

update

October 2, 2015

Piitoayis Family School**Background**

In January 2014, Alberta Infrastructure announced funding for the modernization and renovation of Harold W. Riley School for the purpose of creating an Aboriginal Learning Centre (ALC). The ALC will be a place for quality learning based on First Nations, Métis and Inuit holistic lifelong learning models. It will provide early learning programming for First Nations, Métis and Inuit learners who are between the ages of 3 - 8 and support for their families. The ALC will become a learning hub for our staff and students to deepen their knowledge and understanding of First Nations, Métis cultures, histories and ways of knowing. The ALC will also become a gathering place for the Calgary community to hold Aboriginal cultural celebrations, ceremonies and events. The modernization process is currently underway. When the ALC opens in September 2016, there will be an impact on the enrolment at Piitoayis Family School.

Working with Stakeholders

CBE Administration has been engaged in an engagement process with stakeholders. Initial meetings were held with Elders in January 2015 and with parents in March 2015 specifically to discuss the change in programming that would occur when the ALC opens and what impact that would have on the existing Piitoayis Family School.

Administration developed three options for students. Stakeholders were presented with these three scenarios and given opportunities to provide further feedback through telephone conversations with the school leadership team, and through an online survey tool.

After reviewing the feedback provided, CBE Administration has determined that Scenario 3 is the preferred option. In this scenario, current students at Piitoayis Family School will have an option to transfer to the new ALC when it opens. A reverse phase-out will occur and the ALC will transition towards accommodating pre-kindergarten to Grade 3 by September 2018. Students will also have the option to return to their regular program designated school.

Moving Forward

Implementation of Scenario 3 involves the closure of Piitoayis Family School effective June 30, 2016. CBE Administration will be bringing a report forward in November that will ask the Board of Trustees to consider the closure of Piitoayis Family School.

There is an opportunity for parents to learn more about the transition plan for students, the consideration of closure motion and the process at the Piitoayis Family School council meeting on Thursday October 15 from 1:30 to 2:45.

Yours truly,



Calvin Davies
Director, Area IV



Carrie Edwards
Director
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