



## Evansburg – Wildwood Facilities Review

### Transcribed Feedback Forms

#### Grand Trunk High School - June 12 Afternoon

Number of attendees signed in	<b>20</b>
Number of Feedback forms completed	<b>14</b>
Schools represented	Grand Trunk High School (40%), Evansview (30%), Wildwood (5%)
Organizations represented	Yellowhead County Family and Community Support Services, Grand Trunk High School council & parents, EPS/ Yellowhead County Library Board, Evansview parents & staff, Council of School Councils, Wildwood businesses, Wildwood School parents & grandparents, Yellowhead County libraries, and Lobstick Adult Literacy Society

#### 1. What concerns you about the Evansburg – Wildwood Facilities Review Project?

- Evansburg/Wildwood moving to Grand Trunk. The population being too big. I chose Evansview based on the fact it was a small school and wanted a small learning environment for my son
- To ensure we make sure that we promote the good in our schools
- I am concerned about the quality of education and options available in programming in the interim of any decision; in high school in particular.
- Are my kids going to benefit from this?
- Wanting options for our students
- Closure of the Wildwood school
- Change is always hard – especially do not want the school in Wildwood to close
- Bussing concerns for younger children
- Long bus rides
- How it will affect the community of Wildwood and business/real estate
- How it will affect the communities
- The negative impact on a community, its economy, its viability
- Having needed space for playschool and the successful kids and families program
- I feel Wildwood deserves a school too. I understand K-12 in Evansburg, but K-6 in a smaller Wildwood school needs to be considered.
- Accurate information being shared between the Board and the community
- Concerned that this will be tabled due to funding
- County involvement, government -> education conversations
- No concerns, modernization must happen

**2. What are the opportunities or benefits of this project?**

- More funding for the schools
- The Evansburg library will be improved
- Bringing schools back up to code
- Win-win
- Better opportunities and programming
- Better programming
- Sooner implementation of better programming and curriculum will keep students local and draw traffic
- Creating opportunities and programs for use of spaces to ensure student success
- Open doors for other professionals
- Keep students closer to home
- Keep high school students in our community
- Modernization of each school
- Updated facilities
- Having newer, modern facilities
- The interior of Grand Trunk High School is in terrible, cosmetic shape
- Making the school a hub in the community involving the Library, Lobstick Literacy, playschool, Trade school
- Health, wellness, ultimate success of students if it goes through sooner
- I think the benefits will be heavily weighted for the high school which I am in favour of. I would like to see more benefits for the lower grades for Wildwood in particular.

**3. What questions does this project raise for you? What additional information could we provide to help you understand the project?**

- There are 4 options for the schools, but only one to keep Wildwood open. Why is that?
- Parameters of what is allowed to partner in a school. E.g. private business?? Non- profits?? Who can be allowed to move into a school as a partner. (Did ask this during meeting, after I wrote this)
- Which option is going to provide the best programming for our children?
- Budgeting and cost information
- How do we create a sense of urgency?
- How can the community get involved?
- Interesting discussion on financial aspects
- Understanding the benefits for Wildwood better. I hear many concerns but not enough benefits for them.
- Gym usage conflicts
- How big of a reno can be dreamed?

**4. How would you like to be involved in the next stages of the project? (check as many as apply)**

- a. Receive information by email (14)
- b. Receive information through the school (5)
- c. Attend meetings or workshops in my community (11)
  - i. Time Allowing (1)
- d. Participate on-line (5)

## Grand Trunk continued...

e. Other – please explain (0)

### 5. Additional feedback on the project is welcome.

- Vermillion – farming – partnership with Vermillion school
- Enhance music program
- Love the idea of combining the schools
- Thank you. It feels good to be included
- I look forward to change! It's good to see our school board thinking ahead and being competitive. I hope to see specialized programming that draws and keeps people here.
- A dentist in the school?
- I'm very excited about the potential, as was discussed today.

## Evansview School - June 12 Evening

Number of attendees signed in	19
Number of Feedback forms completed	10
Schools represented	Evansview (52%), Grand Trunk High School (32%), Wildwood (5%)
Organizations represented	CUPE president, Evansview parents, teachers and staff, Grand Trunk High School parents, Wildwood School parents and other members of the Wildwood community

### 1. What concerns you about the Evansburg – Wildwood Facilities Review Project?

- Concerned that shutting down a school will hurt a community
- The timeline – how long could this take before it even begins?
- Timing of any project is my concern.
- Length of time this will take to happen
- That it gets done in a timely fashion before my child is done school. Sounds like it is an exhausting project for all involved. If trustees change before this happens, is new board going to appreciate what we all want?
- If the right project is not selected we could lose students, maybe staff? – or nothing will happen at all
- I would like to see one school (Grand Trunk High School) renovated to it's fullest to provide better opportunity for our kids (bigger schools = bigger opportunity)
- It concerns me that someone believed the different schools merging would affect academics.
- What about the school yard? Love Evansview's school yard.
- If becomes one school then choose architect who understands school

### 2. What are the opportunities or benefits of this project?

- I think by combining all 3 schools there will be better opportunity for the kids
- More academic opportunities

## Evansview continued...

- No split classes
- More students/peers/friends
- More community members
- More extracurricular activities
- More funding to provide more programs – especially for High School
- One K-12 solves so many inefficiencies with providing the foundations to run a school in one place vs. ‘times 3’
- Better, more modern schools and programs.
- Bringing professionals into one building who might be able to help other students in the Lobstick division
- Make this one school into a great community school to draw people from other areas – get staff on board
- Creating a community center feel – seeing the school as a major, important part of the community which would encourage high schoolers to remain in the community
- I would like to think that if transportation is increased, parents would be okay with that if it meant better opportunity for our kids. I.e. Entwistle kids get bussed to Stony Plain.
- Wildwood transportation is already set to match...but long bus ride = later start time, earlier end time

### **3. What questions does this project raise for you? What additional information could we provide to help you understand the project?**

- Staffing issues
- Staffing decisions
- Design ideas
- Design decisions
- Time line – how long?
- What about the groups that use our facility? playschools, successful kids & families, health unit – new moms group
- Could we sell the school – as an agriculture or whatever school and get staff on board to push it?
- Will the land at the closed schools still be available for school use if Grand Trunk High School becomes the school all students attend? Could Evansview’s school yard be used for Grand Trunk student’s programming? What happens to playground equipment? Would we need to fundraise for a new playground?

### **4. How would you like to be involved in the next stages of the project? (check as many as apply)**

- a. Receive information by email (9)
- b. Receive information through the school (8)
- c. Attend meetings or workshops in my community (9)
- d. Participate on-line (7)

## Evansview continued...

- e. Other – please explain (3)
  - i. Put in local newspapers, radio stations, get the word out to all parents in division
  - ii. Can playschool parents also be invited formally? So they can be a part of the process or families with new babies.
  - iii. Maybe explain in newspapers to the general public

### 5. Additional feedback on the project is welcome.

- As a parent in Parkland, we have sent our High School kids to Stony Plain where they have had an amazing education experience where programs and funding were readily available. If we could create a larger school to provide the same or similar programs, we would definitely keep our Evansview student in the community to complete her schooling. If not, we would continue sending to Stony Plain.
- Thank-you
- I would have liked to see more parents at the meeting!
- A school in Southern Alberta was going to be shut down, the principal there got behind the community (yes, he and his staff were going to lose their jobs) and they started a Rodeo School. Yes, the students still did core subjects plus horsemanship, etc.
- Put all students in a renovated Grand Trunk K-12 school?

## Wildwood School - June 14 Afternoon

Number of attendees signed in	<b>29</b>
Number of Feedback forms completed	<b>18</b>
Schools represented	Wildwood (52%), Evansview (7%), 'Yes' (21%)
Organizations represented	Yellowhead County Library Board, Evansview school parents, Wildwood school parents and staff, other members of the Evansburg & Yellowhead County community

### 1. What concerns you about the Evansburg – Wildwood Facilities Review Project?

- Concern for businesses in Wildwood if school shuts down. They will have less population to shop there.
- I truly believe a school should be shut down. We need bigger budget, therefore giving our children better options and no split classes. I do believe we should keep Wildwood school so our town doesn't die off.
- Closing Wildwood will kill the community
- If Evansburg gets new school we may lose students to that school; lowering our numbers even more.
- Loss of community-based facility if there is a closure in our community. Other groups use facility.
- That Wildwood school will NOT be closed. Good education for students without a community suffering.

## Wildwood Afternoon continued...

- Community of Wildwood dying
- Wildwood will get least amount of focus because we are smaller community
- Loss of community
- Hurting the population of our town
- Losing the heart of our town
- Closure of Wildwood school. The downfall of an entire community. Unrealistic bus times for students.
- Busing to Evansburg
- Longer bus times as we live on the west end of division of Niton
- Time for students on the bus
- I would like to see size appropriate Grand Trunk High School 7-12, size appropriate Wildwood K-6
- Larger classes equal less one on one
- Makes more sense to amalgamate in the middle rather than on one end
- Why have all schools in Evansburg, they are on the East side of our county? Central would be better.
- Entwistle school is available to Evansburg students
- Concerned about one large school – increased chances of tragic occurrences
- Does the county get involved in this process? If so, what?
- Closing Wildwood school. I do not want my children (elementary) being lumped in with high school students. Loss of current staff, busing, why is Wildwood not an option to have other schools move to. Why are the parents and community members not involved in meetings with ministers, MLA and board?

### **2. What are the opportunities or benefits of this project?**

- Modernization of 2x schools
- Move options for curriculum
- More options at modern, safer schools
- More options for everyone
- More options
- More options for students
- Kids should get more options and better education
- Perhaps more choice/options for our children
- Better educational opportunities
- Better up graded facilities & program options
- Better facilities for learning
- We (our education) get current, up to date education
- Community input
- Combined resources for teachers/students/family
- Healthier, safer schools
- No split classes
- I don't think Wildwood should have a junior high. They should be going to Grand Trunk in grade 7.
- Option to modernize all 3 schools is the only positive option. Busing feedback is required.

**3. What questions does this project raise for you? What additional information could we provide to help you understand the project?**

- How can others participate to create 'multi-use'; partnership opportunities
  - Preschools, Successful kids & families, After-school programs
- Real population numbers within the two communities involved
- Realistic busing times/costs
- Do not rely on County of Parkland's input
- I question the concern for money (or lack of it) is more important than our communities and ultimately our children
- Questions about transportation
- Transportation
- How this will affect busing and towns?
- How will this benefit kids and communities?
- How will it be a disadvantage to kids and communities?
- Questions about property values (Evansburg property value would not change because they have an accessible school)
- Is one of these options guaranteed?
- I just want to be involved! Let me know when all these meetings are going to be.
- What will happen to our school in the near future if we don't get the funding?

**4. How would you like to be involved in the next stages of the project? (check as many as apply)**

- a. Receive information by email (14)
- b. Receive information through the school (9)
- c. Attend meetings or workshops in my community (15)
- d. Participate on-line (9)
- e. Other – please explain (3)
  - i. Put bulletin board posters up!!
  - ii. Notices on bulletin boards.
  - iii. Post in newspaper regarding meetings, post office

**5. Additional feedback on the project is welcome.**

- The biggest thing is shutting down Wildwood, it will be devastating to the community. If only one school is ideal, build it in Wildwood then Niton students can come and cut their busing to Edson
- Third option – need K-12 school in Wildwood and then Niton (Lobstick zone) could attend rather than going to Edson.
- I think the best option for all parties would be a modernization of the GT school and an amalgamation of elementary schools in Wildwood. This option allows both communities to thrive while providing the best education options for the children.
- Does it not make more sense to have schools and community events central in an area, than to have it at the far end of a county?
- Looking at a map, Wildwood is in the middle – younger children need to meet in the middle
- Government make decisions based on numbers, not how communities. In order to get more students, communities (county) need to attract.

## Wildwood Afternoon continued...

- Bring one school to middle of Wildwood
- It makes sense to have the high school in Wildwood. We are more central to Evansburg and Niton students and all smaller communities need busing
- I want a meeting with Board/MLA/Minister of Education

## Wildwood School - June 14 Evening

Number of attendees signed in	<b>35</b>
Number of Feedback forms completed	<b>9</b>
Schools represented	Wildwood (37%), Grand Trunk High School (11%), Evansview (6%)
Organizations represented	Wildwood School parents, grandparents & staff, Grand Trunk High School parents, Evansburg community members, TOPS, Education Services Centre, Evansview School, Wildwood library, and Alberta Teachers Association

### 1. What concerns you about the Evansburg – Wildwood Facilities Review Project?

- Combining communities increases enrollments in K-9 but the number of high school students stays the same as it has been – which is barely enough kids to create a full option, full opportunity high school
- Very long bus rides
- Bussing
- If a school closure community will suffer as a whole
- Loss of school results in community breakdown
- The school is the hub of the community
- Wildwood will become a ghost town without the school
- Losing Wildwood school and what that means to our children and community
- Property values dropping
- With larger classes will our kids get the attention they need
- That kid's may be taken out of their communities to attend school at someone else's community. Kids can develop negative feelings like:
  - The feeling of being lost
  - The feeling of not belonging
  - The feeling of not being welcome
- Short time period for feedback. This must have been in the works for some time.

### 2. What are the opportunities or benefits of this project?

- Better programming opportunities by amalgamating at least the junior high if not all K-9's
- Modernization of the schools
- More option classes
- Possibly better qualified teachers. E.g. shop, foods, gym
- Opportunity for BOTH communities to move forward and flourish



## Wildwood Evening continued...

- Today I don't see any busing times going up \*after meeting I can see there may be somethings that could be better for our students with modernization or amalgamation

### 3. What questions does this project raise for you? What additional information could we provide to help you understand the project?

- Historical data – what is the ripple effect on similar sized communities that have a closure as far as businesses closing, real estate values, attracting new residents
- Historical data on other communities where schools have closed and the effect it had on the towns
- How is the outcome better for my child?
- What will happen to our school?
- What will happen to our kids?
- How long will they have to ride the bus?
- How much will it cost to upgrade Evansview school?
- The question it raises immediately is: Are the people in charge of this project 'Children haters'? Do they not care at all about the demise of a community?
- I would like to know the estimated cost of bussing all the students from Wildwood to Evansburg or vice versa. Cost per year per student.

### 4. How would you like to be involved in the next stages of the project? (check as many as apply)

- a. Receive information by email (4)
- b. Receive information through the school (2)
- c. Attend meetings or workshops in my community (4)
- d. Participate on-line (2)
- e. Other – please explain (0)

### 5. Additional feedback on the project is welcome.

- School/Rec centre partnership (GYPSD/Yellowhead County?)
  - Community entrance – pool, fitness/weight rooms & classes \*Gym use as well after 6pm; conference rooms for rent; acoustic sound proofing?
- Not one community can afford to lose their school
- The meeting being held in the gym was a bad idea. True, there is lots of space but the acoustics were terrible. With the high ceiling and the extra space, with the fans running, it was very hard to hear what was being said most of the time, both by presenters and participants. Why not use a proper PA system? I am sure there must be one available.

## Meeting Evaluations

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with each of the following statements.

		1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Agree	4 Strongly Agree	5 Not Sure
<b>1.</b>	<b>The objectives of the meeting were clear.</b>					
	Grand Trunk - June 12 Afternoon	0	0	5	8	0
	Evansview - June 12 Evening	0	0	0	10	0
	Wildwood - June 14 Afternoon	0	1	7	9	0
	Wildwood - June 14 Evening	0	1	3	2	0
<b>2.</b>	<b>The information presented was easy for me to understand.</b>					
	Grand Trunk - June 12 Afternoon	0	0	3	10	0
	Evansview - June 12 Evening	0	0	2	8	0
	Wildwood - June 14 Afternoon	0	0	10	7	0
	Wildwood - June 14 Evening	1	1	2	2	0
<b>3.</b>	<b>I had enough information to provide meaningful input.</b>					
	Grand Trunk - June 12 Afternoon	0	1	2	11	0
	Evansview - June 12 Evening	0	0	3	7	0
	Wildwood - June 14 Afternoon	0	1	9	5	1
	Wildwood - June 14 Evening	0	3	3	0	0
<b>4.</b>	<b>Participation and interaction were encouraged.</b>					
	Grand Trunk - June 12 Afternoon	0	0	2	11	0
	Evansview - June 12 Evening	0	0	0	9	1
	Wildwood - June 14 Afternoon	0	0	3	14	0
	Wildwood - June 14 Evening	0	0	3	3	0
<b>5.</b>	<b>I now have a better understanding of the Facilities Review Project.</b>					
	Grand Trunk - June 12 Afternoon	0	0	4	9	0
	Evansview - June 12 Evening	0	1	0	9	0
	Wildwood - June 14 Afternoon	0	2	9	6	0
	Wildwood - June 14 Evening	0	4	1	1	0
<b>6.</b>	<b>I think GYPSD will consider community input in the Facilities Review Project</b>					
	Grand Trunk - June 12 Afternoon	0	0	3	7	2
	Evansview - June 12 Evening	0	0	5	5	0
	Wildwood - June 14 Afternoon	0	2	9	3	3
	Wildwood - June 14 Evening	0	1	3	1	1

<b>7.</b>	<b>Participating in this meeting was a good use of my time.</b>					
	Grand Trunk - June 12 Afternoon	0	0	4	9	0
	Evansview - June 12 Evening	0	0	3	7	0
	Wildwood - June 14 Afternoon	1	0	11	5	0
	Wildwood - June 14 Evening	0	1	2	2	1
		<b>Poor</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>How do you rate the meeting overall?</b>					
	Grand Trunk - June 12 Afternoon	0	0	2	9	0
	Evansview - June 12 Evening	0	0	1	8	0
	Wildwood - June 14 Afternoon	0	0	12	5	0
	Wildwood - June 14 Evening	1	0	3	0	0