

## ABOUT THE NEW K-5 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Community:** Garry Station

**Location:** 1350 Abitibi Road West

**Grades:** Kindergarten to Grade 5

**Opening Capacity:** 600 students

**Full Capacity:** up to 900\* students

\*after the addition of 12 modular classrooms





## About the Boundary Review

### Why we are adjusting West Lethbridge Elementary School boundaries:

- Designate areas of west Lethbridge as **attendance areas** for the new K-5 Elementary School in Garry Station for September 2025.
- Address **capacity concerns** at Coalbanks and Mike Mountain Horse Elementary Schools. For example: Coalbanks has 13 modular classrooms and is currently at **105%** utilization/ **218%** core utilization in an area of future residential development. Mike Mountain Horse Elementary School has 21 modular classrooms with capacity at **77%** utilization/ **169%** core utilization.

#### Why do we change boundaries?



##### New Schools

When a new school is built it is necessary to redraw boundaries, due to new community and relieving pressure in an existing school



##### Facility Capacity

A school may be considered at or above capacity and there may be space in another school in the sector



##### Future Residential Growth

Future growth of a community in an area where a school is reaching capacity may require boundary adjustments



##### Program Alignment

Due to several other factors, it may be necessary to facilitate programming

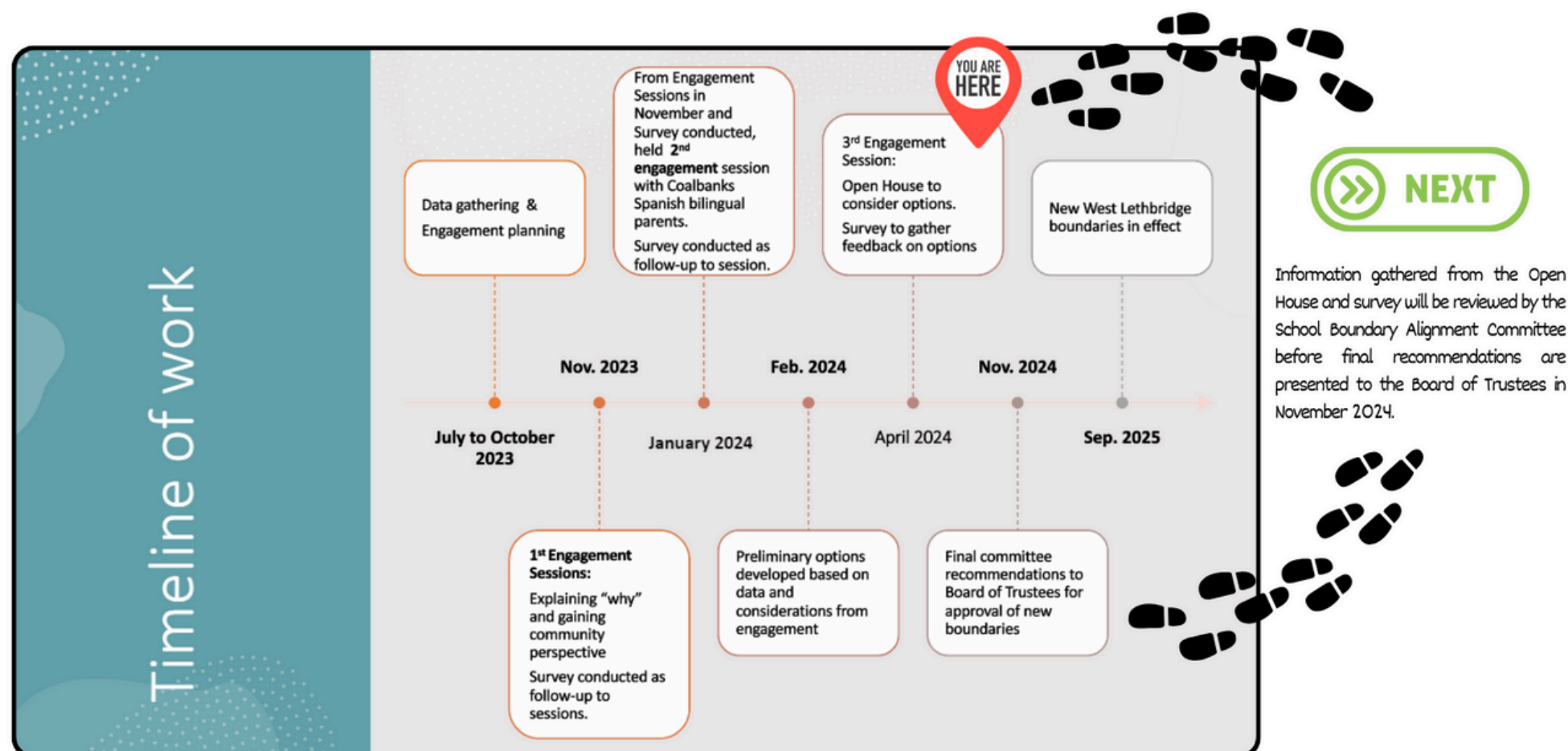


##### Functional Realignment

Due to growth in a sector the current configuration may not be functional, and boundaries may require realignment

### Guiding Principles for the review:

- To support the **successful opening** of the new elementary school in Garry Station.
- To address **capacity concerns** at Mike Mountain Horse and Coalbanks elementary schools.
- To **balance out enrolment** at westside elementary schools with the goal of ensuring that enrolment at schools is neither too low or too full.
- Try to **limit disruptions** to students, families, staff and school communities created by boundary changes.
- To minimize the short term need for additional boundary changes for westside elementary schools.

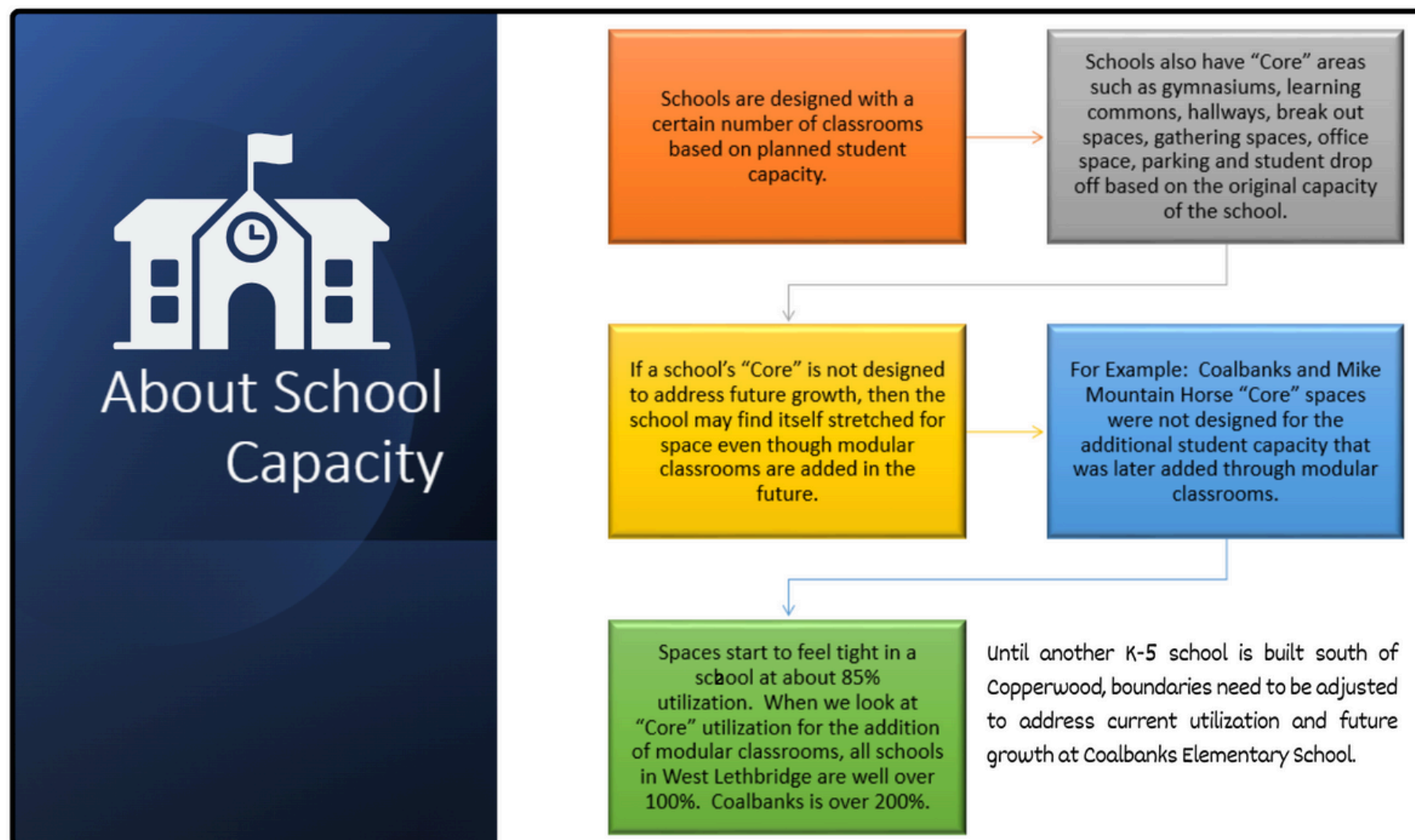


## West Lethbridge Elementary School Capacity and Utilization

School	Capacity (as of the 2023-2024 school year)				Enrolment
	*Core Area Only	Total Area	Utilization % Core Area Only	Utilization % Total Area	2023-2024
Coalbanks Elementary School	300	632	221%	105%	664
Dr. Gerald B. Probe Elementary School	325	668	145%	71%	471
Nicholas Sheran Elementary School	300	727	131%	54%	392
Mike Mountain Horse Elementary School	350	771	169%	77%	593

\* Core utilization does not include modular classroom additions

The new K-5 School in Garry Station, opening September 2025 is built to reduce utilization, reduce over crowding, and address future growth at the only elementary school in the north end of west Lethbridge.



How many modular classrooms are at the schools?

**DID  
YOU  
KNOW?**

**21**

Mike Mountain Horse

**14**

Nicholas Sheran

**13**

Dr Probe

**13**

Coalbanks

**+ 2**

Approved  
March 2024



## Community Engagement Sessions

The Division held two engagement evenings in **November 2023** to present **“Why”** west Lethbridge elementary school boundaries needed to change. A video presentation was posted on the Division’s website and a survey was conducted as follow-up to these sessions.

### What we heard:



1

#### To address growth and capacity concerns:

- Relocate the Spanish bilingual program and involve the community
- Address overcrowding and equalize school areas
- Proactive planning and use of modular classrooms
- Transparent communication and long-term planning
- Transportation solutions need to be provided



2

#### Neighbourhood factors to consider:

- Program and community cohesion
- Proximity to school (walking distance)
- Community and friendship continuity
- Diversity of school community



3

#### To Minimize disruption to students and families:

- Phased implementation
- Siblings' enrolment
- Early transparent communication
- Community involvement
- Transportation solutions
- Long-term solutions



Based on information received from the November 2023 engagement, there was a need to further engage with families of students enrolled in the Spanish bilingual program at Coalbanks Elementary School. An engagement session was held in **January 2024**, followed by a survey to all families in the program.

### What we heard:

#### Students are enrolled in the Spanish bilingual program because:

- Language and cultural enrichment
- Benefits of bilingual education
- Alignment of program values and aspirations
- Cognitive benefits
- Community and peer interactions
- Family background



#### Factors that would influence continued enrolment in Spanish bilingual program if relocated:

- Location, proximity and convenience
- Westside location preference
- Transportation solution provided
- Program integrity
- Commitment to Spanish bilingual program
- Family schedules and complexity

Out of **135** respondents:



**22%**

Of the parents surveyed said they would **not continue** in Spanish if program relocated

**23%**

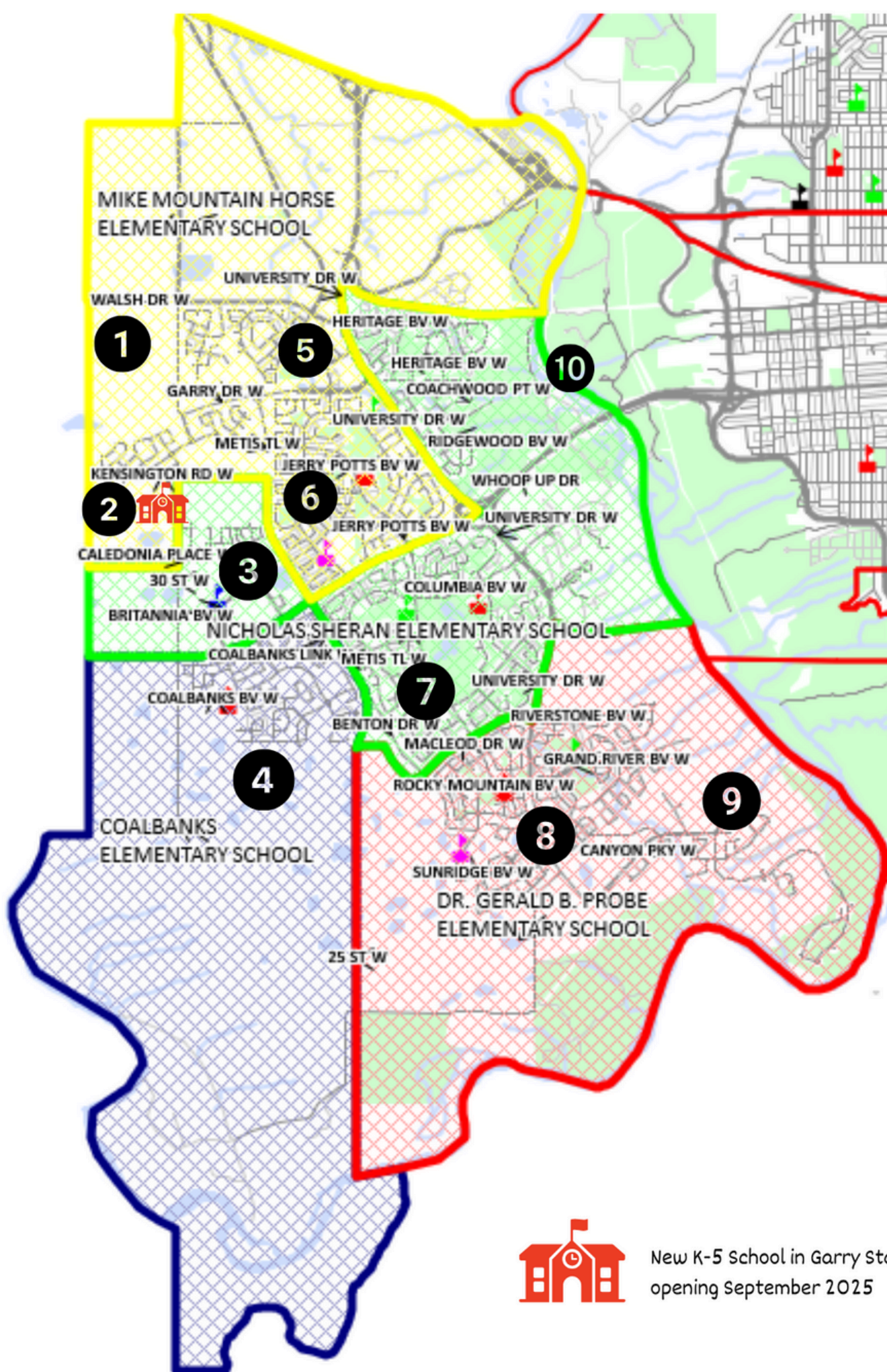
Of the parents surveyed said they **would continue** in Spanish if program relocated

**55%**

Of the parents surveyed said they would continue in Spanish if program relocated **dependent on factors above.**



## Current West Lethbridge Elementary School Boundaries



## Neighbourhoods

- 1 Country Meadows
- 2 Garry Station
- 3 Crossings
- 4 Copperwood
- 5 West Highlands
- 6 Indian Battle Heights/  
Willow Brook
- 7 Nicolas Sheran
- 8 Mountain Heights/  
Sunridge
- 9 Riverstone/  
The Canyons
- 10 Ridgewood/  
Heritage Heights



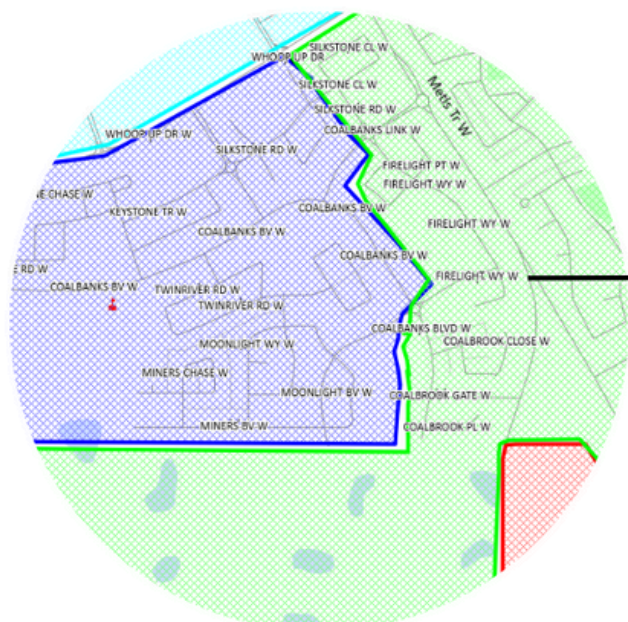
New K-5 School in Garry Station,  
opening September 2025



## Option 1: Copperwood Split

### About this option:

- **Moved from Coalbanks Elementary to Nicholas Sheran Elementary:** Area east of Coalbanks Link and Coalbanks Blvd W and west of Metis Trail will be redesignated as part of the Nicholas Sheran boundary (see detail below). This area will be eligible for transportation.
- **Moved from Nicholas Sheran Boundary:** Heritage, Ridgewood and designated to Mike Mountain Horse Elementary. Crossings designated to new school in Garry Station.
- **Moved from Mike Mountain Horse boundary to new school in Garry Station:** Mountain Meadows, Garry Station, and West Highlands.
- No Change to Dr. Probe boundary.



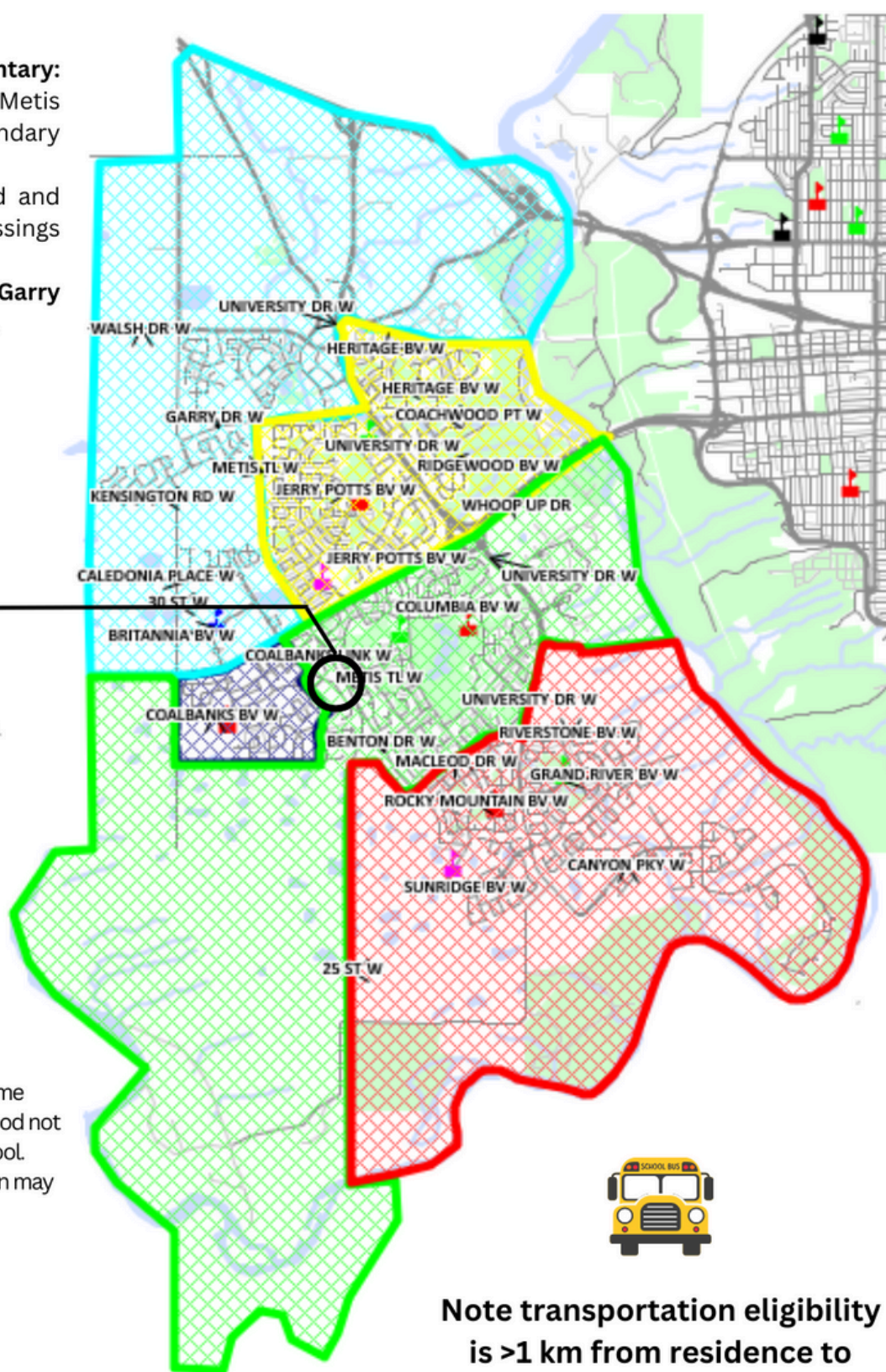
### Option 1

#### Pros

- Allows for future growth at new school in Garry Station.
- Reduces Coalbanks capacity slightly with all new growth south of Coalbanks going to Nicholas Sheran Elementary.
- Alleviates capacity concerns at Mike Mountain Horse.
- The two new modular classrooms approved for Coalbanks, may allow for the ability to reclaim flex space.

#### Cons

- This option will result in some families living in Copperwood not attending community school.
- New school in Garry Station may open lower than 50%.



Note transportation eligibility is >1 km from residence to school for K to grade 6

### Impact on Utilization:

#### Option 1

School	Current Capacity	Current Enrolment	Current Utilization%	Enrolment	Utilization %
Coalbanks	632	664	105%	569	90%
Mike Mountain Horse	771	593	77%	450	58%**
Garry Station	0/600 (complete)	0	0	236	39%
Nicholas Sheran	727	392	54%	394	54%
Dr. Probe	668	471	71%	471	71%
Total	2798/3398	2120	76%	2120	62%

Notes:

\*\* Mike Mountain Horse has 10 relocatable classrooms that need to be removed. This eliminates 250 student spaces and will increase utilization by 24%.



## Option 2: Relocate Spanish Bilingual Program to Nicholas Sheran Elementary School

### About this option:

- Spanish bilingual program at Coalbanks Elementary School will be relocated to Nicholas Sheran Elementary school. Spanish bilingual program enrolment is 41% of Coalbanks.
- A **transportation solution** will be provided to all eligible students attending the Spanish bilingual program at Nicholas Sheran.
- Moved from Nicholas Sheran Boundary:** Heritage, Ridgewood and designated to Mike Mountain Horse Elementary. Crossings designated to new school in Garry Station.
- Moved from Mike Mountain Horse boundary to new school in Garry Station:** Mountain Meadows, Garry Station, and West Highlands.
- No change to Dr. Probe boundary.
- No change to Coalbanks Elementary School Boundary.



### Option 2

#### Pros

- Balances enrolment amongst the elementary schools.
- Significantly reduces Coalbanks utilization to allow for future growth.
- Allows regular program at Coalbanks to remain unaffected.
- Alleviates capacity concern at Mike Mountain Horse.

#### Cons

- Means disruption to Spanish bilingual program families by moving to a new school, however transportation solutions will be provided for eligible students.
- Nicholas Sheran School has had to go through a significant number of cultural shifts last 7 years. Became French Immersion in 2017-2018 then French Immersion moved to Agnes Davidson in 2021-2022. This has been difficult on the school staff and community.

Approximately 275 students in the Spanish Bilingual Program could be relocated under this option.

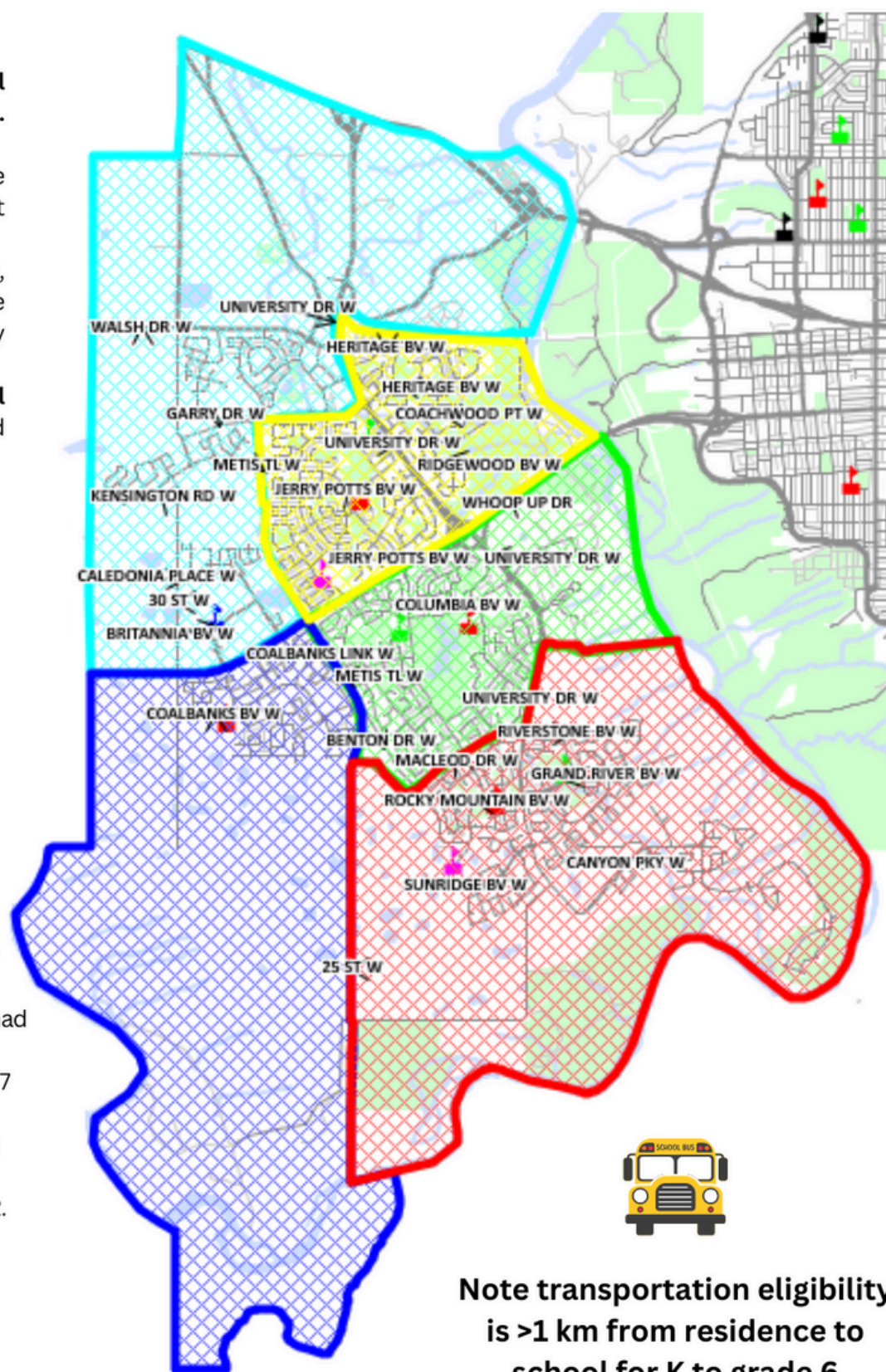
### Impact on Utilization:

School	Current Capacity	Current Enrolment	Current Utilization%	Enrolment	Utilization %
Coalbanks	632	664	105%	392	62%
Mike Mountain Horse	771	593	77%	384	50%
Garry Station	0/600 (complete)	0	0	302	50%
Nicholas Sheran	727	392	54%	571	79%
Dr. Probe	668	471	71%	471	71%
Total	2798/3398	2120	76%	2120	62%

#### Option 2

Notes:

\*\* Mike Mountain Horse has 10 relocatable classrooms that need to be removed. This eliminates 250 student spaces and will increase utilization by 24%.



Note transportation eligibility is >1 km from residence to school for K to grade 6



## Option 3: Relocate Spanish Bilingual Program to New K-5 Elementary School in Garry Station

### About this option:

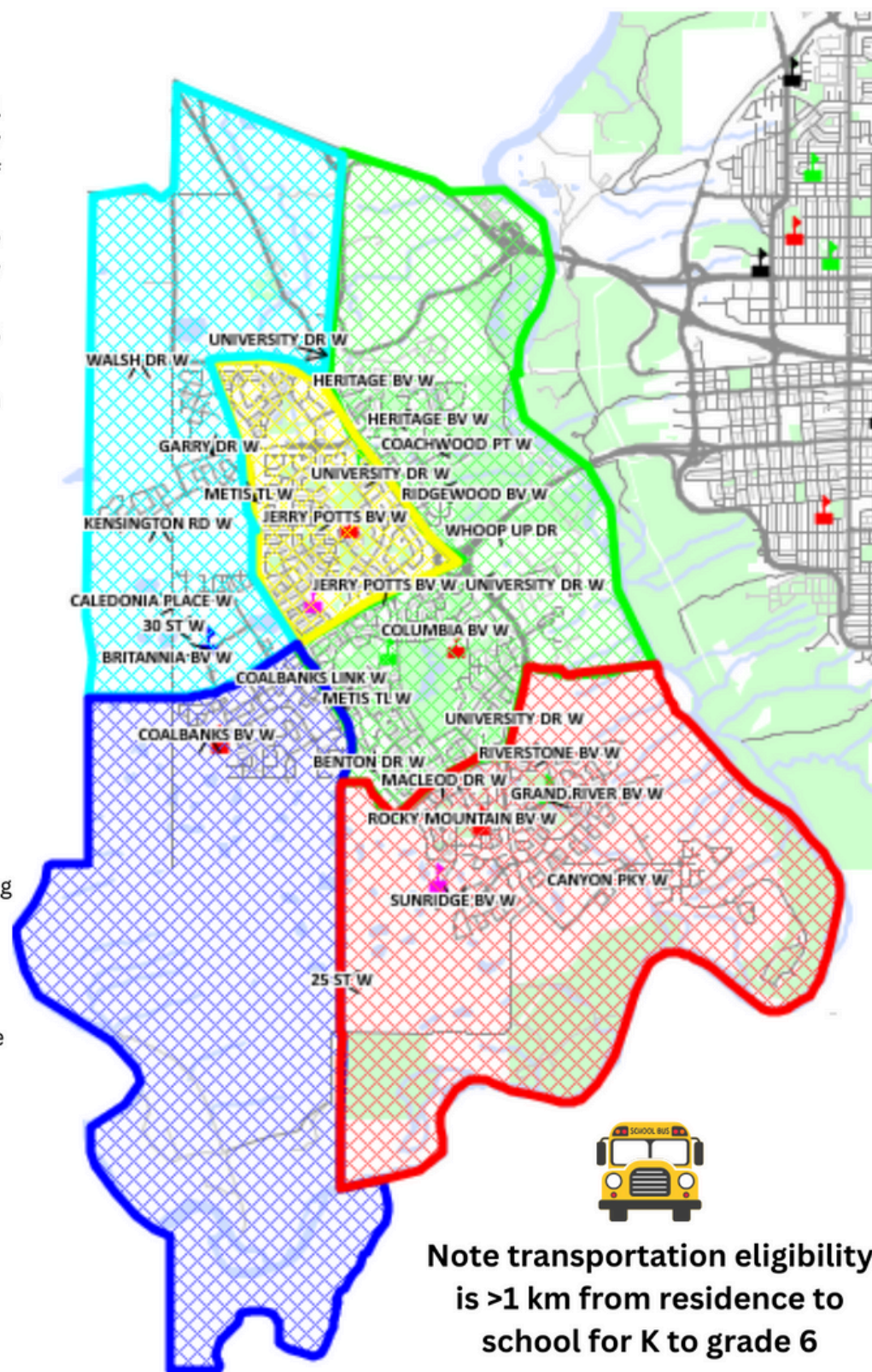
- Spanish bilingual program at Coalbanks Elementary School will be relocated to the new K-5 Elementary School in Garry Station. Spanish bilingual program enrolment is 41% of Coalbanks.
- A **transportation solution** will be provided to all eligible students attending the Spanish bilingual program at the new school.
- Moved from Nicholas Sheran Boundary:** Crossings to new K-5 School.
- Moved from Mike Mountain Horse boundary to new school in Garry Station:** Mountain Meadows, Garry Station.
- No change to Dr. Probe boundary.
- No change to Coalbanks Elementary School Boundary.



### Option 3 Pros Cons

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Balances enrolment amongst the elementary schools.</li> <li>Significantly reduces Coalbanks utilization to allow for future growth.</li> <li>Allows regular program at Coalbanks to remain unaffected.</li> <li>Alleviates capacity concern at Mike Mountain Horse.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Means disruption to Spanish bilingual program families by moving to a new school, however transportation solutions will be provided for eligible students.</li> <li>New school in Garry Station will open at significant utilization. There is the ability to request up to 12 modular classrooms for this school to accommodate future growth without impacting core spaces. Under this option, these modular classrooms may need to be requested sooner than anticipated.</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

Approximately 275 students in the Spanish Bilingual Program could be relocated under this option.



### Impact on Utilization:

Option 3					
School	Current Capacity	Current Enrolment	Current Utilization%	Enrolment	Utilization %
Coalbanks	632	664	105%	392	62%
Mike Mountain Horse	771	593	77%	451	58%
Garry Station	0/600 (complete)	0	0	441	74%
Nicholas Sheran	727	392	54%	365	50%
Dr. Probe	668	471	71%	471	71%
Total	2798/3398	2120	76%	2120	62%

Notes:  
\*\* Mike Mountain Horse has 10 relocatable classrooms that need to be removed. This eliminates 250 student spaces and will increase utilization by 24%.



## SURVEY



Thank you for attending the Open House to explore potential options to realign boundaries for elementary schools in west Lethbridge. We are seeking your feedback on the options under consideration. Based on feedback received some options may be adjusted or other factors considered for the boundary realignment.

Please use the camera on your phone to hover over the QR code below to get the link to the survey. You may also access the survey on the Division's website.



### West Lethbridge Elementary School Boundary Realignment Survey



Information gathered from the Open House and survey will be reviewed by the School Boundary Alignment Committee before final recommendations are presented to the Board of Trustees in November 2024.

