

## **SCHOOL CLOSURES**

Notwithstanding the provisions of the Education Act, the Board shall exercise its decision-making authority in regards to which schools operate within the Division and what grades and programs it will provide in each school. Any decision(s) with regards to the aforementioned shall make provision for stakeholder input and consideration of the express wishes and concerns of the parents, students, staff, School Community Council and ratepayers within the school attendance area under consideration.

Specifically,

1. As part of its annual agenda and in order to maintain equity of access to effective learning opportunities for all students within the constraints of a sustainable fiscal plan, the Board will annually review the feasibility of its school operations. With respect to this review and in particular with regards to determining the feasibility of operation of schools being reviewed under this protocol, the Board will undertake to review each school within the Division that exhibits any one (1) or more of the following criteria:
  - 1.1 A written expression of concern in regards to the social, emotional or academic development of students in the school submitted by parent(s), student(s), teaching staff, Principal, consultant(s) or senior administrative official(s).
  - 1.2 A request from the School Community Council or staff or group of parents for consideration of feasibility;
  - 1.3 A reduction in enrollment such that staffing allotment by formula will require consideration of triple grading or greater;
  - 1.4 To this end, by October 31 in each school year, the Director shall provide the Board with enrollment projections and an accurate statement of the status of those schools that come under review as outline above. Included in this information shall be:
    - 1.4.1 The cost per student of operating the school in question;
    - 1.4.2 Current and projected enrollment data related to each of the program choices offered at the secondary level if applicable;
    - 1.4.3 The ages of students affected;
    - 1.4.4 Busing distances and times required to convey students to proximal operating schools within the Division, and
    - 1.4.5 Any additional information deemed to be pertinent.
2. The Board shall review this information at its next regular meeting and determine which, if any, schools are to be considered for closure or grade discontinuation.
3. Any schools so designated shall receive notification of said consideration. A process will then be established for each school, by the Director that fulfils all of the legal requirements under the Education Act.

Reference: Sections 85, 87, 108, 109, 347 Education Act

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