



# Palliser Regional Schools

## Palliser Centre

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SCHOOL CLOSURES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

POLICY TITLE	School <del>Reconfiguration or Closures</del> <b>Closures</b>
POLICY HOLDER	Board of Trustees Palliser Regional Schools
ORIGINAL DATE	
REVIEW DATE	
REVISED DATE	
NEXT REVIEW	

### Policy Statement:

~~While the~~The Board supports the continuance of small schools and recognizes the value of local schools to their communities. ~~However, from time to time, it, the Board~~ may be required to review to close existing schools to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the division. The process for the closure or reconfiguration of schools ~~is outlined in the Closure of Schools Regulation, Alberta Regulation 257/2003~~ legislation. ~~According to provincial policy, a Board may develop and implement policies and procedures with respect to closure of schools that are not inconsistent with this regulation.~~

### Board Action:

- ~~1. Definitions~~
  - ~~0. "Closure" means to:~~
    - ~~0. Close a school permanently or for a specified period of time;~~
    - ~~0. Close entirely three (3) or more consecutive grades in a school; or~~
    - ~~0. Transfer all students from one (1) school building to one (1) or more other school buildings on a permanent basis;~~
  - ~~0. "Reconfiguration" means the addition or removal of one (1) or more grades to or from a school.~~
- ~~7. Facility Planning Principles~~

~~Three principles guide the Division's facility planning processes:~~

  - ~~0. All Division students are to have reasonable access to quality educational programs and services;~~
  - ~~0. School facilities are to be well maintained and highly utilized.~~
  - ~~0. Bus ride times are to be as reasonable as possible.~~
- ~~1. The Board will follow legislation when looking at grade reconfiguration or school closures. The Ministry of Education will have final say in school reconfiguration/closures and the public may appeal the Board's decision.~~
- ~~11.2.~~ School Reconfiguration /Closure/Reconfiguration Factors
 

One (1) or more of the following consideration factors may lead the Superintendent to submit a School Closure/Reconfiguration Proposal to the Board:

  1. Increasing enrolments;



2. Decreasing enrolments;
3. Continuing low enrolments in a school or within grades in a school;
4. Enhancing the effectiveness of program delivery;
5. Improving school facility utilization;
6. Improving cost effectiveness;
7. Threats to health and/or safety.

A proposal for school closure or reconfiguration may also be initiated at the request of the Board.

#### 12.3. School Closure/Reconfiguration Proposal

A School Closure/Reconfiguration Proposal prepared by the Superintendent shall include the following:

1. The consideration factors precipitating the proposed school closure or reconfiguration;
2. How the reconfiguration or closure would affect the attendance area defined for that school;
3. How the reconfiguration or closure would affect the attendance at other schools;
4. Information on the Board's long-range capital plan;
5. The number of students who would need to be relocated as a result of the closure or reconfiguration;
6. The need for, and extent of, busing;
7. Program implications for other schools and for the students when they are attending other schools;
8. The educational and financial impact of closing or reconfiguring the school, including the effect on operational costs and capital implications;
9. The educational and financial impact if the school were to remain open, or, if the reconfiguration were not to occur;
10. The capital needs of the schools that may have increased enrolment as a result of the closure or reconfiguration;
11. Possible uses of the school building or space if the entire school is being closed, or three (3) or more consecutive grades in the school are being closed entirely.

#### ~~13. Notice of Motion — Proposed School Closure/Reconfiguration~~

~~In the event that the Board decides to proceed with the proposed school closure or reconfiguration process following its review of the Superintendent's School Closure/ Reconfiguration Proposal, the matter shall be raised by way of a Notice of Motion made at a regular meeting of the Board.~~

~~The Notice of Motion signals the beginning of the Division's public consultation process. No decision with respect to the school closure or reconfiguration will be made until the completion of the procedures outlined in sections 5, 6 and 7 of this policy and at least twelve (12) weeks have passed since the date of this Notice of Motion.~~

~~The Notice of Motion shall include:~~

- ~~1. The school and grades affected by the proposed school closure or reconfiguration;~~
- ~~2. The date upon which the Board plans to vote on the motion to close or reconfigure the school.~~

#### ~~14. Notification of Proposed School Closure/Reconfiguration~~

~~Where a Notice of Motion is tabled to consider the closure or reconfiguration of a school, the Board shall, in writing, notify the parents of every student enrolled in the school who, in the opinion of the Board, will be significantly affected by the closure or reconfiguration.~~

~~This written parental Notification shall provide the following information:~~

- ~~1. The School Closure/Reconfiguration Proposal prepared by the Superintendent pursuant to section 4 of this policy;~~
- ~~2. The date, time, format and location of the public meeting organized and convened by the Board for the purpose of discussing the information provided to the parents in the School Closure/Reconfiguration Proposal;~~
- ~~3. The date upon which the Board plans to vote on the motion to close or reconfigure the school.~~



~~15. Public Meeting—Proposed School Closure/Reconfiguration~~

~~Where a Notice of Motion is tabled to consider the closure or reconfiguration of a school, the Board shall:~~

- ~~1. Organize and convene a public meeting for the purpose of discussing the information provided to the parents in the School Closure/Reconfiguration Proposal;~~
  - ~~2. Post the time and place of the public meeting in five (5) or more conspicuous places in the area or areas of the school or schools affected by the closure or reconfiguration for a period of at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the public meeting;~~
  - ~~3. Advertise the time and place of the public meeting in a newspaper circulating within the area or areas of the school or schools affected by the closure or reconfiguration, on at least two (2) occasions as close as is practicable to the date of the meeting;~~
  - ~~4. Ensure that at least two (2) trustees shall be in attendance at the meeting;~~
  - ~~5. Ensure that minutes of the public meeting are prepared;~~
  - ~~6. Provide an opportunity for the Council of the municipality in which the school is located to provide a statement to the Board of the impact the closure or reconfiguration may have on the community; and~~
  - ~~7. Establish a date by which written submissions relating to the proposed school closure or reconfiguration will be received for its consideration following the meeting.~~
- ~~16. Board Decision on Proposed School Closure/Reconfiguration~~
- ~~1. The Board shall not make a final decision on the proposed school closure or reconfiguration until at least three (3) weeks have passed since the date of the public meeting and until at least twelve (12) weeks have passed since the date of the Notice of Motion in section 5.~~
  - ~~2. The Board shall give due consideration to any written submissions related to the proposed school closure or reconfiguration that it receives after the public meeting referred to in section 7 of this policy.~~
  - ~~3. The Board shall by resolution decide whether or not to close or reconfigure the school.~~
  - ~~4. If the decision is to close the school, the Division shall forthwith notify the Minister in writing of the decision.~~
  - ~~5. All school closure procedures shall be initiated and completed within the school year in which the decision to close the school is made.~~

**Scope and Limitations of Superintendent:**

The role of the Superintendent is outlined in the policy Information and Monitoring requirements.

**Information and Monitoring Requirements:**

The Board shall keep a record of the proceedings as required by law.