

# WE'RE LISTENING EDSON

June 15, 2015 Community Feedback

## General comments:

*As always, I appreciate when capital spending issues arise, big decisions that affect many communities and choices are put forth that affect the future of Edson. that GYPSD takes the time to invite the community to hear the proposals and form educated decisions. Although it may seem that the same people show up and the same people share ideas but those people leave these information sessions and they go out into the communities and share facts, statistics, informed ideas with others that couldn't come or chose not to. It doesn't make it any less valuable. Information nights are important for those who care about the future of their community, much appreciated.*

*My biggest concern is how teachers will make meaningful connections with students in a big school. With proper admin and teachers effort we CAN make a big school a family.*

*Should we consider keeping Evergreen as a small school option teamed with the Edson Playschool Association? Thanks for all the great information last night!! (received by email)*

## 200 Student Capacity Facility

### I SEE SOME OF THE **ADVANTAGES** BEING:

- Small staff and student populations
- Family atmosphere (2)
- Smaller school is easier for young children, maybe
- Keep it family-based
- Closer relationship with/between students and teachers
- More variety for community members
- The 'family' feel we already have at Dakin
- Smaller class sizes
- Nice and inclusive in a small size-less overwhelming for sensory kids
- Smaller class sizes (2)
- More chance that teachers will know every student (2)
- Like the two wing idea less kids in one place
- Kids get to school by walking/less school bussing
- Kids not overwhelmed by too many kids
- Would love for the new school to be a junior high school and for Dakin to move to Pine Grove. Dakin would fit in Pine Grove as it once was an elementary school before. But Pine Grove is not set up for a junior high. Just a thought! (3)
- Less kids=better supervision, less issues with parents coming (as easier to know who is in your building) \*safety\*
- Cost is lower (not sure if this more economical)
- Best idea
- I really want to see this size of school go ahead. I see a better chance of a growing community to have more schools.
- The teachers will know every student better with the large school, I don't see this happening
- I would like to see the original 300 plan go ahead
- Students/teachers being able to know everyone and feel comfortable as the scale and # of humans is smaller
- Community feel
- Teachers know all kids and kids feel significant
- We love our small school family
- We are able to make great connections with all of our staff/ students and parents
- Small, tight-knit school family. we know everybody-teachers, students & TAs. Hot lunches are more manageable for council and teachers. Manageable student base during emergencies/bus time. Low bullying incidents. (received by email)

### I SEE SOME OF THE **CHALLENGES** BEING:

- Minimal space
- Less funding - meaning no librarian, gym specialist or music specialist
- Future problems with Evergreen School
- Empty space in both Evergreen and Dakin
- Less money for TAs
- Town is growing, need to grow with it
- Split classes only work for some
- If you don't like the teacher you have
- Evergreen modernization
- I really see no advantage to maintaining the two existing schools, Dakin and Evergreen. What would be the point of wasting more money and in ten years when the cost goes up again, we revisit the dead horse and wish we did it in 2015. Take advantage of Notley's generosity-get your new school!
- Loss of space for classrooms
- Opportunity for qualifying for funding for specialized teachers
- Being labelled as 'good' 'bad' schools
- School 'hopping' to the 'new' school. How do we control #'s?
- Not suitable for potential growth in student body. Rooms for library or parent council not big enough or available (received by email)

## 450 Student Capacity Facility

### I SEE SOME OF THE ADVANTAGES BEING:

- Specialist teachers
  - Additional funding
  - 'Love' the idea of combining both schools. Think the students can benefit from staffing and a larger facility.
  - Other advantages: gym teachers, librarian, hot lunch area, larger playground
  - Music and gym programs
  - Less bussing (2)
  - Small schools are nice but this seems like the most realistic/ economical choice!
  - Cost-savings with shared resources
  - More efficient in-town bussing
  - Sharing with the town is wonderful as town can run more activities for the people and can be used for tournaments, walking track for people
  - Bigger school with more amenities
  - Less community 'opinion' on the better school
  - Bigger gym
  - Would love to see a kitchen, sinks in every classroom and implementing the program "Don't Walk in the Hallways!"
  - Getting a music and gym teacher
  - More TA money
  - More available extra-curricular grants
  - More options
  - Will accommodate population growth
  - 'I want to be on the design committee'
  - Like the two wing idea as students are spread out
- A new clean school would be great
  - New building=people will choose to go here because it is new(not at all a reason for my family)
  - No need to modernize Evergreen
  - Bus lanes and parking are sub-standard at all the existing primary schools in Edson. Hope would be in safety and ease of use would be in the forefront when planning the new facility- this is your chance to do it right
  - Starting fresh with proper/safe bus lanes and parking
  - It only makes sense to move forward, initial cost is high but there isn't any benefit to trying to maintain two very old schools
  - A brand new school would be a huge selling point when trying to attract new people to town as well as attracting new teachers looking for employment.
  - I would like to vote for combining Evergreen and Dakin to build the larger school. *(received by email)*
  - Specialized teachers if budget allows-physical ed & music
  - Classroom/ teacher 'choice'
  - Bussing becomes more streamlined
  - Extra staffing for library/music/gym teachers
  - 2 great schools combining
  - Staff collaboration
  - Big kitchen/eating space
  - \$saving \$12 million + \$3 mill for 1 more school
  - School board communication/visits/easier to get to 1 school
  - Recycle space
  - Bigger gym, classrooms, flex/multi-purpose rooms. More students benefit from a newer school-sooner. Tax dollars are put to better use. *(received by email)*

### I SEE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES BEING:

- Large groups or 'cliques'
- Not knowing all students and/or staff
- Larger staff
- Too many children to be supervised more bullying will happen
- Students will become a number
- Students will get lost
- Not a family feeling (3)
- Relationships within the school with a larger population
- Too many kids (2), lose that closeness and family friendly feel
- Less extra events, too much for parent volunteers to do
- Large/bigger class sizes (2)
- More issues for those kids that might feel overwhelmed by large crowds
- Multiple classroom choices - re: teachers
- Harder to get to know everyone
- More bussing issues
- My concern with this many kids is safety and the teachers knowing all the students would be a concern as well. What about parent after-school pickup and morning drop off? That will be crazy. It is just hard to imagine such big numbers at this young age.
- More kids=more staff
- 450 in K-6 WAY TOO big (not as personal)
- Teachers only know 2/3 of kids/a family not all 100% from experience
- I think this idea is awful: community involvement, safety, family feel - all gone!
- How do you deal with bussing because this road is so busy (not talking length of time on bus but how to house this many busses) and all the parent pick ups(how to organize this)
- I have huge issues; I think our kids will suffer, not in the classroom(teacher, student ratio will remain the same) but safety, community, family issues(be able to have family involved)
- Space to grow-what happens when we get 500+
- How would support be provided to Westhaven because the larger school in numbers naturally would get more/higher priority?
- What happens at Westhaven when 'everyone' wants new?
- The transition will be tough, people don't love change. I see some struggles when trying to merge the two staffs, many type 'A's' at both schools. They may issues establishing pecking order, perhaps this would be a good opportunity to add some strong male staff, create more of a balance.
- Too many students-personal level is lost
- Keeping track of students during an emergency-such a large number to account for
- Staff don't get the chance to know all the students, even by recognition in one year.
- I worry about staff/students/parents making connections with each other.
- Glad to know all positions will interview for jobs.
- Possible decrease in PAC functions due to logistics, costs and the increase in parent helpers required but not received. Traffic at pickup time not manageable-buses and cars make it too congested-will need a well thought out bus land and parking lot. Neighbours to school? Are we going to see an increase in taxes/Or does that increase anyways with the building of a new school no matter the size? Loss of more green space/playground space. Students are resilient but I foresee some students not transitioning very well to a bigger school. It's manageable but stressful. *(received by email)*