



POLICY

The Board of Education believes that students should attend school as close to their home as possible. The Board of Education strongly supports the concept of the "Neighbourhood School" yet recognizes that conditions beyond its control, such as enrolment decline and funding, may necessitate the closure of a school.

Should the Board of Education believe that the closure of a school may be necessary, the following regulations will apply.

REGULATIONS

1. Where the Board contemplates a school closure, it will take into consideration:
 - a. the extent of the potential impact on students, families and the community of the facility to be closed;
 - b. relevant factors such as enrolment projections, the physical condition of the school, available alternatives for students, catchment areas, effect on transportation services and alternative potential uses for the facility.
2. Schools will not be considered for permanent closure if enrolment projections forecast the necessity of reopening the school in the near future. A decision made by the Board to temporarily close a school is subject to annual Board review and such review must take place prior to April 1 of each year the school is deemed "temporarily closed".
3. At least four (4) months prior to any school closure, the Board will advise the respective school staff, PAC and/or SPC and its recognized partner groups (ie. MATA, CUPE, DPAC, and QDP&VPA) of the potential closure of any specific school. Such advisement will be in writing and/or through formal, scheduled meetings.
4. Following the advisement noted in Regulation #3 above, the District will meet, prior to the 1st of April in the year the school may be closed, with the following groups to provide information relevant to the potential closure of any specific school:
 - a. The respective school staff with Union representatives being invited to participate; and
 - b. The parents of the noted school(s); and
 - c. The community that is immediately and historically associated with the noted school(s).
5. All recognized partner groups (noted in Regulation #3 above), including the PAC and/or SPC of the specific school(s), may make representation to the Board at any Board meeting upon being advised of the potential school closure.
6. The Board is required to announce its decision regarding any school closure prior to 1 May in the calendar year the school(s) may be closed.