

Calgary Board of Education Area 6 and 7 Impacted Schools – Group A

Rosscarrock, West Ridge, West Springs and Wildwood Schools
Report of Findings Feb. 23, 2018

Prepared by:
CBE Communications &
Community Engagement



**Calgary Board
of Education**

Background

- ❖ The Area 6 and 7 impacted schools – Group A online survey was available to parents and others Feb. 9-22, 2018. The thoughts and perspectives provided through this survey will be considered by decision-makers as proposed scenarios are refined.
- ❖ The survey received 54 responses.
- ❖ This report includes survey results and comments.

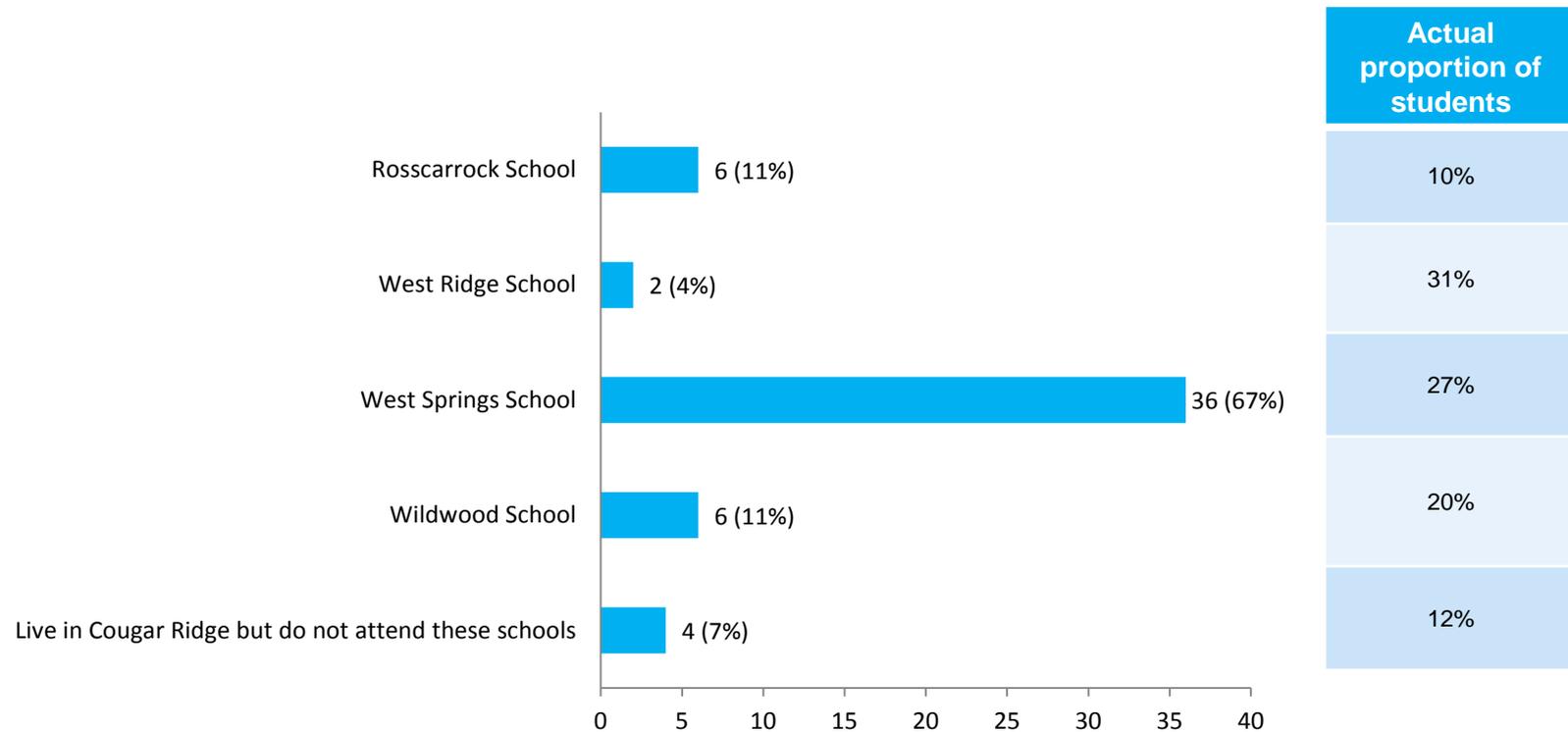


About the Participants



Group A – Representation by School or Community

Please indicate the school you are commenting about. Answered: 54



Survey Comments

- ❖ Following are the comments captured for all open-ended questions in this survey





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Area 6 and 7 Impacted Schools Online Survey – Group A Comments for Decision-Makers – Feb. 9 to 22, 2018

Comments compiled: Feb. 23, 2018

Below you will find all comments provided in the survey as they were written. Comments have not been edited for spelling, grammar, sentence structure or otherwise, Comments have been edited to ensure anonymity. We also edited or omitted abusive, discriminatory and otherwise inappropriate comments.

Q2 What are the opportunities for the proposed scenario? – 47 responses

- bring communities together at all grades
- None
- children from West Springs and Cougar Ridge attend school closer to home
- More families in the area able to have children attend closer neighbourhood schools.
- Kids go to closer school
- Kids go to close school
- Kids go to closer school
- Kids can attend schools that are closer to home
- kids go to closet school
- Kids go to closer school
- Allows our kids go to closest school.
- Kids can go to closer school
- I do not see any opportunities.
- Allow students to attend a school closer to home and build friendships with children whom they have gotten to know while participating in community sports/events.
- That a small number of cougar ridge students will have opportunity to go to school close to home.
- More funding
- Less bussing time for kids, better community engagement as kids will be going to school with kids in their immediate communities
- To allow Cougar Ridge students to attend school closer to home.
- Children can be close to home, close to siblings in middle school next door with better bell/sleep times, avoid long bus rides and avoid being shuffled to Rosscarrock from Wildwood school or the need to find own transportation. Children will develop long term community relationships from K-9 in schools with children close to home.
- No opportunities.
- Cougar Ridge students being able to go to an elementary school closer to home.
- Ability for my preschooler to attend elementary school close to home next year. Shorter commute would be safer and allow us to put them in after



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school care also nearby in our community. Attending West Springs would enable our child to make friends in our neighbourhood to play with at the park and play with at soccer. Fosters a sense of community.

- Perhaps some interesting programming at Wildwood School could happen like STEM programming? Some of our community members send their kids to Calgary Connect, perhaps this gives Wildwood School more of an opportunity to be competitive with schools like Connect by offering more academic programming like STEM or Outdoor Pursuits etc?
- None! Great for west springs families and awful for the rest of us. Thanks Cbe!
- It will be great to see kids from Cougar Ridge in the REGULAR program having a consistent school close to home.
- Community building; student cohorts
- Good and clean
- Cougar Ridge students to go to a school close to home. Allows them to join their cohorts at an earlier age.
- Gives Cougar Ridge families a sense of belonging in their community.
- Closer to Cougar Ridge.
- Chance for Cougar Ridge students to attend school closer to home, to join the cohort of students they will be going to school with at an earlier age, increase the sense of belonging in the community.
- My children from Wildwood would attend West Spring and my older child at West Ridge.
- Cougar Ridge will have a school closer to home
- Cohorts can stay together
- Less time on buses, less busses needed, siblings can walk together to West Springs and west ridge, easier to volunteer when the school is close by, Rosscarrock is quite full so possibly having smaller classes would be great
- The proposed scenario would keep my kids closer to home while attending school. Less risk of long commute to school.
- Request that students and prospective students attend the west springs school which is closer to home. This will ensure students from the same community stay together and travel time is less.
- Proximity to home would be great.
- Higher student enrollment = higher funding from CBE so therefore more opportunities for the students there.
- I would guess fundraising initiatives would be successful and would allow for more purchases/opportunities for the students.
- I hope I have selected the correct school above.
- I have a child that will be designated to Rosscarrock in the fall, which we are hoping to have the proposed scenario Approved and move the designated school to West Springs.
- We are very happy that kids in our community would be able to reduce travel time to and from school.



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- On snow days like we just experienced, it could take over an hour to get a child to school
- We want kids in the neighborhood to go to school together.
- Just a very short-term solution to accommodate Cougar Ridge children closer to home. West Springs is in the process of building new districts with over 3,500 people to live in the years to come. Even those families will have issues to get a spot at West Springs School when all is developed.
- Cougar Ridge can finally has a school 5 minutes from home, after very long time.
- Thank you for listening! I thought the proposed scenario was fair and responsive to the needs in our community.
- I think it makes sense for many reasons to allow Cougar Ridge students to attend West Springs - close by, the communities are already linked by community association, the neighbourhoods both feed into West Ridge....
- Kids attending school close to home, bringing CR and WS communities together.
- Allow my children to attend school in their community (Cougar Ridge) with other kids in the neighborhood instead of driving halfway to downtown to get to school.
- There are no opportunities - the scenario of stopping bus service forces my child to attend 3 schools in 3 years.

Q3 What are the challenges for the proposed scenario? – 47 responses

- school will be full, turn communities against each other if the numbers end up too high - need to ensure proper predictions and data are used to provide comfort to families so they can plan for their child's education future
- We will AGAIN lose our library, teachers room, music room, etc! These are IMPORTANT to a normal school experience for children!
- linking of times for families with West Ridge School and West Springs School starting and ending at different times. These should be linked for the community and families, especially with more families having children in both school.
- Larger class sizes
- More students has potential for more diverse learning needs- how will this addressed?
- Worried about losing common areas, music room, library, etc.
- More traffic on an already congested and often dangerous street.
- No challenges
- No challenges
- With enrolment decreases every year Wildwood is at risk of closing.
- No challenges
- None
- no challenges
- No challenges



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- No challenges
- No Challenge
- Does not seem to have any challenges.
- No challenge.
- West Springs School already feels full and adding more kids will only make this problem worse. There are currently only 2 entrance doors for the entire school and the kids already are cramped in these entrances when entering school. More students will make this problem worse, including during unexpected emergencies, etc. Also, should not increase class sizes or lose the music room or library space.
- I feel that there are several challenges. 1. Potential lottery system for Cougar Ridge students. I feel that all children residing in CougarRidge, regardless of their current school choice, should be eligible to attend a school closer to home. There have been assumptions made for parents who chose to put their children in an alternative program or other. With no school choice close to home parents made choices that best fit their needs at that time and now they are being penalized for this decision. 2. No priority registration for families (CougarRidge specifically) who have, or will have, children attending WestRidge.
- The larger number of cougar ridge residents not attending Rosscarrock or wildwood will not have the opportunity to go to school close to home-based on cbe assumption that we chose alternate cbe ENGLISH programming because it was our intention to keep our kids there. Cougar ridge has had TWO overflow schools in the short time I've lived here (5years). The proposal misses resolves NOTHING for the MAJORITY of cougar ridge kids.
- It creates a large school, push class sizes, we already don't have gym everyday. Events that we have at the school always sell out and not everyone can attend because of the fire requirements of the space so kids miss out on the community building with in the school with just West Springs families. How full Maple roots is - if we have lower enrolment maybe we could get before an after kindergarten care?
- Over-crowding. While it appears that students from some schools will maintain a priority it will put undue pressure on west springs when it appears that wildwood is under capacity.
- Some children not in their designated school now might not get into West Springs. CBE runs schools well and even at capacity West Springs will be a great school for all.
- There are Griffith Woods, Dr.Roberta Bondar, Olympic Heights and West Springs schools that are accessible for Cougar Ridge community. I am not sure why these schools are not included in the proposed scenario as these schools are close to home. Students who are in alternate programs are excluded. They are not given the equal opportunity in priority enrollment and are succumb to lottery system.



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- Instead the current proposed scenarios reflected the following schools: Alexander Ferguson, Glenbrook, Glendale, Richmond, Wildwood and Rosscarrock.
- Overcrowding at West Springs. Difficulties managing lotteries. I worry that class sizes are going to be bigger which is a tremendous disservice to students.
- Hopefully, there will be enough space at West Springs and the classrooms won't be overcrowded. Also, I don't like the uncertainty of participating in a lottery.
- What if the numbers get too low? This is such a supportive and diverse community with a history of greatness at our school...is there a chance our numbers will get too low?
- I am disappointed that Cougar Ridge are put in the position of a lottery. My older kids have gone through wildwood school which was a great school but bussing was long (and annoyingly we had to pay for it for two kids which now would be free). We have another child that is due to attend elementary and would like them to attend locally. I would like to see my child in a local school and next door to my kids at West Ridge. Why is Cougar Ridge pushed out of planning and decision making again! It is extremely frustrating that our kids get the scraps at the school designation table. It is treasful and destabilizing for families to have a lottery.
- Security
- Overcrowding at West Springs; negative feelings about lottery & priority; parent drop off/pick up parking/access at West Springs
- Some time busy late and cold
- Uncertainty over the lottery.
- Finding before, after and kinder care.
- Some uncertainty around the lottery process for those who end up a part of it. Is this a permanent solution? Cougar Ridge families are growing wary of bouncing around
- None. This would be the perfect scenario. Busing is the only issue but I think I'm out of the bus range so would probably be driving them.
- The proposed scenario will lead to over crowding at West Springs School and potentially impact programming.
- School will be full immediately. We will once again face lotteries and be pushing Cougar kids back to other schools. We create issues with full schools and fighting in the area. What happens when more children from Cougar Ridge want to come to West Springs? Will we push out West Springs children? No...we will send Cougar Ridge kids back to schools which basically means we are back where we started
- Worried about class sizes
- The only challenge would be regarding the lottery scenario as this would create uncertainty. Also challenges are created if decision is not reflected in



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September 2018 as we would like to enroll my son at Westsprings for kindergarten this fall.

- None that come to mind
- Possible closure of the learning commons and/or music room. Feeling of resentment from parents that more students were allowed into the school. higher student:teacher ratio
- Lottery system - Hopefully it doesn't go to a lottery situation and we are able to gain entry into West Springs under the proposed number of spaces.
- Way to less building of schools in the last years and it's still not getting much better. Cougar Ridge needs an elementary school, The whole area needs another High School. Ernest Manning is at capacity already!!!
- West Spring cannot meet the demand and kids from Cougar Ridge still need to wait for a spot.
- That we will always be a second priority community of students. Kids could get moved at anytime and younger siblings may not attend the same school in later years.
- Ensuring West Springs does not get overcrowded.
- I think a holistic view has to be taken for students from Cougar Ridge and West Springs to attend West Springs AND West Ridge Schools. Having different start times for these schools where they are right next to each other is very difficult for families to accommodate. It is crazy how many parents are parked at the beginning and end of each day, idling in their cars, waiting for their children from both schools. This is inefficient and harmful to the environment. Ideally there will be a bus that serves CR and a bus that serves WS and both schools start at the same time. Students in walking distance can walk with older siblings. Right now the older siblings start school earlier and it's not safe to leave a 5 year old waiting for their school to start.
- B&A Care at West Springs is full. Would need other options for before and after school (and PD days) if we can't get in for Sept 2018.
- My children will be forced to attend 3 different schools in the next 3 years by stopping bus service to Wildwood from Cougar Ridge. Move to Rosscarock or West Springs for grade 4 then West Ridge in grade 5. Completely unacceptable.

Q4 Are there any other considerations for this scenario? – 37 responses

- alignment of the school hours between West Ridge and West Springs with both schools having the same families for intake - this difference in hours causes strains on children and family - from child care to drop-offs and pick-ups.
- Continue Cougar Ridge (and other out of bounds kids) good to their DESIGNATED schools of Wildwood, Westgate & Rosscarrock.



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- The start and end times. There should be alignment between the middle and elementary school that are next to each other - to help families whether with drop-offs, child care, and family alignment.
- We are opening up the school to an already established neighbourhood and we will be at capacity; where will all the kids go who move into the neighbourhood in the areas that are not yet complete? West Springs is not "finished". We still have large developments that are planned for the area...where will those kids go?
- No
- No.
- No
- If there is room for extra kids at West Springs School, allow the grades 5 and 6 to return to West Springs School so that that these grades can be within a complete elementary experience: grades K to 6. Having Grades 5 and 6 at a large middle school seems awkward. Also, there are many new neighborhoods coming up in West Springs. Prediction of numbers cannot be properly accessed until these areas are complete and families have moved in.
- 1. Bell times. The concern for the working family appears to be abjectly lacking in any decision the CBE has made when it comes to the recent and upcoming changes to bell times. Parents with children attending both WestSprings and WestRidge have to deal with a significant delta in bell times between the two schools. This creates many challenges associated with childcare.
 2. Busing & Walk Zones - Proposed changes to walk zones need to consider the traffic volumes on the roads that our children would have to cross and the fact that we have winter weather conditions that create additional hazards. Again I don't find that the focus is on the safety or in the best interest of our children.
 3. New residential developments - CougarRidge residents have always benefited the least from any new school development. As designated school zones shifted, children from CR appear to be the ones most affected and least recognized with local school choices. With the new developments underway in the WSCR and surrounding communities there is serious concern that our children will once again be seen as the "lowest on the totem pole" and will be bumped from any opportunity to attend schools in our area.
- Change school boundaries. Allow cougar ridge to attend one of the three new schools that opened up on the hill this year.
- What is best for the kids, a school that is always theirs, no more unknowns, lotteries unrest with in the community - you saw how it keeps dividing us. Imagine when not everyone gets in. Cohorts will be split up as some get in and others do not and this will continue. I want this decision to be based more on the kids and not the pressure from the parents - this is not for their



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convince of having a close school...some parents were going to move in the middle of the year into the English program just to get in. They clearly do not have their Childs interest at heart. Please do not give into parent pressure - remember number 1. Kids come first

- Where will the students under the Spanish program at Rosscarrock go to? My son is currently in grade 2.
 - Other students already in the public system that live in Cougar ridge. Is there are students at Roberta Bondar school who may be affected and desire to go to a school closer to home. I feel that the number of students affected is higher than anticipated. The lottery process seems to be most fair but will leave many families unhappy.
 - No other scenario is any better. No scenario can be perfect for everyone. The sooner the proposed scenario is confirmed and the sooner it is implemented the better.
 - Provide propose scenario for Group C Schools which includes Griffith Woods, Dr.Roberta Bondar, Olympic Heights and West Springs schools
 - Perhaps giving it one more year to think things through more precisely. This is a very big transition year at West Springs and West Ridge with new principals and both schools still getting their sea legs. Bill 28 (or whatever bill that has changed bussing yet again) - is going to create change as well and I just don't feel that we should be making these major decisions as a knee jerk reaction when it's not clear that the CBE really has a grasp what is going on yet with numbers of potential students. Figure out the bussing. Figure out the ridiculous bell times that the CBE proposed for West Springs and West Ridge - get all the bumps out and then make the change.
 - Could Wildwood School become K-9?
 - Yes shift boundaries for all schools locally. Move families closer to Rosa trick and wildwood to those schools, like Strathcona and Patterson. Why bus kids from a long way away? You are playing a game of jigsaw puzzles but never actually addressing the underlying issues.
 - Is it possible to survey the other 75% of families who have chosen alternative programs to see if they wish to continue on with the the same programming next year (just to get an idea of numbers, instead of having people fearing the lottery process)?
 - Redrawing ALL boundaries West of Sarcee? New housing going up east of 85th? Number of Spanish & French students willing to choose English program is available closer to home....
 - No
 - Prioritizing families of students already attending West Ridge.
 - Have you considered the potential increase in West Springs population and school enrollment impact from the West Springs ASP that's currently underway - including West District and West Park.
- <https://engage.calgary.ca/westspringsasp>



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- Is there a way to include a priority for families who have older siblings attending Westridge? This will keep siblings in close proximity to one another, making it easier for families to plan proper child care.
- If they do not go ahead with this proposed plan, I will have three children in three different schools, which is ridiculous.
- Cougar Ridge needs a school of its own
- Status quo is an option don't forget
- Parents Of cougar Ridge students will probably participate more when kids are close to home meaning more help and money
- Wondering if bussing routes would also be modified to reflect the proposed scenario. Not a necessity as we will be happy if our child can go to Westsprings but worth a mention.
- No
- Looking at moving boundary lines for all schools on the hill to see if that would accommodate all the families on the hill.
- Should we not be successful in the Lottery for West Springs, and then overflowed into Wildwood, any bussing concerns need to be addressed.
- Concerned with bussing scenarios for next year when they complete Grade 4 at Wildwood, while living in Cougar Ridge.
- Start planning and building an elementary school for Cougar Ridge (which takes 1-2years) and a High School (which takes even longer) for area 6/7 now and accommodate the students in the meantime close to home on available schools. But start planning and building asap!!!
- N/A
- Opening some space for Cougar Ridge students at Roberta Bondar. If not available, a school REALLY needs to be built for our community. There are a lot of young children and families.
- Manage capacities. Please no more lotteries.
- Reinstate bus service for Cougar Ridge students to Wildwood. This is the only acceptable solution.

Q5 Other comments? - 35 responses

- need to consider alignment of school hours and what they should be. hours to date were based upon the school bussing requirements and this will change with the possibility of more children being bussed. however, children's education needs to be considered very first - what is the impact of the long school day on the learning of the young elementary grades
- This issue has to stop coming up in these school areas!
- Start and end times of school - do they make sense for the community and ensuring that they meet the students' needs for learning first!
- Consideration of before and after care at the middle school...
- Prefer my child to stay out for next year.



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- providing accessible good educational opportunity for kids has been historically proven to be always beneficial for the whole society and it worths every effort.
- Nothing
- No.
- Instead of defining boundaries by community, it should be by distance.
- West Springs School finally has a feeling of completeness. Adding more students when a change from K-6 to K-4 was only this year is a lot of change year after year. Allow West Springs School to settle and not have a change every year.
- Class sizes should remain reasonable in order to ensure proper learning, as well as proper safety and security. Students should have access to a proper music room and library. Overcrowding a school and putting pressure on a school that already feels full is not in the benefit of student learning
- I find that overall the school systems operating in this province are not family centric. There appears to have been no concern assigned to the problems that changing bell times created for working families. Add to this the increase distances being considered for walk zones, the changes to the bus routes and eligibility for busing...CBE needs to do the right thing for CR families and provide a local school option.
- Why is the cbe and government only willing to band aide the cougar ridge school issue-while putting money into newer nearby communities??
- Read above ;) Our hallways are already so crowded at the beginning and end of the day that kids get pushed shoved etc. Our school has gone through so much over the last few years it would be nice to have a moment to catch our breath and figure out who we are and what we stand for. We have lost grades 5&6, new Principal, new spaces reclaimed - so many changes.
- Our child will begin kindergarten in 2021 and we would like the option for her to attend school closer to home (in Cougar Ridge).
- This scenario provides the best logical solution for kids in the same community. Bussing kids around town to fill up attendance of other schools is not a good strategy if it won't impact much the attendance in those schools
- My Cougar Ridge resident children have long been shuffled to far away schools. Busing has cost us extra time and money, a private vehicle accident taking them down treacherous Bow Trail hill and very early wake up times. Also lost friendship building opportunities being in schools far from our community. It is only fair and prudent that they can all now be close to each other and close to home as will happen with the proposed scenario.
- Alternate program students should be given equal opportunity in enrollment. Younger siblings should be able to attend schools close and next to their older siblings.
- It does not help families (Cougar Ridge and West springs families) when their children attend both West Springs and West Ridge school - and the bell



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times are FORTY minutes apart. This needs to be revised if the goal is to keep students in their communities - we need to make it accessible for them to be able to go to school with their siblings. Parents need to be able to pick up their children in schools SIDE BY SIDE - at the same time within a few minutes of each other. CBE...please please start putting students and families first rather than focusing solely on space and money, bussing, past oversights...etc. If you are going to make these changes- then please have the foresight to look at this from all angles. Please look at what has worked for other schools (Springbank schools have elementary, middle and high school students all on the same buses). Please look into other areas like Tuscany Elementary and 12 mile coulee school who have dealt with this issue of bell times already. (and changed them to accommodate parents). Please...do your homework this time. Please have true experts on your panel.

- Wildwood School is a special place.
- Thank you for how you handled the session. The online comment system and group discussion was all very well done. Thank you for your work on this important issue. It was nice to see so many of the key members at the meeting:) Good luck. Thank you
- I fully support the proposed scenario, I understand the scenario can't accommodate everyone in cougar ridge but I believe letting some in is better than dismissing it altogether. I also strongly agree with the CBE prioritizing students who have been attending their designated school.
- I think it's a shame how Cougar Ridge is the community that seems to always get shipped out. First Wildwood and then Rosscarrock. I truly hope West Springs/West Ridge will be the permanent school for both of my children after this change.
- I feel the proposal does an excellent job of trying to get Cougar Ridge students into West Springs while still maintaining the learning spaces and level of education. I understand the need to "Prioritize" Cougar Ridge students, and agree fully with the proposed priority of those currently attending their CBE designated school. At the engagement session, there were some who have elected to do alternate programs and will become part of the lottery. These families seemed concerned about the prospects of not getting in to West Springs, but did not offer any viable alternatives to the priority/lottery system. All in all, an excellent proposal that seems well thought out and makes the best of what has become a disappointing situation.
- A faster decision would be helpful.
- Think about how full the schools are going to be. The children will suffer and parents will complain!
- I have seen no comments/plans regarding the future location of the PLP Program at Rosscarrock. Is the intention for this class to remain at



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Rosscarrock or not? If Rosscarrock is to remain a primarily-Spanish program (and I cannot clearly understand if this is the case or not), integration opportunities (or lack thereof) need to be considered. I would suggest that the PLP classroom would be better suited to a school that has primarily an English-language focus. Integration into the school community is intended to be part of the PLP program (and the way it is being 'sold' to parents), however opportunities for this are minimal at the current time.

- We are happy to see this is up for debate. We do not feel comfortable with our children designated to Rosscarack. The commute is too long and poses a safety concern considering traffic and road conditions. We want our children to grow up and have an opportunity to be educated in our community. Thankyou for the opportunity to provide feedback.
- We live in cougar ridge and my child will start kindergarten in 2019. We were shocked to hear that the earlier designated school was Ross Carrock. We are both working parents and will really appreciate if the designated school is made west springs which is a school Closer to home.Thank you for considering this idea.
- Personal opinion here....I feel like students in CR attending Rosscarrock are in a "damned if they do, damned if they don't" scenario. If we go to West Springs next year, we could be met with resentment from parents (hopefully that would not trickle down to the kids) and the class sizes would increase which could lose children in the mix who need help. I believe we'd also lose certain areas of the school like the Learning Commons and Music room (not sure if they are in use at the present time) If we stay at Rosscarrock, our funding there will be half of what it has in the past due to Glenmeadows students leaving. Less funding = less opportunities for the students there. We have the space for music, etc. but would we have enough funds to have teachers there for them or to have EAs in the classrooms. Fundraising will become more difficult with the remaining families as many of them are lower income/in need families.
- Thank you for all your work you've done on this so far. I realize this is not an easy fix and appreciate the time and effort everyone at CBE is putting in.
- If a child is overflowed into Wildwood, do they have the option to re-apply to West Springs the next year?
- We urgently need more new schools. We are already behind the needs. It makes no sense just to help out with short-term solutions, it will make everything just more difficult at the end.
- Please fund education, those children are Canada's future!
- Seems like Cougar Ridge has been lost in the map. It is obvious the demand in West Spring is way higher than Rosscarrock/Wildwood. Should not we have a bigger school in West Spring? It is a relative newer community with a lot of young families and I am afraid in couple of years West Spring will be capped.



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- Thank you for giving us hope. I hope this proposal follows through for 2018!
- Reinstate bus service to Wildwood for Cougar Ridge students. CBE forced us to Wildwood even though there are 5 closer schools - don't harm us again by taking away bus service and making our kids change from wildwood to rosscarrock then to west ridge in the space of the next two years... Horrible situation to put us in.