



Board Policy 15

Program Reduction and School Closure

In accordance with the Education Act and accompanying regulations, the Board of Trustees is responsible for local programming and the use of school facilities.

In addition to setting priorities for replacement, modernization or new capital investment for submission to the Ministry of Education, the Board of Trustees may also make decisions regarding closure of schools or school programs and the transfer of students to another building. In keeping with these responsibilities, the Board may consider program reduction and student transfer or closure of a school for efficiency and effectiveness of operations and may involve the consideration of many factors in their decision.

Procedures

1. During the school year, the Board will receive information as part of regular Board meetings regarding the status of all schools in the system. This information will be received through the annual school summaries report, enrollment reports, transportation reports, capital reports as well as others. In addition to the formal process for receiving information, the Board may also receive information through other sources including parent feedback or parent requests.
2. The Board may use any or all of the information it receives to identify which schools or programs should be considered for complete or partial closure. Additionally, the Board may also consider the necessity to safeguard the health and safety of students, staff or the public; the sustainability of the operation; student enrolment; the cost of maintaining operable conditions or restoring operable conditions or the need to consolidate or relocate existing schools or programs to serve the overall interests of public education under the jurisdiction of the Board of Trustees.
3. A transfer of students or partial closure will occur when the Board decides to reduce programming in a school through the reduction of grade programming being offered, but without school closure. An example would be to eliminate Grade 10-12 programming in a K-12 school.
4. Based on the consideration of information from various sources, the Board shall raise the matter by way of a motion at a public board meeting that it is considering complete or partial closures of designated schools for the next school year.
5. The Board will hold a public meeting to share pertinent information and receive feedback from the community about the potential partial or full closure decision.
6. Following the public meeting, should the board decide upon closure or partial closure of a school, it will do so by way of motion at a public board meeting prior to the year in which the school will close.
7. If the decision of the Board is to close the school:
 - 7.1. The Board shall forthwith notify the Minister in writing of the decision.
 - 7.2. The Board shall identify alternative uses for the school or dispose of the property in accordance with section 192 of the Education Act.