

Parkhill School (SPC) Consultation



Agenda

- ◆ **Time 7:00 to 8:30**
- ◆ **Welcome and Introductions**
- ◆ **Why Close Schools**
- ◆ **What We Heard and Facts**
- ◆ **Key Concerns for Parents/Grandparents**
- ◆ **What Next?**



INTRODUCTIONS

Kathy Sawchuk

Superintendent

Richard Powell

Board Chair



WHY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT CLOSING SCHOOLS?

- September 1999, we had 5342 students attending our schools
- By September 2009 that number had diminished to 4086.
- By September 2018 we project 3395 students will be in our schools
- Today, we have 1256 fewer students than 10 years ago occupying our schools.



KEY FACTORS IN OUR DECISION ON JAN 20.

- Maintain ½ full buildings for a few in each location? Or... Consolidate resources for the benefit of all?
- How effective are the educational programs and the success of the students in the schools?
- What is the age and condition of each school?
- What is the enrollment at each school versus the floor plan?
- What is being taken from other schools to support smaller ones?



WHAT WE HEARD and FACT

WWH: The Board has wanted to close our school for years and is just after us again.

FACT: The Board supported programs and placed MORE resources into Parkhill over the past 6 years, beyond what all other schools in DC have received.



WHAT WE HEARD and FACT

WWH: The Board announced the closure of Parkhill in June by sending out a newsletter. It was already a “done deal”.

FACT: There has never been a Board newsletter announcing the closure of Parkhill. The Board announced on May 20, 2009 that they would read a bylaw proposing the closure of Parkhill at the October 2009 board meeting. This was only one part of the reconfiguration plan announced in May.



WHAT WE HEARD and FACT

WWH: A new subdivision is planned and it will repopulate the school.

Fact: In the past 5 years, a subdivision has been built in Canalta. Another one is growing in size north on 17th street. As well, a number of condominiums have opened in the past 5 years.

Enrollment continues to decline everywhere.



Present Staffing

4 FTE teachers

1 FTE principal

.2 FTE LAT

.262 FTE prep

1 full time Ab Ed

4 full time Support

1 full time Secretary

Future Staffing

3.8 FTE teachers

.2 principal

1 full time Ab Ed

4 full time Support

1 full time Secretary



More Staffing information

- Support staff are allocated to the school to assist 8 specific students.
- Meal program would continue.
- Additional staff funded by the district is dependent upon available funds – District Intervention Worker and Reading Recovery Teacher



Why is the district trying to save money when it has a surplus of \$3.3 M?

- Three years ago the district had a surplus of \$100,000
- The district built a surplus of \$2M by making efficiencies and cutting programs over the course of the past two years. Action Initiative Grants and Greater Needs Grants to schools were discontinued. Some district positions were not replaced when staff left or retired. The surplus was built due to the information the district received about future funding cuts. For example, the \$1.4M cut to the Annual Facilities Grant. This leaves \$600,000 at the district with more funding cuts predicted for next year.
- Last year schools had a combined surplus of \$1.3M that remains at the school level.



SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS if PARKHILL CLOSES?

Parkhill School offers one-of-a-kind food programs, special education programs, and caring teaching staff.

The main reasons for Tremblay being identified as the receiving school were because it has a Strong Start, Munchkin Land, Family Support, and food services programs. Staff at Parkhill who provide special education services and caring environments may relocate to Tremblay. The Board is looking at developing a school environment that is new, and rich with programs and professional staff.



WHAT ABOUT TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY?

Proposed busing:

1. Morning bus begins with a stop at the 3rd St. apartments and moves to Parkhill for a 2nd stop. Children are transported to Tremblay.



WHAT ABOUT TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY cont...?

2. At the end of the school day the bus will load students from Tremblay and drop them off at Parkhill and the 3rd St. drop off.
3. Near 4:00 pm the bus will return to Tremblay to pick up students who are participating in after school activities, and will drop off at Parkhill and 3rd St. drop off points by 4:00 pm.



WHAT ABOUT SMALL CLASS SIZES?

Class size limits are set by the province, and SD#59 is consistently well below the maximum class sizes in our schools.

<u>Grades:</u>	<u>Provinces maximum #:</u>	<u>SD 59 average #</u>
Kindergarten	22	17.9
Grades 1-3	24	19.1
Grades 4-7	30	23.9
Grades 8-12	30 +/-	25.35



WHAT NEXT?

The Board has heard the community's concerns for their children, the effect on the community itself, and the impact on real estate prices.

The decision will be made by vote of the Board on January 20, 2010.



WHAT NEXT? cont...

If the proposal to close is defeated, the Superintendent will continue her work with the Principal, PAC, SPC and District staff to develop strategies that will determine educational improvements, resource availability “doing more with less”, and use of space at Parkhill.

Should the vote be to proceed with the closure, the Superintendent will immediately begin working on a plan to make a smooth and predictable transition for the children.



FINAL QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, CONCERNS

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