



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

DATE: April 8, 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

RECOMMENDATION	3
BACKGROUND	4
DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS	4
Viability Report	4
Community Input	5
Qualitative Data	6
KEY CONSIDERATIONS	8
Funding	8
Programming	8
Operational and Instructional Costs	8
Capital Costs	8
Community Suggestions	9
New Humble Community Group Business Plan	9
SUMMARY	9
APPENDICES	10
Appendix 1: New Humble Centre School Viability Report - March 2020	10
Appendix 1.A: New Humble Centre School Viability Report - Appendix 1: Board Policy 15 - School Closure	30
Appendix 2: Board Presentations - February 5, 2020	34
Appendix 2.1: Presentation 1: Darren Glubbish	34
Appendix 2.2: Presentation 2: Megan Olynyk, Shirley Howald And Jennifer Jakubuv	34
Appendix 3: Board Presentations - March 4, 2020	37
Appendix 3.1: Presentation 1: Tim Kuhn	37
Tim Kuhn Presentation Letter	37
Tim Kuhn Presentation Slide Show	38
Appendix 3.2: Presentation 2: New Humble Community Group (Kelsey Huber & Megan Olynyk)	42
New Humble Community Group Slide Show	42
New Humble Community Group Presentation Notes	44
New Humble Community Group Multi-year Business Plan	49



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

APPENDICES CONTINUED

Appendix 4: Analysis of the New Humble Community Group Business Plan	53
Appendix 4.1: Notes from Centre For Excellence-Altario School Conversations	58
Appendix 4.2: Curriculum Connections: Agriculture In Grades 1 - 6 Curriculum	60
Appendix 4.3: Solar Panel Estimate	71
Appendix 5: Public Meeting - March 11, 2020	83
Appendix 5.1: Public Meeting Minutes	83
Appendix 5.2: Public Meeting & Online Engagement Feedback - March 11 - April 1, 2020	88
Suggestions For Alternatives To Closure - Finance	89
Suggestions For Alternatives To Closure - Human Resources	91
Suggestions For Alternatives To Closure - Operations And Maintenance	92
Suggestions For Alternatives To Closure - Programming	93
Suggestions For Alternatives To Closure - Transportation	94
Any Further Comments	95
Appendix 5.3: Public Meeting - Students' Letters	97
Appendix 6: Written Correspondence	98
Appendix 6.1: Comments via Email to bgisd@blackgold.ca - January 8 - April 1, 2020	98
Appendix 6.2: Comments Directed to Superintendent Romanchuk - January 8 - April 1, 2020	136
Appendix 7: Impact Statement - Leduc County	147



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

TO: The Board of Trustees of Black Gold School Division

FROM: Black Gold School Division Senior Administration:
Bill Romanchuk, Superintendent of Schools/CEO;
Norman Dargis, Association Superintendent - Learning Services
Ruth Andres, Associate Superintendent - Business & Finance
Calvin Monty, Associate Superintendent - Human Resources

SUBJECT: Possible Closure of New Humble Centre School

RESOURCE STAFF: New Humble Centre School - School Closure - Working Committee:
Norman Dargis, Associate Superintendent, Learning Services (Working Committee Chair); Bill Romanchuk, Superintendent of Schools/CEO; Calvin Monty, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources & Administration; Ruth Andres, Associate Superintendent, Business & Finance; Laurel Kvarnberg, Director of Finance; Robert Krahn, Director of Facilities; Sue Timmermans, Transportation Manager; Carmen Pezderic, Communications Coordinator; Denise Harrison, Principal, New Humble Centre School; Bernadette Hawkins, Principal, Calmar Elementary School.

REFERENCE: [Board Policy 15 - School Closure](#)
[Education Act - Closure of Schools - Section 62\(1\)](#)

RECOMMENDATION

- A) That the Board Approve a motion to close New Humble Centre School, effective the end of the school day, June 30, 2020.
- And if the recommendation is approved,*
- B) That the Board approve a motion that New Humble Centre School students be designated to Calmar Elementary School.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Board of Trustees directed Black Gold School Division (BGSD) Administration to prepare this report with recommendations, as part of the process pertaining to the Notice of Motion to consider the closure of New Humble Centre School (NHCS). The Notice of Motion was made at the January 8, 2020 Board meeting. It followed the evaluation of preliminary results of BGSD's West End Schools Programming Review, which indicated a closer examination was warranted on the viability of New Humble Centre School.

All actions and information-gathering have been conducted in alignment with Board Policy 15 - School Closure and the Education Act ([Section 62](#)). The process has included the compilation of data in the New Humble Centre School Viability Report as well as various forms of public interaction/engagement. Further details are explained below ([DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS](#) section).

While New Humble Centre School is an important fixture in the area that has a history of providing strong programming and a high quality learning environment, the capital and operational costs associated with the school continue to increase. With the current funding allocations, maintaining operation of the school has become increasingly challenging.

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

In order to provide a holistic representation to the Board, the information-gathering process included the collection of quantitative and qualitative data.

The [New Humble Centre School Viability Report \(Appendix 1\)](#) includes data that is primarily quantitative in nature. The collection of qualitative data was accomplished primarily through formal community engagement initiatives and ongoing conversation with community members.

Viability Report

A draft of the [New Humble Centre School Viability Report \(Appendix 1\)](#) was shared publicly at the Regular Board Meeting on March 4, 2020. The final document was posted on the Black Gold and NHCS websites on March 5, 2020, as well as distributed via electronic notification to the NHCS and Calmar Elementary (CES) communities.

The data contained within the [Viability Report \(Appendix 1\)](#) is in accordance with Section 3 of Board Policy 15 - School Closure ([Appendix 1.A](#)), which outlines criteria to be used in considering the closure of a school. The data in the report includes (but is not limited to):

- Student enrolment and population trends
- Location and suitability of alternative school accommodation if NHCS closes
- Potential changes to attendance boundaries
- Transportation needs related to a closure
- Factors related to the NHCS building
- Educational and programming implications of closure and non-closure
- Financial implications (including capital and operational impacts) of closure and non-closure



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

The Board of Trustees can use the data to formulate conclusions related to Section 2 of the policy. The section outlines the 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). The information provided in the Viability Report will help the Board determine whether NHCS meets these critical factors.

Community Input

Following the Notice of Motion on January 8, 2020, members of the public were given the opportunity to make presentations at Regular Board Meetings on the possible closure of NHCS. On February 5, 2020, two presentations from members of the NHCS community were received by the Board ([Appendix 2](#)). Two delegations from the NHCS community presented to the Board at the March 4, 2020 Regular Board Meeting ([Appendix 3](#)).

As part of the information gathering process, an Advisory Committee was established. It was convened once in January and once in March to provide project feedback and help support the dissemination of information to the public. The Advisory Committee consisted of three parents from the NHCS community, a representative from Leduc County, two BGSD trustees, and ten BGSD staff. BGSD also invited representatives from the CES parent community - one representative attended the first Advisory Committee meeting.

On January 29, 2020, at the request of the NHCS School Council, BGSD's Associate Superintendent, Learning Services attended the School Council meeting to provide an overview of the process, preliminary information, and answer questions from the NHCS parent community.

Feedback from the public was gathered at a public meeting on March 11, 2020 and incorporated into the online feedback form submission that was created to collect additional feedback ([Appendix 5.2](#)). This meeting was held at New Humble Centre School at the request of the parent community. There were 139 names on the sign-in sheets, with 124 of those being community members. The meeting format included a town-hall-style opportunity, as well as a carousel opportunity in which members of the public could converse directly with representatives from various BGSD departments at five pre-determined stations (Finance, Human Resources, Operations & Maintenance, Programming, Transportation). Attendees were also encouraged to fill out and submit hard-copy suggestion/comment forms prior to leaving. 11 forms were submitted at the public meeting and were incorporated with the online feedback submissions ([Appendix 5.2](#)).

The online form that was created in order to collect additional feedback, mirrored the hard copy distributed at the March 11th meeting. The form was available to the general public on the Black Gold, NHCS, and CES websites. On March 31, the Division contacted the NHCS and CES school communities via email using the *SchoolMessenger* notification system, reminding families to provide suggestions/comments/questions by April 1, using this online form.

In total 29 responses were submitted in hard copy and online ([Appendix 5.2](#)). Respondents identified as:

- parent of a current NHCS student (11)
- parent of a future NHCS student (3)
- parent of a current CES student (1)
- other (such as community member, former NHCS student, parent of former NHCS students, etc.) (12)
- unidentified (2)



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Some respondents provided responses in more than one category. The data from the responses included 12 responses related to finance, 4 to human resources, 7 to operations & maintenance, 11 to programming and 8 to transportation.

- Finance responses included reference to agricultural programming, decrease of NHCS administration time and several comments on allowing corporate and community donations.
- Human Resource responses referenced cancelling HR added, shared NHCS administration, questioning the timing of this decision and comments related to who should be engaged (students and teachers).
- Operations and Maintenance responses included comments such as transporting students from other school attendance areas to NHCS, how fundraising could help and one comment related to closing the school being "the smart thing to do".
- Programming responses included general comments against closure, partnerships with postsecondary and agricultural/alternative programming that would draw students from other attendance areas.
- Transportation responses included comments referencing the school's positive connection to the community, transporting urban students to rural schools, expanding the attendance boundary associated with NHCS and possible bus fees for all school division routes.

Additional input was solicited through a variety of means. Written comments were accepted via email to the general Black Gold email account (bgsd@blackgold.ca) ([Appendix 6.1](#)). As well, comments were received directly by the Superintendent of Schools/CEO ([Appendix 6.2](#)). Inquiries submitted in this manner were responded to by email and/or phone call. The respondent(s) included the Superintendent, Associate Superintendents, Trustees, and/or the Communications Coordinator, determined according to whom the emails were originally addressed. There were approximately 45 emails received from a total of 21 different individuals. The content of these emails can be categorized into either comments, requests for information or in some cases, both.

Qualitative Data

What has come through very clearly is the passion and attachment that the New Humble Centre School students, staff and community feels towards their school. The correspondence received in written and electronic means as well as through community engagement, was overwhelmingly in favour of keeping the school open. Respondents included current students, parents, alumni, and both new and longtime community members. Simply stated, they love their school. They consider it a hub of their community. They believe that the education and socialization their children experience at New Humble Centre School is critical to their early development. As one respondent stated, *I feel New humble is an amazing school!!*

There is no denying that New Humble Centre School is unique in its programming, location, history and culture within Black Gold Schools. It would be impossible for anyone who has been associated with the school to deny its unique features and relationship to the surrounding residents. We have included many of the respondents' comments in this section as they articulate best their feelings and attachment.

There is a real connection to the history of the school within the community. New Humble Centre School has been on the same property for 120 years and could possibly be the oldest school still on the original school site in Alberta. *"New Humble Centre School has a long history of solid educational results that has consistently raised talented,*



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

hardworking individuals that ultimately make great additions to society.” “This school is rich with history. The oldest school in Alberta by 12 years. Supported by the proudest people in the province.” “New Humble is more than just a school it is the heart of the community.”

Students in the small school have the opportunity to mentor and be mentored by other students. They work together, play together and eat together. They develop friendships that last a lifetime.”. . . *there was always an expectation that the older students would look out for the younger ones. Where else do you see students from grade 5/6 playing soccer at recess with students in grade 1/2, or giving them “high fives” in the hallway?”* As one alumnus stated, *“The specialized education I received that was unique and met the needs of rural students like myself who are quite different from urban students in neighbouring Calmar.”*

Living within the same rural community, the students and parents share a common bond of agriculture and rural values. As one respondent stated, *“ I have never been to another school where the kids are so polite and supportive of everyone around them, and the staff provide great leadership to mentor the kids.”* Another parent shared, *This is the most tight knit family of kids in the school district. Proud of where they are from.”*

The opportunity for resident students to attend this small, rural school is an attraction for people who wish to embrace the rural Alberta lifestyle. This includes families who have lived in the area for generations as well as those who have moved to the area recently. One long time community member shared, *“My grandfather, my father, my 3 siblings and I all attended this school. An individually involved countryside school like New Humble not only teaches intelligence but manners as well. My husband and I are currently building in the area and one of the big moving factors was for our 3 children to attend New Humble. Our oldest will be starting Kindergarten September 2020.”* Another alumnus shared, *“I am an alumni of the school and had always planned on sending my future children there once I moved back to the community. The closure of the school would negatively impact my intent to return.”*

New Humble Centre School is considered, by many local residents, to be the hub of their community. As one resident lamented, *“The community lost the Conjuring Creek Hall and curling rink several years ago. New Humble School is an anchor for this community.”* Furthermore, the school grounds are a meeting place for many local resident families. *“We have gone to the playground quite a few times during the summer months and have used the outdoor rink a few times this winter. We recently attended the 120 year celebration and it was awesome to check out the school and feel that comes with a small school and all of its community atmosphere.”*

In conclusion, it is evident that many residents feel an ownership towards the school. They feel that the school adds value to their community and is a testament to their values and their way of life. They are invested in what happens to it.



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Funding

The Alberta Government has implemented a new funding framework for schools, which will alleviate some of the financial challenges associated with operating small schools. Included in this new funding framework is the Rural Small Schools Grant, which provides block funding associated with schools that have Weighted Moving Average enrolments of 155 and under. NHCS would qualify for the Rural Small Schools Grant and, as a result, BGSD would receive block funding associated with NHCS. However, using projected revenues and expenditures related to NHCS for the 2020-2021 school year, the block funding would not cover all expenses associated with operating NHCS.

Funding for Operations & Maintenance would be reduced in the event NHCS is closed.

Transportation funding remains the same, regardless of closure or non-closure.

Programming

NHCS currently has multi-grade classes in the following configurations: 1-2, 3-4, and 5-6. It has also adopted instructional strategies that include cycled curriculum. The degree to which further program delivery amendments can be made without sacrificing the quality of education provided must be considered by the Board in its decision-making process.

Designating NHCS students to Calmar Elementary School would not result in reduced access to wellness programs, school-organized activities, and extracurricular opportunities.

All schools have equitable access to any services provided by Student Services and its delivery partners.

Operational and Instructional Costs

Closing NHCS would result in cost reductions in a number of areas, including: staffing (certificated and non-certificated), supplies, technology, and custodial expenditures. There would be marginal cost savings related to regular maintenance. The Division would no longer have insurance or utilities expenditures related to operating the school.

However, closing NHCS would result in increased transportation costs due to three busses continuing on to Calmar.

Capital Costs

As the NHCS building ages, maintenance costs continue to increase and keeping the school open will require prioritizing funds to maintain service levels. In addition, funds would need to be allocated to address deferred maintenance costs.



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Community Suggestions

Community members have presented detailed alternatives to consider related to programming and funding options. Many of these suggestions are encapsulated in the feedback summary attached. The most detailed proposal comes from the New Humble Community Group. It is suggesting NHCS offer programming related to agricultural and environmental stewardship, in combination with various cost saving measures related to building maintenance and operations. Details are included in the group's business plan, which was shared with Trustees at the March 4, 2020 Board meeting ([Appendix 3.2](#)).

New Humble Community Group Business Plan

BGSD's Superintendent and Associate Superintendent, Learning Services, have conducted an investigation into the New Humble Community Group Business Plan and the possibility of offering alternative programming similar to that of Altario School, which implemented agricultural programming in the 2018/2019 school year. Details of the examination of the long term sustainability of the community proposals have been included in [Appendix 4](#).

SUMMARY

Taking into account the considerations listed above, BGSD Administration is recommending the Board vote to close New Humble Centre School at the end of the school day, June 30, 2020. The viability of a school must consider both the ability to provide excellent educational opportunities for students but also the cost of providing these opportunities. While NHCS has a long history of meeting students' educational needs, the current funding realities make sustaining this increasingly difficult. While the Division was able to meet its current budgetary obligations in 2019-2020, the Division is unable to maintain the current levels of instructional supports and student services as well as operations and maintenance.

Based on the data presented in the Viability Report, it is evident that there are financial implications of keeping NHCS open. The sustainability of educational programming, short and long term costs associated with the facility, and the financial realities facing BGRD must be taken into account to ensure all students of the Division continue to have the opportunity to receive educational programs characterized by excellence, equity, efficiency, and sustainability



APPENDICES

Appendix 1: New Humble Centre School Viability Report - March 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT NEW HUMBLE CENTRE SCHOOL	1
NOTICE OF MOTION	2
PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT	2
PROCESS	2
TIMELINE	3
BGSD FISCAL REALITIES	4
NHCS BUILDING AND CAPITAL PLANNING	5
ENROLMENT AND POPULATION TRENDS	6
EDUCATIONAL AND PROGRAMMING IMPACTS	10
<i>IF NHCS CLOSES</i>	10
<i>IF NHCS REMAINS OPEN</i>	13
FINANCIAL IMPACTS	14
<i>IF NHCS CLOSES</i>	14
<i>OTHER FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS</i>	17
<i>IF NHCS REMAINS OPEN</i>	18
POSSIBLE USES OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING	18
SUMMARY	18
REFERENCES & APPENDICES	19



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

ABOUT NEW HUMBLE CENTRE SCHOOL

New Humble Centre School (NHCS) is located along Highway 795 within Leduc County just south of the Township Road 485 intersection.

It was established in 1900 with the name Humble School and became New Humble Centre School when the current building was completed in 1961. At that time it was 899 m², with a 78 m² modular added in 1981.

NHCS included junior high students until the 2007-2008 school year, when it changed to a K-6 school. In the 2019-2020 school year, it became a Grade 1-6 school and classes are multi-grade in the following configurations: 1-2, 3-4, and 5-6. The total enrolment as of September 30, 2019 was 57 students. NHCS has a utilization capacity of 85 students.

In 2019-2020, there are 4.0 FTE certificated staff and 2.05 FTE support staff and 0.5 FTE custodian. The school follows a regular Black Gold School Division operational calendar.

There is an active school council and a strong school community. Students, parents, and staff consistently rate their school 'high' as a Safe and Caring School on Alberta Education's Accountability Pillar survey.



Figure 1.1 Exterior photograph of New Humble Centre School.

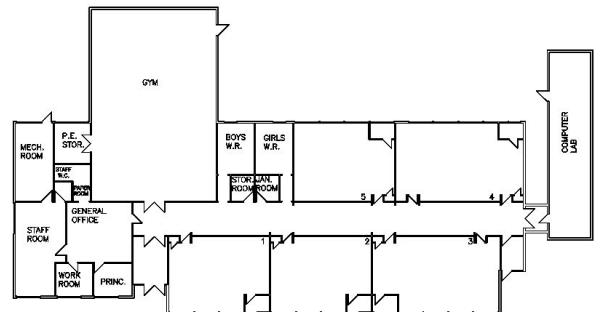


Figure 1.2 Site map of New Humble Centre School.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

NOTICE OF MOTION

The Board of Trustees (the Board) believes that schools perform a vital role in the communities in which they are located, and supports their retention. To ensure schools within Black Gold School Division (the Division or BGSD) provide students with educational programs characterized by excellence, equity, efficiency, and sustainability, the Board and Administration periodically conduct reviews of the programming offered within the Division.

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

At its January 8, 2020 Regular Board Meeting, the Board gave Notice of Motion to consider the closure of New Humble Centre School, effective June 30, 2020. The motion directs Administration to “begin gathering the data as outlined in Board Policy 15 - School Closure (Appendix 1), relating to the closure of New Humble Centre School,” and requires Administration “to provide a comprehensive report with recommendations to the Board of Trustees at the Board meeting on April 8, 2020.” The recommendation report will include quantitative information gathered throughout the process, which includes a public meeting scheduled for **March 11, 2020 at NHCS at 6:00 p.m.** The Board will review the information provided prior to a scheduled vote at the April 22, 2020 Regular Board Meeting regarding the potential closure of New Humble Centre School.

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this document is to disseminate information to the Board and the public on the viability and possible closure of New Humble Centre School (NHCS), according to the process laid out by Board Policy 15 - School Closure (Appendix 1), and the *Education Act (Section 62)*. This report includes quantitative and qualitative data to explore the educational, programming, and financial impacts of closing NHCS, along with the impacts of keeping the school open.

PROCESS

BGSD has implemented the following structure in order to best complete the deliverables associated with this project:

- A Working Committee made up of personnel from division office administration and school principals will complete the majority of the information gathering, document writing, and scheduling.
- An Advisory Committee made up of all the Working Committee members, representation from Leduc County, and parents from NHCS and Calmar Elementary School communities will be convened at scheduled intervals to provide project feedback and help support the dissemination of information to the public.

Further details related to the membership, roles, and terms of reference are available in Appendix 2.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

TIMELINE

Funds allocated to the West End Schools Programming Review Process	April 2019
West End Schools Programming Review	September - ongoing
Direction from the Board to gather data relating to the closure of New Humble Centre School	January 8, 2020
Establish Working Committee and Advisory Committee	January 9 - 15, 2020
BGSD meeting with NHCS Council	January 29, 2020
Working Committee gathers data to create Viability Report	January 15 - February 25, 2020
Deadline to submit request to do a presentation at Feb 5 Board Meeting	January 29, 2020
Board Meeting	February 5, 2020
NHCS survey requesting feedback on location and time of public engagement evening	February 17, 2020
Draft Viability Report Presented to Advisory Committee	February 25, 2020
Deadline to submit request to do a presentation at Mar 4 Board Meeting	February 26, 2020
Board Meeting	March 4, 2020
Final Viability Report presented to the Board	March 4, 2020
Viability Report released to public	March 5, 2020
Public Engagement evening- 6- 8:30pm @ NHCS	March 11, 2020
Feedback from public meeting analyzed and summarized	March 12 - April 7, 2020
Deadline to submit request to do a presentation at Apr 8 Board Meeting	April 1, 2020
Deadline for public to submit correspondence	April 1, 2020
Board Meeting	April 8, 2020
Recommendation Report presented to the Board	April 8, 2020
Deadline to submit request to do a presentation at Apr 22 Board Meeting	April 15, 2020
Board votes on final recommendation	April 22, 2020
If NHCS remains open, planning and staffing for the 2020-2021 school year begins.	April 23, 2020
If NHCS will be closed, in order to minimize education disruption for students, the effective closure date would be June 30, 2020 and students will be designated to their new school. This would allow BGSD to realize cost savings in the 2020-2021 school year.	June 30, 2020



BGSD FISCAL REALITIES

The Alberta Government tabled its latest budget February 27, 2020. For 2020-2021, there will be a new funding model in place for all schools that will use a Weighted Moving Average (WMA) that captures the number of students across three school years. In addition, there is a Rural Small Schools Grant, for which New Humble Centre School qualifies. Implications of the new funding model are outlined in Table 5.1 on page 14.

The Alberta Government's previous budget for Spring 2019 (released in October 2019) brought the elimination of the Class Size Initiative Grant, the Classroom Improvement Grant, and the School Fee Reduction Grant which accounted for a \$7.56 million reduction in funding to the Division. This reduction in funding was slightly offset by the one-time Transition Grant of \$2.3 million. While the Division had anticipated the elimination of the Classroom Improvement Grant when preparing the spring budget, the loss of the other two grants resulted in \$3.71 million less in funding from what was projected.

Cumulatively, as a result of the provincial budget, the Division implemented the following reductions or elimination of services in the following areas:

- Fewer library resources
- Less staff available to deal with students with learning needs
- Support for delayed early childhood services (ECS) students
- Support for English Language Learners / English as a Second Language students
- Support for technology integration
- Support for teachers efficacy in assessment and curriculum
- Central support for teacher pedagogy
- Ability to provide or access professional development
- Evergreening of technology (i.e. replacements for malfunctioning or broken technology, supporting network infrastructure, etc.)
- Custodial and maintenance services
- Our ability to repair and replace items at schools

While the Division was able to meet its current budgetary obligations through the use of operating reserves, the BGSD is unable to maintain the current levels of instructional supports and student services as well as operations and maintenance with the current level of funding.

The Division's operating reserves are being depleted and deficit budgeting is not sustainable. Furthermore, effective September 1, 2020, the Board's operational reserves will require ministerial approval before they can be spent or transferred. Given the current funding situation and the enrolment growth BGSD is experiencing, the Division is continuing to seek additional cost savings to ensure fiscal responsibility. The notice of motion/potential closure of New Humble Centre School is one of many cost saving solutions being explored.

NHCS BUILDING AND CAPITAL PLANNING

As confirmed by Alberta Infrastructure, there is \$600,000 in deferred maintenance outstanding from the facility audit they performed in 2012 (see detailed list in Table 6.1 on page 17). Currently, there are no immediate health and/or safety concerns pertaining to the NHCS building.

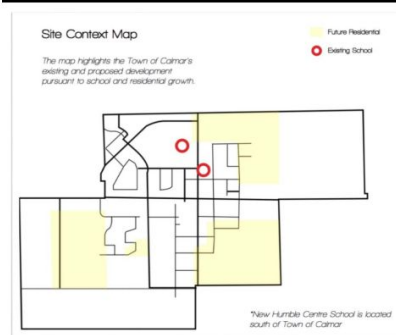
The Alberta Government works with school boards to build and modernize schools in Alberta. As outlined in Alberta's *School Capital Manual (Section 2.2)*, "each year, school boards must assess their school capital needs and prioritize proposed projects based on safety of existing school facilities, enrolment pressures, modernization needs, etc. These projects are identified in each School Board's Three-Year Capital Plan and Ten-Year Facilities Plan." *The final decision of which projects are funded is made by the provincial government.*

BGSD's 2019-2022 Capital Plan (Appendix 3) outlines eight projects for government consideration. The priorities indicated in the plan are based on review of all current data including municipal/regional documents, historical enrolment information, facility information and projected enrolment. The *School Capital Manual (Section 3.1.2)* states "modernization projects are assessed based on the following criteria: health and safety; current and projected enrolments; utilization rate; strategic location; cost savings by right sizing; functionality; condition as determined by a facility audit." With these factors in mind, BGSD has identified a need for modernizations and new construction to address growth in the communities of Beaumont, Devon, and Leduc.

Black Gold School Division's 10 Year Facility Plan and Three Year Capital Plan (Appendix 4) from March 2018, prepared by third-party consultants, projected enrolment would "likely remain low but stable" at NHCS and mentioned "the Board may consider moving the program from New Humble to Calmar to enhance the learning experience and to reduce operating costs." Calmar Elementary School, which is 10.51 km away, has capacity.

The 10 Year Facility Plan and Three Year Capital Plan

Rural West – Calmar/New Humble



■ New Humble

- Enrolment will likely remain low but stable
- New Humble does not receive the Small School by Necessity funding as Calmar Elementary School has capacity.
- The Board may consider moving the program from New Humble to Calmar to enhance the learning experience and to reduce operating costs

Figure 2.1 Image from BGSD 10 Year Facility Plan and Three Year Capital Plan



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

It is also important to note that the 10 Year Facility Plan and Three Year Capital Plan (Appendix 4) indicated New Humble Centre School's 2016-2017 Incremental Administrative, Human Resources and Facility costs per student were the highest within the Division.

The 10 Year Facility Plan and Three Year Capital Plan (Appendix 4) takes into account factors including, but not limited to: municipal and federal census information, municipal projections, municipal development activity and plans, and historical enrolment trends.

ENROLMENT AND POPULATION TRENDS

The New Humble Centre School attendance area's borders are Township Road 480 and Wizard Lake in the south, between Township Roads 490 and 492 in the north, and stretches between Range Road 275 and Range Road 261.

The school is located on Highway 795, just south of the Township Road 485 intersection.

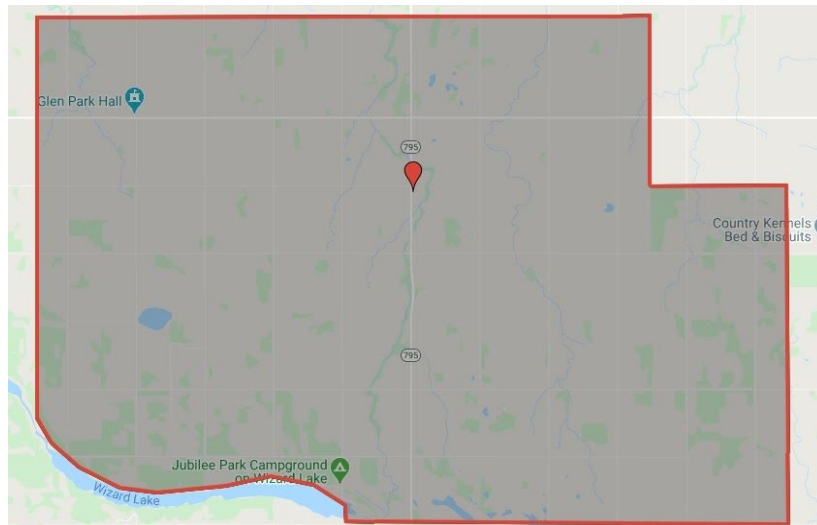


Figure 4.1 New Humble Centre School attendance area.

New Humble Centre School students registered as of September 30, 2019 reside in the following areas:

- 49 in Leduc County (within the attendance area for NHCS)
- 2 in Leduc County (outside the attendance area for NHCS)
- 3 in Calmar
- 3 in Wetaskiwin County

Note: the numbers above do not include the ECS students designated to Calmar Elementary School for the 2019-2020 school year.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Enrolment numbers at New Humble Centre School have remained relatively stable over the last decade, and trending downward with a peak enrolment of 78 students.

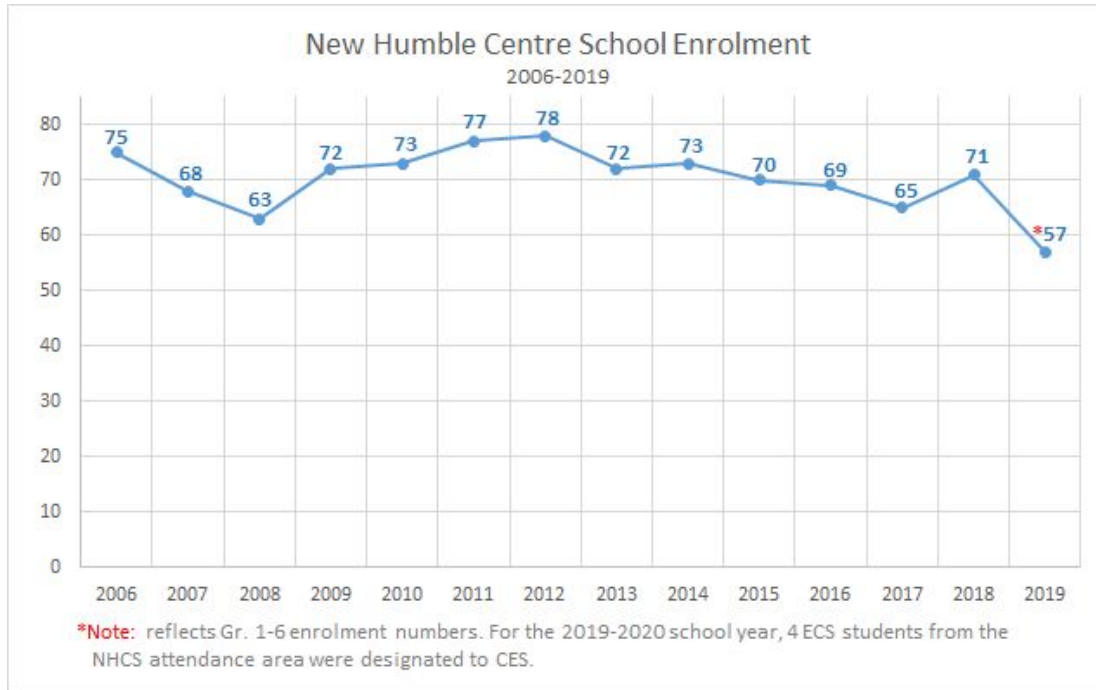


Figure 3.1 New Humble Centre School Enrolment 2006-2019



New Humble Centre School - student population by grade

2018-2019 (as of September 30, 2018)

Students in Grades 1-6 were all organized into multi-grade classrooms in the following configurations: ECS (Early Childhood Services), 1-2, 3-4, and 5-6.

GRADE							TOTAL
ECS	1	2	3	4	5	6	
10	6	11	15	7	11	11	71

Table 1.1 NCHS enrolment by grade 2018-2019

Utilization Rate: 78%

Utilization Rate is derived from Alberta Education Area Capacity and Utilization Report (2018/2019 school year)

2019-2020 (as of September 30, 2019)

Students in Grades 1-6 are all organized into multi-grade classrooms in the following configurations: 1-2, 3-4, and 5-6.

GRADE							TOTAL
ECS	1	2	3	4	5	6	
---*	10	6	10	14	8	9	57

Table 1.2 NCHS enrolment by grade 2019-2020

*For 2019-2020, 4 ECS students within the attendance area of NHCS were designated to CES.

2020-2021 (projected as of March 2, 2020)

Classroom organization to be determined.

GRADE							TOTAL
ECS	1	2	3	4	5	6	
---*	5	10	6	9	14	9	53

Table 1.3 Projected NCHS enrolment by grade 2020-2021

*As of March 2, 2020, there are 4 ECS enrolments from the attendance area of NHCS registered with CES.



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Census numbers from Leduc County show the area is seeing an increase in the general population living within the attendance area of New Humble Centre School.

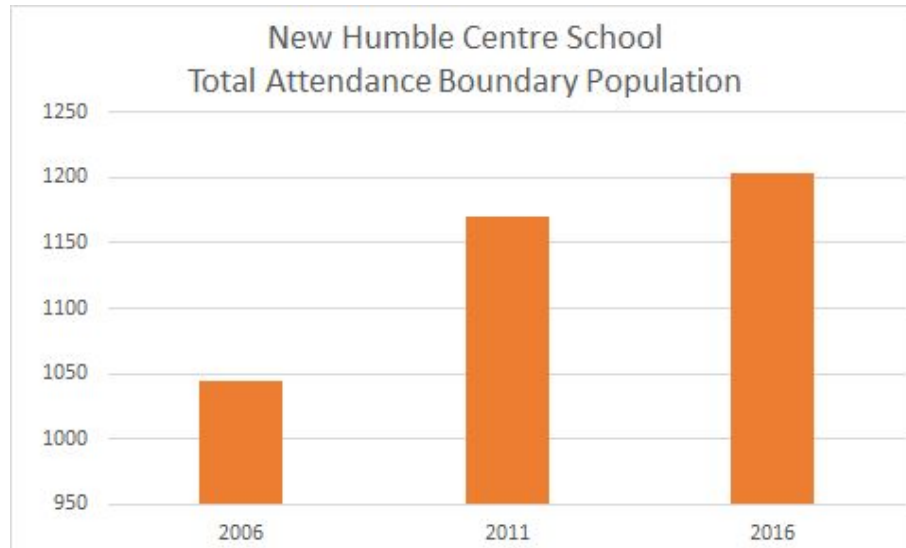


Figure 3.2 Population living within NHCS attendance area (according to information provided by Leduc County).

Note: As the federal census is conducted every five years, the most recent data is as of 2016.

Leduc County has provided data related to the number of residential development building permits within the NHCS attendance boundary: in 2019, there were 16 permits issued. That follows 10 and 7 in the years 2018 and 2017, respectively.



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

EDUCATIONAL AND PROGRAMMING IMPACTS

IF NHCS CLOSES

If NHCS closes, students would need to be designated to another BGSD school. 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.

Currently, all NHCS students are in multi-grade classrooms in the following configurations: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6. For Language Arts and Mathematics, students work at their respective grade level curriculums. At all grade levels, Social Studies and Science curriculum is cycled annually. With this being the case, every second year, it results in Grade 5 students taking the Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) normally taken in Grade 6. In CES, students are in mainly single grade classrooms and work in all core subjects at their respective grade levels.

Academic achievement varies between individual students and there is no reason to expect education would be negatively impacted by a move to another school. Whichever BGSD school students attend, they will receive excellent instruction to support them in achieving their potential. At CES, students would have access to similar wellness programs, school-organized activities, and extracurricular opportunities as they would at NHCS (see Appendix 5).

All schools have equitable access to any services provided by Student Services and its delivery partners. Typically, the percentage of students requiring specialized services is consistent throughout all schools, therefore as the population of a school increases, so does the number of students requiring specialized services and support. Generally, service providers would be seen more frequently at larger versus smaller schools. There can be some 'economy of scale' as a result (e.g. groupings of students with similar needs for service; back-to-back parent meetings with professionals, lower travel costs for service providers, etc).

In the *Impact of Schools on Rural Communities Study*, which looked at the educational impact of small school closure, the authors recognize many advantages and challenges small rural schools face in Alberta:



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Area	Small Schools Advantages	Small Schools Challenges
Teaching and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller class sizes easier to manage for teachers and allows more teacher time/ attention for each student • Closer relationships between students, parents, and teachers • Curriculum flexibility and professional autonomy • Closer connection to the community/ fostering intergenerational relationships particularly if teachers live in the community • More opportunities to engage with the broader community and perform service work in the community • More opportunities for teacher advancement into school administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-grade or multi-level teaching more challenging/ time consuming for teachers • Fewer educational assistants add to higher teacher expectations • Generally higher workload with smaller staff to share extra-curricular duties, supervision, and other tasks • Less opportunity to specialize/ teach in one subject area, more expectation to teach multiple/ various subjects • Less professional/ peer support from a smaller staff - "Your practice grows when you can learn from more people on a bigger staff." • Less choice in programs and options for students with varying interests/ aptitudes • Challenges from curriculum adaptations for students from certain religious backgrounds
Extra-curricular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility to use local resources for extra-curricular activities • More opportunity for students to participate in extra-curricular sports because everyone is needed for the team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenging to build a competitive team without "tryouts" and being able to select best players • Can be challenging to fundraise in a small community especially if less economically vibrant
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership opportunities for older students by mentoring younger students • More multi-generational interaction through school/ community events • Less likely to have cliques or groups forming – more socially inclusive. • Inclusive communities build bridges between diverse communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited pool of friends so do not necessarily choose friends based on similar interests • May not have any same aged, same gender students in your grade • Some pressure to do "social" promotion of students to next grade to keep them with their cohorts even when not ready for next grade
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer because schools have a "closed campus" (i.e. students don't leave the school during the day) • Safe and caring atmosphere because everyone knows and "watches out" for each other - "No one falls through the cracks because we care." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation of resources challenging in schools with small enrolment and many grades (i.e. K to 12) • Enrolment instability from year to year makes planning more difficult • Transition to large high school in new community can be easier if coming from a larger school rather than from a very small junior high school

Table 2.1 Recreation of Figure F.8 on page 115 of Impact of Schools on Rural Communities Study



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

As of September 30, 2019, Calmar Elementary School has 236 students. If NHCS students are designated to CES, there would be an increase in the student population at CES. As the facility has a utilization capacity of 374 and is currently at a 65% utilization rate, it has sufficient space to accommodate additional students.

Calmar Elementary School - student population by grade

2018-2019 (as of September 30, 2018)

GRADE							TOTAL
ECS*	1	2	3	4	5	6	
47	29	34	30	30	41	33	244

Table 3.1 CES enrolment by grade 2018-2019

Utilization Rate: 65%

Utilization Rate is derived from Alberta Education Area Capacity and Utilization Report (2018/2019 school year)

*ECS (Early Childhood Services) figures reflect combined Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten numbers.

2019-2020 (as of September 30, 2019)

GRADE							TOTAL
ECS*	1	2	3	4	5	6	
48	36	26	30	29	30	37	236

Table 3.2 CES enrolment by grade 2019-2020

*ECS figures reflect combined Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten numbers. In 2019-2020, this figure included 4 ECS enrolments from the attendance area of NHCS.

2020-2021 (projected as of March 2, 2020)

GRADE							TOTAL
ECS*	1	2	3	4	5	6	
50	37	36	26	30	30	29	238

Table 3.3 Projected CES enrolment by grade 2020-2021

*ECS figures reflect combined Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten numbers. As of March 2, 2020, there are 4 ECS enrolments from the attendance area of NHCS.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

If New Humble Centre School students are designated to CES, using projected enrolments of both schools for the 2020-2021 school year, the student population at Calmar Elementary School would still be below the building's utilization capacity of 374.

Combined - Calmar Elementary School & New Humble Centre School

2020-2021 (projected as of March 2, 2020)

GRADE							TOTAL
ECS	1	2	3	4	5	6	
50	42	46	32	39	44	38	291

Table 4.1 Projected 2020-2021 enrolment if NHCS students are designated to CES.

If Calmar Elementary School becomes the designated school for current NHCS students, there are no immediate capital needs anticipated. However, CES has the ability and space to add modular classrooms in the event future enrolment growth requires additional space.

Designating NHCS students to Calmar Elementary School would require some transportation adjustments. Currently, Black Gold School Division uses three buses to transport a total of 107 students living within the NHCS attendance area. 49 of those students attend New Humble Centre School. The remaining students attend school in Calmar. One of the three buses transports those students between their respective schools in Calmar and the transfer point at NHCS.

If NHCS closes, and students are designated to CES, buses would carry all students on the current number of buses directly to CES without stopping at NHCS. The ride time for some students would increase by approximately 13 minutes in the morning and 13 minutes in the afternoon on ideal weather days.

If New Humble Centre School closes, changes to align the attendance boundary with that of any BGSD school will require Board approval. Students wishing to attend a school other than the one approved by the Board would require a "School of Choice" request. Transportation is only provided for students attending their designated school. Governance surrounding that would be subject to Administrative Procedure 305 - School Attendance Boundaries (Appendix 6) and Administrative Procedure 561 - Student Transportation Boundaries and Fees (Appendix 7).

IF NHCS REMAINS OPEN

NHCS has a long history of providing quality educational programming, and we expect that would continue. For the past number of years, NHCS has implemented combined grade level classrooms to maximize teacher allocations. Given the financial situation outlined below, further creative educational program delivery methods may be required. What changes may be necessary would be determined once enrolment is finalized and staffing allotments are confirmed.

Should New Humble Centre School remain open, the level of transportation offered by BGSD would be comparable to current service. Routes are consistently reviewed to realize efficiencies.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

IF NHCS CLOSES

The following table provides a high level summary of the revenue and expenditures BGSD would receive/incur under the new funding framework. The figures outlined below are based on projections. It is acknowledged that the table does not capture all revenue available to the Division. However, it is assumed that if all revenues were to be included, the net surplus/loss for each column would proportionately improve.

Summary of Financial Implications as of March 3, 2020 (accompanying notes following table)

Revenue & Expenditures (2020-2021 projected)	With NHCS open (35 - 54 students)	With NHCS open (55 - 74 students)	With NHCS open (75 - 94 students)	With NHCS closed
Revenue				
Rural Small School Grant Funding	\$450,000	\$620,000	\$750,000	—
Base Instruction Allocation	—	—	—	\$350,499
Operations & Maintenance (O & M) Funding	\$70,211	\$70,211	\$79,413	\$22,765
Transportation Funding	\$147,490	\$147,490	\$147,490	\$147,490
Total	\$667,701	\$837,701	\$976,903	\$520,754
Expenditures				
Instructional Expenditures				
Certificated Expenditures (Teachers, Administration)	\$481,173	\$481,173	\$582,243	\$217,458
Non-Certificated Expenditures (EA, Secretary, Librarian)	\$88,852	\$88,852	\$88,852	\$11,397
Services & Supplies Expenditures	\$17,293	\$17,293	\$19,363	\$5,693
Technology Expenditures	\$27,364	\$27,364	\$31,278	\$10,373
Operations & Maintenance (O & M) Expenditures				
Custodial Expenditures	\$32,814	\$32,814	\$33,481	\$2,201



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Maintenance Expenditures	\$67,357	\$67,357	\$67,357	\$52,949
Insurance Expenditures	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$14,000	—
Utilities Expenditures	\$13,363	\$13,363	\$13,363	—
Other Expenditures				
Transportation Expenditures (additional km cost)	\$161,835	\$161,835	\$161,835	\$171,402
Total	\$904,051	\$904,051	\$1,011,772	\$471,473
Annual Net Surplus/(Loss)	(\$236,350)	(\$66,350)	(\$34,869)	\$49,281

Table 5.1 Summary of Financial Implications

Notes to the Summary of Financial Implications

NOTE 1 - Rural Small Schools Grant

The newly-created Rural Small Schools Grant, which NHCS is eligible to receive, results in block funding for the qualifying schools.

Allocations are based on the Weighted Moving Average (WMA) enrolment of the qualifying school, with different categories of student populations. Based on projected and historical enrolment for NHCS, the applicable categories are:

- Between 35-54 students;
- Between 55-74 students; and
- Between 75-94 students.

Table 5.1 outlines the calculated financial implications of keeping NHCS open based on these three categories of enrolment.

NOTE 2 - Base Instruction Allocation

While BGSD would not receive Rural Small Schools Grant funding in the event NHCS is closed, it would receive base instruction allocated funding for the students, as they would be designated to another BGSD school that has an enrolment greater than 155 (the Rural Small Schools Grant is only available for rural schools that have enrolments less than 155).



NOTE 3 - Operations & Maintenance Funding

This amount is calculated by adding a WMA student allocation to a funding formula that considers the square meters of the utilized and underutilized areas. This funding is not for deferred maintenance.

NOTE 4 - Transportation Funding

In 2020-2021, BGSD will receive more funding for the transportation of students compared to the 2019-2020 school year. The figure identified in Table 5.1 reflects the new level of funding, which is consistent in each scenario.

NOTE 5 - Instructional Expenditures

Within the current enrollment band, certificated costs include 4.4 FTE certificated staff (teachers), the principal's allowance, and substitute teacher costs. The increased costs associated with 75-94 students are reflective of the additional certificated staff to account for the enrolment numbers.

Non-certificated staff costs are based on 1.0 FTE secretary, 0.5 FTE librarian, and 0.55 FTE education assistant..

Services and Supplies Expenditures may include (but are not limited to):

- Supplies, materials, furniture, and/or equipment not subject to capitalization
- Learning resources including textbooks, student supplies, field trip expenses: library books and AV materials: and athletic, arts, CTS, and music equipment
- Office expenses

Technology expenditures are calculated as a per student allocation of Division-wide technology costs.

NOTE 6 - Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Expenditures

Custodial expenditures include a 0.5 FTE custodian, as well as a per student allocation of the total cost of contracts & supplies, and relief custodial costs.

Maintenance costs identified are based on a per square meter allocation of the Division's total cost of maintenance contracts & supplies (less utilities, insurance and custodial), as maintenance costs are not tracked by school.

Insurance expenditures are based on current expenditures with an increase to account for the "hard" market.

Utilities expenditure projections have been calculated using 2018-2019 expenditures with a 2% increase to account for inflation.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

NOTE 7 - Transportation Expenditures

If NHCS students are transported to Calmar Elementary School, this would result in an increase in the costs associated with BGSD's payment to bus contractors, which is done on a per kilometer basis. This expenditure may fluctuate based on the cost of fuel. As such, the figure outlined in Table 5.1 is an estimate, based on current costs.

OTHER FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Deferred Maintenance

As confirmed by Alberta Infrastructure, there is \$600,000 in deferred maintenance outstanding from the facility audit they performed in 2012. Over the last 3 years, \$69,756 worth of maintenance has been completed at New Humble Centre School, with \$32,913 being spent in the 2018-2019 year.

Each year, our Operations & Maintenance department prioritizes which deferred maintenance projects are completed at any of our schools. The expertise of employees in our Operations & Maintenance Department and outside consultants helps guide decision-making regarding which projects throughout the Division should be prioritized.

The five-year deferred maintenance costs for New Humble Centre School, as identified by Alberta Infrastructure, include (but are not limited to):

Five-Year Deferred Maintenance Costs	
Aluminum Windows/Doors/Siding	\$233,847
Painting/Caulking	\$25,369
Flooring	\$101,236
Metal Gutters and Downspouts	\$2,467
Electrical/Motor Starters/Fans/Lighting	\$100,991
Water Pumps/Washroom Fixtures/Sinks	\$28,844
Cabinetry (Millwork)	\$64,256
Display Boards/Blinds/Ceiling Treatment	\$30,316
Public Address & Music System	\$13,158
Total	\$600,484

Table 6.1 Five-Year Deferred Maintenance Costs of New Humble Centre School



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

IF NHCS REMAINS OPEN

Keeping NHCS open will require prioritizing funds to maintain service levels. In addition, funds would need to be allocated to address five-year deferred maintenance costs. The five-year deferred maintenance costs for New Humble Centre School are identified in Table 6.1 on page 17. The building is nearing the end of its life span, and as it continues to age, it will result in increased maintenance costs.

POSSIBLE USES OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING

Alberta Education's Disposition of Property Regulation will guide our process. If the school closes, BGSD will meet with all appropriate representatives regarding the future of the facility.

Although it would be the Division's intention to find a new owner for the building, until such time as ownership was transferred, the Division would continue to incur costs for basic utilities, security, yard care, and insurance.

SUMMARY

There are many factors to consider in ensuring students have the opportunity to receive educational programs characterized by excellence, equity, efficiency, and sustainability.

The quantitative data contained in this report addresses the critical factors identified in Board Policy 15 - School Closure (Appendix 1) 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.

Program and enrolment factors - In order to maximize staffing due to enrolment, NHCS has adopted multi-grade classes and instructional strategies that include cycled curriculum. The degree to which further amendments can be made must be considered when examining the school's viability.

Revenue factors - Based on the data presented in this report, it is evident that there are financial implications of keeping NHCS open.

Health and/or safety factors - Currently, there are no immediate health and/or safety concerns pertaining to the NHCS building.

Recognizing the vital role schools play in communities, and the implications a closure may have on the broader community, other factors beyond those identified in Board Policy 15 - School Closure (Appendix 1) should be taken into consideration. As such, further qualitative data is needed to accurately assess the viability of New Humble Centre School. Additional data will be gathered at the public meeting scheduled for **March 11, 2020**.

All quantitative and qualitative data gathered throughout the process will be analyzed in order to provide a report with recommendations to the Board of Trustees at the Board meeting on April 8, 2020 regarding the potential closure of NHCS.



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

REFERENCES

Education Act, Statutes of Alberta 2012, Section 62 (Closure of schools)

Retrieved from: <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/e00p3.pdf>

School Capital Manual, Alberta Education

Retrieved from:

<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/bc9223b2-74b3-4e51-83a0-277ed54498da/resource/eb92056d-4c87-4ddf-bf5e-792580eb82dc/download/school-capital-manual-march-2015.pdf>

Impact of Schools on Rural Communities Study (2017)

Retrieved from: <https://education.alberta.ca/media/3739814/the-impact-of-schools-on-rural-communities-study.pdf>

Education Act - Disposition of Property Regulation

Retrieved from: http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/2019_086.pdf

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Board Policy 15 - School Closure

Appendix 2: New Humble Centre School Closure – Working Committee and Advisory Committee

Appendix 3: BGSD Three Year Capital Plan 2019-2022

Appendix 4: BGSD 10 Year Facility Plan and Three Year Capital Plan

Appendix 5: Programming offered at New Humble Centre School and Calmar Elementary School (2019-2020)

Appendix 6: Administrative Procedure 305 - School Attendance Boundaries

Appendix 7: Administrative Procedure 561 - Student Transportation Boundaries and Fees



Appendix 1.A: New Humble Centre School Viability Report - Appendix 1: Board Policy 15 - School Closure

Board Policy 15



SCHOOL CLOSURE

The Board believes that the students of the Division must have the opportunity to receive educational programs characterized by excellence, equity, efficiency and sustainability. School facilities are to be well maintained and highly utilized and bus ride times are to be as reasonable as possible.

When considering the possible closure of a school or school program, the Board will consult and communicate with the parents and the broader community, in compliance with the procedures outlined in provincial legislation and regulations.

The Board believes that schools perform a vital role in the communities in which they are located, and supports their retention.

Specifically

1. The Board may:
 - 1.1 Close a school permanently or for a specified period of time;
 - 1.2 Close entirely three (3) or more consecutive grades in a school; or
 - 1.3 Transfer students from one (1) school building to one or more other school buildings on a permanent or temporary basis.
2. The Board recognizes that there are certain critical factors that must be met by a school in order to exist as a viable educational institution:
 - 2.1 Program factors;
 - 2.2 Enrolment factors; and
 - 2.3 Revenue factors.
 - 2.4 Health and / or Safety Factors
3. The Board will undertake any school closure in compliance with section 62 of the Education Act.
 - 3.1. The following criteria shall be utilized in considering the closure of a school:
 - 3.1.1 Student enrolment and trends;
 - 3.1.2 Location and suitability of alternative school accommodation for the students affected;



- 3.1.3 Program implications for students currently in the schools to which a transfer of students could be effected and the implications for those students who could be transferred;
- 3.1.4 Program implications for other schools to which students could be transferred;
- 3.1.5 Transportation needs of all students potentially affected and the implications on both a local and Division basis;
- 3.1.6 Factors related to the school building which include but are not limited to:
 - 3.1.6.1 The age and expected life of the building;
 - 3.1.6.2 Building modernization requirements; and
 - 3.1.6.3 Education program needs.
- 3.1.7 The educational and financial impact of closure and non-closure which will include, but is not limited to, on both a local and a Division basis:
 - 3.1.7.1 The effect upon operational costs; and,
 - 3.1.7.2 Capital implications.
- 3.1.8 The capital needs of the school or the schools which may experience increased enrolments as a result of a transfer of students.
- 3.2 Where the Board is considering a closure, there shall be a notice of motion at a regular meeting of the Board, proposing that specific schools, a school or a portion of a school, be closed.
- 4. There will be effective communication to parent(s) of students attending the school and the electors in the attendance area of a school being considered for closure.
 - 4.1. The Board shall communicate information and implications of the possible school closure, in writing, to the parent(s) of every child and student enrolled in the school who, in the opinion of the Board, will be significantly affected by the closure of the school. Such communication shall set out the following:
 - 4.1.1 How the closure would affect the attendance area defined for that school;
 - 4.1.2 How the closure would affect the attendance at other schools;
 - 4.1.3 Information on the Board's long-range capital plan;
 - 4.1.4 The number of students who would need to be relocated as a result of the closure;
 - 4.1.5 The need for, and extent of, busing;



- 4.1.6. Program implications for other schools and for the students when they are attending other schools;
- 4.1.7. The educational and financial impact of closing the school, including the effect on operational costs and capital implications;
- 4.1.8. The educational and financial impact if the school were to remain open;
- 4.1.9. The capital needs of the schools that may have increased enrolment as a result of the closure;
- 4.1.10. The possible uses of the school building or space in the school building if:
 - 4.1.10.1. The entire school is being closed; or
 - 4.1.10.2. Three (3) or more consecutive grades in the school are being closed entirely;
- 4.1.11. The time and location of the public meeting referred to in clause 4.2.1.
- 4.2. Where the Board is considering the closure of a school, the Board:
 - 4.2.1. Shall organize and convene a public meeting for the purpose of discussing:
 - 4.2.1.1. The closure and the implications of the closure for the students, for the community and for the school system;
 - 4.2.1.2. Implementation plans for the closure; and
 - 4.2.1.3. Alternatives to the closure.
 - 4.2.2. Shall provide an opportunity for the council of the municipality in which the school is located to provide a statement to the Board of the impact the closure may have on the community, and
 - 4.2.3. May hold other meetings with respect to the closure at times and places as the Board may determine.
- 4.3. The date and time of the public meeting referred to in clause 4.2.1. shall be:
 - 4.3.1. Posted in five (5) or more conspicuous places in the area or areas of the school or schools affected by the closure, for a period of at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the public meeting; and
 - 4.3.2. Advertised in a newspaper circulating within the area or areas of the school or schools affected by the proposed closure, on at least two (2) occasions as close to as is practicable to the date of the meeting.
- 4.4. At least two (2) trustees of the Board shall attend the public meeting referred to in clause 4.2.1.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

- 4.5 The Board will ensure that minutes of all public meetings held under this section are prepared.
- 4.6 Following the meeting referred to in clause 4.2.1, there shall be minimum of three (3) weeks for electors to present to the Board further responses, including preferred alternatives, to the possible closure.
- 4.7 The Board shall give due consideration to any submissions on the proposed closure that it receives after the public meeting referred to in clause 4.2.1.
- 4.8 The final debate by the Board and the vote upon the resolution shall occur only after clauses 4.1 through 4.7 have been completed.
5. The Board may extend the school closure procedures beyond one school year.
6. If the decision of the Board is to close the school:
 - 6.1. The Board shall forthwith notify the Minister in writing of the decision.
 - 6.2. The Board shall identify alternative uses for the school or dispose of the property in accordance with section 192 of the Education Act.

Legal Reference: Section 33, 51, 52, 53, 62, 192, 222, 248, 249 Education Act
Petitions and Public Notices Regulation



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Appendix 2: Board Presentations - February 5, 2020

Appendix 2.1: Presentation 1: Darren Glubbish

Verbal presentation by Darren Glubbish.

Appendix 2.2: Presentation 2: Megan Olynyk, Shirley Howald And Jennifer Jakubuv

<p>NEW HUMBLE CENTRE SCHOOL</p> <p>120 YEARS OF HUMBLE</p> <p>PRESENTED BY THE NEW HUMBLE COMMUNITY GROUP</p>	<p>01</p> <p>Why are we here?</p> <p>Introduction A Notice of Motion West End Review Transparency Fiscal Responsibility Administration & Board of Trustees</p> <p>Has your vote already been decided?</p> <p>TODAYS HIGHLIGHTS</p>
<p>WE HAVE QUESTIONS</p> <p>COLLABORATION & TRUST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removal of Grades• Cancelled Transfer Bus• Removal of Kindergarten Program• Reduced Library resources <p>BGSD administration and Board of Trustees did not approach NHCS community for solutions prior to the notice of motion.</p> <p>02</p>	<p>WORKING TOGETHER?</p> <p>03</p> <p>Did BGSD strategically transfer Mrs. Hawkins to CES having the intended closure of NHCS in mind?</p> <p>Why were NHCS parents not consulted about moving our kindergarten class to CES?</p>  
<p>UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ONE OF MANY</p> <p>04</p> <p>Why is it the communities responsibility to research & provide possible solutions ?</p>	<p>BGSD</p> <p>"Public education serves the needs of all students"</p> <p>05</p> <p>Does this statement include the rural students needs & desire to learn in their rural environment?</p>



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

06

TIMELINE

JANUARY 8

ADMINISTRATION
TO GATHER DATA

MARCH 5 -
11

INFORMATION
SHARING &
PUBLIC
MEETING

APRIL 8

PRESENTATION
OF DATA

APRIL 22

VOTE ON
MOTION

TIMING

How can we review, interpret and respond to the Notice of Motion, if data and information is not being shared?

If there was sufficient data to support the Notice of Motion, there should be enough data to share with the community to investigate solutions.



07

08

BGSD POLICY 15

What is the Board of Trustee's expectation regarding the **content** of the comprehensive report being provided by Administration?

4.2.1.3

Shall organize and convene a public meeting for the purpose of discussing alternatives to the closure. Has/will the Board direct administration to investigate alternatives to closure?

With the tight timeline, will Administration be fully and adequately prepared answer all questions outlined in Policy 15?

WEST END REVIEW

09

The West End Review focuses on the Rural schools of BGSD. It appears that BGSD views Rural schools as only a financial burden.



What specific actions has BGSD taken in the past 5 years to make Rural schools viable?



10

By PUBLISHING the West End Review BGSD has made urban and rural schools opponents rather than teammates.

Why does the West End Review compare inconsistent & misleading data?

11

WEST END REVIEW

5 YEAR DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

What are these costs? What maintenance and repairs have been identified for NHCS?

STUDENT POPULATION TRENDS

How was the student gain/loss percentage calculated?

ENROLLMENT & UTILIZATION

What is NHCS Capacity? Where is the historical data for all BGSD utilization rates?

COST PER STUDENT (C/S)

12

HR ADDED

Why is HR Added included in C/S?
What would our C/S be without including HR Added?

TARGET

What is BGSD target C/S for NHCS?

FACILITIES

What is this amount?
What expenses drove this total up?



COST PER STUDENT

What staff are included in the base amount for each school?



PAT RESULTS

Where is BGSD data on all school PAT results?



SAFE & CARING SCHOOLS

How many accountability surveys did BGSD receive in 2017, 2018 & 2019 for NHCS?

13

14

BALANCE

What objective(s) and/or benefit(s) will BGSD gain by closing NHCS?

BUDGETS

When NHCS budget was individually based, it was managed responsibly.

DEFINITION

What are the specific KPI's of a fiscally responsible and viable school, as determined by the Board of Trustees?

EFFECIENCY

BGSD is facing a large deficit. Is it efficient and effective use of resources to allocate a significant amount of time to this Motion?

Fiscal Responsibility

WITHHOLDING DATA

RUSHED TIMING

LACK OF TRANSPARENCY

UNKNOWN BUDGET

15

Current Obstacles

16



EMOTIONAL IMPACT

How would BGSD support our kids if the school is closed?

MORE THAN A CHANGE, MORE THAN AN ADJUSTMENT, OUR KIDS WOULD GREIVE THE LOSS OF THEIR SCHOOL

SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

17

WITHDRAW

NOTICE OF MOTION TO CLOSE NEW HUMBLE CENTRE SCHOOL

18

WHY WITHDRAW

VOLUME

The amount of time & investigation that is required was underestimated.

TRANSPARENCY

Administration is not responding in a timely manner to request for information.

BIGGER ISSUES

In withdrawing this motion BGSD can reprioritize their staff and working committees to focus on deeper, more impactful budget adjustments that are necessary to achieve fiscal responsibility.

COLLABORATION

Provide an opportunity for NHCS community and BGSD to work together to make NHCS viable.

SUPPORT

To lead by example as a School Division; to support Rural schools, their cultures and their value to the community.

19



Appendix 3: Board Presentations - March 4, 2020

Appendix 3.1: Presentation 1: Tim Kuhn

Tim Kuhn Presentation Letter

Black Gold School Division Open Board Meeting

March 4, 2020.

5th Floor Board Room, County Centre, Nisku

2019 Black Gold School Division Financial Statements, August 31, 2019.

Found on blackgold.ca > Reports Plans & Results | Audited Financial Statements

-estimated: deficit of \$1,252,717.

-actual: surplus of \$1,166,899

Email with pulled quote from letter on BGSD website ""even with those preemptive expenditure reductions, after the government's October budget, we were left with \$3.71 million dollars less in funding than what was projected in the division's 2019-2020 spring budget."

-surplus of \$1,166,899 minus budgeted deficit of \$3,710,000 equals deficit of \$2,543,101

According to the Black Gold website, the approximate number of students in the division is 11,500

-\$2,543,101 divided by 11,500 is \$221.

Black Gold will have a shortfall of approximately \$221 per student.

In other words, of a total projected budget of \$133,810,083, our shortfall of \$2,543,101 makes up just over 1.9%. This is how much needs to be cut or gained.

Some quick suggestions for balancing the budget:

-charge transportation fees

-apply partial fees or mandate parent fundraising for high cost alternative programs

-look into full fee enhanced programs

-have multidisciplinary instructors/ administrators/ staff

-maintain and utilize existing school buildings before building new ones



Tim Kuhn Presentation Slide Show

WEST END REVIEW

UPDATE – BOARD PLANNING
FALL BOARD PLANNING 2019

BACKGROUND

- Capital Plan consultation 2018
- Variable results on standardized testing (PAT's and Diploma)
- Many initiatives to provide equity of programming (Some worked – some didn't)
- Equity of opportunities
- Sustainability of programming
- Availability of supports for students
- Transition rates

WEST END REVIEW BACKGROUND

“Many initiatives to provide equity of programming (Some worked – some didn't)

Report doesn't indicate either, or if those initiatives that didn't work have been scrapped.

WEST END REVIEW FACTS AND DATA

STUDENT POPULATION TRENDS (10 YEAR FACILITY PLAN CONSULTATION 2018)

Community	2017 FTE	2027 FTE	New Student Gain / Loss	Current 2019 FTE
Beaumont	3754	5417	44%	3865
Leduc	4216	5988	42%	4813
New Sarepta	455	603	33%	477
Devon	1002	1146	14%	931
Calmar and area*	552	598	8%	495
Thorsby	450	476	6%	429
Warburg	310	275	-11%	254

* Includes New Humble Centre School FTE

Student population trends

- Does not indicate inclusion or exclusion of Warburg colony



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

ENROLMENT & SCHOOL UTILIZATION RATES (HIGHEST: GREEN / LOWEST: RED)

Schools	1994	1995	1996	1997	2002	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Alberta Education Student Capacity	Alberta Education School 2018-2019 Utilization %
Calmar Elementary	35	352	332	341	280	208	218	225	255	238	243	236	274	45	65
New Humble	72	84	92	98	78	72	73	70	69	65	71	85	85	85	38
Thorsby Elementary	220	220	235	243	280	272	266	240	257	268	270	259	241	83	83
Warburg	414	391	392	357	311	300	300	313	307	295	310	284	261	741	40

*Note that these enrolments include ECS as a head count and not a .5 FTE.
* 2019 New Humble ECS designated to Calmar Elementary

Enrollment & School Utilization

- It is very unclear why some years are included and others skipped.
- The years shown for Calmar Elementary begin before Calmar Elementary had its own building, do the numbers include K-12 before that?
- Does not indicate that New Humble has lost several grades as well as classroom space.
- Is Warburg Colony included or excluded from this data? Why?

CLASS SIZE / SPLITS 2018-2019

	NHCS	CES	TES	WS*
k	10	19	20	22
1	14	13	19	20
1/2	17			
2		17	20	23
3		16	18	17
3/4	22			
4		15	18	24
5		20	21	17
5/6	22		17	
6		17	22	20

*Warburg School is a k – 12 grade configuration

Class size/ splits 2018-2019

- These numbers do not match the “enrolment & school utilization rates slide further in the report.
- Is this due to ‘coded’ students?

FIVE-YEAR DEFERRED MAINTENANCE COSTS AS IDENTIFIED BY ALBERTA INFRASTRUCTURE

	5 year deferred Maint. Costs	Year of construction
New Humble	\$ 691,288.00	1961
Calmar Elem	\$ 26,241.00	2005
Thorsby Elem	N/A	2009
Warburg	\$ 5,018,956.00	1958

Five-year deferred maintenance costs as identified by Alberta Infrastructure

- These include important issues that were identified at least as far back as 2011.
- Why have they been ignored for the last nine years or more?
- Would the cost have been lower if it had been addressed properly earlier?
- Some items have in fact been replaced or provided by the PTA but are still included.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

HR ADDED TEACHER FTE

	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
CES	0.122	0	0.092	0.000
TES	0.364	0.364	0.226	0.200
NHCS	0.542	0.587	0.552	0.100
WS*	1.76	1.71	1.540	1.093

Human Resources Added is the cost of the additional certificated staff allocated by HR to smaller schools to allow for equity in programming.

*WS includes HR added to support k-12 programming.

HR Added Teacher FTE

- While this is a contentious issue, it should be highlighted that New Humble's is now very low.

2016/2017 Cost Per Student (less transportation)
Includes admin, HR Staffing, facilities, and instruction (approximate)

*These are all approximate numbers, some based on assumptions because we were not given access to sensitive information please request full data and simply plug in the exact numbers. You will see that students at New Humble School do not cost more than double the Black Gold mean. They are approximately 30% higher.

New Humble	4 teachers x \$100,000 : \$400,000	4.67	\$400,000/84 students : \$5,797.10	\$5,797.10 + \$4,195 (admin, maint, etc.) : \$9,992.10 per student at New Humble
Calmar Elementary	15 teachers x \$100,000 : \$1,500,000	15.67	\$1,500,000/255 students : \$5,882.35	\$5,882.35 + \$1,617 (admin, maint, etc.) : \$7,499.35 per student at Calmar Elementary
Thorsby	14 teachers x \$100,000 : \$1,400,000	16.1	\$1,400,000/257 students : \$5,447.47	\$5,447.47 + \$1,906 (admin, maint, etc.) : \$7,353.47 per student at Thorsby
Warburg	8 teachers x \$100,000 : \$800,000	7.9	\$800,000/138 students : \$5,797.10	\$5,797.10 + \$2,842 (admin, maint, etc.) : \$8,639.10 per student in Warburg
Black Gold Mean			33684.02 \$8,421.01	

*4.67 = NHCS.
15.67 = Calmar*

2016 – 2017 COST PER STUDENT

Includes: Admin*, HR* Staffing, Facilities*

Calmar Elementary School	Thorsby Elementary School	New Humble Centre School	Warburg School	Black Gold Mean
\$1,817	\$1,906	\$4,195	\$2,842	\$1,875.00

*Admin: Secretary FTE, Librarian FTE, Principal FTE, Fixed School Costs (Allocations that are a base amount given to every school)

*HR: HR Added Certificated Staffing (certificated staffing FTE allocated to schools over and above standard Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) allocation) to allow for equity in programming

*Facilities: Custodian FTE, Custodian Supplies, General Maintenance, Insurance, Natural Gas, Electricity, Garbage, Water & Sewer

Truer Cost Per Student

- The most important part of a school is teaching. The most expensive part of a school is teaching. Why isn't this cost anywhere in this report?
- Please review the attached spreadsheet for an approximate cost per student that includes these instruction costs.

2016-2017 Cost Per Student

- Why was the data from this year selected to be in the report? It is higher than in 2017/18 and 2018/19
- This data shows the effect of HR and admin is much higher in small schools, if current practices are followed.



RESULTS PROVINCIAL ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

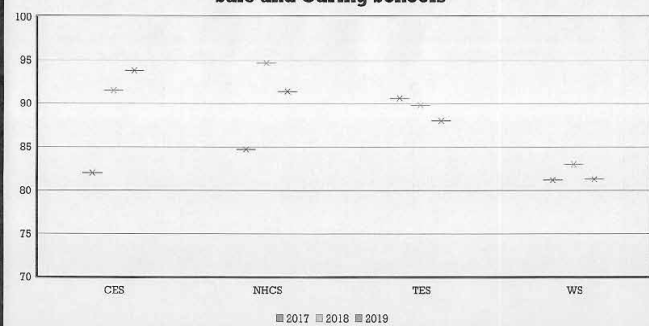
PATS	2017		2018		2019	
	Acceptable/Excellence		Acceptable/Excellence		Acceptable/Excellence	
New Humble (gr 6)	76.0%	14%	72.7%	4.5%	80.6%	8.3%
Calmar Elem. (gr 6)	97.3 %	42%	99.2%	37.5%	97.2%	38.9%
Thorsby Elem. (gr 6)	77.6%	16%	86.9%	18.1%	85%	24.2%
Warburg (gr 6 & 9)	78.8%	15.4%	78.1%	14.6%	83.8%	19.4%

Results

Provincial Achievement Tests

- New Humble has a split grade 5/6 class.
- This means that we have grade 5 students taking PATs and we are STILL achieving very commendable results.
- Do certain schools have highly focused programs or instructors for these exams?
- If they are producing significantly higher results, should all schools be copying this model?

Safe and Caring Schools



*Data reflects survey results from Students, Parents and Staff.

Summary

- When you supply the public with a document, it needs to contain all the relevant information. This report does not show the public the true picture of West End Schools, it instead chooses to focus on whether the current practices of every school having at least one principal, one librarian, and one administrator, plus H/R added, is viable. But it fails to conclude this in the notes. I ask that the board apologies to the West End Schools for not bringing all the facts into the report and would also ask that the board request an investigation into who directed this report to be pointed into the direction it is in. I, and other parents, are interested in hearing the results of this.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Appendix 3.2: Presentation 2: New Humble Community Group (Kelsey Huber & Megan Olynyk)

New Humble Community Group Slide Show

Obstacle... Solution... Opportunity
Satisfying the notice of motion equation.

Obstacles
Obstacle 1
New Humble Centre School high cost per student.
Obstacle 2
Enrollment decline.
Obstacle 3
Facility deferred maintenance

Solutions
Increase Enrollment
Reduce costs & Increase Revenue
Provide Alternative Programming

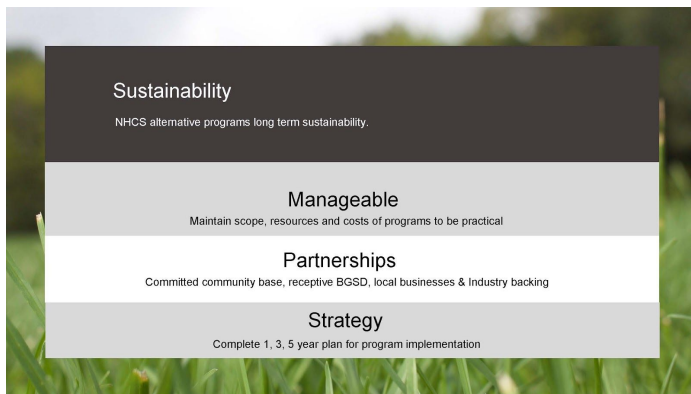
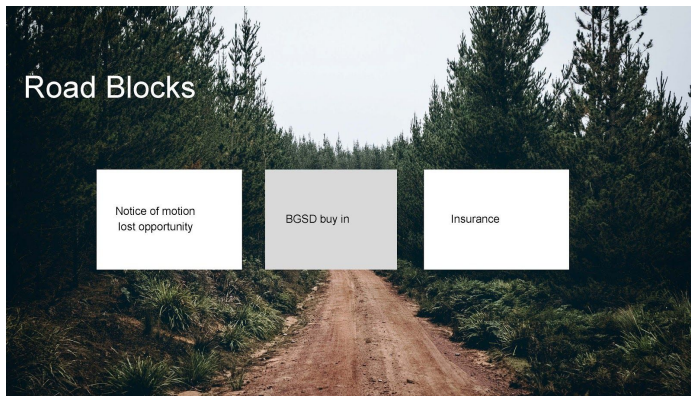
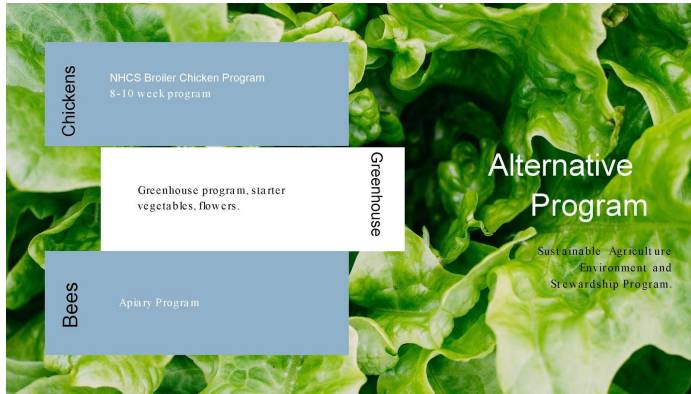
Enrollment
Restore Kindergarten
Launch Pre-K program
Adjust catchment boundaries
Additional Bus

Cost Reduction & Revenue
Combine roles
Adjusting responsibilities
Reduce Number of School Days
Community efficiency committee
Solar Power Project
Fundraising partnerships

Alternative Program
An opportunity for BGSD to change the path of NHCS, becoming a leader in hands on education, community commitment and innovation



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT





New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

New Humble Community Group Presentation Notes

Slide 1

Good Morning school board trustees, associate superintendents, superintendent, and all other attendees, my name is Kelsey Huber. I am a member of the New Humble community, current parent of a New Humble Centre School student, and hopeful future student.

I am thankful for this opportunity to present some very innovative ideas that our community group has developed. Before I begin, I would like to acknowledge that this Notice of Motion has brought an already close community even closer, and we are excited to see how our plans for New Humble School evolve in the future. We hope you will find as much potential for our school as we do.

We all know what brought us to this point. That, as far as we are concerned is water under the bridge. We are not here today to dwell on the Notice of Motion or the West End Review, instead, we are here to address the issues they have highlighted and present our creative possible solutions.

Slide 2

Three major obstacles were derived from the Notice of Motion and the West End Review.

High cost per student cited at \$4195.00

Enrollment decline

Facility Deferred Maintenance cost cited at \$691 288.00

Slide 3

As a group, and an amazing one at that, we have collaborated and come up with the following possible solutions to these problems. Before continuing, we ask for you to keep an open mind and think creatively, because as American painter Barbara Januszkiewicz said "Creative thinking inspires ideas. Ideas inspire change". We hope to change the future of New Humble Centre School with your help and support.

Slide 4

Solution 1

Increase enrollment.

With Kindergarten reintroduced to New Humble School, we propose launching a Pre- Kindergarten program to operate alongside one another, therefore drawing many future students into the school. We have the available space and materials already, and this creates an opportunity to generate additional income for the school.

Our plan for the 2nd or 3rd year is to implement a nature-based Kindergarten and Pre-K program, this will depend on the educational experience and/ or training of the teacher. A nature-based forest school's emphasis on outdoor



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

learning improves and fosters environmental stewardship, better self-regulation skills, improved mental health, increased confidence, advanced gross motor skills, and increased imaginative play. We have a “forest” like space on the school grounds, are located near alternative outdoor classrooms (i.e. Jubilee Park) and is something we could implement through all grade levels to continue to foster outdoor hands on learning.

Adjust catchment boundaries

Being within close proximity to Leduc, the catchment boundaries could easily be readjusted and enlarged to transport more students to New Humble. By doing so, we could alleviate the pressure of overcrowding within Leduc elementary schools. Once again, we have the available space for additional students.

Additional bus

Part of our proposal is for an additional bus that would run to New Humble from outside Devon, along the Edmonton Public School boundary, which would increase funding or from the Leduc west end, which would reduce overcrowding. This bus would be a “school of choice” bus and require a fee and parent fundraising. It would be implemented and managed by the PTA, similar to Gwynn school’s model. Through this bussing option, students can be provided with an opportunity to participate in our specialized and alternative programming and attend a small, rural school.

Slide 5

Cost Reduction and Revenue

Combining roles

By working with the appropriate unions and combining the secretary and library positions, we could reduce the need for an additional employee. There is already a phone and a computer in the library room, so no additional equipment would need to be purchased.

Adjusting responsibilities

We propose a half-time administrator and half-time teacher be instituted at New Humble, providing Black Gold with an opportunity for financial efficiency and fiscal responsibility.

Reducing the number of school days

New Humble has a longer school day than most other elementary schools in Black Gold due to the transportation for older students to Calmar Secondary School. We suggest taking our 15-minute afternoon recess and changing it to a 5-minute healthy hearts and incorporating the remaining 10 minutes into instructional time. This would increase the total instructional hours of New Humble, thereby providing the opportunity to reduce the number of instructional days either at the end of the school year or the beginning. Essentially, we would lengthen the summer break of New Humble students.



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Community Efficiency Committee

New Humble Student Council will form a separate committee of volunteers who will focus on researching and applying for government and corporate grants to offset the costs of larger scale maintenance projects at New Humble Centre School.

Solar Power Project

Through the installation of a ground mounted solar power system, New Humble can take advantage of available grants, which we estimate will cover approximately 60% of the procurement and installation costs and fundraise for the remaining balance. This would help reduce power bills and provide an opportunity to educate students on environmental stewardship.

Fundraising Partnerships

In collaboration with local business and other interested individuals, New Humble would implement unique fundraisers as part of their new programming.

Slide 6

Alternative Programming

This is an exciting opportunity for Black Gold School Division to change the path of New Humble Centre School, becoming a leader in hands-on education, community commitment and innovation.

Slide 7

The unique rural location and upbringing of New Humble Centre School students allows us the ideal setting for sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship. This is something we don't want to lose. New Humble School is already zoned as agricultural, and therefore we do not have to worry about by-laws like other schools would.

Our pilot year includes three elements.

Chickens: 20-25 broiler chickens will be raised.

The approximate length of this program will be 8-10 weeks. Students would be responsible for providing the birds with food and water on a daily basis. A local poultry processor has offered to donate the butchering services. This program can supplement the hot lunch program and be utilized as a fundraiser.

Greenhouse: this will be a small-scale operation which will include bee-friendly starter vegetable plants and flowers. It is a seasonal program lasting from early-late spring. Students will be responsible for the planting, labelling, watering of plants, and ensuring they receive adequate sunlight. We will sell the established vegetables and flowers as a fundraiser.



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Through this program, we hope our students will be able see that under the right conditions and with support, something so small can thrive and blossom. Audrey Hepburn stated, "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow", and we want you to believe in a promising tomorrow for New Humble.

Finally, our apiary program. In our first year, we would have one colony of bees. From late fall to early spring, this program would be largely inactive except for in-class education and weekly colony check-ups. Mid-late summer would involve harvesting the honey from the hive. Students would be responsible for the weekly check-ups during the offseason. In spring, they would need to create a bee-friendly environment, making sure adequate pollen and water sources are available. The close proximity to fields and dugouts ensures viability of the colony. A local apiary will provide instruction and mentorship. Again, the honey could be sold as another unique fundraiser.

These programs will not be run until funding and commitments have been established for sustainability. There will be no start-up costs to Black Gold School Division.

Slide 8

Additional aspects of our alternative programming

Educational field trips and presentations which are relevant to agricultural and environmental stewardship. Examples include the Wizard Lake Watershed educating students about the importance of the watershed, and other local farmers and businesses presenting topics pertaining to their area of expertise. The purpose of these innovative programs is to increase and sustain higher enrollment.

This is just the beginning. Black Gold can transform New Humble into a learning center, which can be utilized by schools within the district. For example, other schools can arrange field trips to New Humble for farm safety days or other agricultural and environmental education opportunities that most students would not have otherwise.

Slide 9

These are our anticipated roadblocks.

First, if the Notice of Motion goes forward, we will experience a loss of an amazing opportunity for unique education for students. Not only will our students lose this opportunity to expand their agricultural and environmental knowledge should you choose to go forward, you will also be depriving them of hands-on and interactive learning about their roots. After all, agriculture is Alberta's 2nd biggest industry.

Second, Black Gold School Division buy-in.

Without the support and backing from our school board, there is little hope for tomorrow. We need you to have faith in our community, our kids, and our school's potential. Help us show our students that under the right conditions and with the right support something small can thrive and blossom. There is potential here, you just have to give it a chance.



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Finally, insurance. Yes, the dreaded topic of insurance is sure to be a roadblock. However, students would require parental permission to partake in the programs and would need to sign a permission form releasing Black Gold from all responsibility.

You know, it is so easy to put up roadblocks and dismiss ideas as too hard, or that they cannot be done. My hard-working and very traditional Ukrainian Baba always said that “If they can put a man on the moon, you can solve your problem”. Please keep that in mind as you consider our proposal.

Slide 10

Altario School is a K-12 School located in Altario, Alberta. Threatened with closure, principal Van Lagen along with the overwhelming support of his community and school board implement a student-led farm that has been highly successful and has rebranded not only the school but the school division as innovative and a leader in alternative programming.

They offer students the opportunity to work with several aspects of agriculture including turkeys, chickens, sheep, cattle, vegetable and crop production.

At the Rural Education Symposium, Education Minister Adriana La Grange reiterated her support for and the importance of small schools, rural education, and agriculture.

March is agricultural learning month. The provincial government has recently announced that they are focused on highlighting agriculture with various programs. What better timing to implement this program to our rural school?

Slide 11

What we have presented to you here is a golden opportunity.

Beginning with small changes and initiatives to reduce operating costs, increasing enrollment, and introducing a strategic plan for deferred maintenance costs, New Humble School can become fiscally responsible in the eyes of Black Gold School Division.

Through a unique curriculum, Black Gold School Division can be a leader by supporting small schools and inspiring alternative programming.

Slide 12

New Humble Centre School’s proposed alternative programs offer long-term sustainability through the following means:

By maintaining a practical scope, resources and costs of the programs will be manageable.

Establishing partnerships with a committed community base, a receptive school board, local business, and industry backing. And a strategic 1, 3, and 5-year plan for program implementation.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Slide 13

Believe in tomorrow.

Black Gold School Division and our community can work together to create efficiencies within New Humble School and support an inspiring new program. New Humble Centre School would be a leader in forward thinking education, programming, and community partnership.

This is an opportunity for you as trustees, associate superintendent, and superintendent to champion a distinct curriculum-based program in a location unlike any other within the division. This is your opportunity to help us take New Humble, which is already at the heart of the division, to be the pride of the division.

So, get excited, get your hands dirty, and help us take education back to its roots, because after all, there is a little farmer in all of us.

New Humble Community Group Multi-year Business Plan

New Humble Community Group Multi-Year Business Plan

Executive Summary

The purpose of this Business Plan is to address the Notice of Motion by the Black Gold School Division (herein known as "BGSD"), to consider the closing of New Humble Centre School (NHCS). The motion was tabled due to data presented in the West End Review, including high cost per student to operate the school, high deferred maintenance, and low enrollment numbers. The New Humble Community Group (NHCG) is an independent, unaffiliated group of community members who have come together to research cost reduction and revenue-generating plans that will benefit New Humble Centre School should it remain open. The New Humble Community Group has taken the stance that the following plan is an opportunity for the New Humble community as a whole to grow and prosper through the concerted efforts of NHCS, the NHCG, and the BGSD.

A SWOT analysis was conducted for the overall, current environment that NHCS operates in and how the proposed programming will address the threats through leveraging the strengths.

This proposal focuses on efficiencies and cost savings as well as alternative programs that concentrate on sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship. An established, extensive range of business experience within the NHCG was the main contributing factor to recommending a number of cost-saving ideas including the application for government and corporate grants as well as alternative energy resources. These programs are tied directly to the local economy and include an apiary, operation of a greenhouse, and raising broiler chickens on the school grounds.

The Group is requesting that the BGSD consider giving the NHCG and NHCS an opportunity to show how the following proposal will create sustainable cost reductions and revenue generation.

Environmental (S.W.O.T.) Analysis

In order to fully understand the environment that New Humble Centre School currently operates in, a S.W.O.T. analysis has been conducted. This analysis will also be utilized to consider the potential for success for the proposed opportunities outlined as alternatives.

Threats and weaknesses recognized by the following S.W.O.T. matrix are by no means deterrents to moving forward with any plan of action. By leveraging the opportunities and strengths available to the NHCG, threats and weaknesses can be overcome with thorough planning and well-executed program delivery.

Strengths

- Agricultural & Environmental Industry support & expertise
- Smaller enrollment – better teacher to student ratio
- Large, dedicated volunteer base
- Available funding from the Parents' Group
- Capacity for Kindergarten & Pre-K
- Proximity to Wizard Lake

Weaknesses

- Administrator buy-in not guaranteed
- Additional buy-in from educators
- Non-educational day coverage of programs

Opportunities

- Population trend for 2021 and 2022
- Large available plot of land – Zoned Agricultural away from playground
- Availability of government and corporate grants
- Fully-staffed, available facility
- Potential for adjustment to school calendar
- Potential for adjustment to catchment area
- Alberta government focus on agriculture

Threats

- Population trend statistics (historical)
- Age of the facility
- Area schools in competition for fundraising



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Potential Strategies

The Alberta government has renewed its commitment to supporting agriculture and small, rural schools. By utilizing the variety of government and corporate grants accessible to NHCS, the cost to maintain the building and facilities can be offset to a degree that will allow the school to maximize available funding. Alternative sources of power which have become financially accessible will reduce the costs not only for the day-to-day operations, but for the long-term as well.

There is an exciting prospect for creative ways to generate revenue at the school level. As all schools will be vying for community-based fundraising, NHCS is ideally located and positioned to offer a unique option. It would be a missed opportunity for NHCS if these revenue-generating avenues weren't included as part of the educational experience, enriching the community as a whole.

Proposal of Alternatives to Closing

The proposed solutions noted in this section are part of a dynamic plan that is constantly being researched and reviewed by the NHCG. Further collaboration with the school administration and the Black Gold School Division are paramount to the success of these initiatives. All of the alternatives listed below have been fully researched, and financial details will be deferred until each program has been approved for budgeting.

Cost Reduction

Cost savings and overall reduction is a pivotal focus for the BGSD as a whole. The New Humble Community Group has a number of cost-saving solutions that will have far-reaching opportunities for the BGSD.

Capital Projects

A number of cost saving solutions are aimed to assist the BGSD with the operating and maintenance of New Humble Centre School. The building itself was built in 1961, and requires a number of upgrades, some more significant than others, namely the windows and the flooring.

The New Humble School Council will form a separate committee of volunteers who will focus on researching and applying for government and corporate grants to offset the costs of larger-scale maintenance projects at NHCS.

Solar Power

In rural areas, the cost of electricity is significantly more expensive than in urban areas, mainly due to the cost to distribute the utility. Over recent years, solar power has become more accessible for facilities, with cost reduction, and the potential to become a net-zero cost with the sharing the generated power back into the grid. The outlay of funds to set up a solar-powered system for a school facility is believed to be an impediment to moving forward with such a project. Research within the NHCG has determined a number avenues available to offset a significant portion of the purchase and installation of a solar power generating system.

Bus Contract

New Humble Community Group has researched a plan to contract a bus company to transport students beyond the existing catchment area. This would be a 'School of Choice' bus service to NHCS for families wishing to educate their children where the student to teacher ratio is more attractive. The New Humble Centre Parents' Group would manage and fund the contract, raising funds through transportation fees paid for each student using the service.

Other Cost Saving Considerations

Reduction of operating costs is not limited to larger projects. There are many adjustments that can be implemented at the school that will make a difference to the overall, annual cost.

- Lower the thermostats on a schedule, including non-instructional days
- Reduction of the number of school days
- Redefinition of staff responsibilities (i.e. Have the principal providing more instructional time)
- Fundraising partnerships

Program Initiatives – Sustainable Agriculture & Environmental Stewardship 5 Year Plan

New Humble Centre School is at the heart of the BGSD, surrounded by a thriving, established farming community. The opportunity for the students at NHCS to embrace this identity is one that can flow through to the entire community.

The following plan is intended to be rolled out over a number of years, in order to fully establish and ensure the sustainability of each program. Each initiative summarized below is a result of in-depth research and documentation provided in the referenced appendices. It is noted that all programs are subject to the approval of the NHCS principal and the BGSD. The encouragement and safety of every single student is the primary focus.

Each program will be initiated once all start up costs have been determined, funding has been established and a 3 year funding plan has been created and approved for each initiative.

Year 1 – Foundational Programs

Forest and Nature Education Program

Focused on Kindergarten and Pre-K children, this is a play-based, child-led and inquiry-based learning environment that takes children outside, and into their natural setting. This program has been in existence since the 1950's, and has recently gained momentum as an innovative way to educate young students.¹ This style of learning is currently in use in 11 of the 13 Canadian provinces and territories, many programs experiencing wait lists. This is an emerging, forward-thinking method to introduce a program that is in high demand.

Why it will work: by moving children outside the boundaries of the classroom setting, they will explore and learn about the world around them in a fun and exciting way

What is the payback: Outdoor learning fosters: environmental stewardship, better self-regulation skills, improved mental health, increased confidence, advanced gross motor skills, and increased imaginative play.

Apiary Program – Bee City School Partnership

Using the field south of the school, hives and a colony of bees can be kept on a skid-based structure. This program will foster an understanding the importance of bees for the agricultural economy, as well as for the environment. True North Apiary (Calmar, AB) will provide initial instruction as well as provide start-up supplies, including the initial colony, hive, and hive body. Partnerships with the local industry leaders will be established in order to assist with responsibilities when the students are unable.

Students will also learn how to harvest the honey for the preparation to take it to market. Students will learn what it takes to sell the honey, understanding how to run a small business in a way that all students can comprehend.

NHCS will apply to become a "Bee City School" – an organization that "... inspire cities, towns, First Nations, schools, businesses and other organizations to take action to protect pollinators."² Bee City Schools provide free program materials in order to bring the program into the schools' curriculum.

Why it will work: environmental stewardship, knowledge of local economy, current global issue

What is the payback: sales from honey for fundraising, sustainable farming techniques/knowledge for the community as a whole.

Greenhouse Program

A greenhouse is a safe, controlled environment for students to understand the life cycles of many types of plants. NHCS is currently using the classroom to grow smaller groups of plants for this purpose. A greenhouse allows a true connection with nature, and a new way to extend the traditional classroom setting. The first year would start with fast-growing flowers, which can be sold for fundraising efforts during the spring for Mother's Day or for garden starters. In subsequent years, different kinds of fruits and vegetables can be grown. As the greenhouse program flourishes and grows, this will tie directly with the Apiary Program, as the students will learn the importance of pollination for the different crops in the community as a whole.

The NHPG is considering a greenhouse house that will take up approximately 1,000sq feet of space in the field directly south of the school.

Why it will work: Specifically, this innovative program aligns with the current curriculum. The start-up costs to establish the program and sustaining it (i.e. soil, seeds) will be covered through official donations and sponsorship from the local business community.

What is the payback: The benefits are far-reaching and include responsibility, creativity, nutrition and overall health and fitness. The sale of the items grown will generate revenues from events and fundraising opportunities focused around this program.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Broiler Chicken Program

Broiler chickens are small animals with responsibilities ideal for elementary school students to manage. This is a fitting pilot project for NHCS, as it focuses on understanding the full life cycle of a chicken, and understanding what is in the food we eat.

Broiler chickens are ideal as their growth period is approximately 8-10 weeks, and not a year-long commitment for the students. As well, they are not egg-laying birds, eliminating the need to collect eggs on a regular basis.

The initial plan is to have the chickens housed in an outdoor pen totaling 800sq ft of space in the field area south of the school. The students will learn, from chick to adult, how to care for a brood of chickens. This would include feeding, cleaning, and ensuring the health and safety of the brood. When the chickens are full-grown, they will be taken off-site to be processed through corporate sponsorship. The students will then track the birds to ensure food safety as they cycle back to the community through Food Bank donations, or sold as a fundraiser by partnering with local businesses.

Why it will work: Students will understand the full life and business cycle (farm to table) of a chicken. NHCS will connect with the community at large to understand the need to give back through Food Bank donations, or partnering with local businesses

What is the payback: Students will learn responsibility for a live animal, gain exposure to a different aspect of agriculture, and understand the importance of community partnerships.

Long-Term Sustainability Through Adaptability

New Humble Centre School is located in the heart of the Black Gold School Division. The community surrounding the school is committed, resourceful, and willing to make these programs succeed.

The quality of education for students through these programs encompasses the heart and soul of the community at large – highlighting what makes small, rural schools thrive.

The outline of cost savings and emerging, forward-thinking educational programs in this proposal address the needs not only of NHCS, but of the BGSD. Alternative programming that focuses on agriculture does work. Altario school has implemented similar programs with great success for the community.³ These programs are a source of pride for the students, the school, and the school division. Implementation of these programs at NHCS provides innovation, sustainability, and skills that will serve the students as they progress through their educational journey.

Should the BGSD grant NHCS the opportunity to test this proposal, community involvement and industry support will be a pivotal factor in its success. Our school will be at the forefront of innovative educational programming and inspire others to get involved and support our initiatives. Our school will thrive through support, fundraising, commitment and effectively utilizing available resources.

Appendix 1 – Sustainable Agriculture Environment Stewardship Programs

On-Site Greenhouse

Description – Greenhouse on a skid base to grow flowers and vegetables from seed that will be ready for harvesting and sale in May-June. Also start and grow flowers to be planted in a wildflower garden to support the apiary program.

Timeline – Pilot Spring 2021, duration 10-12 weeks (until the end of the school year).

Activities – Hands-on learning to grow vegetables and flowers, planting, watering, transplanting and selling what has been grown.

Leaders – Community members and volunteers that could or will lead the program.

Budget – The greenhouse itself will require fundraising efforts. Annual supplies such as soil, seeds and fertilizer will be supplied through corporate and community donations.

Partners – Community members and volunteers will assist with the leadership of the program. Upon approval of the program, corporate partnerships will be solidified to attain funding and continuous support for the program.

Benefits – Gardening is not only a healthy, fun, and fulfilling activity that children can enjoy together, but it will also help develop new skills and expand knowledge about the science of growing. Specific focus on building additional math skills, accurate measurement and following calendar timelines. Ultimately, students will gain further, in-depth knowledge of where food comes from.

Broiler Chickens

Description – Broiler Chicken program to raise 20-25 chickens from chicks to full grown chickens ready for processing.

Timeline – Pilot Spring 2021, duration 8-10 weeks.

Opportunity – The short time frame is an excellent opportunity to introduce a manageable NHCS agricultural program. A skid structure chicken coop would be placed on the south side of the property.

Activities – Morning chores would include letting the chickens out, providing fresh food and water and cleaning the coop and run of droppings. Evening chores would include putting the chickens away. The chicken coop would require weekly cleanings. An option would be to have a different family each week be responsible for the weekend chores.

Budget – Chicken Coop setup cost will be donated, along with the feed, supplies and chicks

Partners – Pigeon Lake Poultry – donate the government-inspected processing, there are many opportunities to utilize industry expertise and support for this program.

Program details that will need to be determined:

- Clean hands and clean shoe procedure.
- Ensure coop and run are safe for both chickens and humans.
- Training for students, staff, and leadership team.

- Weekends, school holidays or unplanned school closing schedule.
- Ensuring area is secure.
- Watering, Feed systems and schedule.
- Establishing day to day care guide.
- Identifying leader of the program.
- Determine breed of chicken.

Benefits – Through establishing age-appropriate responsibility NHCS students will be exposed to a different (and possibly new to them) industry in agriculture. The Broiler Chickens will provide diversity in NHCS's alternative programming. Hands-on learning, partnered with expectation and accountability, will encourage a sense of pride and develop a feeling of responsibility.

This rewarding program will give the students a broader understanding of where their food comes from, as well as the chance to nurture and properly care for an animal.

This program will provide the opportunity to partner with the poultry industry, agriculture businesses, local business and community members – both educationally as well as raising funds to support NHCS programs and initiatives.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Appendix 2 – Community Support



2, Box 50, Calmar, AB, T0C 0V0 ~ 780-985-2538
ardship@wizardlake.ca ~ www.wizardlake.ca

Watershed & Stewardship Association

March 2, 2020

TO: New Humble Community Group

Thank you for reaching out to our organization regarding the possible closure of New Humble Centre School. We would like to take this opportunity to commend your group of parents for your unwavering efforts towards the difficult endeavor - Preventing the closure of New Humble Centre School and the relocation of elementary students from their rural environment to a city environment for their education.

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of the WLWLSA and share it with Black Gold School Division.

The Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association (WLWLSA) is a stewardship group formed in 2006. It presently has a Board of Directors of 14 with a membership of approximately 133. The watershed group works toward enhancing and protecting the sustainability and enjoyment of Wizard Lake for the benefit of all users and watershed inhabitants. One of our many goals is "to help build a community with residents and users to work toward common interest," and "educate watershed residents and lake users about individual stewardship sustainable practices regarding environmental wildlife and aquatic conservation."

In response to your request for support, I, Blake Bartlett, Chair of Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association reached out to our Board of Directors.

Results of that are:

- 11 members requested that we do all we can to support your group
- 2 members are out of the country
- 1 member requested additional information, which was provided.

Therefore, it is with great pleasure, with the WLWLSA Board's approval, that I announce our support for the NHCG's initiative in regards to the Motion of New Humble School closure.

Some of the concerns/thoughts put forth by board members regarding NHCS remaining in operation are:

- smaller class sizes benefit all students
- students would remain closer to environmental areas such as Wizard Lake, farming community
- student's transportation time would increase, many feel that longer bus rides do not benefit younger children
- smaller schools create closer relationships among students, teachers, parents and community
- students benefit from rural/farming experiences coupled with local community schooling
- students are more likely to return to reside within their local community in the future
- focus on agricultural/watershed stewardship education

Historically the area organizations such as Conjuring Lake Curling Club, Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association, has supported this school with activities such as curling in the curling rink, "The Straw Pile", and in recent years, we, the WLWLSA supported the 'Streams of Dreams' program that is still being displayed on the New Humble Centre School fence today.

Recently, on February 08, 2020, WLWLSA, along with Leduc County and County of Wetaskiwin sponsored a community event called "Try It" which drew 345 participants. This event is just one example of the community and counties coming together and supporting one another.

We strongly believe that the backbone of a community is its up and coming younger generation.

As education taxpayers, we appreciate having an opportunity to speak against the closure of our community elementary school, New Humble Centre School.

Blake Bartlett, Chair
Wizard Lake Watershed & Lake Stewardship Association



Appendix 4: Analysis of the New Humble Community Group Business Plan

NEW HUMBLE COMMUNITY GROUP BUSINESS PLAN

Cost Reduction

The New Humble Community Group (NHCG) has proposed several initiatives to reduce operating costs. In order for these initiatives to be seen as viable over time, the revenue from them must be predictable and sustainable. Relying on grants, donations and volunteerism may be reasonable to offset initial start-up costs, however, the long term viability of any project must be on, at least, a cost-recovery basis that takes into account regular maintenance and expected lifespan.

Sustainable Agricultural Environment Stewardship Programs

- The premise that New Humble Centre School could become an Alternative Program (as defined in the Education Act) Agricultural School to attract more students was explored. If the school were to adopt that philosophy it would need to become purely a school of choice and would therefore not be eligible for the Small Schools Grant Funding. In order to maintain the Small School Grant Funding, regular programming needs to continue with a *focus* on agriculture.
 - In order to build a successful program, the board would need to commit to designating an administrator who would be willing to champion this initiative as well as teachers who would be willing to take on the extra work involved in developing and maintaining such a program.
- While we believe these programs may become self-sustaining, we can't see them as becoming a major source of funding - nor should they. The purpose of public elementary education is not to be profit-oriented but to provide a solid grounding in the basics.
- BGSD looked at the grade 1 - 6 curricular outcomes and determined which could be covered directly by the programs mentioned below. (attached) The outcomes are primarily in Science but there is the flexibility to cover a few curricular outcomes in English, Art, CTF and other options.
- With all of the programs listed below, we are also making the assumptions:
 - That all material and start-up costs are covered by donations or grants.
 - That all work required to maintain the programs over the summer months is covered by volunteers with no expectations placed upon Black Gold staff.
- The tracking of expenses and profits from all of these projects is the responsibility of the school secretary.
- All donations to NHCS become the property of BGSD.

Forest and Nature Education Program

- <http://childnature.ca/forest-school-canada/>
 - An excellent nationally recognized program that would / should be able to be successful in most of our rural elementary schools
 - There are no plans to offer pre-K and Kindergarten numbers do not warrant a program there either.
 - Unless the program brings in students from out-of-the Division into New Humble Centre School there would be no net gain for Black Gold.



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Apiary Program - Bee City School Partnership

- Bee City School <https://beecitycanada.org/>
 - An excellent nationally recognized program that would/should be successful in most of our rural elementary schools.
 - Unless the program brings in students from out-of-the Division into New Humble Centre School there would be no net gain for Black Gold.
- Keeping hives of bees for education and profit
 - Our insurance provider would not be opposed to this initiative, however, they made some suggestions regarding mitigation of risk. These would include but not be limited to:
 - Keeping the bees well away from the school. 1.5 km is the recommendation.
 - Have proper instruction in the safety and handling of bees. I recommend that the teacher would need to take some courses in this area as well as have current first aid certification.
 - Be cognizant of all of the students who have bee allergies.
 - Wear approved safety equipment.
 - Be under the supervision of a teacher at all times.
 - There would need to be a partnership between the school and a registered beekeeper in order to have someone take care of the hive in the summer and harvest and process the honey.

Greenhouse Program

- We consider this a very good opportunity for experiential learning that could be developed in any k - 12 school setting.

Broiler Chicken Program

- A very good experiential learning program that may only be possible in a few of our rural schools.
 - I recommend that the teacher would need to take some courses in this area. Additionally, they would need to have proper instruction in the safety and handling of chickens as well as have current first aid certification.
 - Partnership with a certified processing facility would be necessary.

Cost Reduction Proposals

Capital Projects

The viability of sourcing Governments and Corporate grants to offset capital projects related to the deferred maintenance of the building is a grey area. BGSD Administrative Procedure states that only items that are 'EXTRA' to the basic operation of the school can be considered for donation. Additionally, in consultation with Alberta Education, the donation cannot impede the minister's ability to operate the school nor be an encumbrance upon the disposal of the asset. In other words, there can be no claims on the school by any individual or corporation as the result of a donation to the school and all materials donated or purchased through donations become the property of BGSD.



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Solar Power:

- There is room to install a solar panel array southeast of the school building that would bring the school into net-zero power consumption. Components of the array are guaranteed for 15 - 30 years. (Quote attached)
- Given the high capital investment, it would take approximately 12 years for the array to pay for itself after which time the cost savings would amount to approximately \$7250/ annum based upon today's power and transmission rates. This does not take into account the cost of upgrading the existing panel and wiring (currently listed as deferred maintenance) located in the school or any maintenance associated with the array. The New Humble Community Group has stated that they would be able to fund either through grants or donations a significant amount of the initial investment which would bring the time for recouping costs down.

Bus Contract

- Unless this bus was to bring new students into Black Gold, there is no net gain to the division. It is unlikely that neighbouring divisions would be willing to sign a transportation agreement with Black Gold to allow us to run a bus within their division.

Expanding NHCS Catchment Boundary east to highway #2

- It has been suggested that moving students designated to Leduc schools to NHCS would alleviate crowding in Leduc schools. This proposition has no merit.
- Students in the catchment area east of the NHCS boundary are assigned to Linsford Park School (LPS). 14 students from this area are scheduled to attend Linsford Park next year. With those students, LPS will have an Area Capacity Utilization of (ACU) of approximately 71%. It is not overcrowded nor is it projected to be any time soon. There is no need to move students. 23 other k - 6 students within that catchment area attend school of choice in other Black Gold Schools. Of these, 2 choose to attend NHCS.
- What is being proposed is to displace these students from their current school to another school. It begs the question as to why this group should be displaced instead of the current students from NHCS.
- Once again, moving students from school to school within Black Gold adds no new revenue to the Division and does not help the current economic situation in the whole Division.

Reinstate Kindergarten at New Humble Centre School.

- It has been proposed that bringing back Kindergarten and pre-K to NHCS will help increase enrollment. This is not economically feasible.
- As of April 3 there are 6 students registered in Kindergarten from within the New Humble Centre School boundary area. This number does not warrant a teacher and EA. Efficiencies are found in integrating these students with other students without impacting their learning.
- With the new funding model, Pre-K is limited to PUF funded children so sites have been congregated to be able to fall within the funding parameters. Community students are no longer accepted.



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Reinstate Junior High grades to New Humble Centre School.

- Much has been made of the decision many years ago to move the junior high program to Calmar Secondary.
- This would have a severely negative impact on the programming those students would be able to access.
 - A limited number of teachers to provide expertise in any non-core classes
 - Limited by gymnasium size for PE and team sports
 - No access to food lab, woodworking, machining, Home Economics lab, welding.etc.
- Moving students from Calmar Secondary School (CSS) at this time would also negatively impact the programming at CSS school.
- Moving students from school to school within Black Gold adds no new revenue to the Division and does not help the current economic situation in the whole Division.

Make New Humble Centre School an Alternative Agricultural School of Excellence

- It has been proposed that NHCS become an Agricultural School of Excellence so that it would attract more students to access its programming.
 - According to the Education Act, Section 19 (2) A board may offer an alternative program to a student whose parent requests it where, in the opinion of the board,
 - (a) the board has sufficient resources and facilities to offer the alternative program, and
 - (b) the alternative program is appropriate to meet the student's educational needs.
- If the board were to designate NHCS an Alternative Program, NHCS would not be eligible for the Small School Grant Funding. Additionally, BGSD would be required to transport students who choose not to enroll in the alternative program to an alternate school at no charge.
- Unless the program was to attract a large number of students from out-of-district, this would not be viable.

Redesignate or redeploy current staff to reduce costs.

- It has been proposed that the principal designation be removed and New Humble Centre School operate with an assistant principal only to reduce costs.
 - This is feasible and can be implemented for next year
- **Reduce admin time.**
 - Regardless of the size of the school, administrators have a minimum amount of work or tasks that they are required to accomplish.
 - A 0.5 FTE administrator is the minimum to be considered reasonable to accomplish those tasks.
- **Reduce secretarial time and librarian time**
 - Regardless of the size of the school, there is a minimum amount of work/tasks that must be accomplished and these tasks require specialized technical knowledge of software and procedures.
 - Currently, there is a 1.0 secretary and a 0.5 Library Clerk at NHCS.
- **Increase the length of the school day and reduce the school year by 2 weeks to reduce costs.**
 - Grades 1 - 6 require a minimum of 950 hours of instruction time. Black Gold requires that all schools add a minimum of 10 hours to that total to make up for possible unscheduled interruptions such as closure due to inclement weather. NHCS currently operates with 970 hours of instruction. New Humble Centre School also has a scheduled 20 minutes of unstructured time for students between the buses typically drop them off and when school starts.



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

- By adding 16 minutes per day to instruction time, the school could still meet the instructional hours guidelines and reduce the number of school days by 10 to dismiss two weeks earlier in June.
 - There would be no cost savings for teachers as they are paid according to the collective agreement.
 - There would be no cost savings for support staff because they would be working the same number of hours in a compressed year.
 - There could be minimal savings in transportation as the buses would still need to transport students on their routes to CSS.
 - There would be minimal savings to utilities as power and gas consumption are at a minimum in June. (Rough calculation is just over \$300)
 - Students would still be required to make arrangements to write the grade 3 and 6 PAT exams.

The Calmar Elementary School bus lane is too short to accommodate three more buses

- It has been suggested that student safety would be compromised by adding three more buses to the bus lane at Calmar Elementary School.
 - To address this issue, the transportation department could stagger arrival times. Two busses attend CES and Three attend CSS and then they travel to the other school.
 - Two buses could pick up all the elementary students, take them to the high school and transfer there.

Calmar Elementary School will become overcrowded.

- The current utilization rate of Calmar Elementary School is 63% - the lowest of any elementary school in the Division.

Conclusion

There are certainly merits in the programming suggestions that the group has proposed. While most of them could be initiated in most of our rural schools, the location of New Humble Centre School is ideal. Furthermore, the programs would provide authentic learning opportunities for students and be self-sustaining. There is definitely support from the community.

The cost reducing initiative of solar power is possible but would take a significant up-front investment. Given the age of the building, the solar array might outlast the useful life of the school. However, if that were the case it could be moved to another location at the division's expense. The other cost saving measures cited could produce minor savings. Any initiatives involving changing boundaries or moving students within the division are not feasible for the reasons cited earlier.

The two factors that cannot be mitigated are simply the age of the building and NHCS's proximity to a school that has capacity to accommodate all of the students.



Appendix 4.1: Notes from Centre For Excellence-Altario School Conversations

NOTES: March 24 - Centre for Excellence- Altario School

Prairie Land School Division is located in southeastern Alberta. It comprises eight community schools and three Hutterite schools. These schools serve approximately 1400 students. As a group, each school was challenged to find an identity that would help distinguish itself within its community and encourage students to remain in their schools.

Vice Principal -Jamie Roworth / Superintendent - Cam McKeage

- Altario school has 60 students - next year some increase expected
 - According to the superintendent, the Board had not discussed closing the school as there is not an alternative school within a reasonable bus ride.
- Gr. level is K-12
- Altario is relatively isolated. It's a 30 min drive just to get fuel
- 11 students from Saskatchewan
 - Altario is the closest school to them on either side of the border
 - A funding agreement is in place for out of province students.

There needs to be a champion to lead this program

This is year two for the program

6 staff total - 4 teachers, 2 EA, 0.5 principal (does not teach).

Programming

Students are included and are encouraged to make decisions related to the programming (Hutterite model)

- All students who make decisions related to and that are running the school farm are in grades 7 - 12
- Elementary students help with chores and are mentored by older students
- They have not mapped out curricular links/outcomes. We felt this was important and decided to do it. (attached.)
- Students sign a waiver to access the barn
- There is always an adult around when students are around animals

The rest of the students work with managers to gain a better understanding of the operations and decision making. Many are farming students - students gain experience with hands-on opportunities. For various reasons some farmers are not involving their children in day to day operations as much as they used to.

- 10 - 15 % of students have chosen to not be involved in the agricultural program.
 - The school is looking to add retail operations to accommodate the students not involved in the agricultural program.

Students get off buses at 8:30 and complete their chores prior to school starting

Want to build a retail store based out of the school selling various products being produced



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

A partnership has been established with Lakeland College

- Dual credit opportunities are available to high school students
 - Not sure if this will be viable with the new funding framework
- 30 students from another high school visited for two days to gain knowledge and earn credits. Credit revenue was split to cover costs. With the new funding model, this revenue is not available and it was suggested that a fee might be charged.
 - These students camped out in a nearby field donated by a local farmer.

Animals being looked after.

- 3 steers
- 38 turkeys
- 1 dairy cow and calf
- 4 lambs
- chickens

The school division bought the barn.

- The school sold a steer to help with costs
- The animals are butchered and dispersed

It's great to see the students light up when doing the chores

Tremendous community involvement

- Many of the school staff are married to local farmers
- Students are in conversation with a local farmer about accessing an 80-acre plot of land
- Volunteers from town look after the garden crops during the summer
- School staff can call any farmer and a tractor be available to them within minutes

Comments and advice from the Assistant Principal

- This is a V.C. hub school (high school)
- Would need to do some teacher PD
- Not a money-maker - it's an attraction for students
- It's about getting students wanting to attend school.
- Division schools are being challenged to think critically about creative programming.
- Authentic experiences and happy students
- Would the program generate interest outside the community?
- Start-up costs would have to come from grants and donations
- Build an opportunity for partnerships-school and community
- It would take at least a year to get this operational
- It is a cost-neutral endeavour
- Need for a champion to run/lead it. A staff that is committed to making this work

Appendix 4.2: Curriculum Connections: Agriculture In Grades 1 - 6 Curriculum

The following Agriculture activities were identified:



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

- Gardening and crop production
- Raising chickens
- Bee and honey production

For each activity, all of the Outcomes in every subject for each grade were examined to identify those that can be achieved through one of the activities listed above.

Grade 1	Total outcomes in all Grade 1 subjects = 471	# of Outcomes related to Agriculture	instructional time to achieve these outcomes through Agriculture	
Grade 1 Science		11	1.5 - 2 weeks	Focus of activities: Germinating Seeds, Growing plants Exploring Weeds Understanding animal needs
(Science Inquiry) Bring focus to investigative activities, based on their own questions and those of others.	1SC.S1			
(Science Inquiry) Describe materials and objects that have been observed and manipulated, and identify what was done and found out.	1SC.S2			
(SI) Students will recognize and describe steps followed, based on independent activity, on directed activity and on observing the activity of others	1SC.S1-S 2.5			
(SI) Students will describe what was observed, using pictures and oral language	1SC.S1-S 2.6			
Observe, describe and compare living things.	1SC.11.1			
Contrast living and nonliving things.	1SC.11.2			



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Identify ways in which living things are valued; e.g., as part of a community of living things; as sources of food, clothing or shelter.	1SC.11.3			
Classify some common local plants and animals into groups on the basis of visible characteristics; e.g., adaptations for survival, such as claws, beaks, prickles.	1SC.11.4			
Identify examples of plants and animals that are normally under human care (domesticated) and those that are normally independent of human care (wild).	1SC.11.5			
Identify the requirements of animals to maintain life; i.e., air, food, water, shelter, space; and recognize that we must provide these for animals in our care.	1SC.11.6			
Identify the requirements of plants to maintain life; i.e., air, light, suitable temperature, water, growing medium, space; and recognize that we must provide these for plants in our care.	1SC.11.7			
Grade 1 Language Arts				
Links can be made through the Science activities to apply Language Arts outcomes				



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Grade 2	Total outcomes in all Grade 2 subjects = 348	# of Outcomes related to Agriculture	instructional time to achieve these outcomes through Agriculture	
Grade 2 Science		6	1 week	Focus of Activities: Apply outcomes to chickens
Recognizes that small animals/humans have homes that meet their basic needs	2SC.10.3			
Identifies each animal's role within the food chain	2SC.10.4			
Describes the relationships of animals to other living/nonliving things	2SC.10.5			
Identifies and gives examples of ways that small animals avoid predators	2SC.10.6			
Describes conditions for small animal care; Demonstrates responsible animal care	2SC.10.7			
Identifies how animals are considered helpful/harmful to humans/the environment	2SC.10.8			
Grade 2 Language Arts				
Links can be made through the Science activities to apply Language Arts outcomes				



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Grade 3	Total outcomes in all Grade 3 subjects = 379	# of Outcomes related to Agriculture	instructional time to achieve these outcomes through Agriculture	
Grade 3 Science		14	2 - 3 weeks	Focus of activities: Experiments/Scientific Method Animal Life Cycles (need to extend to other animals) Animal Care and basic needs
Investigate the nature of things, demonstrating purposeful action that leads to observations and inferences.	3SC.1			
Identify patterns and order in objects and events studied; and, with guidance, record observations, using pictures, words and charts; and make predictions and generalizations, based on observations.	3SC.2			
ask questions that lead to exploration and investigation	3SC.2.1			
identify one or more possible answers to questions by stating predictions or hypotheses	3SC.2.2			
identify, with guidance, procedures to be followed in finding answers to given questions	3SC.2.3			
carry out procedures developed by themselves or identified by others	3SC.2.4			
work independently or with others to carry out the identified procedures	3SC.2.6			
record observations and measurements, using captioned pictures and charts, with guidance in the construction of charts	3SC.2.8			



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

state an inference, based on observations	3SC.2.9			
identify applications of what was learned	3SC.2.10			
Identify requirements for animal care.	3SC.11			
Observe and describe the growth and development of at least one living animal, as the animal develops from early to more advanced stages.	3SC.11.2			
Demonstrate awareness that animals require different habitats in order to meet their basic needs of food, water, shelter and space.	3SC.11.6			
Demonstrate knowledge of the needs of animals studied, and demonstrate skills for their care.	3SC.11.10			
Grade 3 Language Arts				
Links can be made through the Science activities to apply Language Arts outcomes				

Grade 4	Total outcomes in all Grade 4 subjects = 399	# of Outcomes related to Agriculture	instructional time to achieve these outcomes through Agriculture	
Grade 4 Science		10	3 weeks	Focus of activities: Experiments/Scientific Method Plant propagation Plant uses and classifications Special needs of plants Plant needs during live stages
Investigate a practical problem and	4SC.3			



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

develop possible solutions.				
Identify plant and animal wastes, and describe how they are recycled in nature.	4SC.5.1			
Demonstrate knowledge and skills for the study, interpretation, propagation and enhancement of plant growth.	4SC.10			
Describe the importance of plants to humans and their importance to the natural environment.	4SC.10.1			
Identify and describe the general purpose of plant roots, stems, leaves and flowers.	4SC.10.2			
Describe common plants, and classify them on the basis of their characteristics and uses.	4SC.10.3			
Recognize that plant requirements for growth; e.g. air, light energy, water, nutrients, space; vary from plant to plant and that other conditions	4SC.10.4			
Identify examples of plants that have special needs.	4SC.10.5			
Recognize that a variety of communities can be found within the local area and that differences in plant communities are related to variations in the amount of light, water and other conditions	4SC.10.6			
Recognize that plants of the same kind have a common life cycle and produce new plants that are similar, but not identical to the present plants.	4SC.10.7			
Describe the care and growth of a plant that students have nurtured, in particular: -identify the light, temperature, water and growth medium requirements; -identify the	4SC.10.10			



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

life stages of the plant; -identify the reproductive structures of the plant				
Grade 4 Language Arts				
Links can be made through the Science activities to apply Language Arts outcomes				

Grade 5	Total outcomes in all Grade 5 subjects = 437	# of Outcomes related to Agriculture	instructional time to achieve these outcomes through Agriculture	
Grade 5 Science				Focus of activities: Experiments/Scientific Method Plant propagation Plant uses and classifications Special needs of plants Plant needs during live stages
Design and carry out an investigation, using procedures that provide a fair test of the question being investigated.	5SC.1		1 Science Assignment 4 ~1 week	
Recognize the importance of accuracy in observation and measurement; and, with guidance, apply suitable methods to record, compile, interpret and evaluate observations and measurements.	5SC.2			
Predict where, within a given indoor or outdoor environment, one is likely to find the warmest and coolest temperatures.	5SC.8.1			
Describe and measure different forms of precipitation, in particular,	5SC.8.5			



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

rain, hail, sleet, snow.				
Career and Technology Foundations (CTF)			1-2 periods/week 16 of CTF	Focus of Activities: Connecting Agr. to careers Plan, design, revise and complete projects
I explore my interests and passions while making personal connections to career possibilities.	5CTF1.1			
I use occupational area skills, knowledge and technologies.	5CTF1.2			
I follow safety requirements associated with occupational areas and related technologies.	5CTF1.3			
I demonstrate environmental stewardship associated with occupational areas.	5CTF1.4			
CTF is planning, creating, appraising and communicating in response to challenges.	5CTF2			
I plan in response to challenges.	5CTF2.1			
I make decisions in response to challenges.	5CTF2.2			
I adapt to change and unexpected events.	5CTF2.3			
I solve problems in response to challenges.	5CTF2.4			
I create products, performances or services in response to challenges.	5CTF2.5			
I appraise the skills, knowledge and technologies used to respond to challenges.	5CTF2.6			
I communicate my learning.	5CTF2.7			
CTF is working independently and with others while exploring careers and technology	5CTF3			
I determine how my actions affect learning.	5CTF3.1			
I develop skills that support effective relationships.	5CTF3.2			



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

I collaborate to achieve common goals.	5CTF3.3			
Grade 5 Language Arts				
Links can be made through the Science activities to apply Language Arts outcomes				

Grade 6	Total outcomes in all Grade 6 subjects = 438	# of Outcomes related to Agriculture	instructional time to achieve these outcomes through Agriculture	
Grade 6 Science		20	~1 week	Focus of activities: Experiments/Scientific Method
Design and carry out an investigation in which variables are identified and controlled, and that provides a fair test of the question being investigated.	6SC.1			
ask questions that lead to exploration and investigation	6SC.1.1			
identify one or more possible answers to questions by stating a prediction or a hypothesis	6SC.1.2			
identify one or more ways of finding answers to given questions	6SC.1.3			
plan and carry out procedures that comprise a fair test	6SC.1.4			
identify variables:	6SC.1.5			
identify the variable to be manipulated	6SC.1.5.1			
identify variables to be held constant	6SC.1.5.2			
identify the variable that will be observed (responding variable)	6SC.1.5.3			



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

select appropriate materials and identify how they will be used	6SC.1.6			
modify the procedures as needed	6SC.1.7			
work individually or cooperatively in planning and carrying out procedures	6SC.1.8			
identify sources of information and ideas and demonstrate skill in accessing them. Sources may include library, classroom, community and computer- based resources	6SC.1.9			
communicate effectively with group members in sharing and evaluating ideas, and assessing progress	6SC.1.10			
record observations and measurements accurately, using a chart format where appropriate. Computer resources may be used for record keeping and for display and interpretation of data	6SC.1.11			
evaluate procedures used and identify possible improvements	6SC.1.12			
state an inference, based on results. The inference will identify a cause and effect relationship that is supported by observations	6SC.1.13			
identify possible applications of what was learned	6SC.1.14			
identify new questions that arise from what was learned.	6SC.1.15			
Recognize the importance of accuracy in observation and measurement; and apply suitable methods to record, compile, interpret and evaluate observations and measurements.	6SC.2			




New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Career and Technology Foundations (CTF)			1-2 periods/week of CTF	Focus of Activities: Connecting Agr. to careers Plan, design, revise and complete projects
I explore my interests and passions while making personal connections to career possibilities.	6CTF1.1			
I use occupational area skills, knowledge and technologies.	6CTF1.2			
I follow safety requirements associated with occupational areas and related technologies.	6CTF1.3			
I demonstrate environmental stewardship associated with occupational areas.	6CTF1.4			
CTF is planning, creating, appraising and communicating in response to challenges.	6CTF2			
I plan in response to challenges.	6CTF2.1			
I make decisions in response to challenges.	6CTF2.2			
I adapt to change and unexpected events.	6CTF2.3			
I solve problems in response to challenges.	6CTF2.4			
I create products, performances or services in response to challenges.	6CTF2.5			
I appraise the skills, knowledge and technologies used to respond to challenges.	6CTF2.6			
I communicate my learning.	6CTF2.7			
CTF is working independently and with others while exploring careers and technology	6CTF3			
I determine how my actions affect learning.	6CTF3.1			
I develop skills that support effective relationships.	6CTF3.2			

I collaborate to achieve common goals.	6CTF3.3			
Grade 6 Language Arts				
Links can be made through the Science activities to apply Language Arts outcomes				

Appendix 4.3: Solar Panel Estimate



Q. PEAK DUO L-G5.3 / BF
380-400

BIFACIAL DOUBLE GLASS MODULE WITH EXCELLENT RELIABILITY AND ADDITIONAL YIELD

- ✓ ANTIFUD TECHNOLOGY (MPS)
- ✓ HOT-SPOT PROTECT (HSP)
- ✓ EXCELLENT QUALITY (SOLAR)
- ✓ ANTILUD TECHNOLOGY (RT)

BIFACIAL ENERGY YIELD GAIN OF UP TO 24%
Bifacial Q. PEAK DUO solar cells make efficient use of light shining on the module rear side for radically improved LCOE.

LOW ELECTRICITY GENERATION COSTS
Q. PEAK DUO combines cutting edge cell deposition and innovative wiring with Q. ANTUM Technology for higher yield per surface area, lower BOS costs, higher power classes, and an efficiency rate of up to 21.1%.


INNOVATIVE ALL-WEATHER TECHNOLOGY
Optimal yields, whatever the weather with excellent low-light and temperature behavior.

ENDURING HIGH PERFORMANCE
Long-term yield security with Anti-LUD and Anti-PD Technology*, Hot-Spot Protect and Traceable Quality TracQM*.

FRAME FOR VERSATILE MOUNTING OPTIONS
High-tech aluminum alloy frame protects from damage, enables use of a wide range of mounting structures and is certified regarding IEC for high snow (5400 Pa) and wind loads (2400 Pa).

RELIABLE INVESTMENT
Double glass module design enables extended lifetime with 12-year product warranty and improved 30-year performance warranty*.

* 10T test conditions according to IEC 61215/IEC 61215-2:2016 method B (1.8/0.9, 360h) including post treatment according to IEC 61215-11.65.2.3 (C 0)
* See data sheet on www.q-cells.com for further information.

THE IDEAL SOLUTION FOR:
 Rooftop arrays in commercial and industrial buildings
 Ground mounted solar power plants

Engineered in Germany

Q CELLS

(2020 x 1000 x 30mm)

Weight: 57.3 lbs (26kg)

Front Cover: 0.08 in (2mm) thermally pre-stressed glass with anti-reflection technology

Back Cover: 0.08 in (2mm) semi-tempered glass

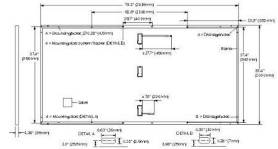
Frame: Anodized aluminum

Cell: 6 x 24 monocrystalline bifacial Q. ANTUM solar half cells

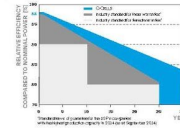
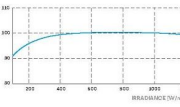



Junction Box: 126-152 x 3.43-3.95 x 0.62 in (32-38.5 x 87-100.3 x 15.7 mm), Protection class IP67 with bypass diodes

Cable: 4mm² Solar cable, (4) x 177 in (450 mm), (-) x 79 in (200 mm)

Connector: StaSol MC4-Evo2, J-MTHY PV-JM001A or Rieha 05-B, IP68

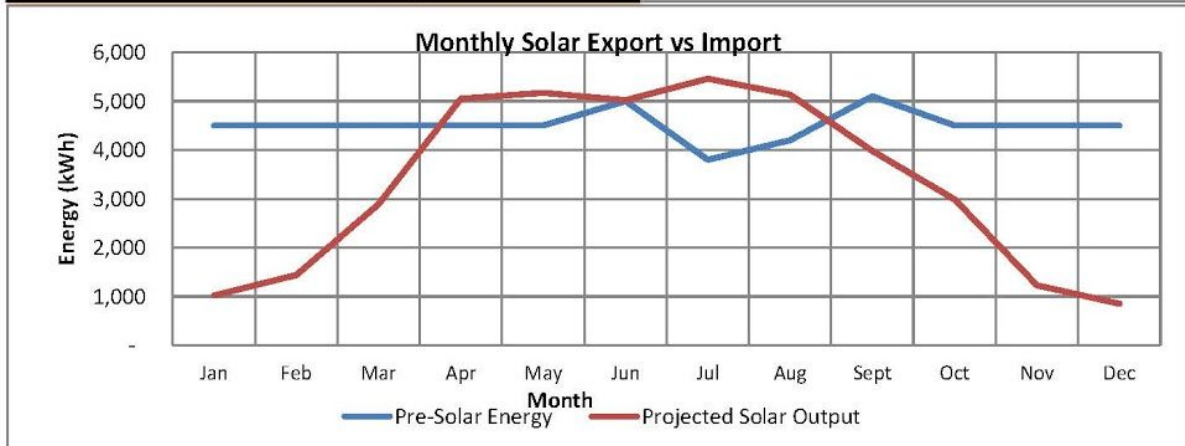
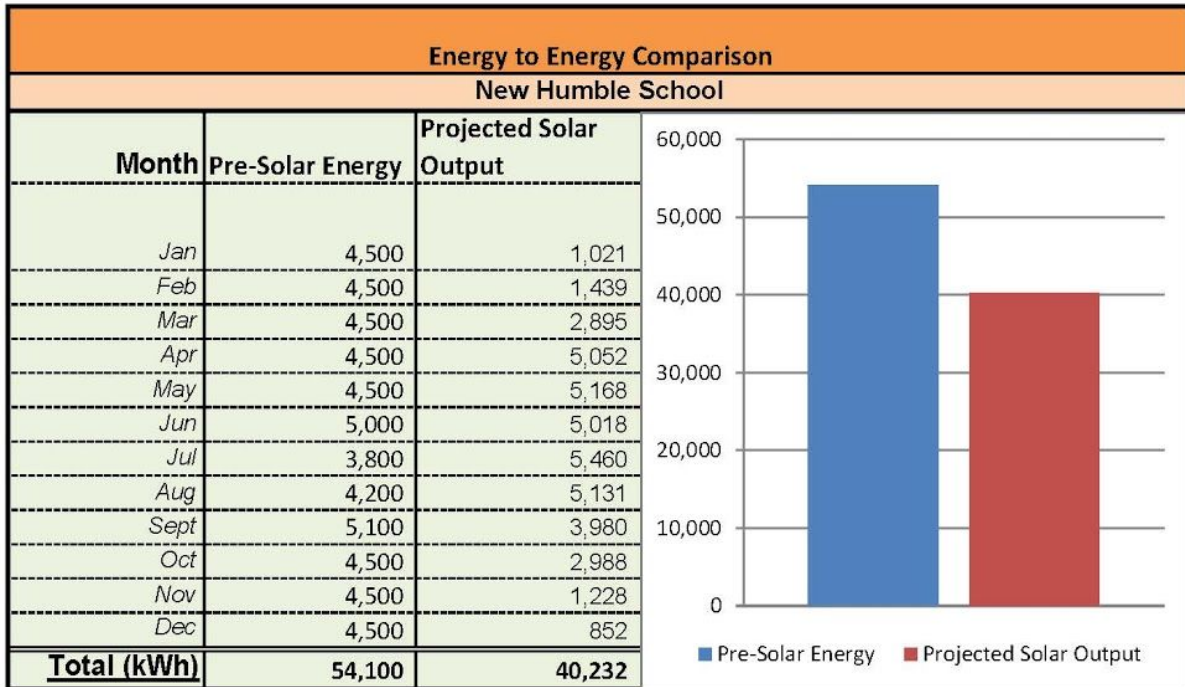


ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

POWER CLASS	380	385	390	395	400		
MINIMUM PERFORMANCE AT STANDARD TEST CONDITIONS, STC ¹ (POWER TOLERANCE ±5 W / -0 W)							
Power at MPP	P _{MPP} [W]	380	385	390	395	400	
Short Circuit Current	I _{sc} [A]	10.05	10.10	10.14	10.19	10.2	
Open Circuit Voltage	V _{oc} [V]	47.95	48.21	48.48	48.74	48.9	
Current at MPP	I _{mp} [A]	9.67	9.61	9.66	9.70	9.7	
Voltage at MPP	V _{MPP} [V]	39.71	40.05	40.38	40.71	41.1	
Efficiency ²	η [%]	≥18.9	≥19.1	≥19.4	≥19.6	≥19.8	
Bifaciality of P _{MPP} and I _{sc} 70% ± 3% • Bifaciality of V _{oc} 0% ± 0.05% • Bifaciality given for rear side irradiation on top of STC (short side)							
MINIMUM PERFORMANCE AT NORMAL OPERATING CONDITIONS, NMOT ¹							
Power at MPP	P _{MPP} [W]	285.5	289.3	293.0	296.8	300	
Short Circuit Current	I _{sc} [A]	8.10	8.13	8.17	8.21	8.2	
Open Circuit Voltage	V _{oc} [V]	46.34	46.69	46.94	47.20	47.5	
Current at MPP	I _{mp} [A]	7.53	7.57	7.60	7.64	7.7	
Voltage at MPP	V _{MPP} [V]	37.90	38.22	38.54	38.85	39.2	
Measurement tolerance: P _{MPP} ± 3%; I _{sc} , V _{oc} ± 5% at STC: 1000 W/m², 25 ± 2 °C, AM 1.5 according to IEC 60904-9 • 1800 W/m², NMOT, spectrum AM 1.5							
Q CELLS PERFORMANCE WARRANTY							
 <p>At least 90% of nominal power (including first year) thereafter max. 0.5% degradation per year. At least 93.5% of nominal power up to 10 years. At least 96% of nominal power up to 25 years. All data within measurement tolerance. Full warranty terms in accordance with the warranty terms of the Q CELLS sales organization of your respective country.</p>			PERFORMANCE AT LOW IRRADIANCE  <p>Typical module performance under low irradiance conditions in comparison to STC conditions (25°C, 1000 W/m²)</p>				
TEMPERATURE COEFFICIENTS							
Temperature Coefficient of I _{sc}	α	[%/K]	+0.04	Temperature Coefficient of V _{oc}	β	[%/K]	-0.35
Temperature Coefficient of P _{MPP}	γ	[%/K]	-0.35	Normal Module Operating Temperature	NMOT	[°F]	108 ± 5.4 (42 ± 3)*
PROPERTIES FOR SYSTEM DESIGN							
Maximum System Voltage V _{sys}	[V]	1500 (IEC) / 1500 (UL)	Safety Class				
Maximum Series Fuse Rating	[A DC]	20	Fuse Rating based on AH31/UL 1703				
Max. Design Load, Push / Pull ³	[lbs / ft]	75 (3600 Pa) / 33 (1500 Pa)	Permitted Module Temperature on Continuous Duty				
Max. Test Load, Push / Pull ³	[lbs / ft]	113 (5400 Pa) / 50 (2400 Pa)					
<small>* See Installation Manual</small>							
QUALIFICATIONS AND CERTIFICATES			PACKAGING INFORMATION				
UL 1703, CE-compliant IEC 61215/IEC 61215-2:2016, IEC 61730-2:2016, Application Class II, U.S. Patent No. 8,963,215 (solar cells)			Number of Modules per Pallet				
  			Number of Pallets per 53' Trailer				
			Number of Pallets per 40' HC-Container				
			Pallet Dimensions (L x W x H)				
			Pallet Weight				
			1748 lbs (793)				
<small>Note: Installation instructions must be followed. See the installation and operating manual or contact our technical service department for further information on approved installation and use of this product.</small>							
<small>Hanwha Q CELLS America Inc. 4601 Spectrum Center Drive, Suite 1400, Irvine, CA 92618, USA TEL: +1 (949) 748-5906 EMAIL: inquiry@us.q-cells.com WEB: www.q-cells.com</small>							



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT





74%

**Percentage of yearly energy provided
by renewable sources**



4.81

**Equivalent number of passenger
vehicles not driven per year**



9,568

**Equivalent number of liters of gasoline
not consumed per year**



52.24

**Equivalent number of barrels of oil not
consumed per year**



22.5

**Annual reduction in CO₂ emissions
(Tonnes)**

Source:

<https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gases-equivalencies-calculator-calculations-and-references>

13415-149 Street
Edmonton, AB T5L 2T3

Phone: 780-444-6510
Fax: 780-483-4073

www.AltaPro.ca



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT



Proposal Overview - Purchase					
New Humble School					
	Rate \$/kWh	Pre-Solar Energy kWh	Post-Solar Energy kWh	Pre-Solar Energy Expense	Post-Solar Energy Expense
Single Rate Grid Purchase	\$ 0.066	54,100	13,868	\$ (3,565)	\$ (914)
First Block Tiered Purchase	\$ 0.066	-	-	\$ -	\$ -
Excess Block Purchase	\$ 0.066	-	-	\$ -	\$ -
Variable T&D Charge*	\$ 0.041	54,100	13,868	\$ (2,209)	\$ (566)
Annual Solar Export Credit**					\$ 252
			Total For Year	\$ (5,774)	\$ (1,228)

Year of Degradation	Tax Savings Amount	Realized Solar Savings w/ Tax
Year 1	\$ 3,546	\$ 8,092
Year 2	\$ 6,029	\$ 10,575
Year 3	\$ 4,220	\$ 8,766
Year 4	\$ 2,954	\$ 7,500
Year 5	\$ 2,068	\$ 6,614
Year 6	\$ 1,447	\$ 5,994
Year 7	\$ 1,013	\$ 5,560
Year 8	\$ 709	\$ 5,256

Total Savings Before Tax Benefit	\$ 4,546
* IRR	5.16%
* LCOE	\$ 0.0661
System Price	\$ 87,560.00

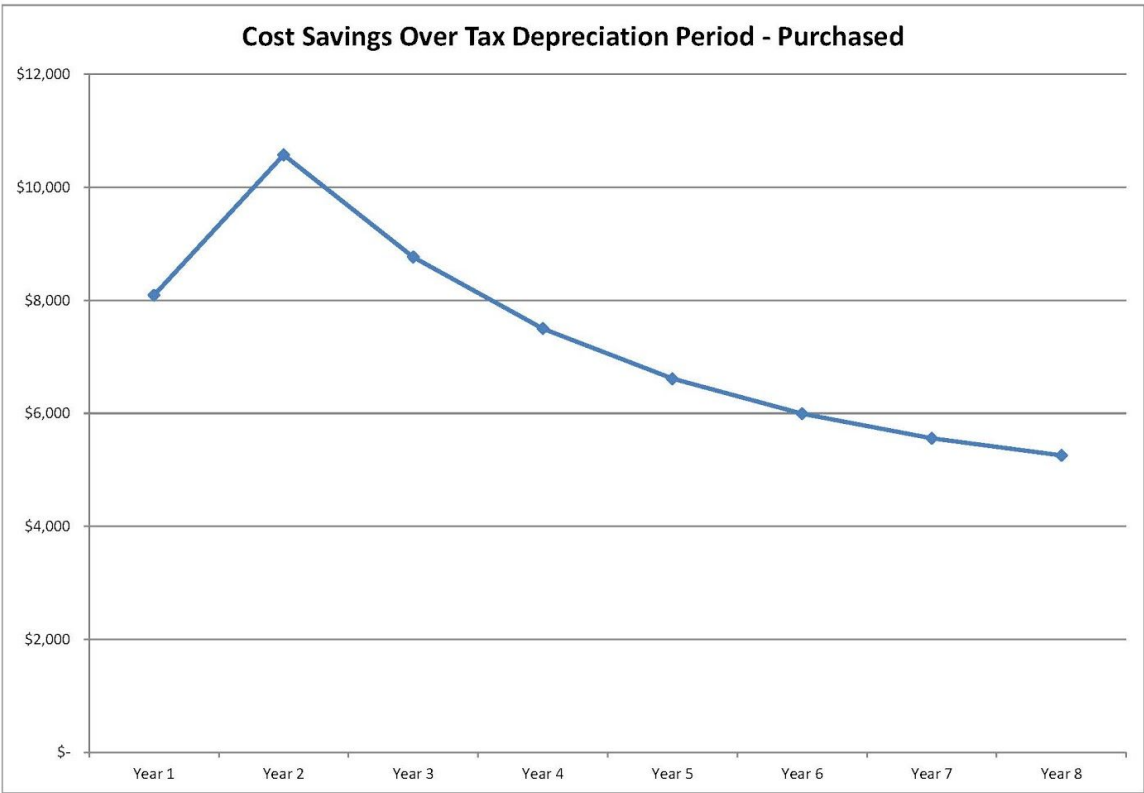
* Does not include any fixed or miscellaneous fees

Calculations are performed using energy bill data provided by the client and these data have been assumed to be static over the lifespan of the solar equipment. Realized savings may be improved by reducing energy consumption and improving energy efficiency

Utility escalation and PV degradation have been assumed to cancel out

**Solar credit only applies if there is an annual excess in grid export

* These values are calculated over a 30 year life expectancy of the solar system



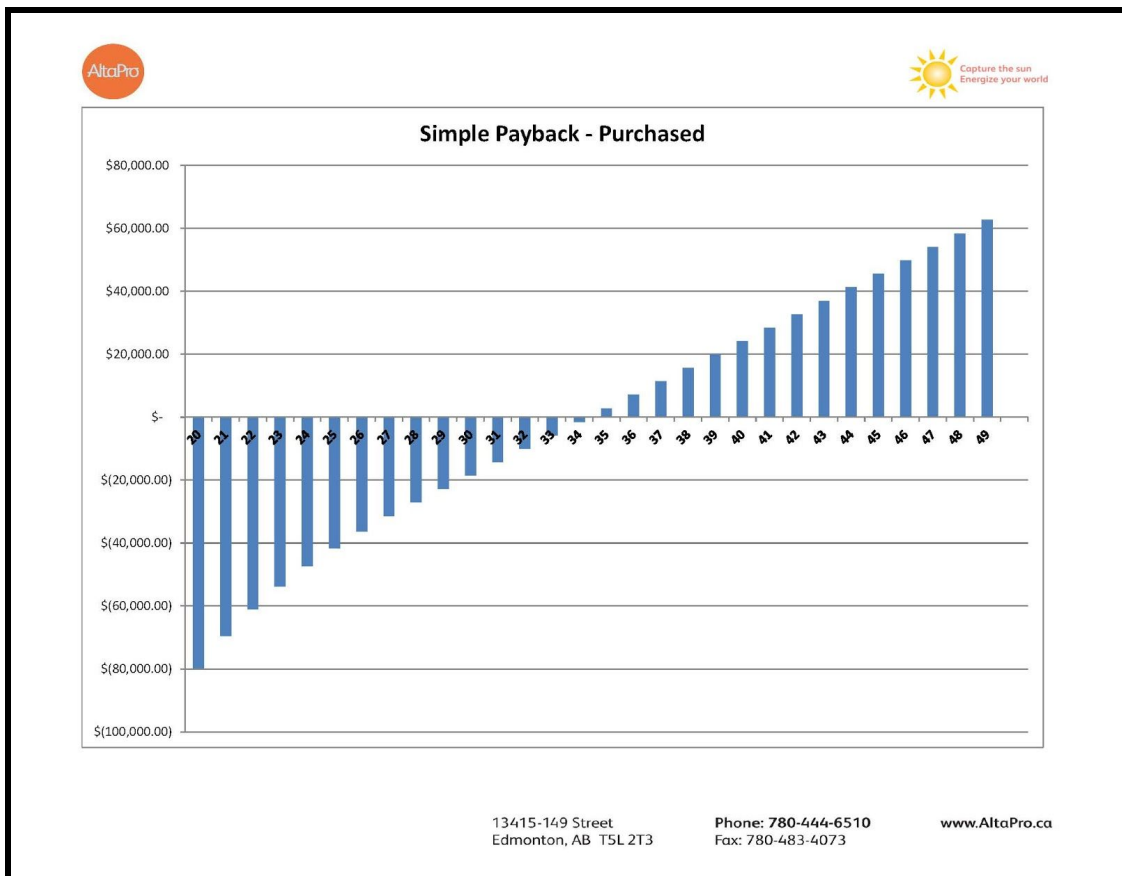
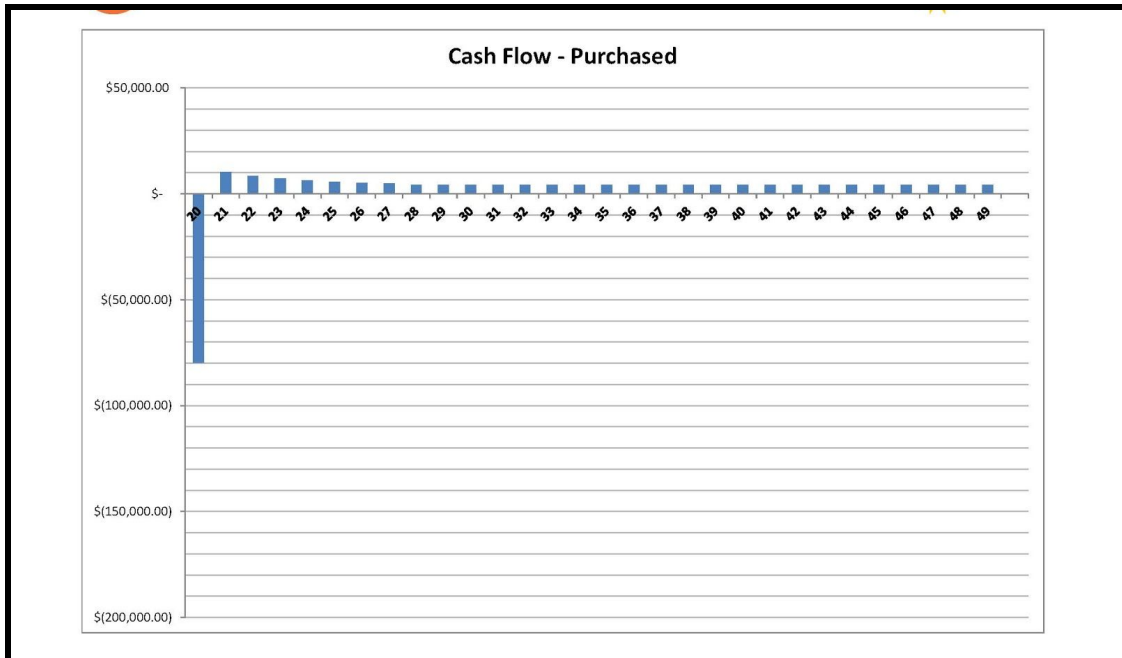
13415-149 Street
Edmonton, AB T5L 2T3

Phone: 780-444-6510
Fax: 780-483-4073

www.AltaPro.ca



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT





New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT



Tax Savings				
New Humble School				
Updated to 2020				
High Rate		Small Business		
Federal Tax Rates	15%			9%
AB Tax Rates	12%			2%
Total	27%			11%
Purchase or Financed Option:		Total Capital Cost: \$ 87,560		
Tax Year	CCA (Tax Depreciation)	Tax Savings High Rate		Tax Savings Small Business Rate
1	\$ 13,134	\$ 3,546		\$ 1,445
2	\$ 22,328	\$ 6,029		\$ 2,456
3	\$ 15,629	\$ 4,220		\$ 1,719
4	\$ 10,941	\$ 2,954		\$ 1,203
5	\$ 7,658	\$ 2,068		\$ 842
6	\$ 5,361	\$ 1,447		\$ 590
7	\$ 3,753	\$ 1,013		\$ 413
8	\$ 2,627	\$ 709		\$ 289
Totals	\$ 81,431	\$ 21,986	\$	8,957

* Regular Tax Rate Applies to Any Taxable Business Income Above \$500,000

* Change CCA (Capital Cost Allowance) From 50% to 30% if Capital Assets are Purchased After 2020

* Estimate Based on Half Year Depreciation in Year of Acquisition



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada



Tax Savings for Industry

Class 43.1, Class 43.2 and Canadian Renewable and Conservation Expenses

The Government of Canada makes clean energy projects, such as solar energy, wind energy and energy from waste, more fiscally attractive for industry by providing business income tax incentives.

Under Classes 43.1 and 43.2 in Schedule II of the *Income Tax Regulations*, certain capital costs of systems that produce energy by using renewable energy sources or fuels from waste, or conserve energy by using fuel more efficiently are eligible for accelerated capital cost allowance. Under Class 43.1, eligible equipment may be written-off at 30 percent per year on a declining balance basis. In general, equipment that is eligible for Class 43.1 but is acquired after February 22, 2005 and before year 2020 may be written-off at 50 percent per year on a declining balance basis under Class 43.2. Without these accelerated write-offs, many of these assets would be depreciated for income tax purposes at annual rates between 4 and 30 percent.

In addition to Class 43.1 or 43.2 capital cost allowance, the *Income Tax Regulations* allow certain expenses incurred during the development and start-up of renewable energy and energy conservation projects [*Canadian renewable and conservation expenses (CRCE)*] to be fully deducted in the year they are incurred, carried forward indefinitely and deducted in future years, or transferred to investors through a flow-through share agreement.

To qualify as CRCE, expenses must be incurred for a project for which it is reasonable to expect at least 50 percent of the capital costs incurred for the project would be the capital costs of equipment described in Class 43.1 or 43.2.

Technical Information

Technical information on the equipment and expenses that can qualify for Class 43.1, Class 43.2 or CRCE is published by Natural Resources Canada in the *Technical Guide to Class 43.1 and 43.2* and the *Technical Guide to Canadian Renewable and Conservation Expenses (CRCE)*. The latest editions of these technical guides in PDF format can be downloaded at the links below:

[Technical Guide To Class 43.1 and 43.2 \(2013 Edition\)](#) PDF, 7.9 MB [Technical Guide To Canadian Renewable and Conservation Expenses](#) PDF, 812 KB

If you are unable to access the current versions of the technical guides online or you wish to obtain a copy of the 1998 Edition of the *Class 43.1 Technical Guide and Technical Guide to Canadian Renewable and Conservation Expenses (CRCE)*, contact Natural Resources Canada at the following address:

Class 43.1/43.2 Secretariat
Policy and Planning
Innovation and Energy Technology
Natural Resources Canada

580 Booth Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0E4
Tel: 613-996-0890
nrcan.class43-1-categorie43-1.nrcan@canada.ca



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada



13415-149 Street
Edmonton, AB T5L 2T3

Phone: 780-444-6510
Fax: 780-483-4073

www.AltaPro.ca



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

AltaPro



Solar Assessment Report 34.4KW

Company Name: New Humble School
Project Location: School
Customer Name: Rob @ Black Gold
AltaPro Quote #: 20-7117DD
Proposal Revision: Rev 0
Proposal Date: 2020-04-01



13415-149 Street
Edmonton, AB T5L 2T3
Phone: 780-444-6510
Fax: 780-483-4073
www.AltaPro.ca

Confidential-Not for circulation



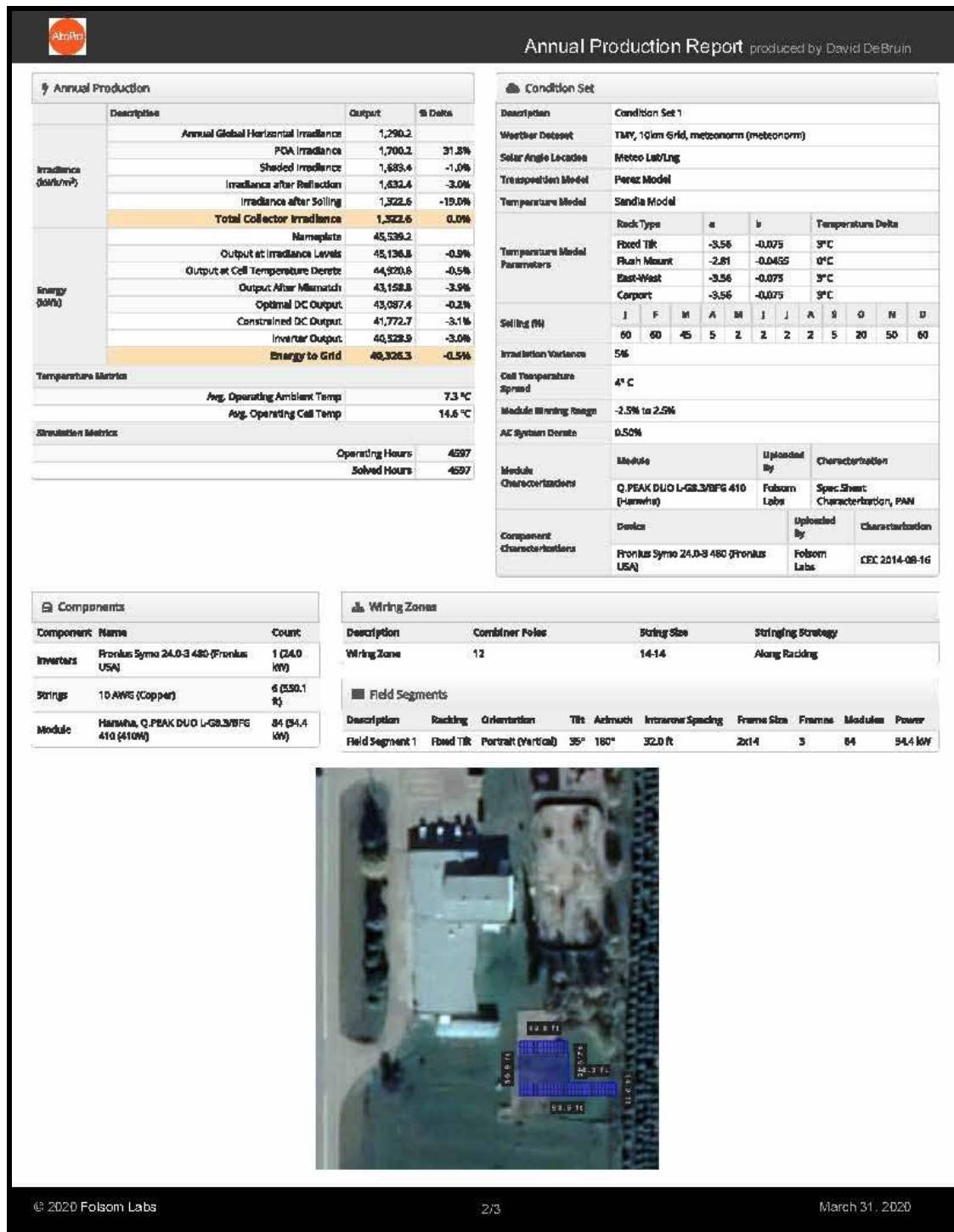
13415-149 Street
Edmonton, AB T5L 2T3

Phone: 780-444-6510
Fax: 780-483-4073

www.AltaPro.ca

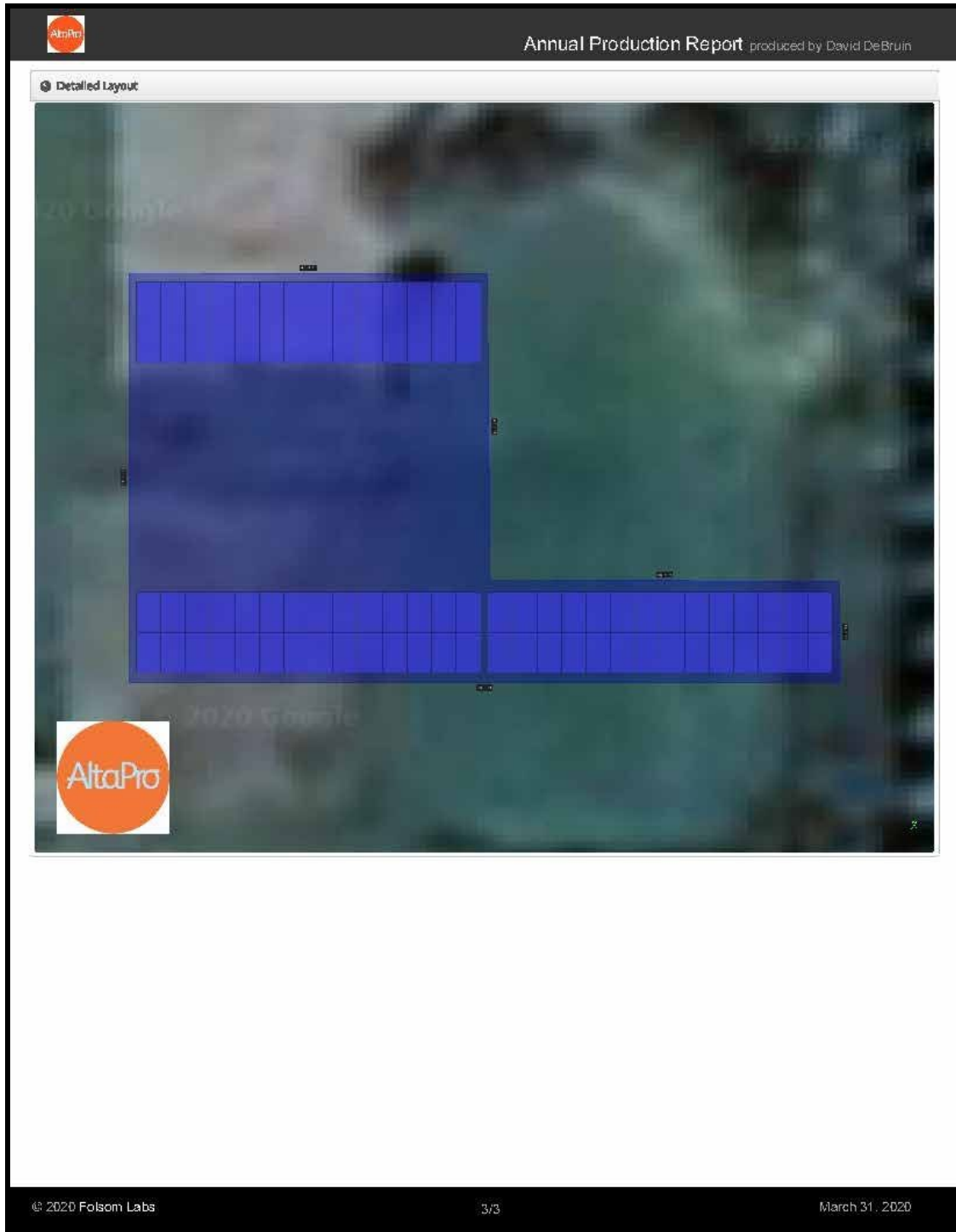


New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT





New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**





New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT





New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Appendix 5: Public Meeting - March 11, 2020

Appendix 5.1: Public Meeting Minutes

New Humble Centre School Community Engagement Night | March 11, 2020 | Start Time: 18:07

Bill Romanchuk, Black Gold School Division (BGSD) Superintendent, welcomed everyone to the event

- Read the Black Gold School Division Statement of Acknowledgement
- Went through housekeeping items (muster point etc.)
- Went over the evening's agenda (attached)
- Introductions of special guests
 - Mark Smith, MLA, Drayton Valley-Devon - Devonna Klaassen, BGSD Board Chair - Sarah O'Gorman, BGSD Board Vice-Chair - Esther Eckert, BGSD Trustee - Barb Martinson, BGSD Trustee - Shawna Ofstie, BGSD Trustee - Tanni Doblanko, Mayor, Leduc County - Larry Wanchuk, Division Four Leduc County Councillor
 - Regrets - Rebecca Eilander, BGSD Trustee
- Introductions of BGSD Division Office Staff and Principals
- All comments and suggestions will be shared with those who provided their email address on their comment sheet
- Goal of the evening to share information with the community and receive information from the community

Devonna Klaassen, Board Chair, welcomed guests

- Spoke to the fact that the evening is about engagement.
- Reminded everyone that the final vote regarding the viability of New Humble Centre School (NHCS) is April 22, 2020

Norman Dargis, BGSD Associate Superintendent - Working Committee Chair and Advisory Committee Chair - presented an overview of the NHCS Viability Report (attached)

- Highlights from report
 - The report is not a recommendation but a document that provides facts and explains the process
 - Schedule of dates
 - Of note - April 1, 2020 at 12:00pm, all submissions must be in to Division Office to be included in recommendation
 - Question: Will any upcoming parent presentations to the Board be in open board or in camera
 - Answer: open board
 - New Rural Small Schools Grant is block funding
 - Funding based on Weighted Moving Average (WMA) for larger schools

General Comments

- Group wants to ask questions together so that they hear the same answers at the same time
- It is thought by the group that there will be too many people to be heard at each station during the 'Carousel Opportunity'



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Town Hall Q & A start time: 18:50

Q: Why are the numbers on “Open Albert” on March 11, 2020 different than the numbers that are provided on page nine of the NHCS Viability Report?

A: The budget is in flux. The data used in the report was from the previous Thursday March 6, 2020.

Q: Why does the Viability Report show on page one that NHCS has 4.0 certificate staff and on page 16 of the same report, 4.4 certificated staff?

A: ECS is included in the numbers for staff on page 16 and not on page one.

Q: Does this not close the gap to have ECS at NHCS?

A: It would depend on what kind of programming would you like to see? Potentially a classroom with three grade levels?

Q: On page 14, 2 columns are for 3 teachers the fourth column is for 2 teachers? What is the efficiency really?

A: The efficiencies are in consolidating the classrooms. In the new funding model for small schools, the schools are ‘block funded’. Once you get into larger schools, the funding is per student. You need more than two teachers to teach 50 students.

Q: How many instructional rooms are there at Calmar Elementary School (CES)?

A: Fifteen full sized classrooms and two smaller-sized classrooms for a total of 17.

Q: How long until CES reaches capacity?

A: The information we have is from the last census done in the area. We have seen an enrollment drop of 25 students. There is no definitive answer however, we do take our recommendations for growth from an independent study.

Q: In regards to BGSD’s 10 Year Capital Plan, how accurate is the projection? It seemed to be quite off.

A: We go with the information that we have at the time.

Q: What could class sizes at CES look like if we have 50 students in Pre K and ECS?

A: (Pupil Teacher Ratio) PTR has yet to be established for next year.

Q: What is the maximum class size?

A: We cannot give an exact answer as it takes many factors (how many special needs students for example) into account. We have to see what our staffing formula will be for next year.



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Q: Parents moved kids from CES to NHCS a few years ago because they weren't getting the supports they felt were needed. How will they get them if they go there now?

A: The BGSD Framework is the same for all schools and all schools have access to the same supports. Same access does not mean same delivery.

Parent Comment: Son attends CES and has autism. He has found there is lots of communication and support at CES.

Q: There are two distinct cultures between CES and NHCS (rural and urban). It is felt that to put the two together will be traumatic for the kids. What services and supports will be in place to ease this?

A: BGSD has done this merging of schools before. For example, the Beaumont Reconfiguration. Students were given lots of opportunity to get used to the change. Welcome nights, BBQ's, etc.

Parent Statement: In terms of transportation, child will be on the bus an extra 13 min. Major concern because they will have to go to bed earlier to wake up earlier and this could reflect poorly on PAT scores.

Q: NHCS Trustee is unavailable. How is the school being represented?

A: (Devonna Klaassen, Board Chair) The NHCS population will still be represented. As Board Chair, she will be their voice.

Parent Statement: Has a child in each NHCS and CES. Each school is good for each of their children but having them both in either one would not be beneficial as each school meets their children's specific needs.

Parent Statement: Has a grade 5 student at NHCS and is a third generation student. Small schools allow students and teachers to become more connected and get to know each other better.

Community Member and former parent Statement: Would like to try to implement other programs such as agriculture in order for NHCS to become a 'Destination School'

Parent Statement: PTR - 17 students in a class, this information is misleading

A: PTR set by a Resource allocation Committee (RAC). RAC takes the funding information and decides on the PTR and then HR gets added. We need to have equity in small schools.

We do not know what the funding will be for next year. Yes, the province is giving the same amount of money to education in the province but it will not be distributed the same for each school/school division.

Parent statement: Viability for small schools has changed with the small school funding.

Students' Statement: We love our school. We get to know our teachers and they get to know us better because we are small.



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Parent statement: Parents and the community are being told that the Division wants to 'hear our stories' but they feel like the Division, in fact, does not because the parents and communities have been told that the Division 'already knows'.

Q: What does the Board want to know? Why are we here?

A: We have heard many several suggestions to make NHCS viable, we want to have the conversation with the people.

Q: Is the BGSD Deferred Maintenance Plan a reactive plan or an actual plan?

A: It is priority-based. All schools have deferred maintenance in their Three Year Plan however, health and safety of students and staff take priority.

Alberta Education decides when a school gets a modernization but will choose not to modernize a school if there is a school that can take on students that is close to the one needing modernizing.

Parent Statement: We are frustrated and not getting answers to our questions. Why are we here? We don't know what Black Gold wants, all we know is that this school belongs in our community.

A: Black Gold needs to know your thoughts and ideas. We are following the process and want to hear and discuss possible solutions.

Q: Has anyone asked the students and teachers?

A: No, we have not.

Parent/community member comment: Work with what we have given, take a look at the document given out. (Humble Roots handout)

Q: When is the staff/student consultation going to be. Staff won't speak out because they are afraid for their jobs.

A: Bill Romanchuk and Calvin Monty did go to the school to speak with staff before the announcement was made. Conversations occurred then.

Student Statement: I love my teachers. They give me what I need.

Q: Is the deferred maintenance necessary? Do we really need new blinds, for example? So much money seems to be wasted.

A: Yes, deferred maintenance is necessary.

Q: What happens to the property if the school is shut down? Not just the building but the entire property, picnic area, etc. It is used by the community. Was told by Bill that a fence would go around it. This would be an eyesore. What would that do to the personal property value in the area?

Q: Have you made up your minds?



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

A: No, we are still not finished the process.

Q: Is the closure about money?

A: It is about the fiscal reality of BGSD as a whole. Superintendent has to make choices based on the best for all Black Gold schools, including NHCS. Viability is not in just a number it is also about sustainability.

Community Member Comment: This school will not be shut down. If it does get shut down, that means there is no future for rural schools.

Mark Smith, MLA is asked to speak by a member of the community

- Was a teacher/administrator for several years, also, was an education critic.
- Has met with every school board in the province and BGSD is one of the best and has happy teachers.
- Every school and every teacher has the ability to make a difference.
- Friday (March 6, 2020) was a game-changer for the province.
- School divisions make decisions on the local level because they know their people the best.

Statement made to Mark Smith – The individual works in a local prison: Inmates get a better education than our children, eight inmates to one teacher. Why are 'you' not fighting for our kids?

Q: When the budget is sent into the government, do we get a response?

A: Usually it gets approved. This year it must get approval from the minister first.

Q: How do we know if our kids are going to get what we need from the government?

Statement from a new community member: The individual indicated that he came from the city. His experience was 35 kids in a classroom, this is too many. His children are doing well at NHCS. The family moved to New Humble specifically for the community. Closing the school is being interpreted as trying to take the community away.

Parent statement: Went and saw the Prairie Principal. He never said no. He would not take no for an answer. It doesn't feel like Black Gold is working with the community.

Move to Carousel Opportunity: 20:27

Parents had the opportunity to ask one on one questions of BGSD staff representing Business and Finance, Transportation, Operation and Maintenance, and Educational programming. They also had the opportunity to provide comments/ suggestions via hard copy electronically.

Evening End approximately: 21:30

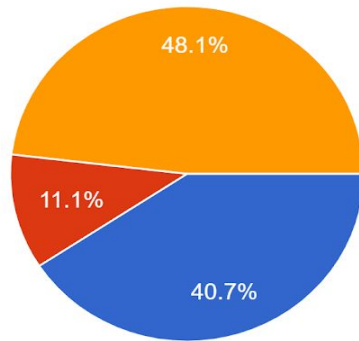


Appendix 5.2: Public Meeting & Online Engagement Opportunity Feedback - March 11 - April 1, 2020

Note: Written feedback forms collected at the Public Meeting have been compiled and collected in the online engagement feedback.

I am a:

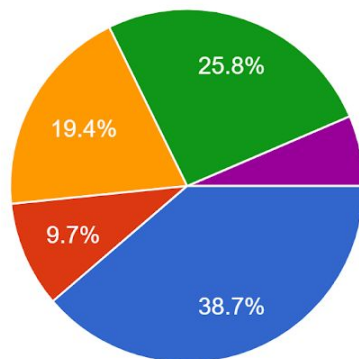
27 responses



- Parent of a current Hew Humble Centre School student
- Parent of a current Calmar Elementary School student
- Other. Please explain in the following question.

My comments relate to the following department/subject.

31 responses



- Finance
- Human Resources
- Operations and Maintenance
- Programming
- Transportation

Note: Respondent numbers vary in the two graphs because questions were not mandatory and some respondents chose not to self identify.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Suggestions For Alternatives To Closure - Finance (12 Responses)

Cut back on Principal time.

Are you crazy?

Seriously look at the suggestions put forward by the new humble community group. They are all very viable options to engage, enhance the school and the division and provide an additional source of funds for the school. The community is very willing to cooperate and volunteer our time and skills in order to see this plan succeed!

As per the open house at New Humble, it seems as though the cost to keep the school operational has diminished greatly with the new funding. I feel that the slightly higher projected cost can be justified due to the tight nit nature of the community. I feel that implementing new agricultural programming may increase enrollment and will ultimately bring money back into the school and provide relief to the struggling finances of the Black Gold School Division.

How do we get over the hump when numbers are peanuts to the big scale. Are numbers feasible.

Page 15 savings with your numbers are \$49,000 not saving the budget.

Cut down on supply cost - ask each student to bring in a package of paper & box of kleenex. 60 students @ \$10 = \$600. Purchase a small amount but every little bit helps.

Community support - could be made more award to community, especially if charitable receipts are given.

A plethora of options were presented at the March 4 board meeting.

- Introduce bus fees
- Increase school fees
- DO NOT CLOSE NEW HUMBLE
- additional pay cut by upper BGSD staff
- stop paying internet fees to trustees ~ \$525/month

Let corporate sponsors directly donate to schools

Expand fundraising model for schools

Everything in the New Humble Community Group's plan = REVENUE (own-source funding)

Due to the outbreak of Covid-19 I think it is unfair for the board to continue with this motion. We as parents are unable to fight for our school without being able to attend meetings. I don't think this is the time to add stress to us all by continuing with deciding on this motion. Please postpone this motion for a year or so. Please and thank you



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

In order to give suggestions for alternatives to closure many questions are needed to be answered:

What is the magic number that would be viable to keep running NHCS?

What deferred maintenance, general maintenance, or items we can fund-raise for?

What can alternative programs pay for?

What are school generated funds able to cover in expenses?

What expenses can be paid by donation, sponsorship, etc.?

Fund-raising and donations are included in revenue in the audited financial statements, what type of funding is this and how is it used?

With a reference to a check the notes, under the note there is over \$800,000, what were these prepaid expenses

What is an acceptable amount of overhead costs to keep NHCS running??

Is there a place online where you can see the IMR funding & expenses since 2007, if not, can you please provide financial breakdown of IMR spending?

What are the new rules or guidelines for capital requests? whether it be a new school, addition or modernization? Is there a link online to these?

To save money... there are 3 ECS coordinators (at CO) when only 1 has ever been needed, there is also 3 HR coordinators (1 girl we know had to quit her HR post because they were not keeping her busy enough) With all the employee cuts should these & maybe more at C.O should be looked at terminating as well?

Closure is a lost capital gain - what are you gaining?

How much are you saving by closing NHCS?

When NHC had struggles in the past, the admin created an alternative plan for the year, by putting k/1/2 together & renting out a room to a daycare for income. Why can this not be done again?

Why can we not go back to school based budget? We ran a surplus when running school based budget.

When will all these questions be addressed & answered?

Viability report shows 1 teacher savings if New Humble is closed for next year. It is important to know that this saving will only happen 50% of the time (as populations increase) unless class sizes are increased. This will reduce the numbers by 1/2 of a teachers salary on your viability report. The report also doesn't address any changes to the current board practice of having 1 full time principal, 1 full time librarian and 1 full time administrator. There are cost saving potentials there that will more than make up the gap in the cost differences shown in the report. For example can any of the positions be overlapped? The community is fully on board to support these type of changes in order to keep our school open. The report also fails to show the potential revenue from the Humble Roots Program. I have a diagnosed daughter on the Autism spectrum currently enrolled in Pre-K at Calmar Elementary. Does the viability report have her financial credentials included in the Calmar Program or should they be moved into the Humble program as this would be the school she would attend if she wasn't diagnosed? She is generating a large amount of allocation to Calmar school right now and her numbers would further reduce Calmar's Base allocation if she is placed into New Humble. We need to compare apples to apples here and I strongly question if that was done here. Finally, I have been asked why our school doesn't move to the Wetaskiwin/Pigeon Lake division and the answer is simply this. We are Black Gold and the Humble community is part of the Calmar community. This is our roots period!



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Suggestions For Alternatives To Closure - Human Resources (4 Responses)

Cancel the HR added

Admin having 2 schools. Bernadette, Raylene > strong leaders.

In order to give suggestions for alternatives to closure many questions are needed to be answered first:

First & foremost, do you not think it's time to postpone this closure? To first, navigate through these troubled times... like this global crisis and so many other things that we are all being challenged with, during this extremely trying time. It seems insensitive for the board to continue to be addressing this during a world pandemic? During such critical times? We are all worried on how much more the staff, families & community can take? People are experiencing extreme stress both mentally & physically with everything that's happening. And it seems everyday there's another hit !

Being forced to carry on dealing with this motion of closure on top of everything else right now seems cruel & nonsensical. Please think of the damage this is causing, and how this trickles to the students. Not only are they scared during these scary times. Their parents are completely stressed from – the crisis at hand – homeschooling curve – and staying focused on this motion. They are depleted and will be no good at supporting their children if this continues to lie on their plates.

Think of how it makes BG look. Think of how easy it would be to just postpone it until after we get through this crisis. Health is a major concern right now... being stressed and run down compromises your immune system giving you more chances to contract illness. Please take all of this into consideration.

Is BGSD Board going to engage with NHCS staff as part of this process?

Are they going to engage with CES teachers who's class sizes would increase?

There are concerns for students, staff, & parents mental health when moving them. What will be in place for mental health?

How many NHCS staff will be with them to support them if they have to go to CES?

Which trustees will be presented with all this information moving forward?

Which ones will be present at the April 8th meeting?

Which ones will be present & voting at the 22nd meeting?

When will these questions be addressed & answered?



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Suggestions For Alternatives To Closure - Operations And Maintenance (7 Response)

Bus students to Humble School whose parents want smaller class sizes

Can you elaborate on how the electrical maintenance costs are allocated?

It would be ludicrous to close this school, one of the better learning facilities in Leduc County.

Feel that this school should remain open as great start for kids education

With the new funding that was made available in the release of the last provincial budget. NHSC qualifies for the Rural School grant. With that grant the deficit faced by New Humble has been reduced substantially. So where does this put NHCS in relation to the other 31 schools in the Black Gold school district? Are there not other schools that are in far worse financial shape? IF the board was present with the current financial statement back in January, would the board of even considered putting a motion forward to potentially close the school? I feel there is way to stream line and have the BGSD become more efficient rather than closing NHCS and in turn devastating a huge part of the local community. Which would include community growth and desirability to new families.

In order to give suggestions for alternatives to closure many questions are needed to be answered first:

I am still wondering about the deferred maintenance breakdown:

- How much exactly is each item that is listed in the new viability report?
- What 'really' needs to be replaced & what doesn't?
- Why do we need new washroom fixtures & sinks? I know the conservation fixtures are being put in other schools to save water, but we have our own well & do not pay for water. And the bathroom sinks are still in good shape.
- Why do we need new display boards, there is nothing wrong with the ones we have?
- Why are blinds still on the list of the new viability report? when they were already replaced & paid for by PTA in 2016?

We have many journeyman trades people in our community that would provide us with some of these items for a lot cheaper than the estimates on the new viability report. If you say that the cost is too high to keep NHC open... that can be adjusted by resourcing better avenues. Or by narrowing it down to doing one project per year.

- Why was it always deferred to build up to this amount?

- What deferred maintenance, general maintenance, or items we can fund raise for? This community can come up with many resources and funds to get these jobs done.

When will these questions be addressed & answered?

I think closing the school is a smart thing to do. The cost of running the facility for less than 60 kids doesn't make sense and I think if you take the emotional attachment away most parents would agree.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Students are not being asked to move to a Leduc school or big city school where, as a rural parent I could see that being an issue, they are only being asked to go to Calmar school, another small town school where they will be going for junior high anyways. Buses already pick kids up to go to junior/high school so picking up the elementary kids just makes sense.

Suggestions For Alternatives To Closure - Programming (11 Responses)

Has the board looked in to partnering with other schools such as the U of A to create a platform for the schools to work together on programing that would allow these children the opportunity to further their education. The vast majorities of schools out here focus on vocational in lieu of college and universities. This is great in preparing the children for work out of highschool, but does not give the children alternative options. Looking into partnerships with colleges and universities (u of a took over devon botanical gardens a great source of education) gives the students the option to see what they with require for various post secondary and work towards that. This may also share funding options

I think an Agricultural Focus at the elementary level is a fantastic choice for the community - and urban schools could come and have a better understanding of agriculture and where our food comes from.

Don't close! Awesome students come out of this school Calmar will be over crowded.

Keep this awesome school open! I'm a grandma have been coming here for 8 years.

Allow New Humble to become a specialized school: busing available from urban (Leduc) to rural, expand into agricultural based programming.

Community partners: places/corporations will sponsor the school if agriculturally based like Brett Young and Cargill

Expand school zones and increase class sizes. There will only be more students as time goes on. Use the schools we have instead of building new ones.

Change programming to agriculture focus - make us a 'destination' school for kids with environmental/agricultural desires

Bring back the kinders, start a pre-k program in order to increase funding

Agricultural programs!

You need to postpone this decision. The entire world is at a standstill, yet you want to go ahead with this right now? People are dying! You need to prioritize!



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

In order to give suggestions for alternatives to closure many questions are needed to be answered first:
Why were the few kindergarten students that we had not just accommodated in with grade 1's for this year?
Why was the ESC transfer not discussed with the staff & parents?
Why not adjust School Times? It would reduce costs by reducing a day or shortening a week. Other districts have already incorporated this.

Alternative to closure is a 1, 2, 3 ... 5 year plan Alternative Program that the NHCG has researched thoroughly & presented to the board. A business plan of the program & cost saving measures.

When can the group expect to discuss the program and the cost saving measures they created? They have not received one question or discussion in regards to this program.

Program is inspired by:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PPOs3rtwkh8&t=73s>

<https://sites.google.com/plrd.ab.ca/prairieprincipal/home/video-links?authuser=0>

ATA sees the importance of rural schools -

<https://www.teachers.ab.ca/News%20Room/The%20Learning%20Team/Volume%207/Number%201/Pages/Rural%20schools%20are%20vital%20to%20community%20survival.aspx>

****Board policy 4.2.1.3 'board to consider alternatives'. WHEN? Not on the day of voting?**

When will all these questions be addressed & answered?

Suggestions For Alternatives To Closure - Transportation: (8 Responses)

Don't close so my child doesn't have an extra long bus ride to attend school in Calmar

Why not bus rural students from west of Leduc to New Humble to free up room in Leduc city to accommodate growth? We were told that "rural schools were for rural kids" - but we put rural students in urban.

Allow students from Calmar to attend New Humble if they choose.

Expand the boundary East to Hwy 2 (this will decrease the stress of the schools in Leduc)

Busing fees (for entire school division!)

Increase catchment to the east - lessen pressure on Leduc schools



Fundraising

Humble Roots program

In order to give suggestions for alternatives to closure many questions are needed to be answered first:

Shuttle/transfer bus was eliminated in 2006 when the new school in Calmar was approved to be built. It decreased NHC #'s considerably. Families were devastated, they were already paying for bus services, but they were willing to pay more, they were willing to pay double. It would have been lucrative for the school board. And it still could be a profit if you reinstate a transfer bus.

BG Boundary change/ Catchment areas for NHC was narrowed - students in the NHC area are now forced to go to Leduc & Calmar due to the boundaries that were placed - resulting in lowering NHC numbers, long bus rides & more gas consumption & bus maintenance costs. Families were turned away last year because they lived on the other side of the road.

For younger students 5 & 6 yrs old. This isn't fair to put them on a bus for 2 hrs. or long periods to go to Leduc or Calmar when NHCS is so close by, especially if the roads are bad.

What is the transportation plan to address buses at CES, if NHCS were to close?

CES drop off times & bus lane is already very busy and hectic.

What are the length of the routes?

When will these questions be addressed & answered?

When calculating NHCS transportation costs, are the secondary kids included in this cost? They should not be included in NHCS transportation costs they should be included in Calmar secondary transportation cost. The full cost of transportation for any student over grade six and the current kindergarten should be in those applicable schools costs.

Any Further Comments (17 Responses)

Thanks Ray.

My daughter will be a 4th generation student at new humble after her great grandfather, grandfather and dad and it would be a huge loss for the community if this was taken away.

I don't want to see my childhood school shut down it's part of our community it's a big impact in my life



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

This is a fantastic school and a great community that has consistently raised talented, hardworking individuals that ultimately make great additions to society. I have never been to another school where the kids are so polite and supportive of everyone around them, and the staff provide great leadership to mentor the kids.

Shutting down Humble is shutting Down decades of history.

This also goes for the other deferred costs. What are the breakdowns of these costs??

New Humble Centre has produced many very talented students and no matter how you spin the numbers must remain in operation!

I understand our trustee is on leave. How can you continue a process when we do not have representation? Expecting the Board Chair to represent us is unrealistic.

Look at the kids at Calmar Secondary who achieve honours and honours with distinction - they have attended New Humble! These students are high achievers with STRONG numeracy and literacy skills and have learned INDEPENDENCE skills that will make them life long learners. *Safe and caring schools MATTER*

Why hasn't BGSD approached the students and/or teachers?

Please continue to engage PARENTS and COMMUNITY members prior to motions of closure. We are a wealth of experience, passion and commitment to our students

Please give us an opportunity to be a community learning centre = pride

You have been given the answers to all of your questions regarding closure. We have found ways to work, grow and prosper. Yet not one person on the board has stepped forward to say hey, let's see if we can make this work. Difficult to believe this wasn't in the works for some time. You knew what you were doing when you took away the kindergarten program. Then, shockingly, oh your enrollment is too low. Come on. We have a way to fix this. Why wouldn't you want us to succeed???

Please postpone the decision on the motion to close. These are already stressful times and no need to add to this.

I feel New humble is an amazing school!



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Please. please postponed this until this world crisis is over!

Please think of the students! They are already stressed from their world being turned upside down. The unknown of how the country will fare - the scary behavior that they've never experienced, the fear factors.

If they find out they are never going back to NHC, (what they know as their stable place) it will be so much more for them to bare. They will not get a farewell or a proper transition from NHC and it will be so hard on their mental state. Please don't put added stress on them right now. Let them be at ease knowing they can return in September.

Thank you for your time spent on my suggestions and opinions.

Appendix 5.3: Public Meeting - Students' Letters

<p>March 11 2020 to the Board of Trustees of Black Gold Regional School District</p> <p>The New Humble Centre School is a great school is a great school they teach us manners and respect as well as the curriculum for each grade the fact that all of the grades are in split classes is a great. When I was in 5th grade if I didn't get what we working on there was grade 6 who were more than happy to help. the teachers also were there to help me. I love NHCs I couldn't think of a better school to go to! I hope this can change your minds we need NHCs!</p>	<p>Dear trustees of Black gold School division.</p> <p>Please don't shot down New humble school. I know it's small but it is like a family to me. I've gone there since Grade 4 because my sister got bullied by the teacher at Calmar Elementary school and I did not want to go thought that like her. So when anna and I went to New Humble Centre school we have been happier and we were taught more than Calmar was teaching us. So again please Don't Shot down NHCs.</p>
---	--



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Appendix 6: Written Correspondence

Appendix 6.1: Comments via Email to bgsd@blackgold.ca - January 8 - April 1, 2020

To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED]. I have wrote a few emails already in regard to New Humble Centre School. I apologize for missing the April 1st deadline to write in. Don't know where the days went while working 20 hour days calving cows in this frigid weather. I am writing this in between 2 hour checks where I usually can get 40 minutes of sleep in my truck.

To say the least I am very disappointed and frustrated with the Black Gold School Division on this matter.

First of all you promised an open and transparent engaged process. We as a community have given many excellent ideas and innovative ways to help this school stand out more than it does already. Not one of you (bgsd superintendents or trustees) have asked any questions to the New Humble Community Group on how we can make this work or what platform we have or anything at all. Not one thing was questioned or any discussion whatsoever. So either all of you are on board with the ideas presented and already understand how it all works or you are liars. You can decide that. I was at the board meeting in Nisku where the entire small scale farm based ideas were presented. It was said because of how much information was presented after all of that information was digested they would get back to us. Nobody has heard a word. Has anyone looked into the Prairie Principal and what has happened in Altario school and if so, what was the feedback like?

Why has this motion not been stalled or put on the back burner with all this Corona Virus issues that have needed much attention and time? I totally understand that with this, everything has changed in the school board and everyone has had to rethink on how to carry on with the remainder of the school year. That is to be of priority I'm sure, and rightfully so. Also with our trustee unavailable to represent us or stand up for us here we are not being heard. Not being represented fairly at all. You know that. So obviously New Humble School has most definitely not got the attention it so rightfully deserves either. These points alone should make this go away until it is better situated. Postpone this vote. Whatever you want to call it, I don't care. It should of stopped already. THIS IS NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL WHATSOEVER.

The other day I went to my father in laws place. He lives 2 minutes [REDACTED] of Calmar and I drove by the elementary school. I was looking at the bus lane there. It is NOT big enough to handle the extra buses that would ending their route there now. You cannot have buses unloading and children walking to school and then buses

leaving to make more room for the remaining buses to unload. These are 4 and 5 and 6 year old children. You cannot have this happen. Buses have to be stopped until all is clear. This will be impossible. You are asking for a very bad wreck. Then who is going to answer to that? You might be able to extend the bus lane for a much larger cost than it would be to keep New Humble going based off your numbers for many many years.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

I'm not here to compare New Humble to Calmar, or put a wedge between the two. My children will end up there in grade 7 anyway for Junior High. I do know that the caliber of teachers in New Humble are better than Calmar. I have friends and family with children in both schools. You may think it's the same, but it's not. Changes would have to happen.

Going back to the March 11th meeting and the page in the draft about finances and how Humble would be short money if it stayed open vs going to Calmar. I do not have the page in front of me and am going off of what I remember which is not far off. The amount of money we would be out does not in any way justify closing an excellent school. We are talking literally peanuts in the big picture. You will always have a school that is the most cost per student. Just like you will always have a school that is the most efficient per student. I know some of those numbers are not accurate either and so therefore begs the question if the other numbers are accurate also. The one thing I did question the lady about (I'm sorry I forget her name) at the one station was about the technology costs. I asked her if these all costs are a per year cost. She said yes. I said what is all involved in the technology costs and if it's per child or extra because of small school or where that number came from because the number also changed if we had above 75 students or so. She said it's split. Approx \$17000 was to cover updates cause Humble needed some and the balance was a per student. I asked once the updates were done for \$17000 do we have to do it again the following year. She said no. It's a one time thing. So I asked why is it in the per year category to make us look more expensive year over year. She had no answer. So that is wrong. I then asked about the per student cost. She said it's a relative number to the number of kids in the school. I said so Humble needs more per kid because it's rural or why? She said no it's across the board. So I asked why is it a strike against us if it's across the board. Again no answer. So that is incorrect as well. It's like someone is making up BS to make their plans work. This is where I beg the trustees to ACTUALLY look into these numbers and DO NOT take them at face value because some are most definitely incorrect. Very frustrating. Other numbers were challenged that night in the open forum as well for good reason, and need to be addressed. So the spread is not what it appears. Also, to make that spread appear the way it does was Humble had 4 teachers and a principal and if we went to Calmar it would be only 2 teachers. I find this interesting because Bill Romanchuk said he will not take teachers away. I was happy to hear he wasn't going to cut teachers. But the next breath was cutting them. What happens when Calmar grows that little bit where they need another teacher(based on New Humble staying open) and then that cost would be associated to Calmar. Then you are not gaining a damn thing. In the red actually. We have to look long term. Not short sighted. No way I'll stand to have my kids in a bigger class size and less teachers. No one will. Also my mother in law taught in Calmar elementary for 25 years. She retired a few years ago after teaching in the new school. She said the classrooms are physically too small to handle what you say they will. She would know that. This is a must to take into consideration as well. While we are looking at the big picture here, let's think about this. YOU want to change the lives of 55-60 farm kids over a FRACTION of ONE superintendents wage. How dare you complain about money. Let that sink in.

Right now with the rural school grant we have an excellent opportunity to make New Humble the best it can be. Being the only school in the division that qualifies sets the stage for anything that comes along. We can champion new ideas that could be implemented across the board. I know that for New Humble to ever be the same cost as any other school would be near impossible. But to have a good thing and be different than any other school or have programs that other don't, will always be more. Look at Calmar Junior/Senior High School. Look at the Shop Class or Industrial Arts. Mr. Roth has done an astounding job there to take it from where it was to where it is now. Yes it cost money. But look at it. That IS the best thing in that school. Look at the kids that come out of there and went into EXCELLENT jobs welding, machining, and others. Many have their own home based welding business because of



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

that class. [REDACTED] has his own machine shop in Nisku because of this. Probably the youngest man to own his own machine shop in town. My little cousin is in grade 10 and placed 3rd in all of Alberta in machining this past year. First place was from Calmar as well. How do you say it's not worth it? You don't. Same can be done with the programs that were suggested for New Humble. I wish we had this when I was in Humble.

There will be lifelong skills that come out of that school. I know that for sure. A school like that can set your course for life I'm so many ways. No one in my class from Humble school does drugs. The rest of the kids we graduated with have a good percentage that do. Or they didn't even graduate at all. All of us from Humble did. There is so much more no one is looking at. I beg you to look at the big picture.

At the March 11th meeting we as a entire community asked if you already had a decision in mind. You said "No". The manner in which your ideas were presented and the way questions were answered while treading water in front of us said different. The email my wife received last week said different. It was as if the kids were going to Calmar. It was like the decision was made already. Was very disappointed reading it.

It was noted as the one Telford Hall meeting where the board was invited to come and talk, that the County Mayor Tanni Dublanko spoke and said "this is the most passionate group of parents she EVER saw in all her years in the school division." She went on to say "that has to speak for something." Like I said in other emails before, you have no idea the community support for this school. You couldn't measure it if you tried. People that do not have family or children going to this school anymore are fighting for it. What does that say??

I remember being in Mr. Fitzowich's social class in Calmar high school. This was before social media or anything like that. I forget the actual number but he talked about public outrage and the number of people per capita to actually write into any sort of government or likewise office and complain about something. I believe the number was if 6-7 people per 1000, wrote in to voice their opinion they would sit up AND take action. Because if 6-7 per 1000 would sit down and take the time to write into the office the actual number of people that were affected was considerably higher. My emails alone would meet that per capita, never mind the rest of the backlash you have received. Black Gold is looking at a massively higher percentage and should be weighed accordingly.

This school is still operating at a very good enrolment rate and will be better once kindergarten is re-established. The community here is growing. Don't forget that either.

To close this school indefinitely would be a shame and be the absolute poorest decision one could make.

[REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

March 31, 2020

Dear Mr. Romanchuk and Board of Trustees,

Re: Motion to Close - NEW HUMBLE CENTRE SCHOOL

I have lived in this community for over 25 years. My husband's family bought a dairy farm here in 1961, the same year as the new Humble School was being built. My husband and his seven siblings all attended the school. I was born and raised in Calgary and went to a big elementary school in the city. When I got married and moved up here,

I recall my first time seeing that small school in the field -- it reminded me of Little House on the Prairie. When my children were old enough to go to school, I remember being concerned that New Humble wouldn't be able to offer

them enough variety in educational programming. I was worried that they'd miss out on extra-curricular activities and access to resources. But I was wrong. All three of my children thrived at this school and they thrived for a number of reasons. Most importantly, they were going to school with kids whose families had similar values. These were Alberta's rural families. Most lived on farms or acreages. They had animals to take care of, whether they were pets, or cows and chickens. They had responsibilities of looking after and playing with younger siblings. They were required to help out and do chores after school or on weekends. And they all loved the adventures of playing outdoors. A couple months ago, I had lunch with 4 of my good friends and I told them, "I'm so thankful that my kids got to school with yours". I also really appreciated that all the staff at New Humble knew all of my kids, from the teachers to the secretary, librarian, custodians and EAs. That's a real benefit in a small school. It made them feel recognized and important when someone (who was not their grade teacher) would say hi in the hallway and ask them how their day was going or what their family did on the weekend. The teachers cared not only about the students in their own class, but about their siblings as well. All students were expected to respect one another, regardless of their age. I loved that my younger children were connected with older ones and were able to form relationships of trust and caring. Whether through Reading Buddies, Track and Field teams, making gingerbread houses or helping to zip up winter coats, there was always an expectation that the older students would look out for the younger ones. Where else do you see students from grade 5/6 playing soccer at recess with students in grade 1/2, or giving them "high fives" in the hallway? My 3 children are all adults now, and although I'd love to take credit for their successes, I think a big part of who they are and who they've become, is because of the great education and learning experiences that they had during their years at New Humble Centre School.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Good evening to you all,

As an active member of the New Humble Community Group, I wanted to ask each of you directly if you have read our initial business plan, tabled and presented at the BGSD Board Meeting on March 4th.

I ask this only because at the end of the presentation, The Chair mentioned that the project was a lot to digest, and feedback and/or questions would be forthcoming.

Except for a handful of comments in unofficial, one-on-one communication at the Public Engagement Evening on March 11th, not one question has been forwarded to our group.

This leads me to believe one of two possible solutions:

1. Only a handful of the Board of Trustees and Administration has actually read the proposal, and the remainder are relying on the opinions of the few who have, or
2. The decision to close New Humble Centre School has already been made, and no further questions are required.

From the side-bar comments from Mr. Romanchuk on the 11th, there were obviously a few concerns brought up by the plan, and more information was needed from the Community Group, and yet nothing official has been brought forward. I can understand that perhaps some of these questions would be brought up at the Board Meeting on April 8th, when the meeting is to be live-streamed. How inconvenient it would be if technical difficulties did not allow the questions to be asked by the Trustees and Administration at that time. Would it not be in the interest of the BGSD Trustees and administration to have a list of questions delivered to the NHCG approved delegation, so that these can be addressed, even should there be any technical issues?

As all community members have recently been informed, despite the "current situation," the work must continue. As I stated in my previous email, the machine must continue to run. I would hope that this is applicable for every avenue of the due process promised to the community and staff of New Humble Centre School.

In health and with respect,

[REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Attached, please find my New Humble Center School closure submission (for the April 8, 2020 School Board Meeting). It is my hope that this will help you with the difficult decision before you at this time.

Perhaps at this time we should be considering a Special Meeting to Cancel and/or postpone this meeting due to the Covid 19 Lockdown and Social Isolation which is fact does not allow a public meeting of this board to occur.

God Bless and Keep You Be Safe,

[REDACTED]

March 31, 2020

Black Gold School Division
Norm.dargis@blackgold.ca
Bill.romanchuk@blackgold.ca

Re: Consideration of Closure of Humble Center School

Attention: Board of Trustees
Devonna Klaassen devonna.klaassen@blackgold.ca
Sarah O'Gorman sarah.ogorman@blackgold.ca
Esther Eckert esther.eckert@blackgold.ca
Rebecca Ellander Rebecca.ellander@blackgold.ca
Barb Martinson barb.martinson@blackgold.ca
Shawna Ofstie shawna.ofstie@blackgold.ca
Robyn Steed robyn.steed@blackgold.ca

Dear Board Members,

Please consider this letter as a formal submission for your consideration of the closure of New Humble Center School. My wife and I are resident in the County Central Ward in which New Humble Center School is located.

We appreciate and thank you for stepping up and running for Trustee as we believe that having effective and efficient representation is vital to a high quality education system.

The quote in italics below is from your website and I urge you to keep the principles cited here top of mind.

"The Board's fundamental obligation is to preserve, if not enhance, the public trust in education, generally, and in the affairs of its operations in particular. Consistent with its objective to encourage the public to contribute to the educational process, Board meetings will be open to the public."

Your decision related to this school closure recommendation will be judged as to whether you have "enhanced public trust in both education and the district and if your truly allowed the public to contribute in an "open meeting".

You have been presented with a recommendation by administration to consider the closure of this school; it is important to consider both the facts that have been presented and the process through which the closure process has and is proceeding. I will present our views on both.

FACTS

1. The Board was presented with the fact that there has been declining enrollment at the school over the past years. What has not been presented is the fact that the School Board's past and present decisions have led to some of the enrollment issues. Consider the following:
 - a. Change in grade configuration
 - i. Past removal of Junior high programming
 - ii. Current removal of Kindergarten programming for the 2019-2020 school year. Once new families begin kindergarten in one school it is unlikely they will return for grade one and without a Kindergarten in 2019; the chance of a grade 1 in 2020 is unlikely.
 1. These decisions have not only impacted the grades that were removed; but also impacted the other grades. Parents often want to keep their children together in one school for as long as possible for convenience.
 - a. Question to consider: Was the Board provided with information about how many families chose to move "families" from New Humble once the grade configuration was changed?
 - b. Question to consider: Related to Kindergarten: Was the Board provided with the number of Kindergarten children turned away from New Humble in 2019?
 - c. Was the decision in 2019 to remove kindergarten programming from New Humble a way to manipulate the enrollment and have it appear that enrollment was in decline?
 - b. Change in transportation
 - i. Bus transportation was removed from Calmar to New Humble. Question to consider: Did this decision limit enrollment at New Humble and choice for Calmar parents and was it in effect prejudicial as now only parents who can afford to drive their children can choose New Humble School?
2. West-End Review
 - a. The West-End Review, which is part of a larger review of school conditions and capacity across the district, is used as the basis for the recommendation. However, your administration has admitted to parents and residents that the review has not been completed. Question to consider: Is it prudent to make



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

decisions based on an incomplete study? Would this type of decision "enhance ...public trust in education"?

- b. Student Population Trend: (Included in the West-end review slides) This chart shows an 8% increase in students in the Calmar area which included New Humble in 10 years from 495 to 598 students. The fault in these numbers is that they don't indicate what % of these numbers are elementary students. Currently Calmar Elementary has as a capacity of 374 students and New Humble; 85. At the public meeting in New Humble; administration could not tell parents how many empty rooms were available in Calmar. **Question to consider:** Is it short sighted to close a school building when the projected increase in population, in what is presented as a joint attendance area, could create capacity issues at the receiving school (Calmar)? What would be the cost to add portables in 5 years should New Humble be closed? Portables are in high demand for all school districts; what is the plan should New Humble be closed and portables not be available: transportation to Leduc or Thorsby?

3. District Context

- a. At meetings for New Humble and Ward reviews, we have been told that the District must look to accommodate the growing urban populations in Leduc and Beaumont. **Question to consider:** Has administration provided any accommodation plans for those urban centers, Leduc specifically, that include New Humble as available space for students in overcrowded areas? **Question to consider:** There are students living in rural Leduc County adjacent to Leduc that could be redirected to New Humble and free up space in urban schools; has this option been considered or discussed?

4. Deferred maintenance

- a. All schools in the district has some amount of deferred maintenance. None of the items at New Humble are health and safety concerns and many are cosmetic. **Question to consider:** Does it make sense to remove a building from the inventory that is stable and safe with the option of then having to bring portables in to deal with overcrowding? Portables are expensive and are subject to leaking and cracking due to the nature of movement and shifting. **Question:** A number of inaccuracies were discussed at the New Humble Public meeting including blind replacement that was completed with parent donations in 2016 and whether or not there would need to be a boiler replacement in the near future. (the discussion centered on the fact that the school was heated with a forced air furnace not a boiler and

administration should know that: has this been clarified with the Board through administration?). Has the deferred maintenance plan that was shared earlier been updated and corrected?

Process:

There are a number of issues related to the process that have occurred and going forward that I believe must be considered in your decision.

Consider the following; again from Black Gold Website:

"School trustees *ensure* that the *wishes of the whole community* are reflected in the management and operation of the District's schools. Trustees must be willing to ask the community what it needs and wants from its schools...The *effective trustee considers the wishes of all parents, students and community members*".(emphasis added)

1. Absence of Trustee from County Central:

- a. At a time when we, as a community, need to have an elected advocate; our trustee has stepped away; we do not know why. **Question to consider:** Is it reasonable to proceed when we have not had elected representation through the process and do not know if our Trustee will be in attendance on April 8? How would your electorate feel if a significant decision was being made in their ward without you?

2. Board Chair acting as representative:

- a. At the New Humble meeting the Board Chair offered to be the representative of County Central. However, residents have had to wait 4-5 days for responses from the Chair to their questions via phone and email. Additionally, the board Chair has indicated she was not available to residents during spring break. I would have thought that this closure issue and her stepping up to represent us would have been a higher priority. **Question to Consider:** Was it reasonable to expect the Chair to take on this responsibility when the Board is dealing with basic education needs for students due to Covid-19? **Question to consider:** Can we expect the Board Chair, who has visited the school a handful of times be able to realistically "consider the wishes of all parents, students and community members" especially those from County Central? Has the Board Chair effectively represented the electorate in County Central?

3. Covid-19:

- a. Covid-19 has changed the way we are living and interacting as communities. It has shifted everything from educational program delivery to how we meet and make decisions. Additionally, it is putting stress on families as they wonder about employment, bills and most importantly, the health of their family and friends. **Question to consider:** Is it ethical to put added stress on the parents and families at New Humble and continue with the closure process? Does continuing with this process "enhance the public trust in education" or does it look like the Board is using the crisis to not have to deal with its public face to face? Does the Board feel pressure to make the decision this year because next year is an election year?

4. Electronic Board Meeting on April 8:

- a. By continuing with this process and not calling a special Board meeting to halt to defer the process to next year, you have already done a disservice to your duty as trustees. Further, by holding the most important decision of the process electronically – it is almost like holding an in-camera meeting. Parents and community members will not be able to present in person and read your faces and your reactions. Additionally, you are unable to ask any clarifying questions of the presentations. It is suggested that parents can make video submissions for the Board. Have any of you ever made a video submission? It is difficult and often does not have the full intent of a face to face presentation. **Question to Consider:** Where in your policy does it state the option for electronic meetings? Do you believe that holding the meeting now through electronic means truly meets your mandate of "meetings in public".

5. Parent generated options:

- a. At the public meetings administration encouraged the parent group to look for options at the school that could increase enrollment. The group has researched and contacted the developer of such a program. **Questions to consider:** Whose job is it to research and implement alternative programs; parents or the administration of the school district? How much information has the Board received about this potential program? How much work has administration done to investigate the feasibility of this program ie costs, curriculum alignment, staff availability? If you have not received a report from administration about the program and its potential; why were parents asked to look for alternatives?

So if not closure than what? I would recommend the district work with the parent group and implement an alternative program at the school. I would also recommend that the decisions that were put in place prior to this Board term; change in transportation and removal of kindergarten be reversed. Additionally, I believe that New Humble Center School should be considered to be an option for student accommodation now and into the future. If it is closed; the District will lose not only a strong community but a viable, safe school for students today and into the future.

In summary, I hope that my letter has helped you to consider both the facts that you have been provided and the process that has unfolded the way that *your electorate* sees them. As mentioned at the start of my letter; your actions on April 8 in response to the recommendation to consider the closure of New Humble Center School will be judged against the principles of fairness, equity, transparency and whether or not you have increased the confidence of voters in education generally and Black Gold schools specifically.

Yours truly

[REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Observing from the background and as a concerned taxpayer, my opinion and thoughts on the motion to close New Humble School and how it is being managed and controlled is just morally and ethically wrong. As you are not reading or comprehending letters written to you, I thought I would put this in point form. Hopefully the thoughts will linger long enough to sink in. In the points below, please note that “you” is referring to the Black Gold School Board.

1. Dishonest- since January when you passed the motion to close New Humble School, you have been nothing but dishonest with the concerned groups and parents. You made your decision in January but now 2 ½ months later still don't have a backbone to admit that.
2. Dishonest - Your dishonesty was very apparent at the open house meeting at New Humble School when you were asked outright if you had made a decision. I even asked out loud that you “uncross your fingers.” But of course you didn't and chose to toy with all the peoples' emotions that attended. You are very fortunate that your nose didn't grow.
3. Dishonest - A concerned parent asked a week ago that with all that is going on why can't “the motion to close” be dropped or taken off the agenda at this time, only to be told that the board has too much invested into the closure and the board was moving forward. More confirmation that you knew in January but didn't have the backbone to be honest.
4. Inconsistent - Can't keep your stories straight - when discussion began with concerned parents back in January, you told them you knew New Humble School had a lot of heart but you didn't want to hear about that. You wanted options and ideas to make it more viable. At the open house meeting you stated you just wanted to know what was in our hearts. Your inconsistency provides more proof of dishonesty and incompetency and that your decision was already made. It was very obvious you only held the open house meeting because it was part of the policy and to pacify the people that attended.
5. No Options - Parents have been working tirelessly (in between dealing with home life, home schooling and COVED-19) to give you options to make New Humble School a more diversified school and not you or anyone of your so called team have even taken the time to listen. At no time have you ever offered any options or solutions other than “CLOSURE”. Disgusting.
6. Lack of Preparation - You will need at least 2 years to prepare Calmar Elementary starting with and most importantly getting a higher caliber of teachers. What I have experienced and observed over the last few years is not acceptable.
7. Student Safety Issue - Calmar Elementary is not capable of handling another 3 buses. The bus lane is physically tooo short. Student Safety should be #1 on your priority list. It is beyond chaos there now with just 2 buses. Again no thought put into the only option you are offering to the parents of the New Humble School.



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

1. Bullying - when you were speaking down to all those who attended the open house meeting in New Humble School, be reminded that bullying, belittling, and demeaning are not acceptable. Again proving the attitude of the Black Gold School Board is in serious need of adjusting. Remember the tax payers in that room contribute to your salary.
1. GAG Order – when this motion to close began, there were meetings held between the principals and teachers of specific schools where the message was made very clear that the teachers were not to get involved, not to express their opinions. I'm very curious how the Black Gold School Board could have supported such a directive. APPAULLING! This is 2020 and such dictatorship is unacceptable.

Obviously there is internal concern and confusion with the motion to close, within the board, which would clearly explain why the board is NOT being honest, open and up front. Leadership (or lack thereof) is definitely questionable. The motion to close New Humble School has been handled very unprofessionally and cast unsurmountable doubt as to the ethics and integrity of the current Black Gold School Board.

When information is presented to the Trustees for their final vote, praying it will be honest, accurate and without bias for the sake of the students and community of New Humble School.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

Concerned Taxpayer in Leduc County

[REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Please see email below.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: March 31, 2020 10:40 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: The health & well being of everyone involved

Can you please forward and cc all board and superintendent my technology isn't the greatest thank you.

> On Mar 31, 2020, at 10:09 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

>

> Good morning my name is [REDACTED] father of [REDACTED] a young girl that loves her school. She is only one of many that feel the same way.

> I ask each one of you trustee to give our school and community the respect and consideration that it deserves.

> How can you not give 120 years of educating excellence the voice it deserves. I have a really big problem when I read your board policy 02 and point 2 on accountability to the community. I encourage each one of you to reread this policy.

> We are in the beginning of a PANDEMIC please let us focus on the health and wellbeing of our friends and family. This is the time to put our heads down isolate and get through this.

> This is not business as normal or a new normal. This is time to put your hand out and help anyone you can without putting yourself or community in danger.

> I am asking you to please take this unnecessary stress off our community until the pandemic is over.

>

> Sincerely, [REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Hello,

Please see list of questions below.

What can alternative programs pay for? We have asked this before but have not received a response. What are school generated funds able to cover in expenses? What expenses can be paid by donation, sponsorship, etc. Separate from that, Fundraising and donations are included in revenue in the audited financial statements, what type of funding is this and how is it used?

There are also prepaid expenses, with a reference to a check the notes, under the note there is over \$800,000, what were these prepaid expenses?

IMR funding and expenses, is there a place online where you can see the IMR expenses since 2007, if not please provide financial breakdown of IMR spending?

What are the new rules or guidelines for capital requests whether it be a new school, addition or modernization? Is there a link online to these?

What is transportations plan to address busses at CES, if NHCS were to close. CES drop off times are already very busy and hectic.

Is BGSD Board going to engage with NHCS teachers as part of this process, or for that matter CES teachers that class sizes would increase?

Who is BGSD insurance provider? (Intact, Co-Operators?)

Our community group has presented an Alternative Program as well as cost savings measures. When can our group expect the a decision to be made on our program as well as the cost saving measures? We have not received one question or discussion in regards to this program.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

To the board of the black gold school district!

As grandparents from two grandchildren, who are students in new humble centre school, we ask you to for your attention!

We emigrated to Canada from Holland in 1999, and continued our family farm here in calmar, it didn't take long to feel home in this community.

We would like for all the children in the this area and also our grandchildren to value the importance of working together and help each other in this great farm community!

NHCS has that quality and is serving for 120 years.

We are not talking about closing an old elevator that is to small or not productive anymore?

We are talking about a school that has the opportunity to provide an environmental and agriculture program that would not only be good for the children but great for blackgold school division!

The location is made for this.

We support the plan of the workgroup and all the efforts they made to keep this school open.

We hope the board sees all those qualities and start looking forward to the future of this rural school!

Sincerely, [REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Hi Devonna,

Are you saying aside from the April 8 board meeting there is no way that the board could meet to address possibly staying this motion?

I understand that business needs to move forward. As I said before I find it very disrespectful and inconsiderate that the board would not consider NHCS parents mental health at this point. Allow us some time and grace to adjust to the current situation and not have the weight of this motion.

We have not received one question in regards to the Humble Roots program. How is administration going to include this information in their report if they have not reached out to this group. Also alarmingly we have not received any questions or feedback on our cost saving alternatives. How can decisions be made on the future of our school if these options are not being explored or discussed.

As for delegations at the April 8 board meeting, how is there going to be any discussion after the presentations?

Industries across Canada are extending deadlines, making calendar adjustments to previously scheduled work and applications. You see it everywhere, emails explaining how they want to support their customers, clients and staff. BGSD should be looking to these companies as an example. Most importantly most businesses and organizations are considering the needs of people and mental health first before finances at this time of crisis.

One last item I would like to mention, the trustees are elected, they are elected to represent their area. We do not have representation, proper representation at this time. I understand that it is the trustees obligation to vote on what is best for BGSD as a whole but it is also their obligation to bring their area perspective and priorities to the table. We do not have this at this time. Also it is the administrations job to gather all the trustees different perspectives and make recommendations for the entire division. I feel this is lost within our board. Each individual divisions needs are getting lost in the statement we need to do what is best for all the school. Yes this is true. But as elected officials it is your obligation first to bring forward your areas concerns. All of the trustees should be reminded of this as I feel through my experience this is not the case. We do not have proper representation at this time.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Good evening to you all,

I work in the corporate world, and work in an office which has recently come to a complete standstill as with the rest of many industries across Alberta. I'm working from home with limited resources... I am so much more fortunate than most.

But that isn't the issue at hand, is it? The Machine never stops turning – business must go on. For the educators across this country, students still need to learn, and the School Boards needs to manage and allocate resources to make it happen. The BGSD has a thankless task in some ways, and to ensure that the students continue with an education that is mandated by law that they complete... well, that Machine keeps on turning.

The economic and social shutdown of the entire globe has gripped us all. Yet the Machine never stops turning.

The point I'm trying to make is that I understand what the BGSD is up against when looking at the Notice of Motion for New Humble Centre School – fiscal responsibility. You must keep the children learning with the best possible resources, no matter what is going on outside of the walls of your office.

The New Humble Community Group has provided a sound business plan to keep the Machine running for NHCS.

As the BGSD is successfully implementing alternative measures to deliver quality education during this COVID-19 pandemic, I sincerely doubt that due diligence on a plan that will keep a vibrant school open and thriving is on the forefront of the Trustees' minds. Nor should it be put on the back burner. My concern is with all that is going on to keep the Machine of education in the Black Gold School Division running, not enough time, energy or resources will be or can be dedicated to the Notice of Motion to close New Humble Centre School.

I question the thoroughness of the recommendation set to be tabled on April 8th, not because I question the people preparing this life-altering document, not at all! I question the thoroughness due to the fact that there are much more important issues to be handled at this moment in time. Issues like the health and safety of the community at large, as it pertains to the jurisdiction of the BGSD.

The New Humble community expects a fair, equitable and unbiased process for the Trustees and Administration of the BGSD to follow Policy 15. In my opinion, this cannot happen given the current, unprecedented circumstances that face the BGSD. I do not understand how it is fair or equitable for the Trustees to vote on such a critical decision while a more important crisis is at hand while the Machine keeps running.

I am requesting that the Notice of Motion to close New Humble Centre School be delayed until the spring of 2021. It is reasonable to assume that at that time, all resources will be dedicated to ensuring the fair, equitable, unbiased, and thorough process is followed and attained. Allow the Machine of NHCS to keep running.

With respect,

[REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Good Evening,

I am taking a minute to send this email in hopes that you will consider what I have to say.

This past week has been not only tough as a parent, but also tough as a human being in general. What is going on in the world is unprecedented, but I know I don't have to tell any of you that.

First, I want to say thank you for making the choices and taking the action you have to keep our children safe. It is appreciated. I want to acknowledge that as a school board in a time like this, it cannot be easy.

Secondly, let me tell you what else is not easy. Being a parent and community member that has worked really hard along side many others to try time and again to plead our case and bend over backwards to get you all to understand the value that New Humble School offers. Then lets throw a pandemic on top of that. Now I know none of you chose the pandemic and its affects. But you are choosing to move ahead with the notice of motion, which could end up closing our school for good. I cannot for one second even wrap my head around moving ahead with this notice of motion and your policy 15 at a time like this. We as parents are struggling now more than ever. We are doing our damn best to be strong for our children. To figure out our new normal. Do digital school work. Navigate through lost employment. Stay connected to family members and friends that we are not allowed to see in person. You all are actually in the same boat right now, we are all alike in so many ways when it comes to this pandemic situation. Not one person is left untouched by its wake. With a pandemic at the forefront, how can you possibly approach the notice of motion and the vote with clear hearts and minds?

Going through this policy 15 and possible school closure process has been gut wrenching to say the least. Emotionally rough as hell, on all of us. We work our tails off to provide alternatives and yet we still have no answers. It feels like a "kick us while we are down" scenario if this moves forward at this point.

The POSITIVE thing that has come out of this pandemic situation is that BGRSD and its staff has shown us that alternatives to regular learning can happen. They can happen damn fast when they need to. Please, please follow the same precedent that you have just set. There is a different choice available, you just have to be willing to make it.

We can do anything when we buckle down and work together, you have shown us this.

Where there is a will, there is a way.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Hello,

I am sitting here at my desk, debating which words and emotions I would like to share with BGSD. I honestly feel sick to my stomach. It is unfathomable that the school board would continue with this notice of motion in our current world situation. I keep hearing previous conversations, don't you want to put this to bed, don't you want to decide once and for all. The answer is no, the answer to what I want is to be able to focus on my family, establishing a new and current normal for them at home. I want to be able to focus on connecting to those we are distanced from, phone calls, facetime, emails and letters. Pictures and activities to share through social media. I want to focus on lifting spirits. I want to focus on the things that are not scary in this world right now. With the notice of motion still being actively pursued I cannot and will not be able to focus on these things. The word disgust keeps repeating, I cannot seem to think of a better one, a friendlier one. It physically makes me sick that the board would not have enough consideration and empathy for our community that they would not at the very least postpone this.

There are all sorts of avenues I could suggest, lets revisit this in the spring for a possible closure the end of next year, lets run our HumbleRoots program and try three years. Let's dismiss the notice of motion, the idea at all and find ways to support our small schools. Let's make sure our kids know that if they won't be returning for this year, they will get to go back in September. The grade six's and grade twelves this year may have a heartbreaking transition into the next step of life. This is a very real possibility for all our kids. Even typing this out makes me ill.

I can hear the conversation, we are facing challenging times, we need to make a decision on this to move forward with planning our budget. The funding has changed, keeping our school open does not negatively impact your planning as it may have if the funding didn't change. Also we have presented ways to offset some of the funding shortfalls. We have asked over and over let's work together, we can figure this out, let us help. All I keep hearing is nothing, silence.

I don't know what to even write anymore, although I could speak on this for hours the points are endless. It seems hopeless, it seems as if we have not been heard, because you do not want to hear us.

If the situation were different, if there was not a global pandemic, if we could meet and collaborate, if the funding had not changed, if we did not have the HumbleRoots program, if our school building was falling apart, if our utilization was not at almost 80%, if we did not have the community support, if we did not have future students, if there was no development and a decline in our community, if some of these things were true, I would not and could not feel the way I do right now. But they are not true.

I would like to understand, I am a practical and sensible person but I cannot come up with a fair or just reason to be in the situation we are now. Please help me understand why this is moving forward. Maybe then I will lose this pit in my stomach everything will not feel so heavy.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Good Afternoon,

I just wanted to forward an email that has come through our community group.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Hi

Just thought I would write down some of my thoughts from the meeting.

1. We need to understand what the actual cost per student is for the school.
 - This in my mind needs to be a 5 or 10 year average (take out the high and the low then that will give us a proper number)
 - Compare this same number to some other schools in black gold
 - Please also keep in mind there is a difference between actual cost per student vs funding per student
 - I would suggest the costs are teachers, maintenance, supplies, overheads (maybe depreciation interest on loans?) not sure how they work with the money
 - Maybe ask what the average cost per student is in the entire BGSD currently vs if they shut down the school?
 - If they do not have an exact number of the school cost then how do they know the exact number they will save shutting the school down?
2. The west end review numbers are older from 2015 so I do not think they help today. As the numbers presented for each are not in the same time periods.
 - Lets see if we could get the same period of time say 2015-2020 as that is what we are dealing with today.

I hope I helped summarize this situation.

Thanks

[REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Hi Bill,

Can we please add another delegation to the next Board Meeting, there are a few students that would like to come and speak. I will confirm names and if they require any audio visual equipment.

Let me know if you require any additional information.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

I thank both organizations for hosting the meeting on Wednesday.

Suggestion:

I encourage BGSD to work closely with New Humble Community Group to develop excellent solutions. I am a committed supporter of public education and am reluctant to encourage private investment, but I have to accept that times are changing. It is obvious that the New Humble community is willing and ready to invest their time and money into creative solutions.

There are plenty of examples of private companies investing in the public school system (Coca Cola, IBM, etc). I am confident that BGSD and the New Humble community can develop a landmark plan over the next 12 months that will become a model for other public rural schools. The essential first step is to commit to this partnership on April 8 and April 22, 2020.

If there is any way I could help, please contact me.

[REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Good Afternoon,

I have some questions following last night's community engagement.

1. The \$69 000 that was put into maintenance in the last 3 years at NHCS- what did that consist of and what were the costs of each project? Who do I ask to find that out?
2. Who pays for the proposed engagement activities between the two schools, if you should choose to close NHCS to allow kids an opportunity to interact and get to know each other? Will the trustees attend to observe how their decision to amalgamate these two distinct schools is unfolding? Will they be there to answer the questions and concerns parents have?
3. I am very happy with the level of support and one-on-one time my child has received at NHCS. Should you choose to close this school and I am not impressed with the educational environment to whom would I direct my potential concerns and questions to? Are the trustees who voted for this to happen going to be held accountable to the grievances parents may have? I have all the faith in Bernadette Hawkins as an administrator. I think she does a phenomenal job. However, NHCS has set a high standard for teacher-student interaction and teacher-parent interaction for me and I want to ensure that my voice continues to be heard regardless of the decision.
4. If NHCS closes, what are the trustees and the school board going to do to ensure the amalgamation is as successful as possible? Will you plan to attend CES more than once a year to observe the students? Will you email out surveys 2-3 times during the school year asking for parental feedback? Will you interview the teachers and ask them for opinions on how the children are meshing?
5. NHCS offers various opportunities for the entire school to participate in activities. For instance, all of the kids eat lunch together everyday. At each table there are kids of every grade interacting and fostering relationships. What efforts are planned to continue along these lines of inclusivity?

I have nothing against Calmar School. In fact, I was prepared to drive my children to Calmar (my children would've been the 3rd generation to attend Calmar), until my neighbours convinced me to give Humble a chance. They told me I would not regret it, and they were right. NHCS is the best option for my children.



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Hi Norm,

In order to investigate our alternatives could facilities or finance provide us with NHCS electrical bills, not the total but usage etc., for ideally three years but one year would to start would be helpful.

Could we get the most recent facility audit?

And is there a blue print of the building, if there is not a digital copy I could stop and grab a copy.

In order to investigate and present our alternatives we are going to require additional information. I understand that administration is being pulled in many directions but without this information we can not move ahead on some of our alternatives.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Good afternoon,

I would like to make a short presentation at the school board meeting on March 4th.

Please confirm that this has been received, and feel free to let me know if you require any further details.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Attention Superintendent Romanchuk,

I am writing to you as an area resident that strongly opposes the closure of the New Humble Center School.

Please consider the opinions of the local area residents.

Yours respectfully,

[REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Good afternoon,

My name is [REDACTED], my two sons attend New Humble Centre School. I wanted to let you know our story, and why it is so important to us that our little school stays open.

In 2012, my husband and I lived in the Okanagan valley with our son. My husband is (by choice) at stay-at-home dad, and at the time, I was the Project Accountant for a local P3 construction project. The project was in its last year, and unfortunately, I was also told that I had to transfer to be closer to the next project. I had the choice between Saskatoon, Fort McMurray, or Edmonton.

As I was born and raised in the area, I chose Edmonton to be closer to family. My husband, being born and raised on the West Coast was not keen to move eastward. Simply stated, his only request if he was moving to Alberta was to "not have any neighbors." It was funny at first, but I had no idea how much that request would change our lives forever.

We were determined to raise our family simply. My husband and I are happiest when we are outdoors - fishing, hiking, swimming, camping, you get the idea. We were going to ensure that our children would be raised with minimal screen time, and having Mother Nature as their playground. We are not naive enough to think that there wouldn't be technology surrounding our kids with their friends and at school - the choice was for them to be raised simply, the way we were, and not have to worry about our kids playing outside. The city just does not provide this security.

We found a small ranch [REDACTED] NHCS, just under 17 acres, lots of trees, trails, and the best part - a 2-storey play house for the kids! We now have two boys, and we are living the lifestyle we hoped for. Our boys run through the trees, play in the mud, help with the chores, and can be as loud as they want (outside).

My children are thriving at NHCS. Our eldest is on the Honor Roll. Our youngest is quiet and very focused in class (quite the opposite of when he is at home!!). Their friends are from families who are just like us - down to earth, friendly, and community-minded. My boys hang out with kids from all grades in their school - not just the group from their grade. The older kids help out the younger kids with their snow boots, lace up their skates, and just overall are good role models and mentors for the younger kids. When my eldest son was bullied, the school dealt with the situation THAT VERY SAME DAY! And they spoke not just with the two students involved, but the class as a whole, and even the parents. These kids are now friends because of the administration at NHCS. This is not something that my children (or anyone else's) will prosper from in a larger school.

Finally and most importantly, being rural students, my boys are fortunate to receive free bussing to their school. Should NHCS close, their bus ride will increase by at least 20 minutes. My kids will be on the bus for at least an hour! Their life/school balance will be skewed so that they will be getting up earlier and going to bed later (homework). They will be tired, and not able to learn. Their PAT scores will suffer. Our simple way of life will suffer.

This is the story of the [REDACTED] family, a proud part of the New Humble Community. We ask you to help us keep our kids in a strong, thriving, simple school - the place they belong.

Kind regards, [REDACTED] [IMAGES REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Good Morning Bill,

Can we please have the New Humble Community Group added to the agenda for future board meetings up to and including April 22, 2020?

As we receive updated information from administration we will be able to determine and update you on our delegates.

Please let me know if you require any additional information.

Take care,

[REDACTED]

Attention Superintendent Romanchuk,

I am writing to you as an area resident that strongly opposes the closure of the New Humble Center School.

Please consider the opinions of the local area residents.

Yours respectfully,

[REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

To the Superintendent and all 7 Trustees,

My name is [REDACTED]. This is my second email I have sent in on the subject of New Humble Centre School. In my first email I had asked for answers from the Superintendent and or the Trustees. I have not received those answers. I did receive a response from Carmen Pezderic stating my email will be read by all trustees and Superintendent. On Feb 5th I received an email from Norm Dargis saying that my message was heard by them. I am happy to hear that. In saying that, I have not had any answers yet. This is quite concerning. For the very short timeline that has been given here we need answers so we know how to move forward. Its a joke that this is not happening. We want to work out ideas with the trustees. We want to have meaningful conversations. We want to be involved. You have done nothing but shut us out. Its like you don't want to hear us. I have heard from many parents and community members that no one is having their answers answered. My wife alone has sent 4 emails and not one response from anyone. This is your jobs. This is a critical time for this school. I have not even been one of the ones that sent in many emails or asked a lot of questions yet either. But that will change now.

What concerns me the most is how this all came about. The Notice Of Motion To Close New Humble Centre School is based on the West End Review. An INCOMPLETE West end review. To the trustee that made the motion, and the one that seconded it, shame on you. You have made an irresponsible decision that has very great concerns for the welfare of these children. If you make a such a massive decision on such poor information you have no pride or respect in your job. If anything, you should of made a motion to look into the findings of the West End Review, to see if these are credible numbers, to maybe finish the West End Review, or to see what you can do to help this school. There was no mention of that. This cannot be stressed enough. You have brought zero ideas on how to help this school. Didn't even ask us for help first before this decision. Anything less than that and you trustees ARE NOT doing what you were voted in to do. As a trustee you are responsible for representing the people that voted you in. NOT following a mandate or what the easy way out is. We can have monkeys do this. I am not being rude. I'm being honest. These are not simple and easy decisions. As a person who runs and understands a business, and feels the effects of decisions on my business, what your answer is, is a laughing stock. Everyone says its about the children, but you all have actually forgot about the children. You are simply worried about costs and enrollment numbers. That's what Norm said, "Its all about the enrollment numbers." You take these kids out of this school you will be ripping the hearts out of these kids. This is the most tight knit family of kids in the school district. Proud of where they are from. Remember that.

Going into my questions that were not answered, I want to know that actual Deferred Maintenance costs for New Humble. Over a 5 year period you claim they are nearly \$700,000.00 while Calmar and Thorsby are next to nothing. Now I do know those other 2 schools are nearly new. I also know that the almost \$700,000.00 number for New Humble is not near accurate and is a lie. I want answers. The community wants answers. With these costs predicted so high it creates a cost per student that looks far too high. Almost \$2000 a child more than average. Works out to nearly \$120,000.00 more for the school. Which coming back to my first email we can save a lot more money but cutting the absolutely insane wages of the top of the staff. I included the chart in my first email which sums up my point. Far overpaid to be complaining about money problems. Absolutely ZERO sympathy for that BS. Start there, then talk. Start on your own accord. Don't tell me everyone took a cut already but fail to say it was a mandated 10% that was not initiated in the Black Gold School Division. There better be some cuts to wages in this school division prompted by this school division across the board of the overpaid staff. Everyone else in this province is in the same position with a lower wage. I am very upset with the wages and benefits and expenses of the top paid Superintendents & Secretary/treasurer. That is a slap in the face to these kids when you complain about lack of money Get real.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

We have a very unique opportunity here. You have a school family that cannot be matched in this district. A rural school that has values and a way of life that are far different than any other school in this district. Has qualities you will never get back if its closed. Ever. The oldest school in all of Alberta. That alone should be something to build on. If you cannot recognize what this school is, I truly feel bad for you. Why in the world would this district want this school shut down? Because no one wants to actually know what this school means to this community? Because no one wants to take time to be involved and answer our questions? Because no one wants to vote yes to keeping this school open for fear of what happens when you vote yes for these kids? This school is unequalled if every way. I was talking to a teacher one evening while waiting to talk to my son's teacher on parent teacher interviews. (I understand the teachers have no say in this and that is fine, this conversation took place far before the notice of motion had come up and was in no way meant to put down any other school, was simply stating how good Humble is) They had said they were not excited to come to Humble, thinking it was too small of a school. But after time they came to the conclusion that this is how all schools should be. They kids have lunch as a school. Kindergarten children eating with grade 5&6. They all are friends. No bullying. They all support and help each other. They are raised and taught in a nurturing manner because of this. Looking back they said the kids from larger schools in the district are like they are institutionalized. Not the environment children should be raised. And they had not realized this until they had come to Humble and saw it for themselves.

The biggest thing is we all want to help. What can we do to help this school? Remember who will suffer if this school closes. It's the kids. Longer bus rides. Larger classes. Non split classes. This is a very big concern as all children learn at different paces. This is where the split class shines. Many people don't know this. Many children benefit being surrounded by all stages of learning around them. I actually talked to a principal from a different school division that has 3 grades per class and it is the best thing ever they said. Best learning environment you can ask for. And that is with his own children in that school so that speaks volumes. Its very easy to close this school. Then what? What school is the next smallest school? Then they'll be done as well and so on. Norm Dargis said in the one meeting that the people from rural areas are thinning out. The kids won't be here in numbers like they used to. That is the furthest thing from the truth. We have more subdivisions on the north side of Wizard Lake all the time. More acreages going in all over. Its all cyclical. It'll be lots more children here soon. I know of 10 children within 2 miles of here that will be in school in the next couple years alone. We have very little time to get this straightened out. I don't think anyone comprehends how many people are actually concerned for this school. I was at a meeting recently and there were many people there I never would of expected. People that have children grown up and gone that won't even have family ever go to school here again. Just there because of the community and support they want to provide knowing how good that school is or was to their family. Aunts and Uncles. Grandparents. People with small children not even in school yet. They all want to help but don't even know where to start. You haven't even heard them yet.

[REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Good Evening,

I'd like to ask a few things:

1. I am wondering what the total maintenance costs for NHCS in the past 5 years has been? From 2013-2018, how much money has been put into maintaining NHCS?
2. I've looked over Black Gold's capital plans and correct me if I'm wrong, but NHCS maintenance has not been listed. I interpret this as NHCS maintenance is not a priority within the district. Now, all of a sudden according to the West End Review, the deferred maintenance cost for NHCS is ridiculous and results in the cost per student being higher than average. Is this not a failure on the school division to maintain their own property?
3. What is the breakdown of the deferred maintenance cost for New Humble?
4. How many and what type of positions were cut from within the head office as an attempt to save money?
5. What does it take to get a reply? This is my 4th or 5th email (since January 26) and I have yet to receive a reply on any of them. I have followed your instructions to email all concerns and questions to this email address ATTN: Superintendent Romanchuk and that all emails would be forwarded to all members of the board. In my email on January 30, I asked how many years everyone has been part of the school board for and not one person emailed me. Are emails actually being shared? You have reiterated being transparent, but there is nothing transparent about a perceived refusal to reply to emails.
6. How has BGSD worked with the New Humble community to support and promote NHCS? According to the 10 year review in 2012, recommendation #5 was for the school board to continue to work with the western part of the division. I'm wondering how often and what exactly was done for NHCS?

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

The New Humble Community Group would like to invite the Board of Trustees and Administration at Black Gold School Division to attend one of our weekly meetings.

Tuesday February 25, 2020

7 PM

Telford Hall - 48142 Range Rd 262

We have found that the conversations between meetings and presentations have been the most informative. This meeting would consist of informal open discussion with a small group of community members that have been working on investigating the notice of motion. The intent would be to provide a collaborative environment to discuss the notice of motion to close NHCS, the challenges the Board and Administration are facing and gain perspective as a group working together for a solution.

This type of constructive discussion would be difficult to have in a large setting such as the community engagement night. It would be beneficial for both the Board of Trustees to make an informed vote and for the Community Group to prioritize which alternatives to focus on.

Let me know if you have any questions and please confirm attendance.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Good Morning Bill,

As promised questions regarding the West End Review & Notice of Motion. All of these questions have previously been sent.

Also, for some reason I was under the impression that the West End Review was being completed by an external contractor. I have since been corrected and in fact it was completed internally at BGSD. This is even more perplexing as there should be no reason for such a delay in information sharing when it comes to the West End Review calculations. Where is the data to support your power point presentation?

- Where would I find the Black Gold School Divisions Area Capacity and Utilization sheets? I contacted Alberta Infrastructure and their response was to contact the school division. (Sent January 14) This is not just classroom sizes but capacity and utilization for each school.
- The 2016-2017 cost per student, can this be broken down into Administration costs, HR Added Costs, Facilities totals, for each school in the West End Review report? (Sent January 14)



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

- Where would I find or who would be best to contact regarding the Alberta Infrastructure five year deferred maintenance costs, calculations and historical data? (Sent January 14) As this information is provided to you, can you forward that information. I know it was mentioned that this is not, for example, locker improvement costs but items such as a new furnace. What items exactly were identified to add up to the \$691,288 total. (Sent January 28)
- Where would I find the population data used to determine the New Student Gain/Loss percentage and historical data. I did find the summary in the 10 Year Facility Plan March 2018 but have not been able to find any detailed information. (Sent January 14) Can you provide a detailed explanation on the population data calculations? (Sent January 28)
- What is BGSD going to save if they were to close NHCS? (Sent January 28)
- With either the 2016/2017 cost per student or the last fiscal year cost per student, what would this cost be if we were at full capacity? (Sent January 28)
- What does BGSD consider full capacity for NHCS? There has been inconsistent information. (Sent January 28)
- What is a sustainable cost per student? Is it the mean? Is it specific to each school. (Sent January 28)
- 2016/2017 data, can we get a breakdown of the cost per student by category. Administration, Human Resources, Facility for the following schools, NHCS, New Sarepta Comm High, Thorsby Jr/Sr High, Calmar Secondary, Warburg. (Sent January 28)
- Will the new school in Calmar Secondary reduce the cost per student for future calculations? (Sent January 28)
- With the 2019 information what is the cost per student for all schools similar to what was in the 10 year facility plan. (Sent January 28)
- Fiscal responsibility, what would the administration and board consider a fiscally responsible and viable school? Specifically numbers, amounts, reduced costs, examples of schools. If BGSD is considering closing NHCS there needs to be a target to achieve to keep our school open, long term. (Sent January 28)
- HR added funding was this a BGSD initiative, funded directly from BGSD budget? Was it a provincial initiative? Was there extra funding previously provided by the provincial government? Who makes/made the decision on when the additional certified HR staff is and was added to the school and is it a required position? (Sent January 28)
- How many accountability surveys were received from NHCS parents in the past five years/year? I have not completed these surveys myself, could I receive a copy of this survey? What was the purpose and intention of these surveys? (Sent January 28)

[REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Good Afternoon,

I am wondering how many students have registered for Kindergarten 2020/2021 in Calmar that should be slated for New Humble thus far?

Also, in the West End Review, the 5 year deferred maintenance cost was cited by Alberta Infrastructure as \$691 288.00. I am wondering what the corresponding Facility Condition Index is (this would be a percentage rating).

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Good Evening,

I have a few more questions that I am hoping to get answers for.

1. At last night's meeting, I did express my thoughts to Mr. Dargis, but I do feel as though it should be reiterated how important it is that at the community engagement night on March 11, 2020 all seven trustees who will be voting be there. I feel that it is more than just a common courtesy, it is a responsibility of the elected representative. To quote Black Gold's Qualities of a Successful Trustee, "trustees must be willing to ask the community what it needs and wants from its schools" and an "effective school trustee considers the wishes of all parents, students, and community members" (Black Gold School Division, 2020). It is my opinion that if a trustee is not at the community engagement night to hear the members that will be directly affected by their decision, then they should forfeit the right to vote. I am expressing my opinion, as in the policy, it states that only two trustees are guaranteed.

2. Why the division offered an HR added Teacher FTE to NHCS, when it wasn't requested and then are seemingly "punishing" the school for utilizing it?

NHCS HR Added

16/17 0.542

17/18 0.587

18/19 0.552

19/20 0.100

(as noted in the West End Review)

3. How long have each of the board members been on the board?

Calvin Monty

Robyn Steed

Esther Eckert

Rebecca Eilander

Barb Martinson

Norm Dargis

Bill Romanchuk



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Shawna Oftsie
Devonna Klassen
Sarah O'Gorman
Ruth Andres

4. Are there a certain number of visits the board and trustees are supposed to make to each school within the district within the school year?

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

To Superintendent Bill Romanchuk,

This is a written request to attend and speak at the February 5, 2020 open board meeting. The discussion will focus on the to motion to close New Humble Centre School, Darren Glubish will be the speaker.

Thank you!

Good morning,

My name is [REDACTED], a parent of two students attending elementary school in the BGSD region, and a member of the New Humble Centre Parents Association.

We are looking for ways to support our teachers (and by extension, our students) in innovative ways by providing materials for PAT preparation.

In order to do this, I am requesting the data for past PAT scores throughout the BGSD region to determine how our students compare with others in the BGSD. That will give us a strong foundation to work alongside the teachers and administration. The Parents Association has been working closely with the NHCS staff to find supplementary methods to make education fulfilling and fun for the students.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated, and I look forward to hearing from you in the next few days.

Warm regards,

[REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

To Whom it May Concern,

This is a follow up email with additional information on previous requested data as well as new questions.

Although I do appreciate the direct communication of a phone call, I would prefer if this email and these questions could be answered via email. I understand that this email contains multiple questions that could require detailed answers, unfortunately the timeframe for this motion is short. There are multiple meetings coming up that this information is pertinent to and timely response is necessary. Please indicate if a question can not be answered.

What is BGSD going to save if they were to close NHCS?

With either the 2016/2017 cost per student or the last fiscal year cost per student, what would this cost be if we were at full capacity?

What does BGSD consider full capacity for NHCS? There has been inconsistent information.

What is a sustainable cost per student? Is it the mean? Is it specific to each school.

2016/2017 data, can we get a breakdown of the cost per student by category. Administration, Human Resources, Facility for the following schools, NHCS, New Sarepta Comm High, Thorsby Jr/Sr High, Calmar Secondary, Warburg.

Will the new school in Calmar Secondary reduce the cost per student for future calculations?

With the 2019 information what is the cost per student for all schools similar to what was in the 10 year facility plan.

Fiscal responsibility, what would the administration and board consider a fiscally responsible and viable school? Specifically numbers, amounts, reduced costs, examples of schools. If BGSD is considering closing NHCS there needs to be a target to achieve to keep our school open, long term.

HR added funding was this a BGSD initiative, funded directly from BGSD budget? Was it a provincial initiative? Was there extra funding previously provided by the provincial government? Who makes/made the decision on when the additional certified HR staff is and was added to the school and is it a required position?

How many accountability surveys were received from NHCS parents in the past five years/year?

I have not completed these surveys myself, could I receive a copy of this survey?

What was the purpose and intention of these surveys?

Please continue on to previous questions below.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: January 14, 2020 7:58 PM

To: Carmen Pezderic <carmen.pezderic@gshare.blackgold.ca>

Cc: bgsd@blackgold.ca

Subject: Attention: Superintendent Romanchuk



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Hi Carmen,

I was not certain if the questions I have would need to be sent attention to Superintendent Romanchuk or if I should send them directly to you, as they are related to the motion to close NHCS.

Where would I find the Black Gold School Divisions Area Capacity and Utilization sheets? I contacted Alberta Infrastructure and their response was to contact the school division.

I know I discussed this with Norm, is there a link or spreadsheet that has this information?

The 2016-2017 cost per student, can this be broken down into Administration costs, HR Added Costs, Facilities totals, for each school in the West End Review report?

I know it was mentioned today that this information is being updated. Until the updated information can be provided can you please provide the 2016-2017 data? With examples of what the facilities and HR added costs were for.

Where would I find or who would be best to contact regarding the Alberta Infrastructure five year deferred maintenance costs, calculations and historical data?

As this information is provided to you, can you forward that information. I know it was mentioned that this is not, for example, locker improvement costs but items such as a new furnace. What items exactly were identified to add up to the \$691,288 total.

Lastly, where would I find the population data used to determine the New Student Gain/Loss percentage and historical data. I did find the summary in the 10 Year Facility Plan March 2018 but have not been able to find any detailed information.

Can you provide a detailed explanation on the population data calculations?

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

To Superintendent Bill Romanchuk,

This is a written request to attend and present at the February 5, 2020 open board meeting. The presentation will be in regards to the motion to close New Humble Centre School. The presenters will be Shirley Howald, Jennifer Jakubuv and Megan Olynyk.

Thank you,



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED]. I live approximately [REDACTED] of New Humble Centre School. I live on a farm with my wife [REDACTED] and 2 boys, [REDACTED] & [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is currently enrolled in New Humble in grade 1 and [REDACTED] will be starting kindergarten in the fall of 2020. I, myself went to Humble from grade one to grade 7. I was in grade 6 when the last class of grade 8's went to Calmar as the next class was only 3 students so both grade 7 & 8 went to Calmar.

I am greatly concerned with the idea of closing this little school. In your Notice of Motion it was cited "extraordinarily high cost per student, deferred capital costs, and the overall financial outlook of provincial budget as reasons to begin the school closure process". In the West End Review it states the 5 year deferred maintenance costs as New Humble Centre School with a staggering \$691,288. While Calmar is only \$26,241 and Thorsby is N/A. It is clear these numbers are not actual costs. There is no way this would be normal operation costs. Maybe for an upgrade or renovation but not time after time, so to use this number as a way to calculate costs per student is irresponsible and fooling yourself into believing what you want. I would like to see "actual" costs to prove this as the normal case.

In the Black Gold Regional Division No. 18's 10 Year Facility Plan and Three Year Capital Plan it states "The board may consider moving the program from New Humble to Calmar to enhance the learning experience and to reduce operating costs."

There is no way you will enhance the learning experience going from a class size of what New Humble is now to what Calmar's would be with the addition of New Humbles students. Trust me, I lived it. I went from small class size to a large one when I went to Calmar. When my class went from Humble to Calmar for grade 8 none of us smoked cigarettes or did any drugs. The class we were blended into had a very high percentage of kids involved in this. Is this what you mean by "enhance the learning"? I can see what Humble still offers and can see very well what Calmar does offer by talking to family and friends. It will not be a good thing, so please do not say false things like that. This is also noted in the West End Review in the chart that shows New Humble as the most safe and caring school, which speaks volumes.

The main reason all of this has come about because of an expected shortfall of \$5 million dollars, so naturally the budget has to be trimmed. After looking at the pay that the higher staff receives it is quite simple to say that there can be a significant amount to be saved there.

For the year ending August 31st 2019 the total amount received by superintendents (split 83/17) was \$310,033 plus \$20,740 in expenses and unpaid benefits. This is an astronomical number. This is a significantly overpaid job. I cannot stress this enough. I have worked in the oilfield as a rig manager. Been gone for 6-7 weeks strait. Worked 16-18-and even 20 hour days. All day in -40 weather. High risk jobs and dangerous jobs. Labour intensive work. I was not paid this kind of money. Not close. All of Alberta is in an economic depression. That's why Blackgold is short \$5 million in funding. People all over the province have taken a 30-50% pay cut and many lost their job completely. So for New Humble to be on the chopping block and seeing numbers like this is sickening. This is the time you buckle down and don't lose what you have in assets. Like I said earlier, we live on a farm. You don't cut assets in a time like this. You trim where you can so you still have the assets after the storm. Otherwise you will be in a bind again.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

I expect all members that will be voting on the decision of New Humble School will be there at the Information Nights so they can hear the concerns, not only the parents of children here in Humble School have, but what the entire community is concerned about. Also I expect the Elected Trustees to vote as they were elected to do; vote to represent the people's wishes that had voted them in. There would not be many people in this school division that would vote to close this school if they were presented with ALL the facts, and the behind the scene spending that could be trimmed instead.

As a parent who's children's educational future is at risk I want all 7 trustees and the superintendent to respond to say they have heard and listened to my concerns. You do not have to agree with me, but I would like a response to know my voice was heard.

This school is rich with history. The oldest school in Alberta by 12 years. Supported by the proudest people in the province.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

SCHEDULE 7

School Jurisdiction Code: 2245

SCHEDULE OF REMUNERATION AND MONETARY INCENTIVES for the Year Ended August 31, 2019 (in dollars)

Board Members:	FTE	Remuneration	Benefits	Allowances	Performance Bonuses	ERIP's / Other Paid	Other Accrued Unpaid Benefits (1)	Expenses
Martinson, Barb - Chair	1.00	\$33,085	\$5,090	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,442
Klaassen, Devonna - Vice Chair	1.00	\$28,011	\$4,840	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11,527
Ecker, Esther	1.00	\$26,092	\$6,135	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,659
Ellander, Rebecca	1.00	\$25,977	\$6,128	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,920
Ofstie, Shawna	1.00	\$26,211	\$6,176	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11,752
O'Gorman, Sarah	1.00	\$25,849	\$6,109	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,725
Steed, Robyn	1.00	\$25,275	\$6,084	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,890
-	-	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
-	-	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
-	-	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
-	-	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
-	-	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal	7.00	\$190,500	\$40,562	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$52,915
Romanchuk, William, Superintendent	0.17	\$33,833	\$8,115	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$4,685	\$2,313
Yanitski, Norman, Superintendent	0.83	\$207,288	\$60,797	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$13,742
-	-	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Andres, M. Ruth, Secretary/Treasurer	1.00	\$194,649	\$56,097	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,487	\$15,640
-	-	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
-	-	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Certificated		\$65,437,884	\$13,822,727	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,149	
School based	664.30							
Non-School based	16.60							
Non-certificated		\$21,515,320	\$5,399,484	\$0	\$0	\$7,187	\$73,308	
Instructional	424.40							
Plant Operations & Maintenance	80.20							
Transportation	2.70							
Other	23.20							
TOTALS	1,220.40	\$87,579,474	\$19,387,782	\$1,000	\$0	\$7,187	\$100,629	\$84,610

(1) Other Accrued Unpaid Benefits Include: Accrued Vacation Pay (Superintendent, Secretary Treasurer, Certificated); Accrued Vacation and Overtime Pay (Non-Certificated)

On June 30, 2019, Norman Yanitski retired as Superintendent. William Romanchuk was appointed Superintendent effective July 1, 2019.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Good Morning,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am apart of the New Humble Centre School community and I am writing this email in regards to the closure of our school.

My spouse and I grew up in Thorsby and we knew that we would want our children to attend a small rural school. A small rural school has an incredible impact on your school years and life outside of it. The friends you make in these small schools are friends that you will have forever.

We have have lived in this area for over 6 years and love being apart of the Humble School Community. Our daughter is not quite 4 and has not attended Humble School yet but we are very excited that this school will be where she spends her first half of her school years. We have gone to the playground quite a few times during the summer months and have used the outdoor rink a few times this winter. We recently attended the 120 year celebration and it was awesome to check out the school and feel that comes with a small school and all of its community atmosphere . We really hope that this school stays open for the community and all of its current and future students.

Thank you

Good Morning,

As one of the many concerned parents of a current student of New Humble Centre School and a future student, I have several questions.

As per the Westend Review, the 5 year deferred maintenance costs seem extraordinarily high. I am wondering what the facility cost breakdown for New Humble is?

Also, what is your basis for distribution of funds for schools within the district?

In the student population trends, New Humble is included with Calmar, why is this? Ethically speaking, if you are proposing to close a school due to low enrolment, shouldn't you have that school's trends on it's own, not included with another?

Thank you for your time,
[REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Good evening,

My husband and I have been hearing a lot of news about the potential closure of New Humble Centre school. This news would be a huge detrimental loss to the community and our children's future. My husband grew up by Tomahawk and attended Tomahawk elementary. I grew up by Wizard Lake and attended New Humble for elementary. We chose to settle down and grow our family by Wizard Lake primarily due to New Humble as we believe it was the best option for our children's future. My stepdaughter is 4 and sending her to Calmar for kindergarten is hard enough, but potentially sending her to Calmar for every grade of elementary will not be an option for us. We also have a 9 month old and are expecting again in June and we are looking forward to our 3 children attending New Humble.

Thank you
[REDACTED]

To the Board of Trustees, administration, and Superintendent/ CEO,

As a concerned parent of current and potentially future students at New Humble Centre School, I have some questions regarding the Notice of Motion.

I understand that one of the main concerns regarding the school remaining open or not, is the basic question of whether it is financially prudent. The West End Schools Programming Review shows some statistical information that would suggest that the cost per student is one of the key factors in identifying New Humble as a financial burden, so to speak.

I would like to know if there is a target cost per student that would be grounds for reevaluation.

Further, I am curious if anyone so far involved in the Motion has pursued grant, sponsorship, or other alternate funding sources such as AITC-C, Alberta Agriculture - Elementary Programs, or Alberta Education's agricultural education plans.

New Humble Centre School is vitally important to the community it serves. I feel that by working together, the Board, parents, administration, and students can find a way to make this vibrant school continue to showcase our values and our investment in the future.

My husband and I would like to attend future meetings to which we are allowed. This includes the January 29th meeting, as well as the February 5th and March 4th meetings. If you could please confirm the locations and times of these meetings, that would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time,
[REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Hello,

In the recent Leduc Representative article it states,

"We are setting up two committees, an advisory committee which will include the principals from New Humble School, Calmar [Elementary] School, people from the school council, from the county and a couple of trustees," Superintendent Bill Romanchuk said.

"We'll work through them to find out what information they would need to help the board make a decision on this and then we have a working committee that goes and finds that information."

Can you confirm if the advisory committee has been set up and who is on this committee?

What is your target date to have them determine the information needed?

As well as when the working committee will be set up and who will be on the working committee?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

I am writing this email in response to the motion to close New Humble Centre School. My grandfather, my father, my 3 siblings and I all attended this school. An individually involved countryside school like New Humble not only teaches intelligence but manners as well. My husband [REDACTED] and I are currently building in the area and one of the big moving factors was for our 3 children to attend New Humble. Our oldest will be starting Kindergarten September 2020 and we whole heartedly hope it will be at New Humble School. New Humble is more than just a school it is the heart of the community and many will be devastated to see a school with so much history be shut down.

Thank you for reading our concerns,

[REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Hello,

I want to voice my support for keeping New Humble Center School open. I am an alumni of the school and had always planned on sending my future children there once I moved back to the community. The closure of the school would negatively impact my intent to return.

The specialized education I received that was unique and met the needs of rural students like myself who are quite different from urban students in neighbouring Calmar.

I believe the closure of the school would be short sighted and a monumental loss for the county. The school has survived numerous budget cuts, the great depression, and the classic boom and bust cycle of our economy. To have the school close under this administrations watch would be a failure of the administration and the county to build an attractive place for young families who want their children to receive a good quality education in a culturally appropriate environment for rural students.

The community lost the Conjuring Creek Hall and curling rink several years ago. New Humble School is a anchor for this community and if that is taken away, what's the incentive to live in the area?

There are other ways for the school to receive income, such as space rentals, community events, and specialized programming. Please put your best minds to work on how this school could be saved.

[REDACTED]

New Humble School 2003/ 0'4. [IMAGE REDACTED]

Hi Carmen,

I was not certain if the questions I have would need to be sent attention to Superintendent Romanchuk or if I should send them directly to you, as they are related to the motion to close NHCS.

Where would I find the Black Gold School Divisions Area Capacity and Utilization sheets? I contacted Alberta Infrastructure and their response was to contact the school division.

The 2016-2017 cost per student, can this be broken down into Administration costs, HR Added Costs, Facilities totals, for each school in the West End Review report?

Where would I find or who would be best to contact regarding the Alberta Infrastructure five year deferred maintenance costs, calculations and historical data?

Lastly, where would I find the population data used to determine the New Student Gain/Loss percentage and historical data. I did find the summary in the 10 Year Facility Plan March 2018 but have not been able to find any detailed information.

Thanks, [REDACTED]



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Attention Superintendent Romanchuk

Can you please clarify if the following applies to the Open Board Meeting on April 22, 2020 "As per *Board Policy 7 (9) - Board Operations* members of the public may attend an open Board meeting as an approved delegation and be given an opportunity to make a presentation or ask questions of the Board with respect to the subject of the delegation. A written request for a meeting must be received by the Superintendent seven (7) days in advance of the scheduled Board meeting."

Good afternoon Bill,

It is my understanding that Black Gold school division has decided that closing the school is the fiscally responsible direction to go.

I didn't realize nor understand children have to sacrifice for our current fiscal situation within Alberta.

I challenge you to think of alternative' s then eliminating the future of our Children.

I do realize that New Humble has a small population, however, the surrounding areas have a high school population and as a result this is adding more stress to those schools.

Furthermore, children deserve the care and attention to succeed and this decision makes a statement that " my child does not matter".

I look forward to hearing from you,

Regards,



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Appendix 6.2: Comments Directed to Superintendent Romanchuk - January 8 - April 1, 2020

I am not sure how you are planning to proceed with the next meeting. Can you please add Bill Orlick to the list of delegates? Also can you please let us know how we are supposed to present?

We received this email and I wanted to share it with you all.

Dear New Humble Centre School Community

I wanted to write this letter of support to your community as you navigate the possibility of a school closure during this difficult time. The possibility that your students have left New Humble Centre School for the last time as students is very real and I am sure that you may feel discouraged by this. On the other hand, I want you to know that hope for your school is also still possible.

My vice-principal recently spoke with one of your superintendents and strongly encouraged him to consider the viability of an agriculture option at your school. I know that our superintendent also had a similar conversation. Altario School is also a small school, but we have been able to thrive because we have the community support, the support of our board of trustees, and the support of central office staff. Right now, this province is showcasing that education can be done differently and the possibilities for rural education are endless.

I want to let you know that if you are able to convince your board of trustees that the agriculture component that you as a community are willing to build at your school for your students and the rest of the division is a viable reason to keep your school open, you have my complete support. I will always be ready to answer questions, share information, and give guidance. Our students deserve our small schools, our divisions need to invest in our small schools, and with the new funding formula announced by the province our divisions are being encouraged to do just that.

Stay strong!

Can we please add another delegation to the next Board Meeting, there are a few students that would like to come and speak. I will confirm names and if they require any audio visual equipment.

Let me know if you require any additional information.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Good Morning Devonna,

I just want to clarify the purpose of this video was not for the board. It was for our kids and for the rest of blackgold school division parents. We wanted to showcase and capture our school during a positive time. The Incomplete West End Review painted our school in a bad light.

I understand the need to support administration.

I am disappointed that a video would be supported if the school was closed.

Good Morning Devonna,

[REDACTED] let me know this morning that the school video request has been denied. According to my conversation with [REDACTED], Calvin Monty had explained that the reason we can not complete the video is that it would be disruptive to learning as well as students that cannot be in the video would have to explain to their friends why.

I am going to keep this simple because unfortunately I don't have a lot of time this morning to mince words. These two explanations are weak. First, there are all sorts of events at schools that can be disruptive to learning. Also the videographer does not want a video with students noticing her, it is her skill and intent to record the children naturally. Secondly, students often come across moments where they may have to explain why they cant be a part of something. With our small school it will be easy and manageable to maintain discretion while excluding those students from the video. If they did have to answer questions to why they are not in the video it is up to the parents to explain that to their child. (Much like Christmas and Jehovah Witnesses)

Another point that was made was that if we did this all schools could want to record a video at their school. Why not? These are not giant hurdles to jump what a better way to showcase the strengths of BGSD and put some parameters around the process. Similar videos were created with photos in 2016.

The last and most upsetting point was the statement that if our school does close BGSD administration would allow us to create a video. I don't think I should need to go into why this statement is upsetting. The statement should explain itself.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

If Rebecca Eilander was available I would have emailed this to her first but as she is not available I have emailed it to you as the board chair.

4.3 The date and time of the public meeting referred to in clause 4.2.1. shall be:

4.3.1 Posted in five (5) or more conspicuous places in the area or areas of the school or schools affected by the closure, for a period of at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the public meeting; and

4.3.2 Advertised in a newspaper circulating within the area of areas of the school or schools affected by the proposed closure, on at least two (2) occasions as close to as is practicable to the date of the meeting.

Hi Devonna,

Our MLA Mark Smith was in attendance of our school council/PTA meeting this evening. After some discussion and from his advice I am emailing to follow up to our presentation and conversation yesterday. I had hoped to hear from you earlier today. The above section of Policy 15 – School Closure was not followed. Our community group needs to know promptly what BGSD Board of Trustees and Administration's next steps will be, so we can take our next steps.

I am asking if we can record our presentation with someone's phone, if that means keeping just on us in the recording that's fine, but its be better if it didn't matter who was in the video. I mostly just want to capture what we have spoken to in case we miss any important aspects and can follow up with the board and administration after. With that said though we may share the video publicly if it would work to inform people of our alternatives.

Hope that makes sense.

Actually that is a great suggestion, I will ask the group about that at our next meeting.

I am sure we will want to record some of our future presentations. Honestly I probably wouldn't have thought twice about recording a presentation with my phone if I had not read the board policy that states you need to ask for approval prior. I understand the short notice for this weeks meeting but maybe it can be addressed for future meetings and presentations.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Good Morning,

Last night I had a conversation and received an email from [REDACTED] in regards to the questions I have been asking. This morning I am still frustrated with the response and explanations. And the suggestion to wait to ask more questions until after the advisory committee meeting next week. As said previously we do not have the novelty of time.

I wanted to share with the Board of Trustees and the BGSD Administration and media a letter I had wrote prior to our presentation at the last board meeting. This letter was not previously shared with the Board or Administration.

There has been very little change since I wrote this letter.

Hopefully the meetings over the next two weeks will change the frustration and current tone.

Hi my name is [REDACTED], some of you may have heard my name by now. I seem to be getting some credit for being a squeaky wheel. I just wanted to clear that up, I may be the current squeaky wheel but I am actually more the gather of thoughts, opinions and information. As much as I would like to take credit for all of the insight and questions being asked, they are not mine. There is a strong and consistent community behind New Humble Community School and you need to be made aware that there is more then the handful of faces you keep seeing over and over. I am going to get to the point, today I am here to ask you to dismiss this notice of motion. The simple explanation is that by loosing NHCS, BGSD would be taking a step back in their goal to be the best school division in the province. Everyone here knows that NHCS is a special place, there is a tight knit community with a strong rural and humble culture. From this environment we have had many success stories, too many to run through in fifteen minutes. The thing that has stuck with me is the silence in its strength. We have silently went about our lives, growing and nurturing our community our teachers our friends. You may have heard, "it is hard to explain", "there is just something different", "it is a special place". No one can seem to put their finger on it. To me that is our greatest strength. You don't have to know why, it is just there. It is the silence of the big kids playing with the little kids on the playground. It is the silence of the farm kids glowing over the calves that were born the night before. It is the kids who ride the bus to read with their friends that only have a five minute ride while they have another forty after. I understand that the administration and board of trustees have are facing challenges with fiscal responsibility. Do they not have a responsibility to the NHCS, to the community, to the rural culture, to the silent strength of NHCS? The board of trustees have a responsibility to do what is in the best interest of the division. Until NHCS is no longer a part of the division, do we not count? What is in the best interest of the division, is the amount that BGSD will save in one year or maybe over five years worth what it will do to this community to the next generation of children. You may say, in a different school there will be more opportunity, there will still be rural children. It is not the same, they get lost, they get influenced, the silent moments and silent attributes of NH school will not be in a larger school. Yes some of the current students will carry these attributes into their new school, but what about the students to come, they will not. If the board is to be making decisions in the best interest of BGSD, then NHCS and any rural school will have no place, especially if fiscal responsibility seems to be coming in second to safety.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

It has been made evident to anyone that had reviewed the latest version of the West End Report that rural schools are expensive, that rural schools are old, that rural schools are a burden. Guess what these kids understand that living rural is not easy.

Many of them understand what their parents do to keep the farm, the family business or even to just live outside of the city. This is the choice of the parents and most do this for a specific lifestyle and upbringing for their children. This is the first year in a long time that BGSD has faced a financial challenge, especially of this magnitude and your first option is to “sell the farm and move the kids to town”. Now let’s start talking about numbers, data, rural decline, urban growth, budget cuts. NHCS community has been given no opportunity to help mitigate these challenges. Our school and other rural schools have been thrown into a study and report that appears to be very damning. Prior to a notice of motion to close our school there was no consultation on how we can make it more viable, there was no working committee to brainstorm ideas to preserve this school and culture. There was a targeted report to look at very specific information that also left out very specific details. And here we are now, weeks after the motion was made, our school/community does have an opportunity to make suggestions and recommendations to the board but there is no working together to find a solution. As said that is not a part of the mandate. The administration has emphasized their desire to be transparent, yet we can not get a question on data and numbers answered. The excuse or explanation of we are looking at more recent data and do not want to provide in accurate data is not acceptable. We understand that you may be looking into 2019 data, you may be consulting additional key players, which is great. But lets get this clear, we did not put this notice of motion forward, we were not consulted previously on what we could do to help BGSD, we are not being helped by administration or BGSD on possible solutions. We are being given an opportunity to present our own possible solutions as well as inform the board of our schools value. How are we supposed to present possible solutions if we can not get any data, we can not get any specifics. This motion was made base off of data for the West End Review Report, if you were not prepared to answer questions to this data, you should have not made it public and definitely should not have made a motion to close our school based off this data. We want to work with our school board, with our trustees and administration to save our school, to save our culture and to make our school more viable. We can not do that without your cooperation. Ultimately we would like to be able to help BGSD towards their goal of being the best school division in Alberta, not because it can balance its books, not because it can make decisions quickly, but because it can produce the best quality education for the most efficient use of funds, with the strongest community base throughout the division. Instead of the trustees having to say “we even had to close a school to make this budget work” we hope they can say “ we used the example of a small school and a strong community to keep strong to our focus on the children and the future of BGSD”

I have read through your email. I mentioned last night at the Boundary Review Meeting that we do need specific numbers and breakdowns. I wanted to follow up on a few items while I had a chance.

Your statement “There are several variables that factor into the viability of a school. Some of these factors include, but are not limited to, enrollment trends, transportation considerations, funding, proximity to other schools and maintenance and operational costs.” I just wanted to mention this because I think it is important, not necessarily a questions.



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

Rural schools all face challenges in the factors you have mentioned. At BGSD if these factors are what influence a rural schools future, there is no place for rural schools in our school division.

HR Added – I know we tried to have a quick discussion about this last night. HR Added, from my understanding, was a BGSD initiative to provide equity in schools that do not receive adequate funding due to low enrollment/funding. This additional cost and benefit is added to our cost per student. Although it has been beneficial to our school and students. I am sure that I can speak for many when I say we would have refused or declined the additional staffing and help. As a community if we knew it would put our school in jeopardy or be used against the school in a cost per student notice of motion situation.

I understand the sensitive information with the utilization reports. We would like to verify the West End Review report and compare to other schools and divisions. Please provide all BGSD utilization and capacity, not just the class sizes we can find online, we don't require specifics but whatever information can be made public.

Cost per student, thank you for the clarification on how it is calculated. We still require a breakdown of the cost per student. How much of that total is Maintenance and Operations, Administration and HR Added. This is very important in our work to find alternatives to closure.

Five year deferred maintenance costs, we want to see a breakdown of these costs.

The population data in the West End Review, although you have provided an explanation on how this is calculated and added the caveat that the accuracy can vary due to multiple factors. How were these percentages derived, the West End Review population statistics and forecasting are NOT consistent with the population data at the Boundary Review Meeting last night.

Your statement, "...the cost per student still remains the highest in the division." There will always be a highest cost per student in the division. What the public needs to know is what is an acceptable cost per student understanding that we have both urban and rural students.

Your statement, "...the ability to secure funding for ongoing maintenance of the school". Can you elaborate on this? What challenges does BGSD face securing funding for ongoing maintenance at New Humble Centre School?

These are just a few of the items I wanted to follow up on.

I will also be sending an email over the weekend in regards to our weekly community meetings. We would like to invite the Board of Trustees to attend one of our meetings. The format would be very informal, much as our conversations between meetings and presentations have been. We would like to work together to gain perspective and regain trust and confidence in our Board of Trustees and the administration processes. I will send additional information on logistics. Please note that this would be a collaborative environment with the smaller community group that has been working and researching the notice of motion.

Let me know if you have any questions



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Good Afternoon Superintendent Romanchuk,

In response to your question, no there is no single point of contact for someone to speak for the entire community. The various questions and emails coming in are from individual members of the community who are doing as instructed by [REDACTED]. However, if you are experiencing an overwhelming amount of questions, perhaps this is something we could look into and discuss.

As far as your conspiracy comment goes, I am not sure where that idea came from but I can assure you I have better things to do with my time then being a conspiracy theory lunatic.

t's meeting at Telford Hall. I look forward to the opportunity to meet you in person and participate in productive
I understand you will be attending tomorrow night and respectful engagement.

Good Morning,

Thank you for your response. It was good to hear from you.

First of all I would like to say that I'm sorry for coming across confrontational as I did not want to come across like that. I am not a good writer and can't put pen to paper well for a lack of better words.

I am aware of the board meeting where there was 3 parents there to represent us by asking questions. At that time I felt that was enough people to ask questions so that is why I did not show up. Only after they did not got answers I started asking again. To be perfectly honest the questions I have about costs(and many other people have also) I thought you would already have the answers ready. The west end review has a very specific number of \$691,288.00. That number came from somewhere is all I'm saying. Just want to wrap our heads around why Humble is so high and Calmar and Thorsby are so low. (I know they are newer schools), but shouldn't be that big of a difference in costs. Also with the news of this motion everyone knew we would be asking questions. I would of thought some questions would have answers ready so we could move ahead in a different fashion that we have so far.

I do understand you want to provide factual information. And that is what we would like too. Again, lots of these questions should of had answers to give back right away, or had a motion to investigate first rather than motion of closure. I know I'm rambling, but like I said I'm not a good writer.

I'm looking forward to meeting you at the upcoming meeting here this week.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Good morning,

I am reaching out today to first of all acknowledge the changes that Covid-19 has brought to BGSD and to commend you all on the job you are doing to react to the daily changes and regardless of that, are getting programming out to the students. That's a huge team effort to all involved. This obviously is changing lives of families and students at home. For myself, I've gained 3 foremen at our farm :) . Having said all that though this motion of closure is still weighing on everyone's minds too. We as a group are wondering if this motion will be put aside for now so that your focus as well as ours can be put on our families, ours kids, and everyone's health and safety at this time. I understand your focus right now is the programming for the students but a response to my email would be appreciated as soon as possible.

Thanks

We wish to share our view relating to the potential closure of the New Humble School. We attended the open house meeting where this issue was discussed. By way of introduction, we farm in the Calmar, Buford and Thorsby areas and hence contribute to support of all schools in the Black Gold Division by way of municipal taxation. I was surprised that after the meeting we were approached by several Humble parents questioning why we were in attendance as we did not have any children or grandchildren attending Humble. Obviously this person had no idea of how Black Gold is funded. It is my understanding that although the County collects the money from the education foundation requisition, this money is then forwarded to Edmonton which then is forwarded to all school divisions based on priorities, needs etc. At least that is my understanding of how the system works.

Our family places a strong value on education. I [REDACTED] attended Calmar School for my elementary and high school education and then obtained my Bachelors degree Agriculture, Rose grew up in Edmonton and also has her BScAg. Both our sons attended NAIT and followed apprenticeship careers. We certainly value receiving quality educational opportunities.

I was disappointed with how the meeting evolved. The chairman of the meeting presented an agenda which seemed to be quite reasonable but he allowed some very vocal attendees to derail the format presented in the agenda. It seemed the objective of some was to hear themselves. Yes I agree there always should be flexibility to allow some extra time for questions and points of view to be expressed but not at the expense of other agenda items. I did have an opportunity to talk with staff at the maintenance break-out session. I was surprised to learn that the presence of asbestos really limits the opportunity for upgrades to windows, heating systems etc. Should the school close it was suggested the building could be sold for another use. I doubt the list of potential buyers would be great as everyone seems to be running away from any facilities where building materials containing asbestos were used. Suffice to say is the longer these issues are delayed the more costly they will become.

Another suggestion to make the school more viable was to bring in new programs. One suggestion was agriculture training in the hope that this would attract new students. If New Humble parents cannot accept an extra fifteen minutes on the bus to Calmar, why would they think that students from schools further away would want to add to their driving distance in the wintertime? Program sustainability would also be a problem due to issues of biosecurity, farmer liability and limited outside funding.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

This type of training is currently available through the Green Certificate Program. It was also suggested that solar panels be installed on or adjacent to the school. It was not clear whether this would be a means to reduce utility costs or a continuing education initiative. I do not see these ideas as improving the viability of the school. Any new initiatives always come with a budgetary request. As I understand it, the problem Black Gold is having does not relate to programming, it relates to the cost of existing programming.

In summary, politics has always played a role in the history of Humble School and it appears nothing has changed. I wish you and the Board thoughtful and productive deliberations. I hope that you and the Board approach this matter from the perspective of doing whatever is best for the entire Division.

Sincerely,

Good Afternoon Devonna and Bill,

Our community has been informed that regardless of the unprecedented health situation facing Alberta, Canada, and the world the school board is choosing to continue with the motion to close New Humble school. I have to say that this is not only devastating to hear but I also question the board's ethics. In such a life altering time, how can you continue with such measures? How can you adhere to ethical guidelines when the county building is closed to the public, society is supposed to be practicing social distancing, and school's are closed for the foreseeable future?

At the meeting on March 11, the school board had yet to speak directly to the teachers and/ or the students (who will be directly affected and whose opinions should be the most heavily weighted). How will the board contact the students and ask their thoughts on the potential closure? As you have stated previously, when asked to withdraw the motion, that you would not be doing your due diligence if you didn't go through with the rest of the process. However, with the release of the new funding framework, the savings for closing NHCS are minimal; the solutions proposed by the community are innovative and have potential for generating income; and the COVID-19 situation has left us all reeling and struggling to come to terms with our new normal. I do not believe that you can do your proper due diligence and obtain qualitative data from students and teachers in the unprecedented situation we are currently facing. If you move forward with the motion to close process, you would be subjecting students to another emotionally charged situation with the potential of them never being able to say goodbye to their pupils and teachers. You would also be essentially denying the community further involvement in the transparent process and the opportunity to present to the board.

It is my suggestion (and I am sure I am not alone) is to postpone the vote until public gatherings are deemed safe by Alberta health. This at least allows the community and parents the opportunity to be involved in the process. I feel that this is the only way to ensure transparency of the board without the board seemingly taking advantage of the pandemic situation.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Good afternoon Devonna,

I am responding to your email from Friday. I will just get to the point of this email and then I will explain. I do not support your decision to move forward with this motion at this time and in fact I think it is a terrible one. With the safety and health concerns of Covid 19, this motion is the last thing this school division should be concerned about. There are so many obstacles in the way now aside from a health and safety that it is not fair or reasonable to continue. The county building is closed to the public. How do we attend the next 2 meetings to continue presenting our ideas with our programming and respond to your administration's results? How do ALL members in our community continue to participate in this procedure when not all are as technologically advanced at home to participate in any on line meetings? How does the administration consult with Altario school and go and tour their school as they told me they would? We have not received one email yet with any questions regarding our new programming. So there you have the obvious obstacles and now I will speak to the rest. Everyone's lives are so upside down right now with this pandemic that having this motion still proceeding is one thing we don't need right now. People are trying to social distance, trying to manage their farms, businesses and income. They are trying get their children accustomed to these current circumstances and teaching them school now. People in general have a lot of new concerns and fears on their minds. I'll say it again, this motion is the last thing we need right now..... The fact that the provincial government in their latest budget has provided funding for specifically for New Humble school, this makes your decision hard to understand at this time. There is not a lot of savings to be had. These are not business as usual times. Besides with this pandemic at hand, money should not be a priority right now. The fact that if you end up closing this school at this time, the students and community have already walked through their school doors for the last time already. Very inconsiderate in my opinion. Please out of respect for everyone involved, reconsider your decision to move forward with this motion.

Thanks,

Good Morning Calvin,

As you are aware we are going to do a video about our school New Humble Centre. The purpose of the video is to document the heart and character of our school and the people that are within it. The video is intended as a wonderful keepsake for everyone involved with our NHCS. It will be shared on social media and other platforms. This video will not be disruptive to productive learning, when it is taken.

We are aware of the privacy and safety hoops that need to be gone through in order to create such a video.

In order to fulfill the privacy and safety obligations we will:

1. Be utilizing a local, professional videographer. She is not a stranger to us. In fact she has a child that will attend NHCS next year- should the school remain open
2. Our videographer will provide a criminal record check



New Humble Centre School **RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

3. We will have FOIPP forms signed and a notice sent out to all of the parents prior to the video being taken. If there are any students who are not permitted to be in the video, they will wear a sticker on their shirt and will not be in the video.

Please provide any additional comments and your approval for us to move ahead with the video.

Trusting this meets your satisfaction.

Good morning,

Thank you for your response [REDACTED]. I have some further questions based on what you have replied.

Firstly, could we please have someone define the catchment area for New Humble.

Second, could you please confirm that no decision will be made until all information, including community response, has been provided to and debated by the board on April 22.

Third, could you confirm that the Final Report on Impact of Schools on Rural Communities Study has been consulted as part of the above, and its results weighed by each voting board member.

Finally, does Alberta Education have regulations or standards in place regarding corporate or private sector sponsorship of schools - as a last resort.

Thank you again for your time,

Thank you for your fast response. I understand that due to the GOA eliminating grants, that all school divisions are facing a huge budget shortfall and as a result of this, the bottom dollar affects the children ultimately. I know that BGSD does not want to make this choice and it affects everyone involved.

I would challenge you to rethink that this closure if it does go through, will not deprive our children of education. The small class sizes that New Humble offer allow children to flourish and get that extra attention that some need.



New Humble Centre School RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Appendix 7: Impact Statement - Leduc County



Office of the County Manager

March 11, 2020

Board Chair Devonna Klaassen
Black Gold School Division
3rd Floor, 1101 0-5 Street
Nisku, AB T9E 7N3

Dear Chair Klaassen and Board:

New Humble Centre School

Your February 25, 2020 letter was presented to Leduc County Council, at their March 10, 2020 regular meeting.

Leduc County council resolved to acknowledge the following with respect to the New Humble Centre School:

- the "Notice of Motion" to close the New Humble Centre School made at the January 8, 2020 Board meeting of the Black Gold School Division;
- the February 25, 2020 letter from Bill Romanchuk, Superintendent/CEO, providing Leduc County the opportunity to provide a statement to the Board; and
- the presentation by the New Humble Community Group at the February 25, 2020 county council meeting where the group emphasized their concern of the closure of the rural school

Yours truly,


Duane Coleman, CLGM
County Manager

Leduc County Centre • Suite 101 • 1101-5th Street • Nisku, AB • T9E 2X3 phone 780-955-3555 • toll-free 1-800-379-9052 • fax 780-955-3444

www.leduc-county.com