



MAY 14, 2020

Business Arising from Previous Meeting

ANDREW SCHOOL: JUNIOR HIGH PROGRAM

The Board of Trustees approved the closure of grades 7 to 9 at Andrew School, effective June 30, 2020. Starting in the 2020-21 school year, Andrew School's grade configuration will change to a kindergarten to Grade 6 program, and it will no longer offer a junior high program. The Board also approved a [new attendance area](#) for students in grades 7 through 9 who live within the current Andrew School attendance area. As of September 2020, these students are designated to either Lamont High or Vegreville Composite High, depending on where they reside. Before making a final decision, the Board spent a considerable amount of time [reviewing and analyzing data](#) submitted by EIPS administration and [feedback collected](#) from the community.

BACKGROUND

In fall 2018, the Board launched a review of the senior high program at Andrew School. Multiple public consultations were conducted with students, staff, families, officials and community members—three working-group meetings, a student forum, surveys and four public meetings. The consultations confirmed the low enrolment numbers at the senior high level limits access to enhanced educational opportunities compared to other schools within the Division. As a result, the Board approved the closure of the senior high grades, effective June 30, 2019.

What the consultations also revealed: Students in the junior high grades were facing similar issues in terms of access and equity of education. Last year, 26 students were enrolled in the junior high grades at Andrew School. For the 2019-20 school year, that number dropped to 10—a figure that's projected to stay roughly the same for the immediate future. With such low numbers, students don't have the same programming available as other junior highs do within the Division (see "[Andrew School Public Consultations: Report Summary](#)").

As such, at the April 23 Board meeting, trustees directed administration to produce a [report about Andrew School's junior high program](#), which included information about enrolment, programming, infrastructure, demographics, transportation and more. Taking all the data and feedback into consideration, the Board decided the best way to address the issue of equity of education for students living within the Andrew School attendance area is to close the school's junior high program. Redirecting students to Lamont High and Vegreville Composite High allows junior high students to have better access to programming options, program-specialty teachers, extracurricular opportunities, team sports and a more well-rounded junior high experience.

TRANSITION

Between now and September 2020, EIPS will work closely with families impacted by this decision to ensure the transition to the new school is handled smoothly and with sensitivity. Additionally, the Division will ensure any facility requirements, support services and student transportation needs are dealt with in advance of the first day of classes.

Board Members

Trina Boymook, *Chair* | Heather Wall, *Vice-Chair* | Randy Footz | William (Skip) Gordon
Colleen Holowaychuk | Annette Hubick | Don Irwin | Jim Seutter | Harvey Stadnick

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Trina Boymook, *Board Chair* | P 780 417 8101

Laura McNabb, *Director, Communication Services* | P 780 417 8204

www.eips.ca | Twitter: [@eips](https://twitter.com/eips) | Facebook: [elkislandpublicschools](https://www.facebook.com/elkislandpublicschools)