



Evansburg – Wildwood Facilities Review

Transcribed Flipcharts

Grand Trunk High School - June 12 Afternoon

What have you heard about the Facilities Review Project?

- Biggest Fear – no future school in Wildwood; heard that decision has been made - Wildwood is closing
- Grand Trunk High School – on maintenance list for several years, but not actioned
 - 10 years (GYPSD response)
- Four options out there
 - Fear from both communities
 - Fear of loss of a school – what it does to their community
 - Possible negative impact
- Decision already made – heard throughout both communities
- K-12 Grand Trunk High School – decided
- Getting it right is more important than moving too fast
 - Would like a school in each of our communities

GYPSD Information on Facilities Review Project

- Enrolment numbers an issue
 - If below 20, grade 7-9. Alberta Education will look at possibly closing
- Wildwood currently at 23 grade 7-9 total
- Question: Do schools have time to wait regarding maintenance needs?
 - Probably not
 - Cost of facility, decreased enrollment
 - Concern over life expectancy
- Alberta Education project approval – only 1 at a time, will take multiple years
- Schools need repairs
 - if we don't action, government may close for us
 - No guarantee of capital plan approval
- Some other schools K-12 – Grande Cache Community High School
- Question: How would Library & Lobstick Literacy fit in?
 - Could be in the centre of the facility
- Question: Evansview school – rumor that the school is sinking into a mine shaft
 - Mud jack floors caused some sinking
 - Mayor of Yellowhead County indicated this is not true
- Question: If any modernization approved – what happens to students?
 - Depends on school
 - Phasing of construction
- Question: How disruptive will this be for students?
 - Important to have good work plans

Grand Trunk continued...

- Grande Cache Community High School renovations – 2 years plus planning = 4 years

What concerns you about this project? What are the opportunities or benefits of this project?

- Wildwood option doesn't seem realistic
 - No option for Wildwood school continue?
 - Agree that challenge is declining enrollment
 - Need to look at bigger picture
 - Want time to consider viable options
- Lack of programs – lose students, increase enrolment equals increased funding plus increase options – this is an opportunity
- Question: How quickly does government close a school if decreased enrollment?
 - Not a concern at moment
- Reality is rural demographic
 - trades important
 - What are programs at Jr. high/Sr. high?
 - Want onsite learning
- More business school programming – entrepreneurial skill development
- Could develop programs to encourage students to stay in community & have business/trades
- Need to find ways to keep families in community instead of leaving to take children to other high schools with more options
- Worried about loss of staff – need to remember we currently do have excellent programs
 - Need to expand & build on this
- Could add to curriculum, every day skills – budgeting, life insurance
- Entwistle school – future of community? Issue here? How does this affect this process?
- Importance of grade 12 education – how can we help all students with varied interests to be successful?
 - More options
 - Variety of skill levels – all valued
- People worried if school gone, community crumbles – fear
- Where do people move – to a community that has a school?
- Elementary in Wildwood, Jr. High/Sr. High? Schools in both?
- Increased use of the facility
 - School & community to work together?
 - Create more partnerships
 - Important for community programs to help partner?
- Education and low-income housing?
 - Multipurpose spaces
 - Daycare
 - Seniors?
 - There are playschools in:
 - Evansview school
 - Wildwood
 - Entwistle
- Government guidelines – funding based on K-12 programs
 - Not ruled out but would need money from outside source
- Demographics changing
 - Need for daycare

Grand Trunk continued...

- Future of schools/families
- Having a school in your community is important

What questions does this project raise for you?

- Bus routes/times
 - Transfers affect time?
 - Why do we transfer/transport students to Entwistle?
 - Collaborative busing agreements (GYPSD response)
- Cost of options
- Trend? Build vs. modernize?
 - Depends on building infrastructure. (GYPSD response)
- Using facility/expand options/programs – trade school
- Criteria from Alberta Education/better understanding
- Other criteria
 - Bussing
 - Competition
- What are parameters/rules of additional external partners in schools
- Support from Yellowhead County important
 - What will this look like?

How would you like to be involved in the next stages of the engagement process?

- Getting information out publicly to correct rumors
- Notices on bulletin boards in community
- Concern about Fall 2018 programming?
 - Business as usual (GYPSD response)

Evansview School - June 12 Evening

What have you heard about the Facilities Review Project?

- Grand Trunk High School renovated, amalgamation of all 3 – K-12
- Right size school to reflect enrolment
- Closing Wildwood – send students to Evansburg
- Wildwood & Evansview School most in need of renovation

GYPSD Information on Facilities Review Project

- Question: Wildwood & Evansview School combined - can Evansview School hold all students?
 - Yes, if modernized
- Question: How much money do we have?
 - Unknown at present, depends on proposal
 - About \$25 million for modernization
- Question: Length of time per school?
 - One at a time – 4 - 5 years per school if approved
- Question: Construction?
 - Phasing

What concerns you about this project? What are the opportunities or benefits of this project?

- Review is biased – Evansview School parents want future Grand Trunk High School –so vote for high school renovation
 - What is practical – what is important?
- Concern: Evansview School & Wildwood > what about Grand Trunk High School, ↔ timeline & change priority
- Focus on one school to get best facility in more timely manner
- Larger school - keep staff & more students
- Concern over losing fantastic teachers in communities
 - Staff will move with students (GYPSD response)
- Want students to have same or better programs/opportunities as large schools if amalgamation.
 - I.e. extra-curricular
- Relation between Parkland & GYPSD?
 - I.e. Entwistle
 - Loss of programs at Grand Trunk as students move to Spruce Grove & Stony Plain
 - Entwistle Jr. High – bus to Seba Beach for options
- School yard – outdoor education programs?
 - Both concern & opportunities to consider
 - With amalgamation, would areas be age appropriate?

What questions does this project raise for you?

- Design layouts
- Staffing ideas
- Site organization
- Advocating? Should community be doing this as well as the board?
- If all 3 schools have decreased enrolment, what is the likelihood of approval?
- Other organizations – what happens if closure
 - Partnerships will be part of all discussions
- Plan in fall – business as usual
 - Could hear in April 2019
- People frustrated if participate and nothing happens or don't know if input actually considered
- If approved, how long is the process?
- Construction plans – students?
- TRANSITIONING
- Curriculum timelines/topics – each school different – how would this merge into one?
 - I.e. core, extracurricular, athletic
- Ensure appropriate resources/supports in place
- What about safety upgrades if needed before approval? Is there a plan to address?

How would you like to be involved in the next stages of the engagement process?

- Can be exciting to bring staff together and collaborate

Wildwood School - June 14 Afternoon

What have you heard about the Facilities Review Project?

- Wildwood school is closing – first one considered
- Evansview school & Grand Trunk High School – both modernized and possible amalgamation of Wildwood to Evansview school or Grand Trunk High School
- Wildwood – chance for modernized; property values decrease school closes

GYPSPD Information on Facilities Review Project

- Grand Trunk High School #1 – why?
- Option #1 – clarify right size – what that means?
- Or Grand Trunk High School fully renovated – Wildwood only minor?
- What has GYPSPD considered about impact on both communities if a school closes?
- Concern that other trustees not from this area are making decisions

What concerns you about this project? What are the opportunities or benefits of this project?

- Impact on community if school closes
- If Wildwood school closes
 - How do we attract new families if no school here?
 - Property values decrease
 - School is main hub of community – central location for events
- Look at map
 - Wildwood School is in the middle
 - Long distance transportation – don't extend route time
- North and South 6:45-7pm – concern over 2 hours ride for Kindergartners
- Bussing – length of ride time
 - But if schools together – could be less buses?
 - Not full - would not change routes - more kids needed to fill
- Already long (2-hour route)
- School boundary changes? - Lehman
 - Would students shift to Niton vs Evansburg
- School bus transfer times to high school
 - Possible opportunity
 - Hard for little students
- Students with special needs
 - consideration for length of time on bus increase
- Size of Wildwood vs. Evansburg - community vote disparity
 - No vote. The focus is on what is best for all in both towns (GYPSPD response)
- Why is Entwistle not part of this?
 - Different school division (GYPSPD response)
- Was there not a historical agreement with Parkland School Division to send Entwistle students to Grand Trunk High School?
 - No formal agreement (GYPSPD response)
- Some benefits
 - Changes to school boundaries, transfers
 - Excited to get students out of split classes as some struggle – can make a huge difference in high school
 - A new modern school would be great

Wildwood Afternoon continued...

- Opportunity to have more options – ‘Lobstick Power School’
- Concern – doing nothing – loss of options
- K-12 configurations ‘all eggs in 1 basket’

What questions does this project raise for you?

- Look at how long routes would be if amalgamated – actual times vs. guessing
 - No transfers
- Right size – how does that affect future growth?
- Wildwood – community feels population will be increasing in younger grades?
 - Other stats?
- Teacher Feedback – how do they feel? What do they want? Important pros/cons
- Infrastructure – why is this taking so long? Safety is concern for students – why not higher priority?
 - Help us advocate for this (GYPSD response)
- Can Evansview school amalgamate into Wildwood?
- MLA & minister come here to meet parents?
- Any staff job loss if amalgamated?
 - No – staff would go with students (GYPSD response)
- Why only one school in Evansburg not at Wildwood?
- Niton kids coming to Wildwood vs. Edson?
- Question: Weren’t there recent renovations Grand Trunk and what was the cost?
 - Renovations to gym, gathering area, air handlers
 - Done in last 7 years
 - About \$2 million

How would you like to be involved in the next stages of the engagement process?

- Please ensure that info is made public and people know where they can find it?
 - Also, on community bulletin boards

Wildwood School - June 14 Evening

What have you heard about the Facilities Review Project?

- Wildwood closing for sure
- New school will be in Evansburg not Wildwood
- Right size each one
- GYPSD deciding whether to fund schools – GYPSD to decide money to spend?
- Increased bus times for Wildwood students moving to Evansburg
- Grand Trunk High School – K-12
- All 3 at the end of life expectancies +Niton

What concerns you about this project? What are the opportunities or benefits of this project?

- Busing is a main concern
 - Length of time? Will it increase?
 - Concern for younger students
- Future of community

Wildwood Evening continued...

- How much money is there to be divided?
 - Funded by province – they run project (GYPSD response)
- Boundary changes?
- What about Niton? Why just Wildwood and Evansburg
 - Close proximity of communities (GYPSD response)
- Real estate price decrease/impact on community with a loss of school
- Role of school in community – school is a ‘hub’
- Concern from community – loss of school impact future growth
- School – followed by post office, etc. – what’s next, domino effect
- Money being spent at the edge of the division? Why?
 - Competition from other school divisions (GYPSD response)
- Bussing huge concern
- Evansview – what about Entwistle – reciprocal agreements?
- Distance between schools
 - reality – may be some difficulty
- High school in Wildwood?
- Some opportunities
 - Home schooled children – might go to new facility
 - Modern new facility – could be exciting opportunity
 - Nice to have a full capacity of students
 - More buses/enhance routes/rethink
 - New/unique programs would be exciting and needed
 - Another location for school other than Wildwood or Evansburg
 - Both can flourish – change grade configurations? Communities?
 - Modernization could benefit all – larger can bring some new innovative programs/staff for students benefits
 - Important to have students together for K-12, K-6, etc. – can be beneficial – stay with peer groups

What questions does this project raise for you?

- Statistics – long term projections (10-15 years) for demographics
- Grade enrollment projections per school – historic & future
- Projections on length of bus routes and times
- Boundary changes
- Likelihood of program options – realistic?
- Number of students/class sizes in amalgamation
- Variety of courses – now vs. future
- Staffing concerns
 - No teachers/CUPE will lose jobs (GYPSD response)
- Other partnerships – lose space?
 - Partnerships would be considered (GYPSD response)
- Number of home schooled in area

How would you like to be involved in the next stages of the engagement process?

(no responses)