



802.1AP School Review Closure Procedures

APPROVED: 2021.04.21 (2020.01.15) (2013.12.18) (2006.11.22)

UPDATED: 2021.04.12 (2020.01.13) (2014.01.15)

REVIEWED: 2021.04.12 (2020.01.13)

LEGAL REFERENCE:

- *Education Act, Section 62*
- Alberta Regulation 86/2019 Disposition of Property Regulation

CROSS REFERENCE:

- [802BP School Review/Closure](#)
 - [802-1AP Exhibit 1 Indicators for Review](#)
-

PROCEDURES:

1. The Superintendent, annually, shall review the status of all schools in the system. This review will consider factors such as enrolment trends, utilization, achievement on the October Accountability Pillar Summary Report, school budget, course offerings and any other information that will assist in assessing school viability.
2. The Superintendent shall hold a meeting with staff at the school(s) that might be considered for full or partial closure to discuss the possible implications on students and staff prior to public meetings being held.
3. The Superintendent, at a Board Committee of the Whole meeting in November, shall provide a report to the Board on the status of all schools in the system; and shall recommend to the Board any schools, which should be reviewed formally for complete or partial closure.
4. At its January public Board meeting, the Board shall make a motion to investigate the complete or partial closure(s) of designated school(s) for the next year.
5. The Board shall communicate, in writing, to the parents of every child and student enrolled in the school(s) which will be affected by the closure. The communication shall indicate the time, date and location of the public meeting to discuss the potential closure(s). It shall also address how the closure(s) will affect the following:

- the attendance area defined for that school; the probable attendance at other schools, including the number of students re-located by virtue of the school closure;
 - the need for, and extent of, busing;
 - program implications for other schools;
 - program implications for the students when they are attending other schools;
 - the educational and financial impact of closing the school, including the effect on operational costs and capital implications;
 - the financial and educational impact if the school were to remain open;
 - the capital needs of other schools that may have increased enrollment as a result of the closure; and
 - the proposed use or disposal of the school if the entire school is to be closed.
6. The Board shall inform, in writing, the council of the municipality in which the school is located that they will have an opportunity to provide a statement to the Board at the public meeting referenced in procedure number 5, regarding the impact that the closure may have on the community.
 7. A public meeting shall be organized and convened no later than the month of February for the purpose of discussing the possible closure(s); its implications for the students, for the community and the school system; and alternatives to the closure.
 8. The date and place of the public meeting shall be:
 - posted in five or more conspicuous places in the area or areas of the school or schools affected by the closure, for a period of at least two weeks prior to the date of the public meeting;
 - posted in five or more conspicuous places in the community;
 - published in a newspaper circulating within the area or areas of the school or schools affected by the proposed closure, once a week for at least two weeks prior to the date of the public meeting; and
 - advertised in the newsletter of the school being considered for closure.
 9. The Board encourages all trustees to be in attendance. The Superintendent and at least two trustees shall attend the public meeting.
 10. At the public meeting:
 - the factors outlined in guideline number 5 shall be discussed.
 - an opportunity shall be provided for the council of the municipality in which the school is located to provide a statement to the Board on the impact the closure may have on the community.
 - there is opportunity for the public to respond to the Board's proposal to close the school.
 - The community shall be informed that:
 - input received from all individuals and groups will be considered by the Board in making a final decision, and
 - a request may be made to appear before the Board at a public meeting on a specified date.
 11. Minutes shall be prepared of the proceedings of all public meetings.

12. The Board shall give due consideration to any submissions received and at the March Board meeting shall make the appropriate motion regarding the continued operation of the school(s).
13. Subsequent to a Board decision in favour of school closure, the Board shall forthwith notify the Minister in writing of the decision.
14. Within one week, the parents/guardians of the students attending the schools under consideration shall be notified in writing of the Board's decision.
15. School closure, if approved, shall be completed within the school year in which the closure decision is made.
16. In the event that support exists with the community that a school should be closed, a modified process shall be designed and implemented to support the closure(s).