student accommodation proposal includes the staged closure of the regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School. Kindergarten to grade 6 students in the attendance area for Dr. J.K. Mulloy School will be designated to Huntington Hills School. Grades 5 and 6 students from the residential district of Panorama Hills will continue to be designated to Dr. J.K. Mulloy School until the middle school in Panorama Hills opens.

It is recommended that students currently in grades 4 and 5 from the Huntington Hills residential district will have the option to complete their division at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School.

Rationale

Student enrolment from the residential district of Huntington Hills is either stable and/or declining. Huntington Hills School has the capacity to provide a kindergarten to grade 6 regular program for students in the Dr. J.K. Mulloy School attendance area, residing west of Center Street, in the residential district of Huntington Hills.

Alex Munro School and Catherine Nichols Gunn School will continue to provide a kindergarten to grade 6 regular program for students in their attendance area and continue to accommodate system special education classes.

Administration is accountable for the effective development of transportation service areas and walk zones.

In addressing student accommodation issues, administration strives to achieve effective use of space and resources; including plant operation and maintenance.

Section A: Implications for Affected Attendance Areas

Current Attendance Areas

A map was shown on overhead illustrating the current attendance areas for Dr. J.K. Mulloy School and Huntington Hills School (the map is on page 4 of the *Written Notice*).

Schools and Programs

Dr. J.K. Mulloy School offers a kindergarten to grade 6 regular program for students in the attendance area from a portion of the residential district of Huntington Hills. As of August, 2009 the kindergarten to grade 3 students from Panorama Hills have been designated to the new Panorama Hills School. Grade 4 students from the residential district of Panorama Hills will be designated to Panorama Hills School beginning the 2010-2011 school year. Students in grades 5 and 6 from the residential district of Panorama Hills remain designated to Dr. J.K. Mulloy School.

A chart was shown on overhead, noted to be on page 3 of the *Written Notice*, identifying the actual September 30, 2009 kindergarten to grade 6 enrolment at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School. A total of 290 students are enrolled at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School of which 85 students reside in the Huntington Hills residential district and 197 students reside in the residential district of Panorama Hills.

Huntington Hills School offers a kindergarten to grade 6 regular program for students in the attendance area from portions of the residential districts of Huntington Hills and Thorncliffe. Special education programming is offered at Huntington Hills School to students in the Learning and Literacy and Paced Learning classes.

A chart on page 3 of the *Written Notice* illustrates the actual September 30, 2009 enrolment for Huntington Hills School.

It was noted that the total capacity between the two schools is 850 student spaces and as of September 30, 2009, the total enrolment between both schools is 486 students.

Proposed Attendance Areas

A map on page 5 of the *Written Notice* illustrates the proposed attendance area that would take effect if the kindergarten to grade 6 regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School is closed.

Change of Designation

Page 6 of the *Written Notice* indicates the student designations that will change if the regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School is closed.

Kindergarten to grade 6 students residing in the residential district of Huntington Hills who are currently designated to Dr. J.K. Mulloy School would be designated to Huntington Hills School; however, current students in grades 4 and 5 from this area will have the option of completing their division at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School.

Students in grades 5 and 6 from the residential district of Panorama Hills remain designated to Dr. J.K. Mulloy School until the new middle school opens.

Projected Enrolment for Dr. J.K. Mulloy School

On page 6 of the *Written Notice* the chart indicates the projected 2010 enrolment for Dr. J.K. Mulloy School, if the kindergarten to grade 6 regular program is closed and students are designated to Huntington Hills School, as proposed.

For September 2010 Dr. J.K. Mulloy School is projected to have 27 grades 5 and 6 students from the residential district of Huntington Hills and 146 grades 5 and 6 students who reside in the residential district of Panorama Hills.

Students in the regular kindergarten to grade 6 program at Catherine Nichols Gunn School and Alex Munro School would not be affected by a decision to close the regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School.

Projected Enrolment for Huntington Hills School

Huntington Hills School has instructional space to accommodate 350 students and, as of September 30, 2009, has an enrolment of 196 students. The chart on page 7 of the *Written Notice* shows the projected 2010 enrolment for Huntington Hills School, if the accommodation proposal is implemented.

The school has the instructional space to accommodate all kindergarten to grade 6 regular program students residing in the attendance areas of Dr. J.K. Mulloy School and Huntington Hills School, as well as the students in the Learning and Literacy and Paced Learning classes. The location of Special Education classes is reviewed annually, in order to best meet the needs of the students.

Should the accommodation proposal to close the regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School be approved, 51 students in kindergarten to grade 6 from Dr. J.K. Mulloy School are projected to attend Huntington Hills School.

Section B: Implications Relative to Calgary Board of Education's Long Range Capital Plan

Capital Plan

The Calgary Board of Education's School Capital Plan 2010-2013 identifies strategies to provide new and modernized schools in closer proximity to student populations and was submitted to the Province in April 2009.

Regardless of the outcome of the consideration of closure of the regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School, the plan recommends Dr. J.K. Mulloy School for a modernization to improve functionality and upgrade building infrastructure. An estimated cost of the modernization is \$5.2 million and it is the Calgary Board of Education's 16th modernization priority in the plan. All capital projects require provincial funding approval to proceed.

The Calgary Board of Education's Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2009-2018 provides detailed site, building, program and planning information for each school building.

Both documents are available from any Calgary Board of Education school or can be accessed on the Calgary Board of Education website at: <http://www.cbe.ab.ca/aboutus/documents.asp>

Section C: Implications with Respect to Busing

If the kindergarten to grade 6 regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School is closed, administration anticipates that all students in the current Dr. J.K. Mulloy School attendance area reside within the Walk Zone for Huntington Hills School. There are no anticipated implications for busing.

Appendix 1 on page 13 of the *Written Notice* provides the proposed Walk Zone Map for Huntington Hills School (if the kindergarten to grade 6 regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School is approved for closure).

Section D: Educational, Programming and Staffing Impacts

Educational Impact if Program is Not Closed

Projections for the 2010-2011 school year indicate that the non-closure of the kindergarten to grade 6 regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School would result in a total of 228 students, kindergarten to grade 6, in a facility that can accommodate 500 students.

As of 2012, a new middle school in Panorama Hills is projected to open and grades 5 and 6 students from the residential district of Panorama Hills will be designated to this school, further diminishing the student population at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School. This decrease is approximately 150 students resulting in a potential enrolment of less than 100 students, kindergarten to grade 6.

If the regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School is not closed, Calgary Board of Education would continue to offer a regular program for the few remaining students at the school.

Low enrolment makes effective organization for instruction increasingly challenging. This creates constraints when organizing students into classroom groupings for instruction. As funding is provided on a per student basis and staff is allocated according to the number of students, the ability to best meet the learning needs and interests of a small number of regular program students is challenging with fewer staff for the regular program.

The chart on page 8 in the *Written Notice* demonstrates the imbalance of students in the kindergarten to grade 6 program. The kindergarten and grade 1 projections total 8 students combined.

Educational Impact if the Program is Closed

As a result of this accommodation proposal, Huntington Hills School will have a larger student population. Therefore the principal will have greater flexibility in determining how to effectively allocate physical and human resources to best serve the learning needs of students, e.g., the ability for principals to deploy staff as generalists or subject specialist teachers.

Staffing Impact

Staffing resources are allocated to schools on a per school base allocation, student enrolment and student profile. Should the kindergarten to grade 6 regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School be closed, resource allocation levels would be adjusted at Huntington Hills School 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 staffing decisions cannot be made until the actual number of students and their unique learning needs are determined.

Teachers would be transferred in accordance with the Calgary Board of Education'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 and considered for placement and recall in accordance with the Calgary Board of Education and 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 and Capital Implications

Financial and Operational Costs

The financial and operational cost is negligible as it is anticipated that the Dr. J.K. Mulloy School facility will continue to be used for Calgary Board of Education purposes. The financial and operational costs are not key factors in the consideration of closure of the regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School; both physical and human resources are allocated according to student enrolment and profile and would follow the students to their designated school.

The proposed designation of students should the kindergarten to grade 6 regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School close would increase the future utilization of Huntington Hills School.

Capital Impacts

There is no known capital impact associated with the proposed program closure.

Section F: Future Facility Plans

It is anticipated that Dr. J.K. Mulloy School will be utilized by the Calgary Board of Education for educational purposes.

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

Previously Submitted or Anticipated Questions

Question: In the Written Notice you indicate that it is anticipated that Dr. J.K. Mulloy School will be used for educational purposes. What do you mean by this?

Response: In Area II we have other student accommodation challenges that must be addressed. For example the Area II TLC program continues to grow and requires additional space.

Question: Does my grade 5 child have to remain at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School or can they go to Huntington Hills School with their grade two brother?

Response: Yes, current grades 4 and 5 students living in the current attendance area for Dr. J.K. Mulloy School would have the option to move to Huntington Hills School.

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 kindergarten to grade 6 regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy 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 Calgary Board of Education administrator for response.

Ms. T. Glass asked questions about the following issues:

- the size of Panorama Hills School;
- the plans for Dr. J.K. Mulloy School if the regular program closes; and
- Huntington Hills School and whether it was considered for closure a few years back.

Mr. Carlton responded that the capacity at Panorama Hills School is 500 students. He noted that the Calgary Board of Education is planning for future educational uses for Dr. J.K. Mulloy School, should the regular program close. He pointed out that Huntington Hills School did go through a closure consideration process, along with a number of other schools at that particular time, and it was determined that the school was able to offer an alternative program that was viable and sustainable. We use The City of Calgary

census data to form our student projections into the future, and even though our kindergarten population is increasing, it is not considered sufficient to warrant four schools in the area.

Ms. K. Strangway, parent of a grade 5 student at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School, and resident of Panorama Hills, questioned where her child would attend school for grade 7 in 2011. She noted that she has a second child who currently attends Sir John A. Macdonald School, and a third child who currently attends John G. Diefenbaker High School. Her preference is for her youngest child to transition through the same schools that her other children attended.

Mr. Carlton noted that the transitioning of students is closely looked at, especially for the grades 5 and 6 students in these situations, and every attempt possible is made to reduce the number of transitions for those students. He pointed out that the expectation is that when a new school opens in a community, that all students from the community would be designated to that particular school; however, the option is available for students to apply to register at any school in the Calgary Board of Education as an out of attendance area student. He stated that the high school designations do not change as a part of this process.

Ms. S. Thompson asked about the attendance boundaries for the Traditional Learning Centre (TLC), in the event that the regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy closes.

Mr. Carlton noted that the closure consideration process that is underway for the regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School is completely separate from any other consideration of closure processes that might be underway. He stated that the Board of Trustees will debate the consideration of closure of the regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School at least three weeks subsequent to this particular meeting. He clarified that in a separate regulatory process, the Board of Trustees is looking at the consideration of closure of the TLC program at Highwood School for the purpose of relocating that program. That public meeting will be held next week, and subsequent to that public meeting and after at least three weeks has lapsed, the Board of Trustees will debate that particular issue.

Ms. S. Church noted that if the question relates to the community designations for the TLC program as it currently exists, those attendance boundaries can be accessed through the school or through the Calgary Board of Education website.

Ms. L. Li, parent of a grade 4 student at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School, expressed her concern that the grades 5 and 6 students might have to go through excessive moves and she questioned if it would be possible for those students to attend Panorama School for September 2010, or allowing for a TLC program to be offered to the grades 1 to 6 students at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School.

Mr. Carlton responded that Dr. J.K. Mulloy School will continue to offer the regular program to grades 5 and 6 until 2012, after which time those students from the Panorama Hills residential district would attend the new middle school that will open in 2012 in Panorama Hills. The TLC program for grades 1 to 4 will remain at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School, alongside the regular program for grades 5 and 6 students for the next two years.

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 Calgary Board of Education on or before 12:00 noon on Monday, March 1, 2010 and written submissions must be received by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 2, 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>.

He thanked everybody for attending the meeting and for providing respectful comments and input. He noted that it is anticipated that the Board meeting to discuss the consideration of closure of the regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School would be Tuesday, March 2, 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 7:46 p.m.

Note to Reader:

The Minutes of the Public Meeting re: Discussion Respecting Consideration of Closure of the regular program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy School, held in the gymnasium, 7440 – 10 Street NW, Calgary, Alberta on Monday, February 8, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. include the major points of discussion - they are not a verbatim transcript of the meeting.