



Date: October 15, 2019

To: Board of Trustees

From: Brad Volkman, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Consideration of Eldorado Elementary School Closure

Agenda Item #: 5.2

Attachment: No

Action: X
Information:
In-Camera:
Delegation:

Originator: Brad Volkman, Superintendent

Background: As per Policy 15: School Closures, the Board recognizes that under certain conditions it may become necessary to consider the closure of a school. In the spring of 2017, Alberta Education awarded WRSD a modernization of Evergreen Elementary School. Further investigation concluded that modernization was not feasible nor fiscally responsible due to the extent of the structural issues at the school. As such, Alberta Education asked WRSD for an alternate plan that would not cost more money than the originally projected modernization. WRSD requested and was granted a new school to replace Evergreen School with the understanding that the new school would be built smaller than the old Evergreen School and once the new school opened, WRSD would further reduce the size of Eldorado Elementary School due to its aging portables and the declining utilization rates in our Drayton Valley schools. This commitment is reflected in the [WRSD April 2018 Capital Plan submission](#). Since that time, the number of K-12 WRSD students in Drayton Valley has further declined by 150 students from 1,973 to 1,823 students (these numbers do not include our students at Drayton Valley Community Outreach School). As such, it is clear that when the new replacement school opens (projected for January 2021), there will be enough space for

all of our K-12 students to be split between Aurora Elementary School, the new replacement elementary school, H.W. Pickup Middle School and Frank Maddock High School. The Board would be closing one school due to the opening of a new school. This would result in projected utilization rates (based on our 2019-20 enrollments staying constant) above 80% in our Drayton Valley Schools, with the exception of Frank Maddock High School. It is important to note that Alberta Education is projecting a continued gradual decline in enrollment for Drayton Valley over the next 5 years.

Drayton Valley Community Outreach School would continue to be in the Beehive building and Drayton Christian School would continue to be in their current building that they have been sharing with Eldorado School. If Eldorado is closed, that section of the building would be mothballed resulting in an annual operational savings of approximately \$55,000.

Recommendation: As such, it is recommended that the Board Chair give a notice of motion that at the December 17 meeting of the Board the question of whether to close Eldorado Elementary School in accordance with this recommendation from administration, will be put to a vote. The closure would coincide with the opening of the new replacement elementary school scheduled to open Jan 2021.