FACILITY REQUIREMENTS AND SCHOOL CLOSURES

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As may from time to time be required by the Board, the Director shall conduct a review of elementary and high school facility requirements in such areas of the city specified by the Board. This Plan shall provide options with respect to possible attendance area consolidation and school closure for the efficient accommodation of students and the provision of quality education in the short and long term.

Specifically,

- 1. The Director shall prepare the Plan analyzing the current and projected elementary and high school facility requirements of the school system based on the criteria set out below. For the purpose of this review, elementary school attendance areas shall be grouped into larger planning areas in order that trends and requirements may be more easily identified. High school attendance areas may be grouped into larger planning areas in order that trends and requirements may be more easily identified. The review shall include, where appropriate, possible options with respect to the number of schools and program offerings in each planning area.
 - 1.1. The criteria used in developing the facility options shall include:
 - 1.2. The quality of education;
 - 1.3. The demographic trends in each planning area, including school and preschool population trends and projections:
 - 1.4. The number of students enrolled at each school who reside outside the attendance area and/or the planning area;
 - 1.5. The number of classrooms and schools required to efficiently accommodate the students in the planning area;
 - 1.6. Fixed facility costs such as utility and maintenance costs;
 - 1.7. The number and type of rooms available at all the schools in the planning area;
 - 1.8. Per student costs such as the salary and allowances of teaching staff, in-school administration and support staff;
 - 1.9. Current and potential facility utilization;
 - 1.10. Requirements for space to accommodate transported students;
 - 1.11. Renewal projects, if any, in the planning area;
 - 1.12. Condition of the facilities in the planning area, including the cost of future renovations, if required;
 - 1.13. The location of all the schools in the planning area;
 - 1.14. Distances students would have to travel; and
 - 1.15. Possible student transportation implications and costs.

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2. The Plan shall be presented to the Board in September. Any options identified in the review shall be communicated to the public no later than the end of September.

- 3. In planning areas where options have been identified which, if adopted by the Board, would result in the closure of one or more schools, the staff and the School Community Council shall, by the end of September, be notified of the possible implications of the review. The School Community Council, parent/guardian committees, community groups, the Regina Public School Teachers' Association and other interested parties shall be afforded opportunity for consultation with the Board prior to the end of December.
- 4. Upon conclusion of the consultation process, the Board shall, no later than January 15, make its decisions with respect to any consolidation of attendance areas and school closures.
- 5. Should the Board resolve that consolidation of attendance areas and closure of one or more schools is to take place, the Director shall:
 - 5.1. Implement procedures for publicizing the Board's decisions and making information available to parties who would be directly affected by the closure(s);
 - 5.2. Prepare plans for the disposition of equipment and materials located in schools cited for closure;
 - 5.3. Identify options for Board consideration with respect to the disposition of the buildings and grounds occupied by schools cited for closure; and
 - 5.4. Notify the appropriate officials of the City of Regina.
- 6. Notwithstanding the process described above, a school may also be closed if:
 - 6.1. A petition is received from parents/guardians representing a majority of the students enrolled in the school, requesting that its attendance area be combined with that of a nearby school or schools; or
 - 6.2. Its enrolment declines to the point that continued operation would not be feasible as a result of requests from parents/guardians that students be transferred to other schools; or
 - 6.3. an unexpected decline in enrolment makes its continued operation impractical.

Legal Reference: Sections 85, 87, 109, 347 The Education Act, 1995