

System Review *Phase III*  
Stakeholder Consultation  
*Feedback*



## System Review Phase III

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### Participant Feedback

Questions (29 responses)	YES	NO
• I have a better understanding of the issues	23	2
• The data was clearly presented	25	1
• I had the opportunity to share my thoughts	28	0

#### Additional Comments:

- I found that a lot of the information was “old news” already presented at council meetings by school trustees. But, I am appreciative of the opportunity to voice my thoughts and opinions and hear from others.
- Thanks for this opportunity! No easy task.
- Alberta Education is obviously in need of a large inject of tax dollars to fund new schools throughout the province. Otherwise education in this province will continue to suffer.
- I will be adding to my thoughts later. When I have more time to think about and expand my suggestions. This is a really good idea. You should do this in different schools for kids. Ask them what they think because kids have such imaginable minds. I love school and want to make it as good as possible.
- Excellent that the parents are involved.
- Very excited to be a part of this. Look forward to continued involvement.
- Like the open dialogue. My first experience of a board meeting – enjoyed.
- I appreciate the honesty of the PSD administration.
- It is wonderful for a larger number of folks to hear the reality of the situation.
- Would like to know how we as parents could help pressure to get a school, more money.
- We need to have a plan for now AND the future. Such as PORTABLE classrooms and while thinking about a new school for the next 5 years.
- Not as transparent about “interior modifications”. Pooling resources for kinder is great, just don’t leave PVS out of the coordination/sharing.
- We needed more time as a group discussion. We needed more time for Q&A.
- So much data – not enough clarification of issues. Not enough time for comments. Feel kinda OK about meeting.
- MORE data! And current stats/enrolments and government stats. Trustees need to “blog” quick personal updates on situation. House KG in a bldg. with main road access.
- Great presentation.
- What about additional floor(s) in any of the schools and building modulars.
- Cost effective to put in modulars rather than renovate Broxton. Can utilize the modulars with growth. Leave them at Brookwood and Millgrove or move them to new school (K-9) due to growth projected. Apply for modulars.
- Already had a good understanding of the issues. Nothing new tonight. Very well presented for K-9. Great info. Concerned that high school is being overlooked. In 2016 the high school would be ridiculously crowded – even considering other teaching method. Concerned that high school does

- not appear anywhere in the current presentation. Excellent but I think this has all been said before. Time to move on.
- I always appreciate an opportunity for input/participation in school system planning and hearing the thoughts of stakeholders. Thank you Paul McCann
- Spruce Grove is a city for new families. We're going against the national demographic and we are having an influx of young students as opposed to seniors, making the 3% student growth wildly off.
- Please move immediately upon ordering core modular units for this fall 2012. Lobby for the new school now – go for a high school – see what you can get (ps. The 3% stat from the government isn't correct – the City of Spruce Grove's numbers don't match theirs (C of Spruce Grove stats) are much more realistic, based on real growth rather than projections.

## Feedback from Website Feedback Form

### 1a. What opportunities & challenges do you see from this data in the short term (2012)?

- I believe if the board is looking at serving students in kindergarten at Broxton Park they will be undoing the amazing work the CLICK Program and School teams around the division have been doing over the past 5 years. Students with Program Unit Funding (PUF) are placed in the community schools with the supports needed to ensure the most enabling environment for success - one that allows the community school to leave and work with the child and family to set that child up for success for their future years in that school. Having all these children once again at Broxton will be moving backwards, once again these children will be transitioning into their community schools with no supports and understanding of what is needed.
- I feel that the best short term solution is to add portables to the elementary schools to accommodate the new kindergarten students. If the school board decided to move all the kindergarten classes from Millgrove and Brookword to Broxton Park where will these students go? As you know we have specialized programs in Broxton Park such as CLICK and Early Years classrooms. Much of the square footage that is probably being considered is office space for staff members. Where would these offices be, in the staff room? It has taken years to develop these programs and to hire very qualified employees which as had a very positive impact on all of Parkland school division. Would you move the CLICK Administration and Therapy staff and the Lending Library to Center for Education? Not a terrible idea, but is there room.
- By gathering all the Kindergarten classes in Broxton Park:  
Challenges:
  - 1) How would Broxton Park sustain such an enormous student population, i.e. recesses and parks, library time, gym time. A crucial part to Kindergarten is the play element which directly affects their emotional, social and academic learning, therefore these times cannot be sacrificed.
  - 2) Broxton Park already has an enormous staff with many programs; there are challenges with maintaining staff morale and culture at such a large number.
  - 3) Children that are not attending their community schools will face a very difficult transition to Grade One, which already is a very different academic experience on its own. Children with special needs would have an even greater difficulty in adjusting and having their needs met.
  - 4) The time it takes to transition a student to a new school with needs, identifying all their needs

and requirements would increase immensely, which is not conducive to the Grade One curriculum and in turn would not encourage or support the student's learning.

- Stressful to move kindergarten children, interior renovations would be optimum, have the modified classrooms as the kindergarten classrooms. One of the other challenges is that the school classrooms with the sizes maybe difficult and the notice may be difficult for some of the children a good opportunity would be having the kindergartners all together with peers their age if we changed Broxton Park out to do that. Interior modifications, would be optimum, have the modified classrooms as the kindergarten classrooms, One of the other challenges is that the school classrooms with the sizes maybe difficult and the notice may be difficult for some of the children
- A good opportunity would be having the kindergartners all together with peers their age if we changed Broxton Park out to do that. Interior modifications, would they result in letting grade 1's staying. Safety issues with drop off and pickup at Broxton. As well as lack of playground
- Projected population is an issue. Numbers do not appear realistic.
- If we missed the portables for fall, how will we accommodate the increase in enrolment?
- What do the "interior modifications" really mean? Can they be done prior to September?
- Will some families have concerns with having their kindergarten children in a separate school from their older siblings for that year? Though consolidating kindergarten could allow for sharing of resources.

#### **1b. What opportunities & challenges do you see from this data in the long term (2-10 years)?**

- That unless we get a new school our children/students will suffer. I feel that we are continuing to have the bandaid approach and our government is not valuing our students. If all of the storage rooms, office spaces, IA labs, music rooms and foods labs turn into classrooms we are limited in the programming we can offer students. Our quality of programming has diminished due to the formula the government has put on spaces for schools and is completely inappropriate for the job we do.
- Opportunities; an understanding of the immense student growth in Spruce Grove and building schools to support these needs.
- Only one school is being offered to our school division?
- If we add modular classrooms to the two existing schools they can be moved to the new school to create a larger K-9 school. We do not know if we would be approved for the modular classrooms and if we are not, then what do we do? We are concerned about the time frame.
- Reclaiming the modified space eg. art room,
- Is Ecole the best place to house the kindergartens?
- For a million dollars...can we feed the money somewhere else that could hold the kindys"
- Having portables may be a short term solution the challenge may be that these portables are going on rundown buildings.
- Is the high school in Spruce Grove already at capacity and are there projected issues with enrolment there in the long term (even with satellite classes and other delivery methods)
- The grade 3 students today will be in grade 11 in 2019 - can the high school handle an additional 500+ students?
- A new school could have capacity of 900, which would be good for one year - it would be too small in 2017
- Is the planning still too short-term

- We need more than one school"
- If we get one school, what next when we are bursting the high school
- There is the opportunity to change the way the school system is organized and recreate boundaries. ALL rural students should have to go to rural schools - even if that means you need to build them one. City schools should be reserved for within city limits ONLY! This would free up a lot of spaces and ensure tax payers are getting their money worth.
- The other opportunity is to provide a separate school for the special needs students. They would get a quality education and free up room in the older schools. Not a popular opinion, I know, but I think that system would benefit all students involved."
- The spike of children from 2003, will be entering middle school in 18 months which will increase enrollment in those schools; birth rates and housing starts continue to climb which means schools will continue to be stretched; one of the biggest challenges we see is the need for a new school but the high likelihood that Spruce Grove will not be granted one in the near future; fear that in an attempt to "prove our point" to the Government, the Board will not take into account the best interest of the students - we do not want the students of PSD to continue to be caught in the middle of a game of brinkmanship between the two levels of government.

## **2. What suggestions, comments, solutions can you offer?**

- I would like to see the new school one where PSD steps outside the box - builds a school for its CLICK program (meeting rooms for parent sessions, family sessions)- one in which families can bring their children for group family program sessions - whether they are preschool or kindergarten aged. A school that is multi aged and fosters connections between our youngest learners and oldest learners.
- Please look at real spaces and purposes before you act. Square footage does not paint an actual true picture of the available space and capacity in a school. Ask school staff's to be creative and challenge them to look at how their schools are organized, what could be moved/thrown out, put into a shed or even better a school division common shared resource/equipment storage unit ie. desks, tables, chairs, etc. We have to think about other possible solutions and options. I get that we have a school based decision making framework, but there are so many opportunities to share the larger items and store them off site and share.
- Suggestion: Adding portables to the community schools so that the Kindergarten students can start off with their community schools, allowing them to identify with their school environment and allowing staff to become familiar with individual children needs.
- A new High School facility would be the optimum solution
- Apply for the modular classrooms as soon as possible to get through 2012 & 2013.
- Finding a place for the million dollars - can we build or expand on a current facility to host the kindergartens (TLC) rather than put the money into an old school.
- Portables should be considered immediately.
- Lobbying the MLA is an option?
- Site campuses?
- Then a new school should be looked at for the immediate future - portables can then be moved to new schools???"

- Can we re-instate travelling option to allow grades 8/9 to have more options (what were the issues - costs for transportation and loss of instructional time)
- Can we request 2 schools at this time?
- Larger classes, but team teaching (50 students, 2 teachers)
- Get commitment from the city to allow development as the school division requires (they should not be a roadblock to solving our issues)
- Really like the School Capital Manual encouraging modular and expandable standards
- Ask for a K-9 now and 5-9 later
- Why is there a deadline for applications for portables - can't they be requested at any time
- Why don't the enrolment projections include possibly students from the home schooling stream - what are the rates at which they enter our system
- Can some boundaries for high school students in Spruce be directed to Stony"
- Various church spaces
- Don't like the K-9 option prefer early/middle years
- Will there be space in the new catholic high school to accommodate some of the public overflow"
- BE CAREFUL! None of this can be taken lightly and all parents should be given up to date info as it becomes available and we should have more than one opportunity to give input.
- I think finding ways to relocate the students currently in our schools is a short term solution in the long term one or two new schools will need to be built - weather is is k-9 or special needs etc. that would have to be looked at carefully.
- It does not seem like an appropriate idea to take one million dollars of PSD's operational funds away from the existing classrooms in order to modify only one school for a short term fix; with the province committed to building modular classrooms, it makes sense for the Board to apply for 2-3 modulars for each of Brookwood and Millgrove and perhaps middle schools as well; not only do the modular classrooms come from the provincial funds, but they also allow PSD future flexibility to relocate modulars where needed as the district's population continues to change.

**3. Considering the enrolment situation predicted for 2016 and assuming that Parkland School Division may receive approval for 1 school, do you have a suggestion for a specific grade and/or size configuration for the new school?**

- Yes X 14

**3a. If you answered yes, what grade and/or size configuration of school would you suggest?**

- CLICK to gr. 4 or 6
- K-9 X 4
- K-9 with 900 capacity X 2
- K-9 school built centrally not on the outskirts, only serving the affluent neighborhoods.
- Jr. High 7-9
- A new High School structure would be an appropriate solution - Go Big or Go Home!!
- Gr. 10-12 High School
- What about taking French Immersion out of Meridian and Broxton to make a new K-9 somewhere in the middle of the communities. Prefer separating the early/middle years but area needs to look at K-9 as we won't get approval for 2 schools in a short period of time.

## Additional Comments

- I cannot stress enough the importance of not taking a step backwards by grouping kindergarten children together... they need to be in their community schools.
- I would suggest making it a K-9 school with a distinct philosophy and design to continue to encourage the K-4 Early Years - 5-9 Middle years philosophy. It has worked very well in Spruce Grove for teachers, students and parents. You would be two Administrators - one designated to each area and address their particular programming, but working together to develop a whole community feel as well.
- Many people liked K-9. Some people liked the K-4 / 5-9 situation. I liked K-6
- Not enough information is given to project any long term pragmatic solutions  
Suggestion we turn school stages into classroom is NOT a practical solution for any school
- Special needs in the gym once in a while to create more space. Have some gym classes outside to allow more time for special needs students in gym. Shouldn't be K-9 as the Grade 9's and some older kids are not good role models for the younger children (use inappropriate language and the little ones copy). Kinders should have their own school - as they move up into Grade 1, they will know more people.  
Kinders should have their own buses as they can be intimidated by older children. Should be K-9 school as this works so much better for families."
- Perhaps entire (Spruce and Stony) FI could be accommodated by extra room at new catholic high school until a new school is built (temporary) and then move into new school. Important to keep K-9 FI together.  
Tri-Leisure space.  
Cycling students through and more individual/independent work.
- Year round schooling?
- I think the secondary question is not just what school to build in Spruce - but how to redistribute the outlying area's population of students. It may mean better bussing or building a new school outside city limits.
- I favour K-9 schools for the benefits of:
  - family groupings (all or most from one family in one school)
  - this offers a more realistic culture for our pre-teen and teens students(mixed with younger to allow for opportunities to model behaviour and skills, to allow synergy among these diverse age groupings including coaching in many areas (sports, literacy, citizenship)."
- "I believe that changing the grade arrangement and creating a Jr. High 7-9 would be the most beneficial to Spruce Grove. I have heard from numerous parents that the mixing of young children and pubescent children is a problem. The older children are resentful of having to share their space with young children, creating bullying and aggression issues that are further fueled by peer pressure. There are a few older children that do provide a mentorship type relationship with the younger, but it is a select few and would probably seek out such relationships anyway. Most children Gr. 7-9 are going through puberty, and undergoing huge emotional/ physical changes, thus needing a broader array of programs. A school dedicated to their needs would be ideal. They could have access to a larger/ more complex gym program (that younger children do not need). The library, comp. etc. could cater to their particular needs. By moving grades 7-9 out the current k-9 set up, you are freeing up space in those schools, as well as creating student bodies with similar needs, allowing the schools specialize their programming and hopefully stretch their budgets by not having to diversify so greatly.
- You could turn Greystone into a Jr. High, (already have a great facility that is not being used to its full potential by all of its students). Then create a K-6 school that could focus on early childhood development, by building a school that does not need to have a large gym etc. you could bring down the footprint and construction cost of the school. By reducing the need for a partnership/ joint need

facility, you are leaving the door open for a future relationship. One which will be beneficial in the near future as these high K-4 enrollment rates grow into high school students."

- PSD is in a difficult position. It is dealing with a spike in enrollment without having the necessary space to accommodate this growth. Due to rapid growth around the province, there is intense competition for new school construction. The ideal scenario is to receive a new school, however it is more likely the government will support the addition of modular classrooms at each school, which would enable PSD to accommodate student growth over the short term.

## **Email Sent to System Review Email Account**

I have a child entering Kindergarten next year, he will be going into the French Immersion program at Broxton Park, however, I was wondering how having all the kindergarten classes at Broxton Park will affect him.

Will there still be full day Kindergarten offered? From what I have heard all Kindergarten classes are now going to be half days, and I am wondering if this is rumor, or truth. I feel like full day Kindergarten benefited my older child, and helped with the transition to Grade 1, so it would sadden me to think that my younger son would not have this same opportunity. Any information that you have would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,