

SIGNIFICANT SCHOOL RECONFIGURATIONS, MODERNIZATIONS AND SCHOOL CLOSURES

The Board supports the education of students within their community, but it recognizes that, in the interests of effectiveness and efficiency of instruction, the Board may consider school or program closures. The Education Act authorizes the Board, by motion, to close schools, school programs and transfer students from one school to another school

1. The Board may:
 - a. close a school permanently or for a specified period of time,
 - b. transfer students from one school building to one or more other school buildings on a permanent basis.

2. This policy does not apply to a closure that occurs:
 - a. in connection with the transfer to another board or to the operator of a charter school of the ownership of real property on which a school building is located and the school building will continue to be used for the instruction or accommodation of students.
 - b. as a result of the Minister's having directed the board to dispose of the school building pursuant to section 192 of the Education Act.

PROCEDURES

1. When the Board is considering the closure of a school and/or the transferring of students from one school building to another school building, the Board shall:
 - a. raise the matter through a motion at a regular meeting of the Board.
 - b. in writing, notify the parents of every child and student enrolled in the school who may be affected by the closure of the school or the transfer of students.

2. The notice shall include information respecting each of the following factors:
 - a. how the closure would affect the attendance area defined for that school;
 - b. how the closure would affect the attendance at other schools;
 - c. information on the board's long-range capital plan;
 - d. the number of students who would need to be relocated as a result of the closure;
 - e. the need for and extent of busing;
 - f. program implications for other schools and for the students when they are attending other schools;
 - g. the educational and financial impact of closing the school,
 - h. including the effect on operational costs and capital implications;
 - i. the educational and financial impact if the school were to remain open;
 - j. the time and location of a public meeting.

The notice may set out the following:

- a. the capital needs of other schools that may have increased enrolment as a result of the closure and
- b. the possible uses of the school building or space in the school building if the entire school is to be closed
- c. In writing, notify any other persons, municipality or community organization who, in the opinion of the Board, may be significantly affected.

3. When the Board has given notice of motion at a regular meeting of the Board that it is considering the closure of a school or transfer of students from one school building to another school building, the Board shall

- a. organize and convene a public meeting for the purpose of discussing the information provided in the notice to parents.
- b. provide an opportunity for the council of the municipality in which the school is located to provide a statement to the board of the impact the closure may have on the community.

4. The Board may hold other meetings with respect to the closure at times and places as the Board may determine.

5. The date and place of the public meeting referred to in Procedure 3(a) shall:

- a. be decided by the Board and provide adequate time for advertising in a community,
- b. be posted in the area or areas of the school or schools affected by the closure, and be available to all stakeholders,
- c. be posted on the Livingstone Range School Division website, and
- d. be directly communicated to parents through School Messenger or other LRSD supported applications

6. When possible, the majority of the Board shall attend the public meeting.

7. The Board shall ensure that minutes are prepared for all public meetings held under this section.

8. The Board shall not make a final decision on the proposed closure until at least three (3) weeks have passed since the date of the public meeting.

9. The Board, in a Public or Special Board meeting, shall give due consideration to any written submissions on the proposed closure that it receives after the public meeting.

10. The Board shall consider future growth or decline in student enrolment when making a decision to close a school or transfer students from one school building to another school building.

11. The Board shall, by motion, decide whether to close the school and/or transfer students.

12. If the decision is to close the school, the Board shall notify the Minister, in writing, of the decision. The Minister will be informed of the name of the school and the effective date of closure.

Legal Reference:

Section 62, Education Act

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