



New Humble Centre School

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Notice of Motion - School Closure

Why are you considering closing New Humble Centre School?

BGSD's West End Schools Programming Review, initiated in late 2019, indicated a closer examination was warranted on the viability of New Humble Centre School.

With that information, the Board decided to put forward a Notice of Motion to consider the closure of NHCS. This does not necessarily mean NHCS will be closed. It simply indicates the Board will vote on the possibility at a later date. It also triggers the process of formal information-gathering: Administration is tasked with collecting relevant quantitative and qualitative data in order to form a recommendation to the Board. In putting forward the Notice of Motion, the Board cited the high costs per student, enrolment numbers, population trends, deferred capital costs and the overall financial outlook of the provincial budget. Data related to these factors forms part of the information-gathering process.

It is important to note that enrolment and finances are not the only factors the Board looks at when considering a school closure. Board Policy 15 - School Closure states "there are certain critical factors that must be met by a school in order to exist as a viable educational institution: Program factors; Enrolment factors; Revenue factors; Health and / or Safety Factors."

Any one factor on its own does not necessarily trigger a school closure process. However, there is a direct correlation between the first three factors. A change in one of these factors may influence a change in the other.

How does the new provincial budget affect NHCS?

The provincial budget, tabled on February 27, 2020, includes a new funding framework for Alberta schools for the 2020-2021 school year. Included in this framework is the Rural Small Schools Grant. NHCS qualifies for this type of funding.

The Rural Small Schools Grant will provide block funding associated with NHCS, based on its Weighted Moving Average enrolment. There are different categories of enrolment, with different block funding amounts. Based on historical and projected enrolment at NHCS, it could fall into one of the following three categories:

- GROUP 2 - Between 35-54 students. BGSD receives block funding of \$450,000.
- GROUP 3 - Between 55-74 students. BGSD receives block funding of \$620,000.
- GROUP 4 - Between 75-94 students. BGSD receives block funding of \$750,000.

Projected revenue, including these block funding scenarios, and expenditures are outlined on page 14 of the [Viability Report](#).



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What if NHCS enrolment increases? What if the school was at capacity?

New Humble Centre School's capacity is 85. If the school was at capacity, it would fall within Group 4 funding, as outlined above. This would result in block funding of \$750,000. It should be noted that an increase in the number of students may also increase the need for staffing. Please refer to the [Viability Report \(page 14\)](#) for further information.

What has BGSD done to support NHCS?

BGSD has worked with school administration to ensure instructional and support staff allocations are sufficient to provide equity in programming. In addition, funding distribution models have always included a base amount associated with various funding envelopes to support smaller schools. BGSD endeavours to provide consistent maintenance standards with all its schools.

Why doesn't BGSD limit the number of staff allocated to NHCS?

BGSD follows a collaborative staffing process with all schools, which includes formulas that allow for equitable distribution of human resources. Human resources include teachers, administration, support staff (secretaries, educational assistants, custodians) and librarians. Each school requires a base amount of staff to complete all required tasks. Annually, through conversation between the principal and our human resources department, teaching staff deployment follows a formula that is, at times, supplemented due to the needs of school programming.

Can BGSD expand the attendance boundary for NHCS or transport students from other attendance areas?

The NHCS attendance area is bordered by Calmar Elementary School's boundary to the north, Linsford Park School's boundary to the east, Thorsby Elementary School's boundary to the west, and the Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools boundary to the south.

Increasing enrolment for NHCS by expanding the attendance boundary either north, east, or west, would, in turn, impact enrolments for Calmar Elementary, Linsford Park, and/or Thorsby Elementary. There are also transportation implications to changing the NHCS attendance area and/or busing students from other attendance areas to NHCS.

Students from Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools can access any BGSD school, including NHCS, through a 'School of Choice' process.



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Do parents have a choice in where NHCS students would go?

Given that upon completion of Grade 6, NHCS students are designated to Calmar Secondary School, the least disruptive relocation of NHCS students in the event of the school's closure would be Calmar Elementary School (CES). This would allow students to study in one community throughout their K-12 education.

However, through BGSD's 'School of Choice' request process, a student may attend a school outside their designated school's attendance area. There is no guarantee of transportation for "School of Choice" students. Governance surrounding 'School of Choice' requests are subject to [Administrative Procedure 305 - School Attendance Boundaries](#) and [Administrative Procedure 561 - Student Transportation Boundaries and Fees](#).

If NHCS closes, and students are designated to Calmar Elementary School, what class sizes can we expect?

The number of students in each class is determined by a variety of factors, primarily the funding that BGSD receives. Once funding has been confirmed, the Division will adjust its staffing distribution formulas for 2020-2021, which will ultimately determine class sizes in all BGSD schools.

How do you prioritize deferred maintenance?

Each school within BGSD has deferred maintenance projects. The expertise of employees in our Plant Operations & Maintenance Department and outside consultants helps guide decision-making regarding which projects throughout the Division should be prioritized.

What will happen to the playground if NHCS closes?

Pending the outcome of this process, Black Gold School Division would work with the school community to decide this. There are some legal and liability considerations to work through, as any structure on BGSD property is legally considered property of the Division.

How can I make my voice heard in this process?

There are ongoing opportunities to provide feedback and share your thoughts with BGSD.

BGSD held a public meeting on March 11, 2020 at New Humble Centre School to share information with community members and provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions and/or share their comments/suggestions.



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Also, there have been opportunities to make a presentation to the Board at each of the Regular Board Meetings since the Notice of Motion was made. The next opportunity is **April 8, 2020**, followed by the final scheduled opportunity on **April 22, 2020**. Members of the public wishing to make presentations to the Board on these dates must be part of an approved delegation and a written request for a meeting must be received by the Superintendent seven (7) days in advance of the scheduled Board meeting (deadlines are April 1, 2020 and April 15, 2020). See below for contact information.

In addition to in-person communication, all correspondence submitted until **April 1, 2020**, will be collected and shared with the Board of Trustees of Black Gold School Division in raw form unless submissions contain offensive or inappropriate content.

Correspondence may be sent via email: bgsd@blackgold.ca (Attention: Superintendent Romanchuk)

Submitted online via the [Comments Form](#).

Or, provided in writing to:

Black Gold School Division
Attention: New Humble Centre School Closure
3rd Floor, 1101-5th Street,
Nisku, Alberta, T9E 7N3
