

DATE: June 5, 2018

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Consideration of School Closure to Facilitate the Westlawn Consolidation Project

ORIGINATOR: Dr. Lorne Parker, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE STAFF: Kim Holowatuk, Roshan Kastrinos, Roland Labbe, Jennifer Thompson, Christopher Wright

REFERENCE: Board Policy EA.BP - Infrastructure Planning Principles
School Act: Closure of Schools Regulation (Alberta Regulation 238/97)

ISSUE

To present to the Board of Trustees the Superintendent's recommendation for consideration of school closure in order to facilitate the Westlawn Area consolidation concept.

In accordance with the *School Act: Closure of Schools Regulation (Alberta Regulation 238/97)*, the first step for the Board of Trustees (the Board) is to approve motions to consider the closure of each of the schools.

If the Board approves motions to consider closure, the Board may also seek Ministerial approval for exemption from Sections 4 through 7 of the *Closure of Schools Regulation*. These sections include the requirement for consultation. Since extensive consultation has already occurred (Attachment I), it may be viewed as unnecessary, given the support for the project in the Greater Westlawn community. Should the exemption be granted and the Board proceeds with motions for closure, the closure of Afton, Glendale, Sherwood and Westlawn schools would take effect on the last operational day prior to the opening of the new Kindergarten-Grade 3 school on the Afton School site and the new Grades 4-9 school on the Westlawn School site.

BACKGROUND

In March 2016, consultation was initiated with 15 school communities in mature areas on future plans for three clusters of schools. This series of public meetings focused on the need to provide high quality learning environments for all students regardless of where they live. The information presented also gave context to issues facing mature infrastructure that may not be the appropriate size or configuration for the current enrolment in these areas or the programming operating in the schools. In May 2016, additional public meetings were held in collaboration with the City of Edmonton to gather further input on some general options and themes regarding potential future plans for these clusters. In October 2016, working committees were established for each cluster to refine the input, analyze data and explore and develop further specific concepts. These concepts were presented at public meetings in March 2017 and feedback was collected.

The stakeholder input collected from the public meetings in March and May 2016 and in March 2017, was used to determine the recommended concepts and next steps for each cluster. Other factors considered in the decision were: past enrolment, projected enrolment, demographics, site constraints, geographic distribution, student migration patterns, program distribution, student retention, student safety, transportation, school proximity and City of Edmonton neighbourhood plans and initiatives.

Based on stakeholder feedback, level of engagement and proposed additional engagement, among other factors, the recommendation of priority of the clusters for an amendment to the *Three-Year Capital Plan 2018–2021* was:

1. Westlawn cluster
2. Britannia cluster
3. Rosslyn cluster

This information was shared in the “Space for Students in Mature Communities Report to the Community” on June 29, 2017.

At the September 12, 2017, Board meeting, the following amendments to the *Three-Year Capital Plan 2018–2021* were approved:

- Amend Priority 3 in Year 1 to read “Westlawn cluster: Concept 2” and the cost would be \$40 million.
- Amend Priority 8 in Year 2 to read Britannia cluster and the cost range would be \$34 million to \$37 million.
- Amend Priority 12 in Year 2 to read Rosslyn cluster and the cost range would be \$62 million to \$73 million.

On March 23, 2018, the Province announced funding for Westlawn Cluster Concept 2.

RELATED FACTS

- An extensive consultation process took place in the Greater Westlawn Area between March 2016 and April 2017 regarding consolidation of students from Afton, Glendale, Sherwood and Westlawn schools.
- Westlawn Cluster Concept 2, supported by the community, was selected as the preferred design concept. The concept was included in the *Three-Year Capital Plan 2018-2021*.
- Funding for Westlawn Cluster Concept 2 was announced March 22, 2018.
- A public meeting to inform and explain the closure process was held on May 28, 2018, at Westlawn School.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Board approve a motion to consider closure of Afton School.
2. That the Board approve a motion to consider closure of Glendale School.
3. That the Board approve a motion to consider closure of Sherwood School.
4. That the Board approve a motion to consider closure of Westlawn School.
5. That the Board approve a motion for the Board Chair to send a letter to the Minister of Education requesting exemption from Sections 4 to 7 of the *Closure of Schools Regulation (Alberta Regulation 238/97)*.

OPTIONS

Based on the information provided in this report, the following options are considered most appropriate:

1. Approve motions 1-4.
2. If motions 1-4 are approved, then approve motion 5.
3. Not approve motions.

CONSIDERATIONS and ANALYSIS

Westlawn Cluster Concept 2 has been approved for funding by the Province. As the concept includes the consolidation of students from Afton, Glendale, Sherwood and Westlawn schools into a new Kindergarten-Grade 3 school on the Afton School site and a new Grades 4-9 school on the Westlawn School site, consideration for closure of these schools is prudent so as not to delay the project. The closure of Afton, Glendale, Sherwood and Westlawn schools would take effect on the last operational day prior to the opening of the new Kindergarten-Grade 3 school on the Afton School site and a new Grades 4-9 school on the Westlawn School site.

NEXT STEPS

- If approved, a letter will be sent by the Board Chair to the Minister of Education requesting exemption from Sections 4 to 7 of the *Closure of Schools Regulation (238/97)*.
- Should the Minister grant an exemption, the Board will be asked to consider motions to close Afton, Glendale, Sherwood and Westlawn schools, effective on the last operational day prior to the opening of the new Kindergarten-Grade 3 school on the Afton site and a new Grades 4-9 school on the Westlawn site.

ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I Process of Public Consultation for Westlawn Cluster Area Consolidation Project and Consideration of School Closures

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Process of Public Consultation for Westlawn Cluster Area Consolidation Project and Consideration of School Closures

| Date | Engagement/Consultation |
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| 2016 – First Round of Meetings | |
| March 2, 2016 | Letters* to parents in the Westlawn cluster area outlining the project and notifying them of the dates for the first public meeting |
| March 2, 2016 | Editorial Board/media engagement-advisory Information posted to “Space for Students” website Release of advertising posters*to schools and daycares SchoolZone update notifying parents about meeting and linking to web for information |
| March 2-15, 2016 | Facebook advertising and ad graphics |
| March 2, 2016 | Letters* to parent council and community leagues |
| March 2, 2016 | Letters* to City of Edmonton, City Councilors and MLAs |
| March 2, 2016 | Superintendent’s posted video message outlining the process, importance of community involvement and what we are looking to achieve. |
| March 2 and 9 2016 | Advertisements ran in the Edmonton Examiner |
| March 3-16, 2016 | Magnet signs outside schools and on major streets/access points in cluster advertising meeting |
| March 15, 2016 | Public meeting at Westlawn School - livestreamed |
| March 15, 2016 | Survey #1 launched to gather initial feedback on the project including concerns, questions, vision for a new K-9 and the use of closed buildings |
| April 5, 2016 | Survey #1 closed and data collected |
| 2016 – Second Round of Meetings | |
| May 2, 2016 | Letters* to parents in the Westlawn cluster area notifying them of the dates for the second round public meeting |
| May 2, 2016 | City of Edmonton send out a Public Service Announcement about the meeting “Insight” newsletter about each upcoming meeting – City of Edmonton Article for City Community Recreation Coordinators to share with community leagues and Business Revitalization Zones |
| May 4, 2016 | SchoolZone notification regarding meeting date Update Space for Students website, Facebook and Twitter with information about the consultations |
| May 4, 2016 | Letters* to EFCL president and community league presidents in the Westlawn cluster area Email to parent council notifying of meeting date Letters* to Government, Councilors, MLA’s, City, Province |
| May 4-17, 2016 | Facebook advertising and ad graphics |
| May 11 and 18, 2016 | Advertisements ran in the Edmonton Examiner |
| May 19-June1, 2016 | Roadside signs/magnet signs outside schools and on major streets/access points in cluster advertising meeting |
| May 30, 2016 | Media advisory posted |
| May 31, 2016 | Public Meeting at Westlawn School - livestreamed |

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| May 31, 2016 | Survey #2 launched to gather feedback on the developed options for each site within the cluster. |
| June 1, 2016 | Posted materials about the options presented, a copy of the PowerPoint presentation, and a link to the online survey the day after each meeting |
| June 20, 2016 | Survey #2 closed and data collected |
| October 25, 2016 November 17, 2016 November 30, 2016 December 15, 2016 January 25, 2017 February 15, 2017 | Working committee meetings. All meeting minutes and shared information posted to District website after each meeting. |
| 2017 – Third Round of Meetings | |
| February 21, 2017 | Letters* to parents in the Westlawn cluster area outlining the next steps and notifying them of the dates for the third public meeting |
| February 22, 2017 | Space for Students website updated with information about the consultation |
| February 22-March 8, 2017 | Advertisements ran in the Edmonton Examiner |
| February 22-March 22, 2017 | Facebook, Twitter and epsb.ca (news and spaceforstudents) updates |
| February 22, 2017 | Letter* to Government, Councilors, MLA's, City, Province about the meeting |
| February 23-27, 2017 | City of Edmonton Public Service Announcement about the meeting to their media contacts Article insert to "Insight" newsletter – City of Edmonton Article to City Community Recreation Coordinators to share with community leagues and Business Revitalization Zones |
| February 24, 2017 | Letter* to EFCL president and community league presidents |
| March 1-15, 2017 | Facebook advertising and ad graphics |
| March 1, 2017 | SchoolZone notification regarding meeting date |
| March 10-23, 2017 | Roadside signs / magnet signs outside schools and on major streets/access points in cluster advertising meetings |
| March 14, 2017 | Media advisory about the meeting |
| March 15, 2017 | Public meeting at Westlawn School - livestreamed |
| March 15, 2017 | Survey #3 launched to gather feedback on concepts |
| March 16, 2017 | Posted materials about the options presented at the meeting, a copy of the PowerPoint presentation, and a link to the online survey |
| April 5, 2017 | Survey #3 closed and data collected |
| June 29, 2017 | Report* to the community posted to Space for Students website |
| 2018 – Fourth Round of Meetings | |
| May 14, 2018 | Letters* to parents in the Westlawn cluster area notifying them of the upcoming closure motions and notifying them of the date for the fourth public meeting |
| May 14-28, 2018 | Roadside signs/magnet signs outside schools and on major streets/access points in cluster advertising meeting |

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| May 14-28, 2018 | Facebook advertising and ad graphics |
| May 15, 2018 | Posters advertising meeting provided to community leagues |
| May 15 & 22 | Advertisements ran in the Edmonton Journal |
| May 14-28, 2018 | Facebook, Twitter and epsb.ca (news and spaceforstudents) updates |
| May 28, 2018 | Public Meeting at Westlawn School |

*Copies available on request