

Forest Lawn High School

March 22, 2018

Modernization

Q. What will be changed during the modernization?

A. The modernization is scheduled to begin with abatement of hazardous materials in the spring of 2018 in the evenings and on weekends when the facility is not being used by students or staff. The modernization will include construction, welding and automotive learning spaces along with updates to other learning spaces and the mechanical systems.

Q. When will parents get to see the modernization plans?

A. More details will be provided once the CBE receives final approval on the modernization plans from Alberta Infrastructure. A schedule of the modernization activity will be shared with parents and students as we get closer to the work beginning and an open house will be held to show the designs.

Q. When is the engagement process going to happen for parents, students and any other stakeholders?

A. The CBE is committed to engaging with stakeholders when there are decisions to be made and they can influence the outcome of those decisions. School modernization funding is granted through Alberta Education and must be allocated to specific programs within the school. The CBE does not receive discretionary funding that would allow parents or students to influence the spaces that are modernized or the scope of the modernization.

Q. Why does FLHS need to be made smaller during the modernization?

A. As part of the modernization process, CBE administration participated in a Alberta Education-led Value Management Session at Forest Lawn High School in November 2016. Alberta Education recommended that the instructional space in FLHS be reduced by demolishing both the southeast wing and northeast wing. The reason for making FLHS physically smaller is so that the **school's** utilization of instructional space will be closer to 85 per cent, which is the utilization rate recommended to all school boards by Alberta Education. When the CBE receives funding from Alberta Education for modernizations

and new schools the province looks at the CBE's utilization rate. The utilization rate at Forest Lawn in 2016 was only 71%.

Q. Who makes the decision to “right-size” a school?

A. Alberta Education in conjunction with CBE administration.

Q. What criteria are used to **decide that a school should be “right-sized”?**

A. Many factors were considered in determining the right size for Forest Lawn High School into the future. Information considered included the current and projected student populations, primarily for the communities surrounding the school, the utilization rate of the school as well as utilization rates at other high schools in north and northeast Calgary.

Q. What can be done to keep all students in our school?

A. Some students will need to take courses at Jack James High School, while the modernization is taking place. This is similar to the situation when Jack James High School was modernized previously and students successfully attended Forest Lawn High School during the modernization. We will make the best use of space in both schools.

Area Office

Q. What happened to engagement around the Area office move?

A. Parents and the community would not have been able to influence the decision. Forest Lawn High School was the only school with available and accessible space that could accommodate the Area 3 Office within Area 3. Putting the Area 3 office in to the southeast wing also saved that wing from being demolished as part of the modernization.

Q. Why does an Area office need so many classrooms?

A. Area offices provide leadership support to principals and teachers to improve instruction and student achievement. They also provide timely support to their schools, families and communities, help deliver system services to schools, support principals in school operations and ensure effective collaboration amongst schools. The Area 3 office supports 33 schools. The area office has over 50 employees including Speech language therapists, mental health therapists and pathologists,

psychologists, trades personnel, facility supervisors, school family liaisons, special education strategists and area office personnel.

Chinook Learning

Q. Why was FLHS chosen to house the Chinook ELL/LINC programs?

A. **While relocating Chinook's programs has been discussed for years**, due to various factors the CBE has been unable to move forward. The Viscount Bennett campus that has housed Chinook for the past several years is near the end of its life cycle and it is not cost effective to renovate or continue maintaining that facility.

Q. **Why wasn't** there community engagement regarding Chinook moving into the school?

A. With the southeast wing of the school being decommissioned and the Area 3 office moving into the main floor of that wing in April 2017, FLHS has space on the second floor of that wing. FLHS was the only high school that has available space that can be completely separated from the main school facility. The wing that Chinook ELL/LINC will be in was to be decommissioned and would not be available as learning space for FLHS into the future.

Q. How is the current principal going to be in charge of the High School students and Chinook Learning students as well?

A. The ELL staff will be responsible for the adult learners who are enrolled in a three-hour course located in a separate section of the building. The Forest Lawn Principal will work with ELL staff when questions arise.

Q. Will FLHS students have to move out of our building during the modernization, so that Chinook ELL/LINC programs can move in?

A. During the modernization FLHS students may need to attend some classes at Jack James High School. FLHS and JJHS worked together during the JJ modernization and students successfully attended classes at FLHS. We will keep parents and students informed as course locations are determined.

Q. Are adult learners going to be integrated with students at Forest Lawn High School?

A. We recognize the desire to have some separation between high school students and adult learners. Chinook ELL/LINC students will not be integrated with Forest Lawn High School students. The Chinook ELL/LINC student learning spaces will be located on the second floor in the southeast wing. This area will be separate from the rest of Forest Lawn High School and will have a separate entrance. Many of the students who attend the LINC program are parents with young children, so one of the classrooms will be a child-minding space for children of the newcomers who are registered in a LINC class. This service is paid for through LINC funding by the Government of Canada.

Q. How many Chinook ELL/LINC students will be coming to Forest Lawn High School?

A. While there is always a degree of uncertainty when a location move occurs, our current projections estimate approximately 400 students could access Chinook ELL/LINC programming at Forest Lawn High School.

Q. How can we ensure the safety of all students at Forest Lawn High School?

A. The Chinook ELL/LINC students that will be attending Forest Lawn High School are adult learners who will be in a separate wing of the school without access to the main school facility. As always we will work closely with staff, students and our school resource officer to maintain student safety.

Q. Will Forest Lawn High School families have priority to register in LINC?

A. No, Forest Lawn High **School families won't have priority registration in** Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC). LINC is funded by Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada (www.cic.gc.ca) and provides free English language instruction to permanent residents and refugees. The curriculum includes information that teaches newcomers about the Canadian way of life and helps them integrate into Canadian society. For more information regarding registration for the LINC program, please visit Adult ELL Registration & Fees.