

903.1 School Closure

Policy

The Board directs that procedures be established for the closure of schools.

Regulations

1. The closure of a school may be considered by the Board when one or more of the following conditions exists:
 - 1.1 continued operation of the school will create unnecessary costs to the Division;
 - 1.2 student enrollment of the school makes it difficult to provide an instructional program equivalent to those offered in the other schools in the Division;
 - 1.3 the school is needed for other Division purposes;
 - 1.4 the condition of the school building is such that the comfort and/or safety of students may be adversely affected;
 - 1.5 the location of the school is such that it is not easily accessible to a sufficient number of students who are within the school boundary.
2. Where the Board is considering the closure of a school, the Board:
 - 2.1 shall raise the matter through a notice of motion at a regular meeting of the Board;
 - 2.2 shall inform affected staff of the notice of motion and the decision making process to be used;
 - 2.3 shall provide notification , in writing, the information delineated in the Alberta Regulation *Closure of Schools*, Section 4 to (a) the parents/guardians of every child and student enrolled in the school who will be affected by the closure of the school; (b) any other person, municipality or community organization who, in the opinion of the Board, may be significantly affected.
 - 2.4 shall organize and convene a public meeting for the purpose of discussing the possible school closure and its implications for children and students, the community and the school system and to discuss implementation plans for closure as well as alternatives to closure;
 - 2.4.1 the date and place of the public meeting shall be posted in five or more conspicuous areas of the school or areas surrounding the school at least 14 days in advance, and shall be advertised in newspaper circulated in the area of the public meeting.
 - 2.4.2 at least two Trustees of the Board shall attend the public meeting
 - 2.4.3 minutes of the public meeting will be posted on the Division website
 - 2.5 shall provide opportunity for the public, including Lethbridge City Council, to respond to the Board's proposal to permanently close a school.

- 2.6 shall provide for consideration of possible alternative educational or community uses for all or part of the school building
- 2.7 may hold other meetings with respect to the closure at times and places as the Board may determine;
- 2.8 shall meet all expectations of Alberta Education for school closures.
3. The Board shall not make a final decision on the proposed closure until at least three weeks have passed since the date of the public meeting referred to in regulation 2.4.
4. The Board shall give due consideration to any submissions on the proposed closure that it receives after the public meeting referred to in regulation 2.4.
5. The Board
 - 5.1 shall by resolution decide whether to close the school; and
 - 5.2 if the decision is to close the school, shall forthwith notify the Minister of Education in writing, including the name of the school and effective date of the closure.
6. All school closure procedures shall be initiated and completed within the school year in which the decision to close the school is made.

The Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to develop the procedures necessary to implement this policy.

References

- Education Act: 62
- Division Policies: 202.1 .2 Conflict of Interest, 504.7 Temporary School Closure