

## **Appendix B:**

### **Write-in Responses on Survey Questionnaires**

#### **Online Comments**

The following pages contain all comments submitted via the online questionnaire. Respondents were encouraged to write as much as they wanted. Individual responses are separated by a blank line. Responses are provided verbatim and without cleaning or spell-checking.

#### **Q5. Are there any important changes that would make the plan better?**

Closing a school like Balfour (which is falling apart) rather than closing a perfectly good school. More students would then attend Robert Usher!

Upon hearing the news that Robert Usher was on the verge closing I felt my heart drop. I came here this year and feel like I've found a second home. I look forward to going to school each day. There are many benefits to having a smaller school. Some of them are: you get to know more people, you become friends with almost everyone, you get to know your way around very quickly and because of the smaller class size the teachers can spend more time with us if we need it, which in turn improves our grades. Also, we don't just get to know the students but we get to know the teachers as people not just teachers. We have a great academic program, winning teams, an amazing choir, supportive parents and community and great leaders. I think that this all stems from the closeness that we share here at Usher. I'm pretty sure that I speak for a large percentage of the school when I say that I would be devastated if my second home was to close. I'm a proud Usher Unicorn. Stand up and cheer for Black and Red We're number one, we are always ahead We fight with pride, hold our banners on high And we never, never, never say die! We're brave and bold So you better stand clear Cause our school knows no fear! Though sometimes we may be down We'll come back to win the crown Robert Usher is the sound!

I believe that closing Robert Usher Collegiate would be a big mistake. With Kensington Greens under construction, there will be great potential for students wanting a highschool within the vicinity.

not to close Usher... its an awesome school and has so much to offer

Keep Robert Usher Colligate open and bring another school in that is run down, and give them free bus passes to get to the school

Stop being greedy and thinking only about money, children are priceless.

Keep Robert Usher open. Its such a beautiful school

If the students were able to get tours and information about other schools, and what they can provide for us. As a student at Robert Usher I think that it's good and bad.

Usher is more than just a school. It is a home for all of us. It is more than a learning facility, it is where we come to get away from the things we have going on outside of school. Would you take a child away from their mother just because she only has 2 children instead of 3? No, so why would you take us away from our families, even though we're small?

I think you could speed up looking at relieving the pressure on Janzen by allowing the kids who live in Lakeridge the opportunity to be bused to MacNeill instead. There was strong support of this suggestion the last time as it allowed those that wanted to stay going to Janzen the option while opening the option up for those who wanted to go to MacNeill. This seemed like a win-win for everyone.

The School Board needs to look at alternatives to school closures in particular the northern part of the city and the effect on the student population. The other alternative is to have both school divisions (public and separate) determine the sustainability of present system and discuss amalgamation to one system.

a) Property Taxes will increase b) I want more French classes for my child, but because we can't attend Fr. Immersion I don't see any positive impact of this Reform... c) Expenses will be much bigger than 6 mill.....c

You have taken the smaller more specialized school, Robert Usher and offered closure, this does nothing to enhance or bolster your 10 year education plan. Usher already has improved facilities, (yet you plan to leave Balfour open for the duration until the new high school is built) We have focus on all the programs that are needed for our students. Usher students because of the smaller environment excel at both athletics and academically but receive little recognition as such. I feel the Public School Board should have bolstered the enrollment since 2005, we are not idiots we know in the long term they are still trying to use Usher as a super elementary after closure of McDermid and Imperial, the backlash from this will be phenomenal. I feel more complex study should be done, closing a public facility as Usher in this area is inconceivably stupid.

The city should plan some kind of compensations to those households involved, for example, property tax deduction, enhanced transportation, afterschool care etc

The closing of high school in the is a large facility in a great location, Robert Usher is unacceptable. I moved to uplands for the exact reason of having both elementary and high schools readily accessible and within walking distance. I have three children that in the next 5 years will be starting high school and now have to travel back to the area that we moved from to attend school, or go to a school that is so old when I went to school 15 years ago it was falling apart. You need better options, closing schools and creating excess hardship on families is not a viable option in my opinion. Stop focusing on how

mush money you will save and start thinking about our childrens right to have access to quality education, after all that is your job isn't it?

Take into consideration the effect of taking students out of their community to go to school. They feel lost and not at home anymore. I am the parent of an Usher student and from what I see of the enrollment predictions for next year, both Knoll and Thom do not have room for the extra students. I don't feel that our kids best interest has been put first. Why not close a school that need significant repairs? Usher's building is in good shape as far as I know. The savings from closing Usher is too minimal to warrant it's closure. One other thing, why does the provincial government and our city representatives keep telling us that our population is going up, yet by your estimates we are in a decline. Who do we believe? Is it just what suits your cause? Has the new development in Uplands which will contain between 500 and 600 homes been included in your predictions?

I think it would be alright if elementarys got closed down because the numbers of students are going down in them so they should fit all the kids in regina going to elementary school if they merge. but dont close high schools thats pretty ridiculous if you ask me. how would you feel if it was the high school you went to when you were younger? how would you feel if you had many memories in that school, and if you wanted your kids to attend that school? I dont even go to usher and i think this is so ridiculous. you guys can think of other ideas and i know that you guys can afford to build a different school for these kids. why not close down a few elementaries and use the money to make a couple super elementary schools? sounds accurate to me.

Why remove english students from an french school - we encourage bilingualism ... in our province - it becomes a form of segregation - keeping the french and english apart - makes no sense - how do we instill the value of equality for all when we do something like this and make a separation. If parents want the separation then they have the opportunity to send their kids to Laval. It really doesn't show to the english children that they are valued or that it is okay to "play" with children who have chosen to take their education in french

maintain English program at Wilfred Walker. Maintain existing programs at schools that are to remain open.

In your plan you suggest on closing Wilfred Walker English programs for kids. I don't see how this will benefit the children or families in the surrounding areas who have moved into that area because of the school. I know there are costs involved, but are you prepared to buss all the English kids in that area to a school of their choice just like the kids who are in the French programs get. If the school board is truly worried about the drop of enrolment at Wilfred Walker, they should look at the Administration of that school and how it has been run. One male figure for the whole school and now it does not even have him. It is always the kids who are at fault and the teachers do not take responsibility for anything. If this does not change regardless of an English or French program people will continue to pull their kids out.

the current plan to start closing schools poses the problem of increased class sizes. Increased class sizes often leads to weaker

students getting lost in the shuffle. At the elementary levels, it is important to the students that the teachers all know who they are and have the time to stop and talk to them or work with them. With larger schools and classes, this will get lost. Bigger is not always better and will not benefit our children.

go screw yourselves you heartless batards

Usher shouldn't close!!

who is going to pay to bus my child to another school....not me... I purchased my house close to the school so my child could walk.

There is not enough emphasis to the outcome of school buildings. Perhaps if real indications of property value through resale / development were shown, the final recuperation of losses would not seem so bad. (E.g. property value for division and sale of land that would go to the city and / or realty development industries, which in turn helps the economy of our city and businesses). Setting up a 10-year plan should include an alternate plan in the event that one or two school do not close.

I have concerns about the open high school boundaries. I feel it may make program planning very difficult. I also feel that the possible plans for a new high school in the S.E. may come to late. After approx. ten years the population in that area will be more mature and it may no longer be feasible. We needed one in there 10 years ago.

the rpsb. has for a long time put a school on 'every street corner' now is the time to cut back to a sensible number of facilities. the number of students appears to yearly become lower and the cost of facilities increases. hopefull that it works out well for you. and the rest of us too.

keep the classroom enrollments at a maximum of 20 per class

It is interesting to think about the open border policy for high schools. I have, a a temporary teacher, been in grade 8 classrooms where several high schools take our teaching time to make the "pitch" for their school. There is a lot of "marketing" already. Will it increase even more with this policy? I'm not sure the marketing of high schools is done very effectively right now. Hmmm. What will happen?

class size

-keep class enrollments reasonable i.e 20/class

Keep classroom numbers under 25.

Not to put the high school in the south east

I think this plan needs to consider the other factors that revolve around the very things that they say they are teaching our children. There is no consideration of what this will do to to the communities surrounding the schools that are slated for closing, absolutly no consideration for the health, safety and welfare of the children

affected by these changes, and (if we are only going by the numbers of students in the schools) the treatment we are showing these kids that there are only numbers. Where did the core values that the board is putting on all their stuff to do with respect, responsibility, I belong and I want to learn. It appears to me after sitting in on the farce you are calling a feedback session, that these are a glowing example of "do as I say, not as I do"

I am concerned about the possible closure of Martin Collegiate and the impact that it will have on the community.

I think that the schools that they will likely close should have been listed along with a rationale. For example, it just says that Walker or Rosemont will close. They should say: "Likely, the choice would be to close would be School X because it needs this many \$ in repairs where School Y is in excellent repair." This would help parents in long term planning.

Not sure it's a good idea to mix inner-city kids into core schools.

Class size should become a part of this plan.

I think it is a good plan.

classroom size needs to be taken into account.

I fail to grasp how the plan will result in innovative teaching/learning. We missed out on a huge opportunity to redesign our school system for 21st Century Learning. Why do we keep ignoring the obvious mismatch between what is learned at school and what is applicable to the real world? The plan should have included opening specialized schools, which offer more opportunity to learn in experiential and constructivist environments. Some might argue this is still possible under this plan, but why are we not already seeing it in action. Education needs reform! This goes beyond closing/building/rezoning buildings!

Schools larger than 400 are not a bad thing. Closing date of Dieppe School should be sooner. Using Usher as a mega school is an idea worth re-thinking. Rebuilding Arcola school rather than transporting students just does not make sense. What is the advantage of french only schools????

bigger schools don't make sense.

Wish more than 11 schools could be redesigned. I am most concerned about equitable access for special needs children. I believe the new re-design structure will create equitable access. I wish it could happen for all elem. and high schools in ten years.

First of all I don't understand why new schools continue to be developed when you want to close existing schools that the children in the new housing developments should be bussed to. If Winston Knoll hadn't been erected the populations of Usher and Martin would not be so low. I am completely against the development of new schools when perfectly good buildings already exist. Building new schools because of new housing developments is what has created this problem of needing to

close existing schools. It only takes into account the present and is wasteful. A new high school for the southeast should not even be a glint in anyone's eye when you are talking about closing 2 perfectly good facilities. BUS THEM! Secondly I think planning for 10 years into the future is far too big a leap when it concerns people who haven't even been conceived, and won't be for another 5 years. I think it unwise to go any further than 5 years into the future with such population based plans, given that there is at least a measurable population existing for that time. I don't understand how you invented the numbers you are basing your decisions on. I particularly am concerned with how those numbers are on a decline despite the continuing increase in the birthrate of this country. It seems you are basing your decisions on a bunch of bogus data designed to support an ulterior motive. Also the current populations of certain areas in the city are affected by the fact that those areas are undergoing a transition of older families to younger ones. I am immediately affected by what happens with Elsie Mironuck - I am not understanding why if you want to limit an elementary school's overall population to 500 why you are doing your best to exceed that number. I understand that you have separated English from French programs for purpose of studying whether it remains worthwhile in a given setting but they are still all housed in the same building. (I am not sure why the French immersion populations of the high schools were not separated from the English as it has the same bearing on a school's enrollment) I was put under the impression at the beginning of the school year that next year more kids would be bussed to Mironuck for English in the fall of 2008, and now we will have extras for French too? I have concerns about how many busses will be involved. As it is I personally can only see room for 2 more busses total. The area was not developed to accommodate so many buses. Will there be a development of another bus bay in the playground? Does it look like it's possible to have little impact on the number of busses only carrying more students? Where are you going to put all these people? How are you going to deal with the logistics of getting them there? How much of the playground will be eaten up in the process? More kids and less space to burn off steam. I understand the logic of choosing Mironuck to take on Wascana French and Jensen English - I just don't see how it will work. Based on 2008 projected populations that will be 640 kids in one school. Honestly just drive by the school about 3:25pm on a Tuesday this winter would be even better and see if you can perceive of how to do this. Should my children need to exit the French program at Mironuck I would not be crazy about what I am about to propose, however maybe one should look at combining English programs at Ken Jenkin's possibly making Mironuck a completely French school.

I strongly believe that closing schools is not the answer. Smaller schools with smaller classrooms will provide a better environment for my children to learn.

I have serious concerns about Mironuck being the school for some 650 students (if I correctly understand the number of Mironuck students in English and French in addition to the Wascana French students who will be moved over). Why not move the Wascana students to another school since they will be bussed anyway? Or move the Mironuck English students to another school and make Mironuck an all immersion school.

I appreciate the process for creating a new vision; however, I would like to move toward this vision over a shorter term.

close schools that need the most repairs-as a tax payer I need you to justify the reason behind keeping a school like Balfour open that needs 16.6 million dollars of repairs and you plan on closing a school that is many years newer and only needs \$500,000.00. This is shouldn't even be an issue, I would rather have my taxes go to educate my kids in a SMALL SCHOOL then have them go to a school that is literally falling apart

Keep in mind the social utility of core and community schools. Marginalized people need our voice, as they either have no voice or are ignored.

smaller class sizes where warranted. Disadvantaged area do not need to have large class sizes.

Offer bussing for elementary students to fill up some emptier schools and provide some relief for jam packed schools

incremental progress in reading and math programs should be explored. Develop a Competency Based system of advancement as opposed to the grade level movement. Consider going to the "Paedea" philosophy and plan of Education. Truth and progress is being sacrificed every day on the alter of "political correctness" We need some leadership that doesn't pander to some groups and ideas while discriminating against others on the basis of political correctness

There needs to be more study done about French Centres before they are implemented. Also the timing for Wilfrid Walker to lose it's English is bad. there are new houses going up and young families moving in. This is the first year in 4 that there has been an English kindergarten, yet there are grades 1-3 English as well. I suggest that the Wilfrid Walker change be postponed for at least 2 years to make sure of sufficient data.

Rethink Scott. Do the parameters applied to the Renewal Plan apply to Scott?

I would like to see exclusive French schools so all french-immersion schools are true immersion schools.

Need to relook at the census data. The area in Gardiner Park is increasing but they want to close the english program down. They need to consider all the NEW families with children in the area. The children in the Hunt area are mostly bussed in ... there are more families affected in the Wilfrid Walker area compared to the Hunt area. It doesn't make sense for more families in the Wilfrid Walker area to move = the Hunt area families should move over to Wilfrid Walker The families were they have both kids in a dual program - what happens to the english kids ... they get the feeling they are not worthy as their brother's or sister's. This is splitting up families. Loss of opportunities for kids who are not doing well in the French program that cannot just transfer over to the english program without moving schools Closing the dual track at Wilfrid Walker but opening up a dual track at Centennial - doesn't make any sense as Wilfrid Walker school

is a newer school Extra curricular activities for the english students that have to move out of the Gardiner Park area - HUGE additional costs for parents for sitters, travel etc

Effective planning should not be undertaken and implemented in a manner of weeks or months to initiate. Effective planning requires appropriate choice as opposed to dictates that place students and parents in very precarious positions.

I am a retired grandma who lives in the surrounding area, I enjoy the activities that Usher has offered as I am on a limited budget but find I can afford the entertainment & sports events. The school board is not intimidated because there is no separate school close to Usher but that is not going to stop a lot of people changing their taxes over to separate, this is no idle threat, my kids are gone so and I know myself and a lot of the coffee people at Northgate will be doing just that!!!!!!You are killing a school and a community even for pensioners.

I don't understand why french immersion is continuing at Hawrylak. Enrollment in English already exceeds the ideal school size of 200 to 400 students and is projected to continue increasing over the next ten years. The school is bursting at its seams.

Do not rush into this decision by March 08. More research needs to be done regarding the growth in the New Gardiner Park. Potential of many families moving in. What will be the impact of siblings being separated if one is in french immersion and the other is in an english school. If the school board closes the english program at Wilfrid Walker, we will consider seriously of moving our kids to a school that has french and english. This will make it easier to keep track of what is happening with our kids at school, it will keep our kids together and allow our kids to switch to the english program if they choose in the future with more ease. How many more families that have kids in both english and french at Wilfrid Walker will do the same? This could drastically reduce the enrollment at WW and increase enrollment at other schools. More study needs to be done in this regard. Is there any benefit in having an all french school? What happens if a child wants to drop out and go to an english school? This will make for a difficult transition?

Currently the Transportation guidelines stipulate that a 1 hour is the longest one-way bus ride a child should have. I would hope that this is not used as a general guideline in any transportation decisions relating to amalgamations of the schools, as 1 hour is much too long for any student to ride each-way. As an example, my children are in French at Massey, when Connaught merges with us, will adequate transportation services be planned so that neither my children nor the Connaught area children are on the bus for an hour each way? My feeling is that the "maximum" bus ride should be re-set to 45 minutes and that 30 minutes or less should be the goal. I think families will feel a little better about sending their children to a distant "French Center" if they know it won't mean long bus rides.

Take into consideration the new area in Gardiner Park and the fact that there are more families affected in the Wilfrid Walker area than they are in the Hunt area. Splitting english and french children from the same family is terrible I thought segregation was thrown out ages ago -



don't you want the english students playing with the french ones If french families want TOTAL french then they should go to Laval

This plan does not include all types of schools that exist in the Regina Public School system. It will help certain schools, but others will not see much of a positive change.

Why isn't Wilfrid Hunt's population being merged with that of Wilfrid Walker's English program? It seems counter-intuitive to keep Hunt's facility open.

1. There is an assumption that we need the east high school. If this occurs Sheldon should also become redundant with Campbell being able to house the students in the south after Campbell loses east students. Why is Sheldon not named? Is the political will in the south too strong? 2. The argument of Usher parents that having a community school where their kids can walk or transportation needs to be provided by the board, is not valid. High school students in other areas, like Albert Park, do not have community schools that are walkable and they are not provided transportation. It is not the boards responsibility to transport high school students. South students have been walking, bussing or driving for years and the schools are still registering new students every year. If the board provides transportation to Usher students, then all high school students in the city need to have the same program offered to them.

I would be cautious about building new high schools in a city as small as Regina.

For schools that are not going to be either closed, merged, or built in the future what if any plans are in place to improve the remaining facilities. Surely in the next 10 years these facilities will need some work especially if enrollment will be up in these facilities.

I think the consideration on inflation pricing in construction should be taken in to consideration.

I understand the need to combine schools due to maintenance on buildings etc., but I think that the quality of education for the students increases in a smaller school with smaller classroom sizes. Consider keeping some of the smaller schools open, especially those community schools with effective programming in place for their students.

Raise the small high school population cutoff point to 800, or make every high school much smaller. Having mid-size schools means that they will not be good big schools or good small schools.

Why take so long to make needed changes. Make a decision and stick with it!

I'm sure this will be dealt with in the near future, but I would like to know specifically how the plan will affect the schools that remain open. How will staffing and pupil/teacher ratios be impacted? Will the money saved by closing facilities be transferred to facilities that remain open? As a teacher at Campbell Collegiate, these two issues are very significant to me. We have quite large class sizes, and our

building, facilities and equipment are in significant need of upgrade, improvement and replacement. We have a very healthy school population, excellent curricular and co-curricular programming and impressive student outcomes, yet our learning environment is more crowded and less updated than many other Regina high schools. While significant upgrades at other schools may be both educationally and politically appropriate (Scott), our school is also in need of significant attention. I would assume that our parent population, which represents a significant portion of public school rate payers (both based on numbers as well as property tax rates), will likely reasonably demand that their taxes have some direct impact on the learning experiences of their own children.

By suggesting "one of the following schools will be closed in the future" it is difficult for a parent to decide where to start their kids. Make a decision. If it has to be changed, then there should be sufficient evidence to support the change in decision

Do not build another high school on the east end. There already is one and we have buildings, such as Campbell, Sheldon, etc. that can house our growing population. Do not allow contractors and pressure from the separate system to dictate how we spend our precious education money.

It would be useful to see how funds saved from school closure could be used to enhance instruction at schools not mentioned in the ten year plan.

I would be careful of what program we implement where. As I have been in areas where there is change, too much change can result in chaos, a little change is good. I have witnessed the change resulting in athletic programs becoming so strong, it in fact only allows the elite to pursue the breath of their passion. Where as in the programs that now occur in the area you have several atheltic programs and arts and drama programs developing a great deal of more participants.

The quality of facilities should be taken into account. Closing schools strictly on the basis of enrollment may lead to the extra expense of reburbing schools in poor repair so that students from a better quality building can merge with them.

RPS need to MAKE the decisions re: school closures instead of having school communities 'battleit out'. There will be lots of hurt feelings and obviously each school community will think THEIR school is worth keeping open. A democratic decision is commendable but sometimes we need to take a hard line based on Linnen's suggestions. Just my opinion! :-)

Class Teaching needs to focus on tailored methods individualized to each student. All this plan seems to be is a method to amalgamate schools to create an easier budget. Anyone knows that larger classes lead to less individualized learning and an inadaquate learning environment. How will emalgamating schools equal higher quality learning? This plan focuses on money and budgets, not quality learning for students! Changes do need to be made to improve schools for students, but answers do not seem to be forthcoming through this plan. The important topics identified by stakeholders do not appear to be covered through this plan???

I would like to see consideration for overhauling present schools that will ensure their maintenance in the future.

In point form the following would be helpful: 1. Information about the use of buildings that are closing. The public might appreciate knowing what will happen to places like Usher and Martin as their facility is in excellent condition. 2. Information about what will happen with Balfour in terms of it's structural issues. 3. More information about south end schools that may close in terms of the possibility of a new school. 4. Transportation is a concern as there will be more of it in the future, Bus capacity is a very big concern. Policy numbers are on paper and do not recognize the reality of large numbers of students on buses each day. A packed bus with no supervision is asking for a disaster. The bus driver cannot supervise as he or she is driving. If the bus is over a certain number of students there should be a new policy that would either pay a supervisor or install cameras on the bus as a way to help the situation. In the future there will be more students (and more community school students) travelling each day. In school we know to supervise, supervise, supervise. Why would we not do this on the way to and from school. This is a big concern. 5. Lunchroom supervision: As there will be more schools with larger numbers of students staying for school, more funds should be allocated to these schools for things like tables and equipment for the actual eating. At this point schools themselves must purchase these items with their own funds. This will be unfair in the future. Also, these schools will need some extra funds to purchase games and activities for students in these noon hour programs. A poorly run noon hour definitely carries over into the classroom and we need to put a lot of thought into how these noon hours are run to avoid issues in the future.

The needs of the community and their children should be of the utmost importance. A school like Usher should not be closed. It is a perfectly good facility, has a vibrant staff and is so important to the area.

According to where students live, I'd like to see access to bussing to whatever school they end up going to. Perhaps this has already been discussed.....

1. Facility upgrades are needed in terms of physical lab space in several high schools & probably elementary schools too. 2. Decide how to best accomodate student absences due to family holidays/committments... so that student & parent expecations reflect the absence from the learning environment. Determine a method to accomodate such events with clear expectations of the student, parents and teacher without penalizing the teacher &/or requiring multiple "reteachings" outside of classtime for the multiple students who "holiday" during school time

Not exactly a suggestion, but a concern. The plan is based on conditions as they currently exist. Our provincial and regional economy is beginning a boom cycle. At Sheldon this year we experienced an enrollmnet increase in the fall of more than 50 students which caused difficulties in class sizes. What if the overall enrollment in public schools continues to increase? Can this be accommodated?

Usher becoming a larger elementary school.

Make clear how the plan will affect schools that are not slated for closure.

More thought into the changing growth areas of the city. Both the north and southwest are experiencing new developments; are you looking ahead to this. Secondly, dual stream programs offer more benefits to integration than single stream programs.

The use of teachers who are specialists in their fields and are open to new and innovative education will enhance the goal of the Renewal Plan.

The plan does offer choices. I am concerned about the loss of "community" as has happened in rural SK.

Not a suggestion but a difficulty - what about all the extra transportation from opening boundaries? Is it reasonable for any 21st century long-term plan to depend on greater fuel consumption?

While I admit, to not being familiar entirely with the Plan, does the Plan account for the needs of the Aboriginal community?

I don't know whether some of the short term and long term implications were well thought out. Placing all FI students from Wascana over to Mironuck makes for a huge space issue. This year alone they cancelled the English kindergarten class in favour of another FI KG class due to space. Once more students come, where are they going to put them and what about space for other programs such as band, LRT, school counsellors, Ed Psychs and SLP services? Also, turning Walker into a single track FI school sets up difficulties when students need to be pulled out of FI but their siblings still go to Walker. Parents are going to refuse to have their kids transferred to an English program because then sibs have to go to different schools. Parents may leave children in who are not an appropriate fit in FI.

I would like to have some reassurance that there will be adequate staffing provided to ensure a healthy student-teacher ratio; I fear that, with increased students in other schools due to closures, past initiatives of the Board will be neglected due to awkward numbers of students in classrooms as is often already the case! I.e., Continuous Improvement--it is difficult to increase literacy or numeracy outcomes if classroom numbers are unmanageable.

I believe that support personnel should be increased as money is saved closed schools. This should be a big part of the plan but really is not clearly stated. If a school's population is suddenly increased, does the role, duties, and responsibilities of someone like a Teacher-librarian not increase? We all can agree that this will happen but again increased to job responsibilities is not addressed considering this. I also do not agree that an elementary school of a large number of students will have a full time teacher-librarian but an even larger number in a high school will only be allotted a part-time Teacher-librarian.

I hope that students from the core areas will be notified that they are able to attend a French Immersion school, even though there is not one located in their community. I do not want these families feeling like their children are losing out on the opportunity to learn French. I hope that this will be well advertised and promoted. I also hope that accommodations will be made for these families at their new schools in terms of food and clothing. There are many families in the French Immersion program who benefit greatly from the programs offered by community schools.

The timetable for the plan was slower than I expected. I wonder if some of the future facility closures shouldn't occur sooner than the plan suggests.

I would like to see more efforts to keep the community schools in the low-income neighbourhoods up and running for school is not just a "place of learning" to some children, but more of a safe haven within their own community. The children will lose a sense of community while being bussed to schools that really are not that close to their homes.

For myself, I feel the plan is too up in the air. There is an "we'll see how each step goes and then we'll see where we go from there". I would like more definite concrete answers.

A school should be closed only if the physical plant is unsafe. Schools in neighborhoods like Usher should remain open. There wouldn't be a problem with Usher if the board hadn't chosen to close it 2 years ago!

Ensure that there is a plan that is based on what is best for students and not just lip service and that decisions are based for "money" reasons rationalized that it is best for students.

Guarantee a low student/teacher ratio - come up with a maximum and STICK TO IT!!!

Keeping class sizes small is very important for the benefit of everyone, students and teachers alike!

show it to the public better. show where the money is going

Provide opportunities for communities to respond to the plan by voicing their pleasures/concerns and not simply responding to questions provided by a facilitator; this gives the impression that the communities do not really have the opportunity to provide input on what matters to them.

Making sure that class sizes are still reasonable.

The plan should be more flexible

Man power to support individual student needs in the classroom.

Helping teachers/a plan at schools who will be required to do more noon hour and before after school supervision to school supervision due to many more students being bused and requiring those supervisory times..... in addition to recesses where coverage is already needed, this is not fair to expect staff to do this as well. A plan which

involves coverage from potentially others than teaching staff needs to be in place as the number of bused students is going to increase.

Close more schools sooner to save more money. With the 2005 plan the Board was not required to incur debt. My understanding is that this one does. Small schools, like Dieppe and Coronation Park are staying open too long. Putting the French immersion students from Hawrylak into the French Centre at Wilfrid Walker was a stronger model. Putting the students from the NE end into Usher seemed like a better idea too. What a great facility that would have been for those students (large gym, some shops to cover that part of the curriculum that almost never is in our elementary schools).

Look at the area of the city that may have most of the schools being closed. Eg. Martin, Dieppe, Walker or Rosemont. Cleans out a huge area.

I would like someone to review the French Immersion schools. Currently, there is no screen to get into the program. What is going to happen to the students that enroll and are unable to learn the French however their parent does not want them to change school so leaves them in struggling and behaviour issues arise?

align staffing

Overall, I support the Plan. However, I am concerned about the move to French school centres. It is probably program smart for encouraging students to speak French more during the school day. However, for families it could be problematic. If your child has difficulty in the French Immersion program and needs to switch to the English program, he or she then needs to switch schools. This could split siblings, result in parents needing to be active in two schools and face conflicts in concerts, et al, and make for family turmoil for the child leaving his friends and other siblings. This part of the Renewal Plan may not be family friendly. This in turn may affect the quality of learning if the child is unhappy.

Take a look at what is going to happen to all the aging facilities in our division. Give us hope that this division is going to look as good as it is! Learning is enhanced through lower p/t ratios. Make that a goal in schools that are brimming over.

I would include information about the allowance for teacher specialists in schools--this is not possible in a smaller school--but this proposal allows for the flexibility of team teaching and specialization as there may be multiple classrooms of the same grade in the larger centres.

It would be better if there were smaller pupil to teacher ratios included than is currently the case.

More feedback on what will be done for schools that are not scheduled for "renewal".

Not sure what the plan states for teacher/student ratio? Has this been a consideration. I think it would also be important to consider that all schools have a full time teacher librarian, who can focus on the library and literacy programs in one school.

I think that closing the only highschool in the North of Albert Street area will affect enrollment numbers within the First Nations population. It is highly unlikely that students and parents will be able to afford transportation for their children to Oneil, Thom or Balfour.

There is no plan for the existing schools. What things will be done within the schools that will continue to exist.

Smaller schools Little to no bussing - Smaller schools make for better learning. No bus = No accidents!

I feel I would need more time to re-read all the information that has been provided in order to provide fully informed feedback.

Shorten the time-length of full implementation

- handicap assessability

ensuring that the special ed classes located in schools are kept from the most junior to the most senior to ensure that the students are kept with the same peers from k to grade 8 (ex. discovery preschool to intermediate FIAP in one school)

I think the time frame for the school closures should be shortened. The schools need alot of infrastructure work and just prolonging the inevitable isn't a cost saving measure or helping anything.

A4 DAY WEEK WILL BE APPROPRIATE ON THIS DAY AND AGE.

As a tax payer I think the plan is too stretched out. It did not have to be stretched over` 12 years. It truely started 2 years ago. In the public eye it looks like the Division got scared by a very small but vocal group and our civic political system. A similar plan should have been in plce some time ago (5-10 yrs).

1. MOVE FORWARD WITH THIS PLAN! 2. Use Usher to consolidate Imperial, McDermid,etc 3. Realign Central Office. If schools are down-sized, Central Office needs to be reduced. We are becoming top-heavy!

Involve staff - move staff, including itinerants, to the new school that their students go to.

Rather than close highschools, which are still effective buildings, use them for a larger elementary school. Usher and Martin would be a great facility for this purpose.

I agree with the recommendation given at the Athabasca Shool meeting that Lakeview be included in the planning process dealing with Athabasca and Argyle School. Is the plan to have two schools in the area that can sustain themselves under the 200-400 optium framework? Is this feasible in the long-term? I also would hope the board would like at the recommendation that a new facility be built in the above mentioned area. The potential for innovative and creative learning designed around a new building in not to be dismissed. Why not consider a pilot project?

I would highly recommend implementing junior high schools into the system. Perhaps instead of taking the English out of Wilfred Walker, you could just take the grade 6-8 students out and make Hunt a junior high. The K-5 Hunt students could come to Wilfred Walker and to Hawryluk.

My only concern, so far, is whether our schools, because of all the closers, will become overcrowded thus affecting the quality of education for our children. As a mother, I want to know that my kids will receive the attention academically that they need. They get high grades now but I can't help wonder if so many children are getting rerouted, is that going to impact the teachers ability to handle the classroom, to give the attention every class needs? Or are the classes going to become too big to handle? I don't have any suggestions for you, just concerns. I'm sure that you've taken these concerns into consideration but I haven't found out the answers so far. Thank you.

Consider closing Imperial sooner Reintroduce the idea of Usher as an elementary school

I am very concerned that larger schools will also mean larger classes. We are already bursting at the seams in our classrooms. The numbers are too high and the educational and behaviour issues continue to multiply. I understand the economics behind these very important changes but worry about the long term effects

We must realize that maintaining old school buildings is not feasible, especially when they hold 100 or less students. We are not only school board employees we are city taxpayers, and the cost to upgrade these old schools would be tremendous. When you consider other larger cities have less schools and the schools are sitting at 600 to 1000 students we need to get with the year 2008 and catch up. People need to see this.

Smaller student to teacher ratio would benefit the students a great deal. This would make it easier for teachers to work with smaller groups and differing levels of academics. Students do not fit in to the cookie cutter class anymore. A class of grade 4 students may have academic levels from K - 6 in it. As well, students' academic levels usually differ depending on the subject are. Keeping more schools open, with smaller classes (20 max) would benefit the learning of all students.

The concerns I have are with lunch programming and its added responsibility to principals' loads, plus, the amount of gym space for the larger number of students.

Keep more community schools open so by raising taxes if need be. Kids need to feel safe at school and not lost in a sea of faces. They need to be able to walk or be bussed a short distance not right across the city on icy streets.

Communities should not be "pitted" against each other to decide which schools should close and then be expected to get along later. One would think that this board could learn from the Prairie Valley experience with Glen Avon. The plan takes far too long to implement.



Schools that are closing should close this year or next so communities can get over the loss and move forward. This plan creates a "death row" mentality. There seems to be little planning for families with children in FI. If schools are not dual track, there is no plan for multiple children in a family if one child can not manage a second language. Currently a family can have children in both the French and English programs at a school. With French centres this is no longer an option. Children may then have to remain in French to keep siblings at the same school. This reduces the parents' abilities to choose what is right for each child, instead of what works the best for the overall family unit. Many teachers currently recommend that if a student is struggling academically that he/she be removed from French programming. FI teachers are going to need to learn to make accommodations and adaptations as there will possibly be a reluctance to remove a child from French if the child must now leave the school. Maintaining Usher for a year but not using it is not economical or sensible. Closing Martin creates a hardship for families in what is now the catchment area. Not all parents will want to send their children to Scott as it does not have a "university focus."

I believe that the plan could involve more school consolidation than it already does. I would also like to see more done to address elementary school options, specifically French Immersion in the Northwest corner of the city.

Provide bussing for Lakeridge students to attend MacNeill school if that is their preference.

For schools that are relatively new structures, I feel it is preferable to keep those structures open instead of closing them to fill the ideal quota of students. Even when projections are done of future student populations, there is always an unknown factor with respect to newer populations coming in. It seems fiscally irresponsible to close a school that has a sound structure if another will have to be built close to the same site within 20-30 years due to an increase of youth population in that area.

The 10 year plan is too long and costs too much money. There is the potential of governments/boards to change at least twice making the plan possibly void. I am in favour of the previous plan where the 10 schools were slated for closure would and money would be saved not 38 million spent.

Re-think the Usher closure--there is no other high school, be it public or separate, that is close by for the Uplands students. To get to Thom/ONeill by bus is inconvenient. There are new housing districts planned for Uplands as well, which would mean more students.

As a teacher of "at risk" youth, I hope that alternative ways of teaching/learning will grow within Regina Public throughout the coming years.

the basics do make sense but I don't know enough about what happens AFTER the school closures to make a comment. It's not very clear to me what happens after- non -graded groups, classrooms,, we haven't really been given enough information to make informed comments. I do hope, though, that whatever changes occur, that teachers will have a

SIGNIFICANT say in this. Too often I feel that decisions are made at the senior admin. level that may look good on paper, but are not so great in actual teaching reality.

Changes in the future may be necessary depending on programs and enrolment.

I'll take any opportunity that I can to suggest that Student Support Services personnel and programs need to be supported and better staffed. LRTs are incredibly overwhelmed by the high number of students on their caseload. I am an LRT and I know this well. I greatly wish I could spend more time provided intense support to kids and provide practical in class strategies to students to enhance success. It seems every year I see more and more names on my list instead of seeing students increase independence. Teachers are STRUGGLING to provide good adaptations due to HIGH NUMBERS in their rooms. I hope that as restructuring and renewal takes place, students with additional needs and class size will be given due consideration.

In some cases, offer Grade 8 in the highschool to help ease some of the strain on larger elementary schools who may be now also taking in new students due to school closures in their area.

To remember that small schools offer quality in a way large schools don't. Small schools are tight knit communities.

-To me closing schools does not work towards lowering class size and providing an increase in the teachers ability to work with students. Although I see the economic need for school closures I do not see the benefit for the teacher or students. Instead I would like the school board to look at opportunities of how we can use our current space and spread the programs offered in highschools across Regina so students can receive an education that is focussed towards their needs. Balfour is a great example of a school trying to offer too much and not meeting the needs of its students. Less students more offerings of particular classes will decrease the # of students in a classroom.

More experimental changes - middle years schools, super schools, arts schools etc. When parents have to make choices - ensure that they are getting something in return (ie nutrition program, increased transportation etc.) Make sure the staffing fits with the new needs of the school - no add ons, very little new staff, keep the key people

Hours and months of operation of schools. Consideration of at-risk youth and long breaks ie July and August

Transportation

Coordinate certain costs with the Separate System i.e. Bussing. We've got public system busses traveling down the street with a Separate system bus right behind it. There are others.

I know this is difficult to do with all the public consultations happening, however in the future announcing the final decision from the board earlier allows for more time and better planning for the schools receiving students.

Give high schools specific focuses -- i.e. the Arts high school, the Science high school

A new high school in North Central and one to replace Balfour. A new elementary school in North Central..At least 2 new high schools. Dieppe and Haultain should be closed.

I liked the ideas to use the Usher facility as a larger elementary school or to try a middle school there.

As long as they plan is reviewed on an annual basis.

plan uses school size models as examples, not class size

Parents feel it's a done deal. The plan needs to be evaluated yearly. I think it's important to carry through with aspects of this plan. The Board lost face last time when announcements were made and then everything was retracted.

could include vision for curricular and extra curricular offerings

I would like to see the process accelerated. I believe we could accomplish in five years what the plan says we will do in 10 years.

I am not sure if I personally agree with it being done over 10 years. I understand why, however, sometimes getting things moving quicker is a better option.

Classroom make-up is a big issue right now. We, as teachers, are being asked to handle more and more difficult students and situations. Class sizes are larger, and the students require much more assistance than in the past. Teachers are being asked to deal with students with issues, about which teachers have little or no expertise. This totally erodes the education of the "regular" students that deserve to receive an excellent education. There are only so many hours in a day, and only so many directions that a teacher's focus can be split!

Would like to see the busing of Lakeridge students revisited. Currently I am driving my child to the school I am teaching at for Kindergarten. She should be bused to Henry Janzen, however I would prefer she attend MacNeil. MacNeil School does not have a daycare for Kindergarten students and only accepts Grade 1 and up for the before and after school program. With the continuing expansion of Lakeridge and all the new housing, something will have to be changed.

open boundaries - we staff our schools based on the projected enrolment from student registration in the spring. There must be a date in which formerly out of area must register; otherwise it will be impossible to staff schools appropriately. Guaranteed funding for existing buildings that are not directly mentioned in the plan Pupil teacher ratios - many of the larger schools have large class sizes. At what point to we put into practice the policies which are in place?

A renewal plan MUST contain a plan for Board Office renewal. We need less people at the Board Office and more on the front lines. SaskLearning can supply support, they do for other areas in Sk, why not

Regina. This would save money, reduce class size, increase student learning.

I wonder why Balfour Collegiate was not included in the plan. It is an important facility (location and program-wise) but the physical plant is in need of attention. I think probably accelerating the plan would make it better. If schools are going to be joined and facilities closed, the sooner the better.

Making Usher into a large elementary school seemed like a very viable option.

concern over transpoting students in the Wascana area. What about students who wake up late, have to care for for themselves who often do not arrive at their neighbourhood school until 9:30 or later. This could become a huge barrier to these students in simply getting to school. Will the bus have two runs in the core Herchmer area?

We need to look at smaller class sizes (max. 20 students in elementary) and consider placing a TA in each classroom. There are weak students in every class now, not just the special ed. classes and I think we are failing these students. We need to look at the design of schools with regards to wheelchair students and accessibility issues as well as the physical size of classrooms. For example 3 wheelchairs plus 8 able bodied students along with all equipment including a hospital bed makes for an overcrowded classroom with many distractions and hazards.

Focus on schools that are falling apart or have extremely low numbers-- don't try to boost failing schools numbers by pulling students from another school

I prefer smaller schools and small classrooms but realize that there are budgetary considerations. I would like to see the savings used to enhance student learning. i.e. more assistants, smaller classrooms, more trips to allow more hands on learning for students.

draw the boundary lines for George Lee and Janzen differently. Have all the Garden Ridge students attend Lee since it is on that side of Mc Intosh.

not such a long process

space within schools is going to become an issue I believe. If we are going to follow through with the plan, we will need portables and other materials made available to us otherwise we are just weakening student learning opportunities due to overcrowded classrooms and lack of equipment availability

cut back on transportation expenses

Maybe a shorter time line. Some facilities are in very bad shape needing more money than is available.

Have a clear plan spelled out for families in North Central about a new school, and exactly when it will open. This is in light of the fact that all but one of the core schools will be closing in the next ten years.

I am not sure that opening the boundaries for any student to go to any school is such a good idea. Schools like Thom , Campbell, Balfour, etc. are already bursting at the seams.

You decided not to send the Hawrylak French Immersion to Wilfrid Walker to make a large French Immersion Centre. The French language at Hawrylak is not supported well by extra-curricular activities or by school wide things such as Christmas/Winter concert etc. Any itinerants doing prep for French Imm. teachers such as phys-ed, music etc do not do so in French even though the curriculum calls for it. The children do not learn to speak as fluently because they cannot use their developing French skills outside the classroom. As a former Fr. Imm. teacher, offering a total French Immersion environment made a lot of sense to me for the significant development of a second language. Now that Hawrylak is keeping its French Imm., my children will continue to do many things in English that could have easily been in French and supported their 2nd language learning.

I am sure there are a few important changes that could be made but I just can't think of any at this moment.

Would like to see increased emphasis on long term projects, not simply on closures.

Accountability is a huge piece that has been missing over the years. Accountability to the students we teach, accountability to the system, accountability to curricula. We need to have a concerted effort in integrating Aboriginal content into all curricula as well as differentiated learning and technology. The plan needs to be specific on literacy, numeracy and equitable outcomes. There are some good things happening but there are a lot of students who are being left out. They are not literate and will not have the skills to compete in future workforces. Schools where poverty is a major issue, do we provide technology to all the students? Equity may mean that in those schools every student has access to a computer where in schools where all children have computers at home they could have one cart to share in the school. This needs to be done right away. School administration also needs to provide a safe and effective school environment for the teachers and students. New teachers need appropriate support so they seamlessly integrate Aboriginal content, differentiate for their students and use technology to support learning. New hires should be strong in these areas.

speed it up

close facilities which need the most repairs .

Guarantee classroom sizes will be smaller so students have a better learning environment

Smaller number of students in each classroom.

I think the learn does not change because we shift them around from school to school. I also think that just putting children from one school to another with out looking at Library and gym availability may

have been over looked. Was the cost of portibles being moved and attached looked at?

We need to make broader changes in the way we offer high school programming. Too many kids are not being reached solely through the academics and we need to offer more to these students. Not everyone goes to university and we are sending far too many kids in that direction who then realize it is not what they want. More trades and fine arts will help to reach these students and keep more kids in school. Obviously, not every school can offer everything, so looking at specific campuses for the various programs will help. Our city is not so big, that a short bus ride to the school that offers what the program the student is seeking, is not out of the question.

Funding and facilities need to be allocated in a much better manor so that remaining facilities are maintained and upgraded so they may be able to manage the students that arrive.

shut down Balfour instead of Usher

My concern is for the new areas, if the population growth in those areas has been adequately addressed taking into account what changes that will bring about.

A middle years school.

closing schools is never easy, and low pupil-teacher ratios are always a good thing...is there a way to correlate these two; i.e. the savings generated by school closures and (where possible) sale of properties could be earmarked for hiring more teachers to lower the ratio...this would go a long way toward re-creating the "small school" experience in a larger setting...how would this be verifiable by taxpayers? Would the Board's accounting procedures show us that this indeed was happening? How would this proposal cost out? Is it workable/feasible?

More consultation with staff of schools that are closing, prior to making statements to the public.

I think a better survey of projected enrollment should be done as the real estate market in the closure areas could drastically change. This means there could be a lot more children in the areas where you intend on closing schools.

Students are very concerned about transportation. Also, "at-risk" kids are extremely likely to "miss the bus." I would hope this isn't going to be yet another obstacle preventing them from becoming educated

I did like the idea previously mentioned about changing some high schools into "super elementary." I haven't seen any reference to that this time.

Decrease class size. Provide resources to support implementation of programs. Complete the vision over a 5 year period, with specific goals for the Division that do not entirely rely on teachers completing the goals.

get the students out of the school. Let them learn in the real world. Involve the rest of the world to teach our kids. Example: Partner with a major grocery store they can learn to count, food groups, cost of living, cooking, transportation etc.

The smaller the class size the better

Keep the schools open bigger classrooms don't equal quality education. Hire more Aboriginal teachers for the schools with a hire Aboriginal population.

Some of the schools that are remaining open could have been closed sooner

Lowering classroom sizes - Thomson grade 5/6 should not have 29 students and one teacher! Decrease the distance students are bussed and work on walking school buses to increase physical fitness.

In the reading I have done I have not seen enough/any specifics on community school or Special Ed programs, two programs that I think really serve Regina students well.

Some school buildings that are scheduled to close several years from now, may not make it due their condition. Environments can make it difficult to teach and learn.

I am just concerned that with a couple of school joining together, the class sizes will go up. I think that there needs to be a limit put on how many students are in each class.

At the meeting I attended at Martin, constant references were made to the model re: the best number of students for elementary and high school. Best for who or what? Best for the students, the staff, the community, the Board Office staff, the Board Members, best financially??????? The 600 - 1200 students range for high school student numbers is outrageous. There is a huge difference in the atmosphere of a 600 student school compared to a 1200 students school. It is like comparing apples or oranges. If the range had been closer ie. 200 student difference it would have had more credibility!

In respect to school "mergers" or "closures", I am concerned with 10-year initiative. I grew up in rural Saskatchewan with looming school closures,...as the potential looms, communities are torn apart. Communities lose focus...the goal is to "save" a school rather than the education we must provide. Go ahead with the plan, but let's not have "closures" loom over communities heads! Let's also consider Middle Years or Junior High Education!

My strong belief is that students learning is best supported in smaller neighbourhood settings. If we want our students to feel that people care about them and are looking out for them then they need to be in a setting where they are noticed and I think that this is a lot more difficult in larger settings, which will be the result of amalgamating smaller schools

The plans are not about student learning and should not be presented as such. They are about managing facilities in changing times.

RE: Core Community Schools ~ promises of bussing will be an issue because families move without notice frequently and will need new arrangements. Will they understand that they may move out of the bussing range and may have to switch schools, again? Also, it will take a few months into the school year for us to know what families are moving to which school in the core communities because many do not start school until after it becomes cold outside.

I want to see how this plan will provide the extra student/teacher support physically and administratively for classrooms that will continue to have social diversity, differentiated learning needs, as well as integrating those students requiring inclusion; more time in the regular classroom?

Have the proper adjustments made to the schools that are receiving students before the closures are made..

I would like to see alternative use of the facilities that are considered for closure. The core schools do have low enrollment, but they also have the most disadvantaged and marginalized student population. These students are the most needy, and have no parental support, or parents who believe they have a voice or power. Many of these students need the extra support provided in a smaller school environment, they need the stability and the close watch of staff who know them by name and know their history. Many of these students do not have alternative transportation and are habitually late, so in the event of missing the bus provided, they have no other means of getting to school, so they either have to walk a long distance or not attend. I believe they will not attend. It will be much easier for them to fall through the cracks in a larger school. They need a place of "belonging". I would like to see extra programs, such as extra Structured Learning Classrooms, or Ranch Erhlo classes implemented into the facilities, rather than closure.

DO NOT back down on closures like you did last time round. Too much perception that the board tucked their tail and ran.

I think that improving students' knowledge, experience, and relationships with First Nations is essential and should rank among the literacy outcomes we pursue for our students! This form of cultural literacy is essential for the future of this province.

The distinction between quality teaching and quality learning is too fuzzy.

Smaller schools make for better relationships and sense of community. Have you considered junior high schools?

I would like to see a plan that includes lowering the pupil teacher ratio in all public schools

Have a more concrete plan for location of the new schools to be built. It would also help if you could have information on how much it would cost to renovate existing schools. Telling stakeholders, especially parents, that instead of fixing existing schools, you are going to



spend \$8 million (2007) dollars on building a brand new school only causes problems. Also, there was no indication in the handout that cost increases are taken into consideration in the cost savings. Basically, when it comes to cost savings, take into consideration that there are people in your audience that actually understand the information being presented and know that cost increases should also be noted.

Keep Usher open. The other highschools seem crowded when I am there.

More consideration needs to be made for the rising aboriginal population and the affects that this will have on what is taught and more importantly how things are taught.

Close schools earlier-some schools are structural not sound

Why is the plan dragged over 10 years? It is easier to pull a bandaid off in one swift motion than a little bit at a time.

Making money that would be saved go to better programs to better educate students.

The plan is particularly destructive to inner city children and families. It is very important that children feel that they belong and feel safe, but when they are bussed to schools outside their neighbourhood they will not have the same sense of belonging. Plus it is well known that an important part of children's success in school is involvement by their parents. Having their children going to schools outside their neighbourhood will make parental involvement impossible for many inner city parents. It is also well known that gang activity is a result of young people needing to feel they belong, so decreasing the feeling of belonging by sending children to schools outside their neighbourhood is very likely to increase the numbers of young people joining gangs. It is also very much needed that class sizes be decreased in inner city schools to help provide more intensive support for students and the plan is not addressing this need.

make the cuts now all of them this is 10 years of bad publicity

Anticipating attendance concerns for students who are habitually late and will be missing the bus to their school in the mornings. Planning and implementing a well thought out, time focused, personnel supported, transitions plan for all students.

I think they need to plan for class sizes to get smaller. This should be the way the system goes and not planning the buildings for this is where we always get into problems. They also need to plan to have extra rooms for specialists and others to use regularly.

Schools and programs need to be cut sooner rather than later.

More support for staff of cited schools.

The board needs to reconsider some busing guidelines/boundaries. Consider busing from Bo Peep Day Care on Dewdney to allow those children to attend Dieppe, and allow the children East of McCarthy to attend Dieppe (those residence are Dieppe residents) High school, if the

students are having to travel to schools accross the city because there isn't one available in their area, busing should be considered. It is tough enough to keep kids in school at the high school level and if they have to pay for busing, there will be less attending. Close high school boundaries so the children in the neighbouring areas will attend the nearest school unless under special circumstances. The board should have a look at the facility (structurally) and if they are going to save money maybe the buildings that are in good conditions (except for usual maintenance), should be kept open and merge other schools to it, not have enrollment as the only factor in the consideration of closure. There is going to be closures of schools in good shape only to keep the not so good shaped schools open for a few years to redesign a new one. Why close a good condition school (no major cost) to eventually take down other schools and build new ones (much more expensive). Reconsideration needs to be done that so many schools in the Northwest are being affected only to know that a brand new high school is being built in the East end. Our schools are sound schools, decent sized families, and average income families, but we have to give up our facilities to pay for a new one in an area where there is new development with fewer children per household.

Some of the changes are being implemented for June of this year. I believe that Robert Usher Collegiate should be solidified and that the school be used for some type of educational facility whether it be for adult education or some other type of learning. I think the facility is excellent condition and should not be allowed to sit for one year while the board decides its future. I think that having the stakeholders involved with the decision making process for Regina Schools is a beneficial one, the likelihood of some type of consensus is not imminent and that the initial consult likely would've amounted to the same result. I believe the amount of money spent on this process could've been better spent elsewhere.

focus more on fixing rather than rebuilding.

In some instances, there might be "too much choice". For example, offering two options for bus service out of one community can increase costs and inconveniences associated with bus service.

To help the students feel linked with their current school mates maybe a bussing service that would ensure that students ride to and from school with current classmates could be developed. This is especially important at the high school level where teens seem to feel very self-conscious about appearing to "fit in".

How this plan would provide more special education programs for our diverse population, so that there is not such a long waitlist

School closures in community school areas is not viable. Attendance can be an issue already and when busing takes place, attendance by those being bussed may decrease even more. These lower income areas really need to develop their sense of community even more and removing the school is like removing the hub of a wheel. The wheel falls apart.

The research on school size and location was questionable. Why do so many teachers and parents feel that smaller schools are better for education and community?

Close schools with very small enrollment ie. schools with no kgn classes or neighborhoods that can't expand to encourage new families

I think that with the mergers we need to be sensitive to class size, if we can maintain nice class sizes I think this a very successful, promising plan.

There is not enough information about a Trades School, where it would be, etc. Also, what does the Janzen review mean?

I think that looking at changing Walker to a French Immersion centre without having the final Immersion report done and presented is causing some concern. It seems backwards. Also, don't just pay attention to those who are negative about the plan. Often, those in favour of it don't speak out because they feel that it is not necessary.

offer more technology to these students in the form of hardware items.

I am concerned about the potential closing of Ken Jenkins School in 2010. The Renewing Regina Public Schools document said there is no kindergarten class there and there is a projection of just over 100 students for next year. There is a kindergarten class there and the current enrollment is 159 students so I'm not sure where these figures are coming from. I am concerned about the possible integration of Ken Jenkins students into a large school like Elsie Mironuck. Ken Jenkins is a community school with a number of supports in place for the students such as Food for Learning lunches, toast program in the mornings for students who need it, muffin program (sponsored by Christ Lutheran), Community Coordinator and Community Associates. The School Counsellor had an office built for her in the school just last year. Elsie Mironuck is filled to capacity now and the students from Wascana French Immersion are slated to go there next year. With the addition of the Ken Jenkins students, Elsie Mironuck will be well over 500. Because it is not a community school, the Ken Jenkins students would miss out on all the supports they now receive. Also it would be a huge adjustment for students to go from a school where every staff member knows them to one where they could easily get lost. Many of these students have difficult family situations which means that often students are getting themselves up and off to school in the morning, often arriving late for school. What happens to these students when they miss the school bus? There will be no parent to drive them which means they will just miss the whole day of school. Ken Jenkins is a school with an awesome school climate. Students feel that they belong, that there are caring adults who support them and there is a real sense of community. I hope you will re-consider and keep Ken Jenkins open.

Do not close inner city schools with an eye to creating big schools because... - Your own report on school size suggests smaller schools best serve student populations high in disadvantaged students. - Furthermore it is my understanding that students in the most disadvantaged areas of the city are more inclined to arrive late. If students are late to catch a bus for any variety of reasons they are unlikely to get to school at all. Many parents north of the tracks in

the most disadvantaged areas do not have cars to get their children to school or for other reasons may not get their children to school if they miss the bus. The school division says they are particularly concerned about the education of aboriginal children. It must be made as easy as possible to get them to school. The birth rate for our First Nations residents is high. School populations in the areas north of the tracks seem only likely to increase.

Should have used actual residential numbers in new subdivision

1) Regardless of school closures, it is fundamentally important that there be a limit regarding class size and composition. Class sizes need to be manageable - 20 to 22 at the primary level; no more than 24 at the middle level - if we are to meet students' needs. With the changes proposed in this renewal plan, this is the perfect time/opportunity to implement new class-size guidelines... if parents knew that class sizes would be reduced/limited in their new school, I am sure that they would be more open to the changes. 2) I like the idea of developing French Centres. I believe the quality of French education will be significantly enhanced by this initiative. The amount and delivery of the second language would be more/better in this setting. I have direct experience of these benefits, having taught in a "Type B" all-French school, and by having my own children attend this type of school. The students are exposed to French more consistently throughout the school day, in a variety of settings (announcements, assemblies, playground and hallway conversation, etc., are all in French). Also, the establishment of French Centres might help to reduce the incidence of families choosing French Immersion simply to receive free bussing to school. 3) I'm not so sure opening up the boundaries for high schools is a good idea, nor that it would be feasible to offer a choice of schools to parents having to make a move. How would the board know/predict how many students would attend a specific school in the city? Example: If parents (English stream) from Wilfrid Walker are offered the choice of Wilfred Hunt or W.F. Ready Schools, how would you predict or know how many would choose one or the other? It is possible that 95% of parents could choose to attend Ready School, therefore leaving Hunt with too-low enrolment numbers. Then what would happen to Wilfred Hunt School? What if Ready School became overly-populated? Another example: What to do when there is a too-significant out-migration from Core Area high schools to the suburban high schools? How would the board handle too-low enrolment numbers at certain schools and too-high enrolment numbers at the others? As I understand it, there is no plan to build another high school anytime in the near future (I have not seen any plans for one).

There is a distinct need for the provincial government to renew its commitment to education and become a leader in financial contribution to the provincial education facilities. The Saskatchewan provincial government spends less money on education than any other province in Canada, outside of the Maritimes, and those eastern provinces are quickly changing that phenomenon in lieu of their recent economic turn of events. The province can no longer bleed the education system the way the federal government has been allowed to neglect health care. The RBE must work assertively to reinstate and increase provincial funding. The citizens of Regina must show a willingness to rediscover what it means to be a citizen and provide for healthy communities. It is important that the RBE establish a creative and aggressive public

relations program to promote citizenship before consumerism, greed and self promotion. Citizens have not invested appropriate funds to maintain infrastructure and enhance the capital assets of the public which are governed by the RBE. It is time to reinvest in community and people through improved public services which are accessible to all.

some concern about the community base of schools and difficulties for some parents to remain involved in their child's school if too distant and transportation problems.

Provide smaller class sizes for students in a smaller student population

schools that have too large a population are just as detrimental to high quality learning as are schools with too little population. I am concerned about keeping a healthy balance between the two.

I believe closing schools in the socio-economic areas of Regina that most vitally need community and revival, is not a positive thing. What happened to SchoolPlus?

Community schools lose out in areas around places such as Usher when they don't have a close high school to connect with for programming, etc. I agree that Usher has too few students to allow for excellence in all areas of programming, but I feel some of the area schools lose out. I also think we pay far too much in terms of transportation for students already, and completely opening borders may have negative implications in that area.

I would like to keep the dual-track schools. My kids are in French Immersion at Massey right now but most of our immediate neighbours are in the English program. It's good for the kids that they all at least go to the same school with the friends next door. I also think that dual-track schools allow for flexibility within the family. If we find that one of our children doesn't do well in French we can switch them to English with hardly any effort or negative effects on them. I think it probably offers slightly better core French education for the English track students when they have French Immersion in their school - they hear announcements and have assemblies in French in addition to their French language classes. I'd rather see the school board spend a lot of money on repairing facilities like Massey School that are falling into disrepair than just shuffling kids around - the plan doesn't seem to be making any great changes in the south end of Regina that would justify the cost of changing the programs in this area. We are very happy with our program choices but are very disappointed with facilities maintenance and the way that teachers and administrators get shuffled around the city all the time - that's where we'd like to see change.

A long-term plan should include moving to a middle school or Junior High. This will improve educational outcomes and opportunities.

Look for more diversity in the plan, such middle years schools which offers students programming suited to their age and needs, and Academies (eg. School for the Performing Arts or School of Architecture and Design)

- schools like Herchmer are essential in their communities because they target those children most at risk while staying in their own communities, schools are community builders -central Regina deserves French Immersion for their children to have more options in the future -the time required to be sitting on the bus to attend school outside the community is excessive

I do not think Robert Usher should be closed. Thom is a much older facility and I think you should consider closing Thom and moving its students to Robert Usher. I am not in favour of Connaught losing its French Immersion to Massey and being considered for closure.

Need to integrate the renewal plan with the normal budget so schools that are not named in renewal can see how their needs will be met

The extent to which this plan would destroy the sense of community cannot be understated. It would be much better to let children of a given community, go to school in that community whether they are in the French or English stream. The plan could have been much better if the consultation process thus far hadn't excluded certain options as a matter of course, ie. raising taxes. The plan would also be easier to "sell" if someone could explain why the plan is needed.

Look at the expansion of the ESL programs since the schools that have ESL now are at capacity or over. Saskatchewan has committed to taking people (immigrants and refugees) so we need to plan for this now.

As some high school students do not have readily available transportation to and from school and/or cannot afford public transport, it would be nice if there was some sort of transportation option available to them at a lower cost, such as a reduced-rate City Transit bus pass. Bringing the City on-board to assist in this regard would be beneficial to avoid having those teens just forego attending school because they have no way of getting there.

The number of students in elementary schools needs to be kept low. I think it would be more efficient if elementary schools were fixed and repaired instead of amalgamated.

Moratorium until better research can be done, measurables are clear, and financial plan is more complete.

I am concerned about the overcrowding that will occur at schools near to the schools that are slated for closure. I also have questions about the dollar figures that it will cost to transport special needs students and others from special programs to their new schools. Support for this transition will need to be provided for the receiving staff and perhaps for the students who will be moved.

1) Our schools are needed by the growing number of families and children who live here. They are part of our community life. They occupy cherished, historic buildings that are vital to our neighbourhood's character. They attract others to our city. They are healthy for the environment and for our kids, who can walk and bike to school. In study after study, smaller neighbourhood schools consistently score higher in academic achievement, graduation rates, parental involvement, extracurricular involvement, school safety,

financial and administrative efficiency, teacher job satisfaction, and many other areas. This is why American school districts are now desperately trying to reverse merger and closure policies of previous decades. 2)Ontario No school should be merged or closed without very serious research into the long term implications. In some other jurisdictions, this is a matter of legislation. Ontario's Education Act, for example allows a full review of the impacts before a school is closed. The Education Ministry's Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines state: "...school boards are required to develop a generic School Valuation Framework that assesses each of the following four consideration about the school(s) being reviewed:• Value to the student• Value to the community Value to the school board Value to the local economy (Ontario Ministry of Education 2006) The guidelines further state: "The assessment is to weigh the value of the school(s) to the student above the other considerations" (Ontario Ministry of Education 2006). The valuation markers cover a wide variety socio-economic of factors, ranging from student academic outcomes to the school's provision of open space within a community. 3)[http://www.cea-ace.ca/media/en/CEA-ACE\\_PubEd.07\\_E\\_FinalWEB.pdf](http://www.cea-ace.ca/media/en/CEA-ACE_PubEd.07_E_FinalWEB.pdf) 4) This is not a plan for families and children; this is a plan for business and bottom lines. Shame on you!

Regina needs to maintain all of its current schools. The busing of children should be avoided. Small schools have many advantages over large schools. Schools help create a sense of community and history.

Community schools work, if they didn't they would not have persisted for hundreds of years. By thinking they know better the the School Board plan reeks of hubris. Unless the enrollment numbers are declining dramatically for a communities school there is NO reason to close facilites.

Do not close schools! Bigger schools do not mean better. It is not better financially & it is not better educationally. This plan is bad!

Keep Davin school out of this program.

Base the changes on real research. Closing down inner city schools and making bigger ones will never be a good option for the student. Kids need to feel like they belong to a community not to feel like they are a number in the crowd. Now is the opportunity to really overhaul the way children are "learning". The school board would do better (it would take more time granted) to research alternative school scenarios and really change the system to accommodate the world these kids will live in.

I would like RPS to reconsider what they think is the best size for a school - seems as though bigger isn't always bigger. I think that the plan should have focused on smaller class sizes as well as smaller schools. Small schools are not just good for the community; they are good for kids.

This plan is about buildings and about Regina Public School Division Finances - it says nothing about how education for children will be better or different 10 years from now.

A thorough cost-benefit analysis of the entire school system conducted by a reputable third party research organization. As well, implementation of Lean Thinking to the school system processes that will ensure high quality services and enhanced efficiency with existing resources.

closing schools is a very poor choice. small schools in local neighbourhoods is the right thing to do

I think closing schools is incredibly short-sighted. Your plan will cause the French immersion program to collapse. Your goal should be to create more small schools where no student can fall through the cracks, and where every student has is known and has his or her needs met. Children should be going to school IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOODS, not being shipped out. The money you want to spend on this venture could be more effectively used to fix existing structures and programs, and hire more teachers to reduce class sizes.

First let me say that I do understand that current and projected enrolments cannot support the number of schools currently in the public system and schools must be closed. But the plan is flawed as it is based on enrolments only. The board needs to make educated decisions based on all relevant information including the condition of all schools, deferred maintenance costs, changing demographics (as well as projected changing demographics) as well as to ensure that the schools that remain are centrally located for all students; not just the affluent areas. For example, the plan calls for the closure of Martin Collegiate and for Thom and Knoll to remain open. Both Thom and Knoll are basically located in the same area of the city; forcing the students from the current Martin area to travel a great distance to school. If enrolments cannot support these three high schools and one must close - why not close Thom. Yes, Thom does have a higher enrolment; but keeping Martin open as well as Knoll you have high schools that will be more centrally located to all students just not one corner of the city. The way the plan stands, there will be no high schools west of the Lewvan or south of Dalglish. The current plan reeks of "catering to the well to do areas and turfing about the older areas". The current plan is a great start - but only a start - do some more homework and convince me that you are doing what really needs to be done. Until the Board has looked at all relevant information and is prepared to make well informed decisions, a moretoriam on school closures is necessary.

The plan is based on inaccurate information and numbers. The stated enrollments were off significantly. It does not differentiate between advantaged and disadvantaged students as the Leithwood/Jantzi report did. There has been no consideration to neighborhoods and their importance especially in central Regina. This goes against the City of Regina's attempt to rejuvenate the core. Your plan will make me choose between french immersion and community. Community will win and my child will be deprived of the opportunity to have that additional experience. Either that or we will be a shift to the catholic school system for elementary and highschool.

Real demographic data, real costs to build or upgrade facilities, real costs on the effects of transportation, consideration of social impacts of closing schools, acceptance that smaller schools are actually better



for students (that's what leithwood says), performance plans, indicators and measurements to judge the effectiveness of the plan

Take into account recent demographic data, hold real community consultations to look at impacts of school closures on the community, students, environment, student health and safety. Make all information and figures that enter into the decision-making process public, accessible and transparent (budgets, deferred maintenance reports, quotes and engineers reports, etc). More student input. More parent input. For all consultations and focus groups to be completed before decisions made about closures (ie. bussing) Review recent and relevant reports on small-schools and heed the experience of many American school boards who are embracing a small school model. Appropriately value historical buildings. Appropriately value the ability of children to walk to school in their own community and all of the implications that has on their health, safety, community involvement, sense of belonging, environment and sense of autonomy. Include real choice for parents including the choice to keep viable schools open. Do not pit communities against each other (ie. Davin or Connaught) and keep an axe hanging over schools for 10 years; this creates self-fulfilling prophecies as families may not choose to move into affected areas. Move the process out into the open. Answer the questions that have been asked at the community meetings fully and honestly. Do not close any schools until there can be full disclosure on the questions parents and community groups have respectfully, thoughtfully and in good faith have asked upon review of the plan.

The community should be presented with more than one option. The plan does not seem to make sense financially, there is little information on impact to the community and the environment, and there is no information to support that this plan would provide a better or more comprehensive education to our children. The plan also jeopardizes our child care and lunch programs and all but destroys our ability to engage our community in the ongoing support of fundraisers and enhancements to our playground. I would recommend that you put the plan on hold until you have a solid foundation of facts and research that takes into account all areas of our community that will be affected by this plan.

I can understand the need to close some elementary schools but I think closing Robert Usher should be reconsidered as it is a decent facility and other programs from other schools could be brought in to sustain it.

instead of pandering to the parents at Hunt school, close it and move the students to another school. trying to move the students from Wilfrid Walker to Hunt is only a temporary reprieve from closing the school due to low enrollments. In addition, when the school board rents classrooms to outside businesses, that rent should be based on market rate for that space!!! As a business owner, I feel it is unfair to give certain businesses an advantage over other businesses in the community by providing free or low rent space within a school.

a public review of the use/rental of school buildings by outside businesses should be done ie. daycares, montessori, playschools. They should not have rental advantage over other businesses in the community!

high school in the south east sooner

The numbers don't seem right - long term examination of small school closures in the states show it didn't work, grades were down and it was more expensive in the long run. Not to mention the loss to the community. Keep the small schools open.

Elementary Schools merge to Usher. Thses schools are in very poor condition, poor facilities. Usher would offer the opportunity for innovative planning that would enable teachers to better meet the needs of our students. Are there plans for Usher if it closes?

It is definitely a good idea to close some of the public elementary schools, due to low enrollment and poor buildings however, in regards to Robert Usher that would cause many problems for the students currently attending. And Usher is a fairly new schools, compared to some other collegiates in the city and it doesn't seem to make sense to close one that requires little or no upgrading to spend millions to keep one other open for a few more years. It would be in the best interest of the school board to keep Usher active and look at bringing more programs into the school.

Smaller schools are much better for learning, for children to receive the individual attention they deserve, and better for the community overall. Once you close these schools they will be gone forever, along with the green spaces they occupy. A question was raised at the Connaught meeting which I feel was not adequately answered: Is consultation on these school closures done in conjunction with city planning? The only answer that was given was that when the school board closes a school, the city gets first dibs on the property. I think this is short-sighted - the school board should be aware of exactly what city planners have in mind for future population growth in the city. I will not bus my children across town to attend school. I will consider the separate schools close by so we can continue in French immersion. It was mentioned that you plan on bussing kids to Massey School when closures happen. You faided to mention that you have already closed McNiven School, Birchwood School and Elsie Dorsey School in the neighbourhood of Massey School. Massey is already filled with portables and I don't think it is a good choice for being one of the only surviving French Immersion schools. I feel that your decisions are hasty and will have extremely bad consequences.

Are the enrolment figures for Scott exaggerated to keep it open for political reasons, what is its true cost of operation per student. Is the plan to close Balfour when a school is constructed in SE Regina , is there a plan to increase the walking distance for students to reduce busing costs

I don't believe that closing community schools and increasing class sizes will benefit students. I would prefer to see that more schools remain open. I am also concerned about the closing of the english program at WilfredWalkerand the transportationof those studentsto a school (Wilfred Hunt) that doesn't have much of a chance of remaining open in the long term.

Consideration for the location of french immersion schools - they should be more centrally located for the communities they serve. Minimal bus times for all students.

I think that the daycares and montessori's and whatever else may be in the school should not be getting a free ride. Yes they are good for the schools, but they do not lower their prices for their customers when they are not paying rent. I feel it is a fair deal if they pay for cost recovery. It is still a much cheaper deal for them than paying rent anywhere else. The money earned could be put towards repairs for those specific schools or better yet a high school in the ease end. I really think a high school should be built sooner as there is so many young families out here. MOST IMPORTANTLY - this plan says it wants to increase the education of the students. A major area of this is teacher quality. I think the school board needs to look at its procedures when complaints are made against a teacher by more than one family. I believe that when complaints are made against a teacher by more than one family and especially multiple families. The principal and the school board should be able to talk to the assistants that may be in that room as well as the teacher that may now have students from the teacher in question. If the teacher in question has teaching practices that are in question they should maybe take a refresher course or be found a position that better suits them. Rather than subjecting a classroom of children to unsuitable behaviour and practices by a teacher, after all the children are why the teacher is there in the first place. At any rate, I think that should be looked into. Thank You

The School Board should be coordinating with City of Regina policy directions such as the Downtown Revitalization Plan. It doesn't make sense to close schools such as Davin or Connaught if you want to encourage more people, especially families, to live in or near downtown.

The board needs to look at factors beyond school size and costs as drivers of quality education. These may impact the quality of education, but there are many other important factors. The board also needs to consider things like community support for particular schools, the long term development plans for the area of the city, community involvement as a result of a school, costs of transportation and several other factors before it decides to close schools.

Consideration of other options .... in my view the plan is formulated around incomplete and inaccurate information (data).

with the Elementary Schools to be between 200 - 400 students, I think that 200 should as well, be the threshold for providing a Vice-Principal in the Elementary Schools.

Look at the availability of French Immersion at the High school level, it currently is insufficient for the number of elementary kids that are being pushed through the system. Once you have finished the elementary program your choices are severely limited. Student enrollment numbers solely do not adequately address the needs of the school kids attend certain schools not solely for proximity to their homes. Some people actually purchased homes, so that their child/ren could attend the school. Facilities, program needs and availability of other

services (after school programs) are other consideration we took into account before we enrolled our children in the Public system.

## Q6. Do you have any other comments?

You should not close Robert Usher because sure we are small, but we like it like this, we are all noticed in the school. Mostly everyone can make a school team, play, or club and are recognized for their academic abilities. We are like one big family who all cares for each other and especially our school. We came to take our 4 years of highschool here, and want to graduate here. With all of our friends! So please reconsider closing usher, because we all love this school and dont want to go our seperate ways.

I know that you're main goal is to increase the learning of our students. And in Robert Usher we can learn much more becuae of the smaller class sizes. The teachers can give individual attention when needed and they learn our strengths and weaknesses. Robert Usher is a great school and I pray that you re-consider. Thank you.

I believe that closing Robert Usher Collegiate would be a big mistake. With the expansion of Uplands, Kensington Greens, there will be a huge oppourtunty for students looking for a highschool in the immediate vicinity.

Usher is an amazing school and I underatnd it is a small school.. but that also helps with the learning of children. our Kids get a one on one chance to spoeach with the teachers if they are having praoblems with a subject, if my child was to be sent to a larger school they may nhot have the chance to talk with the teacher as much as they do now because of the larger nubmer of students in their class. I feel that if you moved a program (e.g. machanics) to Usher more kids would be interested in going to Usher, Or closing Balfour as it is unsafe and the biulding is falling down and moving them to a school such as Usher and offering more programs and moving staff from Balfour into Usher so you can offer more programs.

Why spend millions on building new schools, when you could save millions by using the schools you have. Closing Usher would be the biggest mistake. Take into consideration the new area of Upands and how many new families are moving in, who will eventually need to send their children to a high school.

You can't just close Robert Usher. We here are just one big family, and you are ripping us apart! Regina school board is equal to Hitler and the Nazi's, and us the students are the Jew's, being kicked out of our home; the place we love so very much.

Usher is home to all of us. It is more then just a learning facility. It is a place where we come to escape the things going on around us outisde of school Would you take a child away from her mother just because she only has 2 children instead of 3? No. So why are you trying to take us away from our familes?

As a parent and educator, I am glad to see the Board make a decision that will ensure my child will have all of the options necessary for a quality education. Without a concerted effort to close the schools that have declining populations, the rest of the students will suffer.

The city should plan some kind of compensations to those household involved, for example, proerty tax deduction, enhanced transportation, aftershcool care etc

I think you should re-consider! dont do this. truthfully there is going to be so many people complaining you probably wont even be able to. this is so ridiculous!

When people come to seek out a neighbour hood to live in and they have a family or are in the plans of starting a family, they shouldn't be discouraged by an french school - it should be both - it ruins the chances of the community to revitalize

go screw yourselves you heartless bastards

I know Herchmer Community School structure is no longer safe, but I wonder whats going to happen to these kids. There is busing issues, alot of our kids are late, if they miss the bus whats going to happen, they just don't go to school? If there is a second bus, then they will just wait to go on that one. What is going to happen to our partnership with Exhibition Park? Are they willing to take on more students? What will happen to our extra programs, like violin, after school programs? Is there going to be rides for them? How will our parents have involvment as alot of them don't have transportation? And what about the lunch program, as alot of them attend Chili for Children? You hear so much about rebuilding North Central, houses are being sold, it does have potential, but closing Herchmer and eventually Kitchener, that takes away the heart of North Central. I am worried about the kids that benefit from a smaller school, alot of kids at our school have alot of issues at home, and families move, but alot of the kids stay at our school, it is the one constant in there life. I don't want these kids to fall through the cracks, after all, it's for the best intrests of the kids. I know there are no easy answers. But when looking at the big picture from a parent of Herchmer of course I would like to rebuild here as I am sure Wascana parents will say the same. thats where the pro's and con's come in.

When Robert Usher was placed on the "hit" list in 2005...this caused alot of parents to send their children to alternate high schools. By keeping Robert Usher open these students will return. With new homes being built in Uplands, this will also bring more students to the school. We need to keep the one and only high school in the northeast OPEN. Raise taxes...alot cheaper for us parents than busing our children

I personally believe that closing Robet Usher Collegiate would stagnate development in the North end of Regina. Also, there are concerns about ananimity of this survey, particularly on the next page.

I have some concern about open highschool boundaries. I agree with many of the mergers. They are long over due.

I firmly believe that a school is an important part of the community. In many neighbourhoods, the school is the centre of the community. The plan is good, but is a school with 200 students better than one with 150?? A community like Eastview is centered around the school. Yes, the building is aging, but it is in good shape and our students

still receive quality education. To remove a school from an isolated neighbourhood like Eastview will have extensive ramifications on the community. With the current housing market, there is great potential for Eastview to grow its population and increase the number of students attending the school. As an employee of RPS, I am happy to see that the plan goes over 10 years - there was obviously a great deal of thought put into the plan and there are many opportunities for feedback. Personally, I am worried about my job - will I have one when my school closes? As part of the school administration, I stand to lose a great deal with all of the changes. In addition to my concerns about job security, I am upset at the thought of leaving this school. I have grown to love the community and the students at my school. I look forward to seeing the kids every day and enjoy visiting with their parents. I don't live in the community, but they have definitely made me feel part of it. When the students transition to their new schools, wouldn't it be better if they could take some familiar faces with them?

I like the idea of implementing Practical and Applied Arts back into the Middle Years program considering it is part of the Evergreen Curriculum

- glad to see that the practical applied arts program is being proposed

This plan proves that Regina Public Schools has considered all aspects of possible change: financial, educational, and public opinion. Well done.

I'm curious about how this new plan will enhance the learning of students with special needs? Will there be adequate teacher staffing to accommodate for these students?

I think what is needed is an independant study that takes all things into consideration (not just numbers and money) and with no pre-determined results. After seeing the way the plan was presented and the feedback session was being ran, it was clear to me that the school board hired a consulting company with the notion of "this is what we want, make the data fit" Also, get rid of the facilitator for the feedback sessions, it is a waste of money and time. Concerned people do not want to be treated like Grade 3 students and it is very apparent that this is just a buffer zone between the decision makers and the taxpayers (which are the ones that live with those decisions). One more thing, if my taxes will be increased, my school closed in my area and my cost goes up due to transportation cost I will have no problem moving my kids out of a misrepresented school division. Maybe the question should be asked, would the school division supporters agree to a tax increase (since they are increasing anyway) to support an even disbursement of schools through out the city? I could have done this study knowing the criteria that was set down. You should try using the latest numbers for the demographics instead of numbers from 2006. If you people haven't picked up a paper for a while we are in the middle of a population increase. So in closing, I just want to say that this plan is flawed in so many ways, as a group you should be embarrassed to try and stand up in front of the taxpayers and try to defend it.

I am a bit confused when they say that RPS will run 8 high schools after the long-term plan is complete. If we have 10 high schools now,

minus Martin, minus Usher equals 8; add a new school in the Southeast, that equals 9. Why only 8 high schools? Is there another at risk? Otherwise, I think the plan has been a long time coming. In fact, schools should have been closed prior to this, to keep up (or keep down, if you will) with declining enrollments. The way the plan has been rolled out is very smart and easy for stakeholders to understand. I think if we focus on the fact that there are schools running at half capacity and it costs too much to keep them all open - \$\$\$ that could be going into buying resources and textbooks - people will understand that it is for the better education of our students.

Am concerned about class size. Is there going to be something in place that states what a maximum class size should be?

As a parent of children attending a RPSB elementary school and also as an employee in an elementary school, I would think your guideline of between 200-400 students is very reasonable. I would certainly agree that it is hard to provide options for students in schools that are extremely small and I believe it is detrimental for students to have the same teacher for three years in a row! My own children have just about always been in split classes and I'm not a huge fan of that. Every second year would suffice-a straight grade would be nice..the teachers would be a little less stretched. I am NOT a fan of busing kids to schools....I work in a school where many children are bused. Many kids are hardly outdoors at all....I see overcrowded halls.....supervision issues....these schools are not meant to house students during mealtime. Tables set up in hallways, improper cleaning, staff and students walking through squished grapes, spilled food, etc. does not make for a pleasant work environment! Having students at school all day requires increased washroom capacity. I see the sort of food children eat....processed food, and a great deal of food microwaved in plastic containers.....I find it quite frightening...sanitation and health standards are non-existent! We have had problems with fruit flies and mice here at our school.....the abundance of food detritus encourages such pests. My husband and I specifically bought a house in proximity to my children's school so they could walk to school and walk home for lunch. They are also able to stay after school for extra-curricular activities and walk home after. In summation, I am in favor of medium sized schools that provide for the community that surrounds them. Schools (elementary) should not be over 400 and busing should be kept to a minimum. Careful attention should be paid to the square footage required per student, washroom requirements and lunchroom space audited carefully.

How many students are presently enrolled in the school at 1600 4Th Ave? Perhaps this building should have been closed since the impact would not likely have been felt by ANY student. Board office staff could venture out of their cozy offices and work in.....hmmm... They could work with STUDENTS in the SCHOOLS.

I really like the cover page that states "You talked and we listened".....this really helped me feel part of this plan. I agree that the research supports the size of the schools. I like the idea of have small group skill based instruction. The practical and applied arts for 6-8 is a great initiative and will help build the trades in our community and also recognize children for their diverse talents.



Congratulations this seems very well thought out and it is great to know the direction and vision for our children.

I agree with the closing of Wascana school french program. And sending the french students to Elsie Mironiuk school.

It appears that considerable effort (and cost) have gone into making this plan. The truth is that the status quo is neither sustainable nor necessarily educationally sound. I support the board in making the changes. My family (2 children, 6 and 9) recently moved into the Wilfred Walker area (to be affected September 2008). I understand why the community is upset but also know that restructuring is necessary.

Awesome Job Regina Public Schools. Thanks for taking the time to create such a comprehensive, well thought out plan, that takes a multitude of factors into consideration /studies. I was very impressed this plan was not about building and \$, but about improved teaching and learning. This plan will start breaking some barriers.

We need to explore alternative curricula. Wilderness survival schools and more emphasis on varied shops that are relevant to students and immediate employment opportunities

I am concerned about the transportation issue and the costs associated with it.

Close immediately the 10 schools that are absolutely in the worst condition. Build super school in East Central (core) k-12. Turn Cochrane into the trade school by using the allocated monies. Have modified programs in every high school. Offer severance package to teachers that are within tow years of 30 years - this will also renew our teaching staff.

I am not sure why these changes are based on a 10 year plan when so many changes occur from year to year.

Move faster rather than slower.

Ensure that student learning is the focus of the plan. We need to better facilities to help extend the knowledge of the children.

I think that the decision to close the english programme at Wilfrid Walker is premature as they did not include the new area statistics, the french study is still going on and that the impact on the area is huge!

The current process has placed a great deal of unnecessary stress on parents and students alike

French immersion is better taught at French only schools than running both an English and a French program at one school.

Will the school board really save money by closing the english program at WW and busing the children to a nearby school? The cost of transportation could equal the anticipated savings. Potential homeowners might be deterred in moving into the WW area because only a French

school is offered, thereby decreasing our property value. We pay school taxes to have an english available school in our area.

I think you can't make a quick decision like this especially if you do not have all the facts and that you still have a french study going on until March 2008

The plan is a good start, but needs to be examined more thoroughly.

It's about time this is happening. It is too bad we are so far behind Saskatoon. The plan takes too long to come into effect, 10 years is along time. I think that once schools start closing, and others are re-built, the time lines will tighten up.

I think it is great that time is being taken to talk with the communities! It is good to see that this is not just about saving money!!!

Everyone loves to build a new school leaving a legacy of their input...however, we still have good physical structures (Usher) and kids could be bused to those schools. Before Knoll was built, students from the north had the option of being bused to Sheldon. Seemed to work.

I believe the process you are using is very effective and allows all stake-holders an opportunity to be educated and participate in this process!

I think this a positive move and the money saved can be put into quality programs.

It is positive to see a long range plan. In two to four years it would be important to update the plan to incorporate the following ten years. It is encourgaing to see the commitment of senior admin in attending school-based meetings to talk with the public.

I think it is important for all parents to know that by closing small high schools, the students at the larger ones should have smaller class sizes. Presently the smaller schools have small class sizes and the larger ones have to take up the slack and have huge class sizes.

Perhaps downsizing the board administration would free funds to ensure these schools stay open.

Time allotted to "learning" has been eroded with a variety of intrusions - some meaningful, some educational, some fun, some pointless... Consider a 4 day school week with slightly extended daily hours and zero interruptions. Decide if children should be fundraisers, if teachers should be cheerleaders/ policemen/ office managers or teachers. If the latter give us the time to teach.

The plan seems to very well thought out, and flexible with time.

I think that having French Immersion schools is a terrific idea. I understand the challenges it will pose for families with kids in both Fr. and Eng. programs. However, from a pedagogical point of view, it is soooo much better. All Fr. schools will make the language so much

more authentic (less "phony and contrived"), because students will hear the language at assemblies, in the halls, on the playground, etc. by all teachers and not just in their classroom.

It looks like a lot of work/thought was put into this. The time line over the next 10 years is very helpful and was I thought unexpected. So I do appreciate that!!

What about all the extra transportation from opening boundaries? Is it

I hope that families in the core area know that their children can still attend French Immersion even though it is not offered in their community. I hope that it will be well advertised and promoted, so that these families do not feel their children are losing the opportunity to learn in French. I also hope that accommodations will be made for the core families who attend non-community schools. There are many French Immersion families who benefit greatly from the programs and services offered by community schools, ie: food and clothing.

Centralizing French Immersion programs in one facility, I feel, would make a better educational experience for the students as well as workplace for staff members.

The non affected schools need to be provided additional staffing and funding from the potential savings to make up for past shortages

If certain schools close and students of those schools are to attend another, there needs to be more supports put in place to assist and support student learning and needs of both students and staff. For example, we will need a full time vice-principal. We will need a full time learning resource teacher. We will need a speech pathologist. We will need more funding for supervisors. etc.

Save money by having fewer downtown administration and let the schools run themselves with support from downtown, not interference.

What does this mean for new teachers? Teachers on temporary contracts?

The previous plan was a better one. Leading means that you will be advocating change. There is always resistance to change. It was disappointing that last time the board caved prematurely (there was still lots of time) before the process had time for all ideas to come forward. In my opinion, this demonstrated a lack of courage and has had a negative impact on the moral of those working for the board, especially for the downtown administration. The exodus of so many administrators seems to be the result. The new plan is less courageous and less cost effective and is not as effective for our students as the 2005 plan.

think about a new plan for itinerants

I honestly hope after Usher has been up for renewal twice now that the Board votes to close it. It would be ridiculous to keep it open given its current population and I would hope that public pressure from parents does not prevent this closure from happening. I also hope that Usher's building will be used for something purposeful like the Trade Centre.

Great division. Look carefully at building to please subdivisions. Make what we have awesome.

Excellent plan. It is clear that adequate time and effort was put into the renewal and that it will indeed benefit all stakeholders.

We are spending a lot of time on building community at the school level (SCC) but when you take one kind of school out of a community - like closing Martin which will leave no high school in that area of the city, we are not only closing the school but we are losing a very vital part of a successful community. We encourage our kids to give back but we will be removing all of the teenagers from the area for the greater part of the day. This will have an impact on homes (with families in which the children are responsible for the care of younger siblings and pets in their own or their neighbours homes), and elementary schools who will lose out on mentorship and volunteer opportunities involving former students.

- handicap accessibility

community members other than school parents are important to the process of developing schools for sustainable communities. Feeling you are a stakeholder in making school decisions is a new idea for these people and more effort needs to go into welcoming them into the process

I am the parent of a child in the Senior FIAP. It is my great concern that the FIAP programs will be moved to a different school then the rest of the students. I am afraid that my trust has been lost considering this issue. All the students must stay together. They are friends. They are a very valuable part of the school community. If this plan is truly about what is best for all students then all students in the school must stay together. This means Discovery Playschool, Junior FIAP, Senior FIAP and grades Kindergarten to Grade Eight. The other thing that was missing from the plan was transition plans. Although I assume that will come later during the year consultation process between Athabasca, Argyle and Lakeview. I have the highest respect for the parents of Athabasca School and their committment to a improved learning enviroment and achieving that in a fair, open-minded way, non-agressive approach.

As a teacher of K-8, I find it is extremely challenging to incorporate all grades into many activities. I am an Arts Education Specialist and find that when you are trying to do something school wide, it is difficult to find material that could be suitable for the entire school to participate in. It creates a definite segregation within the school and the school community suffers as a result. Grades 6-8 students are ready for more independence which could be offered through junior high schools. Also, I do not think the time is right to take the dual track out of Wilfred Walker. I think more research must be done and more thought put into it. I feel that too many families will be met with many challenges because of the change to a French centre. As a parent that speaks no French at all, it is a little scary thinking that all assemblies, presentations, musical/drama productions etc. would all be in French. It would seem that should be reserved for a school such as ecole monseigneur de laval. Also, when I think of a child having to leave the school entirely because the French program isn't working out,

I think that must be highly stressful for that child to go through. As it is now, a child switching to English simply moves to another room in the same school with children they already know through playground activities and school activities. This makes the transition much easier for them. I also believe that it will be a logistical challenge for people with kids in both programs, especially if they also have a child in high school. That is too much juggling to try and attend events at 3 different schools. As well, trying to find babysitters that would be central to both Wilfred Walker and Wilfred Hunt would be challenging if they have students who are not able to be home on their own yet. On another note, if you were to turn Usher into a junior high school which serviced all of the schools which currently feed into Usher, that would free up space in the elementary schools to accommodate the children currently going to the schools slated for closure. Another concern as a teacher is that if the inner city schools close, I believe the attendance will suffer. These kids struggle with many challenges and getting to school is one of them. If they miss the bus, in most cases, they will not have a way of getting to school at all. As it is right now, even when they are within walking distance, many of the children are late on a regular basis because of circumstances beyond their control. I believe that their education will certainly suffer.

I was wondering how you are picking the schools for closer. Do you take into consideration whether nearby property developments will bring many families in that would necessitate keeping neighboring schools open? I realize that many hours went into this plan regarding our schools.

Smaller student to teacher ratio would benefit the students a great deal. This would make it easier for teachers to work with smaller groups and differing levels of academics. Students do not fit in to the cookie cutter class anymore. A class of grade 4 students may have academic levels from K - 6 in it. As well, students' academic levels usually differ depending on the subject area. Keeping more schools open, with smaller classes (20 max) would benefit the learning of all students.

With regard to the proposed French Centres, does this mean support staff will have to be bilingual?

Why can't the parents of all students take a vote on what we want to see. I don't want our school closed and merged with another. I don't want my children to be bussed from Cathedral all the way over to Massey so they can continue in French Immersion. I like that the Principal is out on our school grounds saying good morning to the parents. I like that the staff knows who my children are if I have to call the school. I like the diversity of the students and the many programs at Connaught. I'd like to know why the kids have to suffer because the weak school board did not have enough foresight to request more tax money. It's the school board's fault for letting some of the schools structurally fall apart. Inflation is a part of life and the board should have kept up with it. I will gladly pay more taxes if my kids can stay in our neighborhood and attend French Immersion and I'm sure that many others would too.

Some schools will become simply too big with this plan. Mironuck for example is alreadyt big enough and some Wascana students are not there yet.

Education is expensive. Coming up with best ways to provide this education without loosing valuable programs is and will be a challenge. No one likes when schools have to be closed. Being within city limits does give the school board an advantage. Changes can be made to provide quality education still keeping the best interest of the children in mind. Getting children to the schools, with best possible programs, is a lesser problem in the city than affording to keep small enrollment schools operating.

Revisit the transfer policy. It does very little to build a sense of community.

Martin students are concerned that they will have not much choice but to attend Scott and they say their families do not want them to attend an inner city highschool

Is there a plan in place for teachers who will be affected by either school closures or program closures? Will they have any sort of choice as to where they are placed? It has been suggested that those affected be given precedence with regards to transfers and that does seem to be an equitable way to go about it.

There has to be another way to keep the schools open.

would like the plans to include some school growth into the newer areas of the east and north-west.

It seems like it was well planned and well thought out this time.

Please do not make a plan and then stop. Changes are needed and they must be implemented in a timely manner. We cannot start and then stop.

I'd really like to see school size kept small.

Sask. Education and Regina Public needs to address how high school classes are delivered. We need to enhance class offerings or learning opportunities away from the school. Increasing mentorships and learning contracts would provide more opportunities for youth G 10-12.

Since arriving at this school, I have encountered major challenges in my classroom. Unfortunately, the students either haven't been previously identified as having difficulties, or the parents are reluctant to allow their child to receive the help needed. As a result, I have had to deal with students with major behaviour and learning problems without the support of a teacher assistant in the classroom. I feel terrible about the students whose education is suffering because my time is totally consumed by these students that require extra assistance and support.

It will be a painful process for those families whose children attend the schools that are being closed. The success of the process of relocating students to designated schools will be very much dependent

on the transitional supports provided by our school system to affected students and their families.

Information to the community needs to be in much more common language. It uses so much jargon and terminology that it is not easily available to the public to actually express thoughts or feedback upon. If they are not aware of the meaning and structure behind many of the terms used in the FAQ's and the plan in general, how can the division then say that the public has truly been able to give its feedback and suggestions?

This school division has NO plan for learning online options. Other areas have many options for students to learn online, Regina is in the dark. Learning online requires skills, students need to learn these skills. In the future, many careers will be using online learning for upgrading, advancement etc. We need to teach how to learn.....create independent learners. We need a plan.

I do like the fact that there is a vision in this plan. I hope that it can be carried through. I hope that program can be not only maintained but enhanced as a result of these moves--teacher/librarian time increased, better use of learning resource teachers, extended use of classroom assistants, even in classrooms with no special needs students.

while ensuring equal opportunities for students it is important to recognize that students within zone should be ensured enrollment in their zone school should they choose. Schools should be closed according to the condition of the building. Classes need to be available to all students regardless of numbers.

There is a decline in social pressure once the population grows to the 150 mark. Remaining around that number means that "some" won't be lost in a crowd. It is the number that the human brain functions with. When schools become too large is when students are lost in the shuffle, we simply cannot handle a close bond with more than 150 people at a time. Larger schools, thought they will offer more resources and programs, they will lose the tight bonds that smaller schools offer.

I feel that the message that the school board is sending is inconsistent re: French Centres vs dual track schools. Based on what the school board told us a few years ago, it seems as though the squeaky wheel gets to keep their school intact.

As you reassess and reorganize the classrooms and schools, I would like to see more efforts made to enhance reading and math at young ages. Levelled and guided reading and math groups are fairly important components of the organization needed to enhance student learning in my experience.

I would like to see things implemented as soon as possible so people can get use to the ideas

Transition teams must be in place March 12 should the board decide to close schools in June 2008. Student concerns at the high school level must be addressed and assurances must be in place to address peak enrolment levels at the schools receiving displaced students. I hope

that this board will stick with its decisions regarding the renewal process and that on March 11 the decision, whatever it may be, will not be swayed by public pressure.

Keeping French at Hawrylak also makes it more difficult for the teachers because they never have the opportunity to work alongside colleagues who teach the same grade level as them in French. They don't get that extra supportive professional environment that English teachers get at almost every school.

In order to provide the best education possible to the young people of Regina Public there is a need to keep the student/teacher ratio manageable. This is especially true in the core area of the city. Teachers in the core have to deal with social, emotional, basic need concerns and require smaller classrooms in order to try and meet all these demands.

This plan considers RPS as a whole and works to make the transition for families as comfortable as possible. My hope is that the staffs that are impacted by incoming students are given the time and resources to fully prepare (facility, classrooms, timetable) and welcome these students into their buildings.

I feel that we need to make more changes "sooner". We still have far too many "very small" schools. I'm not a fan of small schools in that I don't think they provide the best educational services to the students. I am presently teaching at a small school (140 ish) and it is so hard to do any ability/needs grouping. There is just no room for flexibility.

Close down imperial and move them to Usher as it is a newer school and should require less money to upkeep. Lease the extra space out to bring income in to maintain the school.

Smaller number of students in each classroom

I am a little concerned about the size of classes. As it is, we are at capacity for academic courses and it would be difficult to deliver effective lessons to groups that are larger.

Staffing needs to be flexible so as students increase so do staff members to maintain the proper teacher-student ratio encompassing the boards numeracy and literacy policy. No all schools/programs should be included in the PTR. Example IB/AP classes and smaller schools with 1-18 students should not be put with regular classes so that their PTR is huge, but the system number is 20-27. Classroom need to meet the 21st century with current equipment and proper training. This is needed as our students are entering the world not fully prepared.

this will drastically change the Uplands community

I feel the plan is much needed and it is time for change to take place within our division. Discussion has been on-going now for over 2 years and it is satisfying to know that changes are beginning to happen.



Smooth transition will be extremely important for the students of Herchmer school. Making them feel safe and comfortable should be the top priority in order for this to work.

As I listen to many of the news clips regarding renewal, it is my observation that many parents are equating small schools with small class size. This is a misconception that I would like addressed and clarified. Class size is relatively the same regardless of the size of school. I think many parents think their children will be in a class with more students if they are in a larger school...that is not the case. I responded to this survey earlier, but this is an added observation I have made that I wanted to bring forward. Earlier, I stated that my concern as a teacher is that if I were to be working in a 'smaller' school, in fact, there would be fewer people to deliver the same programming to students that would be in a larger school. To me, it makes no sense to spread teachers any thinner than they already are.

This is the right thing to do!!!!!!!

I like the manner in which the plan will be evaluated every few years to verify if it is still viable for certain schools. I also like the fact that it is a long range plan so people can get used to the idea and can offer suggestions.

dont close so many schools, I think it would be harder for the families living in North Central Regina to access the school facilities if it moves too far from them. The more schools you have spread out over the city the better the chances are that everyone lives near one.

I know school closures are very tough but I think they have to be done and I hope the board will have the courage to take the necessary steps.

I think this process needs to happen quicker than the plan suggests. The quicker the process the sooner we can move on to a brighter future.

I am excited to see the new schools that will be built in the near future

I do agree that some changes need to be made/some schools need to be closed but once just can't look at numbers especially in a high school. I was wondering if the proceeds from the sale of property and subsequent tax savings from the first several schools to close, compounded over time and added to the coffers were considered as that may reduce/eliminate further action in the future. Also, when we are told that the meetings will take place in two years to revisit the proposals, will OTHER schools be considered based on their population decreases, facility reviews, or are the 2 year reviews restricted to the schools mentioned in the Renewal Plan?

It is important to recognize the educational system that we set up for Grade 7-9 students. Let's meet their education needs by allowing them to transition from Early Elementary to High School. We have expectations that Grade 7-8 students have similar needs to Grade 1 or 2. We can provide a learning environment that suit the needs of Middle Year Students and provide a great opportunity for them to transition into High School.

as far as i can see there will be enough choices for schools for new students but i dont no if the quality of teaching will be great having much bigger classes

It appears the Board has done their due diligence in trying to cover all bases.

Consideration must be given to the demographics of the schools. Equality does not mean treating everyone the same. Many of the students in the smaller schools are First Nations or low socioeconomic status, with little or no supports from family to continue with education. They need a place to belong, a place of caring, a place with the extra support provided in the core schools. Many of these students are hungry and cold, they need food and warm clothing, which the core schools can provide with muffin and breakfast programs and clothing donations. Many of the parents have no means of transportation, so making visits to the school is difficult. In a smaller school, there is more time for staff to spend one on one with students who require the extra attention. Many of the students need to feel safe, cared for and comfortable before they can start to learn, they need the extra attention. Many students that come to the smaller school experience successes they never had in a larger environment. I have deep concerns for the students who will miss the bus daily and chose to not attend, I believe that some of the students will not be successful in school, will have attendance issues, may end up dropping out of school. What are the social costs to these students and their community.

No longer accept mediocrity in teaching staff.

It is very important that slow students, students with learning disabilities, and students with non-supportive home environments get early intervention and all the help they need. This means way more staff, however it is worth it. This may mean designating some schools to have a specialty in handling these situations, or allotting each school, as they need, some specialists and teacher aids to implement a helpful program. The expansion of trades and commercial training, even to the point of streaming students, would help a lot of the students to be more involved and to be enjoying learning.

I think that the plan is a model in forward planning. It provides direction and vision but builds in flexibility and choice that should allow future boards to best meet the needs of the system even if there are dramatic or unpredicted changes to Regina's economic, demographic or social make up. As a parent of students at Lakeview school, I am impressed that the school division has a plan to renew that area. Although my children will be in high school by the time Lakeview School is scheduled to be redesigned, they will benefit from more consistent class sizes throughout the division and, hopefully, a higher quality of instruction. As a member of Douglas Park Staff, I am excited for this community to have a new building. The present facility has number of significant problems: inconsistent heating, leakage in heating lines, poor air circulation, very poor accessibility for wheelchairs, poor bathroom facilities for students and staff, and poor layout for school security to name a few. Sometimes it takes a tangible, physical change to be a catalyst for a paradigm shift. I am hoping that redesigning

the building will result in changes in how teachers and students work and interact.

It would be nice to see board members attend the meetings. It would be better if you could present parents with a concrete plan and location for the school. Don't fool yourselves into believing that parents have not caught on to the "actual" plan. We understand that many crucial decisions, that you tell us have not been made, have already been made. Especially where a new school is going to be located. For instance, the Glen Elm/Haultain school will not be located in Eastview, because unless the city of Regina is willing to give up the soccer field in Eastview Park, there is no where to build.

I think it is important that the stress and anxiety of some students and communities, both on the closing side and the accepting side of the affected schools, be acknowledged. A planned activity to unit and welcome communities together could be beneficial in making the transition smoother for all.

Air quality and employee health safety must be a priority. This will also make facilities safe for students.

The band program has shown no signs of change or improvement. It went through a renewal process a few years ago which I was a part of. The program has not changes or improved. It is not the best use of one million dollars.

The cited schools should have been closed when first cited. It has been a slow painful death for our school.

please follow through with the plan this time.

For Dieppe School and Martin Collegiate, the 3 legged stool which is so important to the CHILDREN, according to the Board's recent presentations by Dr. Abbott, sure doesn't fit into this model. The communities in the area of these schools are very involved and passionate about their children and the facility they learn in. Why can't a larger school move to a smaller school which is in great condition, structurally, Dieppe and Martin, and save money by doing minor maintenance than having to do major repairs in a school that has higher enrollment. I believe that enrollment can not be the only reason a facility is slated for closure. This whole renewal thing should be about the CHILDREN and not just about how much money can be made from the sale of the property. Remember the Three Legged Stool, School, Community and Family. If the Board takes away the schools, Dieppe and Martin, that stool will come tumbling down and guess who is effected, OUR CHILDREN and their EDUCATION.

Questions rather than comments: Why are there two totals of enrolment for Connaught COMMUNITY school? as the school and its students are referred to as a whole not as seperat system..they have the same princple, the same friends, the same community, some the same family, they use the same bathrooms, the same gym, the same library, why are the numbers not in the same row? Why are the students not being asked what they think, it is thier lives that you are disrupting? I think that if Connaught were to close you are going to find more transfer's from the public school system to the catholic system, in order for the

kids to stay in some way with the community. Don't make us have to in some situations including mine split my kids up and have them going to different schools or have them transferred to the catholic system.

Removing triple grading is more equitable. Having a handful of schools with small class sizes is not fair relative to nearby schools having much larger classes at the same grade levels. The plan addresses this.

Have some the "extra-curricular" teachers and coaches visit the schools and introduce their programs and themselves to the students. For example, the band or choral teacher and the football coach, etc.

I think that it is highly time that we closed schools. Operating schools of 150 students or less is costly. I have been through school closures before. It was the best thing possible for our students. The larger school had much more to offer the students in extra curricular. We would try to run extra curricular at my other school but had a hard time fielding a team. Socially the bigger school was better, too, for our students. They were a lot more people to choose from to be friends. I have nothing but good to say for the closure of our small school. One area that does concern me is the bussing. Having students arrive at school at 8:30 in the morning is not a good idea. On the other hand our first bus students are dismissed at 3:20 and this is a disruption to our school day. The whole area of bussing needs to be examined.

I think that a disservice is being done when nothing is presented about class size. I often hear parents concerned that a larger school means larger class size. I feel that it needs to be presented that a larger school doesn't mean larger classes. It probably means fewer split classes and certainly no 3-grade rooms. To explain the idea that the "formula" for staffing doesn't change with the school means very little to parents as they don't know what that means. I think that emphasizing that without changes triple grade rooms becomes a reality for some it they want to save money. I have never heard that presented at all either from two years ago or now.

Enhance or promote the extra-curricular activities offered as a result of immersion of schools.

Connaught school has 320 some students, almost 100 more than your figures show. Why is Connaught slated for possible closure? Many people who live in this area chose the school as it is a Community school and because they also chose French. People in this area value diversity. Children living in this area who are in French will switch to English or go to Pius rather than spend close to 2 hours a day on the bus.

The plans for Wilfrid Walker are based on premature numbers and the School Board seems very closed minded to listening to anything that suggests this. I also think that with a dual track system you can't use the same 200-400 students without counting both english and french as one. What school in Regina is capable of housing 800 students otherwise.

Please refer to previous page/question for my comments...

The RBE has to begin recognizing that the responsibilities and expenses of education are to be shared by all citizens (especially those that can afford to pay) and are not to become the burden of immediate users. The families that have been using the school services for the past 15 years have been made to carry the shortfall for a long neglected public service. These people have been; administering lunch room programs, fundraising vast amounts of money, providing supervision and education assistance with various academic programming, providing maintenance costs, donating capital supplies, completely renewing and renovating school grounds and play areas, providing significant amounts of after school programming, providing field trip funding/transport/supervision, providing governance for programming, providing custodial services, cleaning school and school yards, etc. This list is endless and yet the RBE has no record of the amounts of personal, corporate, small business and family monetary, resource, labour and time donation. The entire civic population has benefited from education in Regina in the past and will continue to do so in the future. It is time for a serious public relations campaign for renewed respect, commitment and renovation to all Regina public schools and increased support to the families that have been working so hard to repair the damages done by poor management and poor citizenship.

Our school (Douglas Park) is up for a possible rebuild! This is what we would like. Our school is 51 years old and if the school is just brought up to code, it doesn't change the fact that the school is 51 years old. A bandaid on it will only last so long. -Our school needs to be wheelchair accessible. We have students in wheelchairs that need to be able to get around as easily as possible. -bathroom facilities are lacking for both genders. -the gym is not big enough -there are fire hazards within the school -emergency access is compromised for both able bodied and the students in wheelchairs.

The Handout at public meetings has the wrong web address. [www.renewRPS.sk.ca](http://www.renewRPS.sk.ca) does not work. This is bad. Do not be dissuaded by protests by those whose schools are closing. There is a natural desire to resist change, and in the long run these very small schools will continue to drain resources that are essential for good education for all. Very small schools, especially at the high school level, do not provide the needed opportunities. I believe the 600 minimum target for high schools is too low. There is also a perception that bullying is worse at large schools. This is entirely backwards as small schools have a much restricted social structure, powerful cliques, and limited ability for those who are not "in" to find friends and peers with whom to share their interests.

I am pleased with the two year evaluation so that the Renewal Plan may be adapted as time progresses. This does not lock the Board of Trustees into decisions that do not make sense in the long term. Renewal is important and necessary, and I'm pleased Regina Public Schools is being proactive in this regard.

RBE needs to realize the cost of not maintaining the facilities is far beyond the cost of an adequate workforce. By cutting back on manpower and holding true to the mantra of the previous Director of, "every dollar not spent in the classroom is a wasted dollar" has done nothing to enhance the image of the facilities. Making the caretaking staff and the trades people to be less important than the teaching or

administration staff has alienated these people to the point there is no real incentive to perform. In every instance they will be wrong, no matter what the circumstances. This may not sound like it has anything to do with the renewal of schools but if we look at the big picture, employees that feel part of the whole team and not just as we have heard, "just support staff to the teachers", are probably more likely to go that extra mile to ensure the facilities are kept to a higher standard.

If you are going to close schools because repairing and maintaining them is too costly, I feel it should be done right away, in 2008-9. There is no advantage to postponing it. Parents are going to be upset either way and it might save the taxpayers some money. Be direct with the public about the state of the old schools and the money being spent to keep them open.

Doing nothing is NOT an option. Do not be de-railed from the principles of renewal

The demographic projections seem wildly wrong given what's happened over the last year or so economically in this city. And although RBE administrators keep referring to the contracted demographic company, Baragar Demographics, a look at their website suggests that in fact they just sell software to school boards allowing them to make their own demographic projections. On another note, the results of the "consultation" meetings I attended looked quite dissimilar to what was published in the "Linnen Report". Finally, I would just like to add that there seems to be a real lack of transparency throughout this whole process, implying a degree of insincerity. There seems to be too much emphasis on "taking the emotion out of the decisions", and "selling the plan". People aren't emotional idiots and if this plan is a good one people will endorse it.

As I work in an alternative school setting, I simply want to reiterate the importance of a quality school setting for students requiring special programming. Thank you.

I have currently a son in grade 3 french at ecole massey school and a daughter who is in kindergarden french at ecole massey school. My concern is that if my daughter does not cut it in french and the renewal plan of splitting up the school comes to effect this will greatly effect our family. You will be splitting up my children and our family in two. I want my children in the same school to grow up together and not apart for their majority of their youth years. Apart from that how as a parent a parent am I to pick up my children and drop them off in the morning lunch and dinner at the same time. I feel it is important that children do not have to ride the bus if they don't have to. You will be causing great stress in our family with 2 schools. Will I be then forced to pull my son out of the environment that he is excelling in to be placed in a new school because of the plan you have put in to split dual track school, so that my children can be together. In the end the children suffer from all this. What are my options? I do not agree in this at all. The children's best interest should be our top priority bottom line. If the school board feels that splitting up the school is the best for our children then do it across the city, including Hawrylak school and no school should receive favoritism if it is in the best interest of our children. A school does

not bring about good smart children, it is the teachers who teach them. They are the second parent, who spend the most time with our children away from us and that should be the emphasis being the bottom line. You can split and divide and that will not bring about a smarter student or a better educated one. Teachers and curriculums will, that is the truth. Since dual track schools are staffed separately and run somewhat separately, how can splitting them provide such a better education for our children.?

Moving french immersion to Massey will split siblings who are in dual track where some are in English and some in Fr.imm. -People move to the Cathedral area specifically because schools, services, the downtown and Wascana Park are within walking distance. -Catholics who are in the public school system will change over to the separate school system if it means their children will be going to a school closer to their community. -the plan talks about more extra-curricular offerings - who is going to be at these programs when 1600 kids have to get on the bus? -making french immersion centres will create elitism. -Why were there no board members available at these feedback meetings. The school board staff at the Davin school meeting did not do a accurate job of recording the meeting. The comments they wrote were vague. We were told to do this survey if we felt our concerns during the meeting were not being noted. Is this survey that will be compiled from all the feedback meetings be made public. -Regina is the least populated cities in Canada. It has the least amount of people per square km in Canada. Was that taken into consideration with the school sizes? It may work in more densely populated cities.

I commend the Regina Board of Education for the extensive work and vision put into this plan. Closing schools is never easy, but change is inevitable. Quality education of our youth is of the utmost importance. As a tax payer, I want my education tax dollars to go towards giving children the highest quality of education available, not maintaining/repairing structurally unsound buildings. People are not having 4, 5, 6 kids anymore. It's a fact that our student population is declining. It is also a fact that the cost of running and maintaining a school building continues to increase. Schools have to be closed. I'm willing to pay more education tax dollars to enhance the education system in general, but I'm not willing to be taxed to death! There is a limit. We're told that the difference in our tax bill will be mere dollars a year, but, it must be remembered that we pay more than education tax dollars. When we add up all the increases we are charged from year to year in taxes, utilities, groceries, and just general charges to run a household, we're no longer looking at mere dollars. We all must be reasonable.

There is so much you haven't considered or adequately accounted for in this plan. It is not a good document upon which to base a decision that will alter Regina's social landscape forever. It is a very weak plan, containing only vague information for the public.

There needs to be a moratorium on closures until some fundamental questions can be answered, the first of which is why have you denied the research indicating that small neighbourhood schools are better for children and communities?

Please do not close any more schools in Regina. Schools provide a sense of place for residents.

Increased reliance on busing is wrong on many levels: 1) bad for the environment 2) bad for the students, teaching them to be car dependent and sedentary 3) bad for the school board budget ([www.peakoil.com](http://www.peakoil.com))

I am a home schooler of three with one child in school, and it seems to me that no one is opening their eyes to what school really is - a daycare service. When are you going to address the way kids spend their days and stop worrying about the numbers? Take the time now to address the numbers through a rethinking of what education should look like. It's being done in other canadian cities. Here's your chance to be the small center that comes up with a really unique plan to solve its old problems. FYI: The one child I have in school is currently in french immersion and when that service is moved, we will not follow. We will choose the school within our community, not spend 1.5 hours on a bus every day.

The Regina Public School Division has done a shoddy job in preparing this plan. It's basically the same type of plan that was presented 2 years ago, only with more "consultations" and public relations. It does nothing to renew the type of education delivered to children. It's shocking to see how the Regina Public School Division does business - there are many unanswered questions and gaps big enough to drive a school bus through. How can you possibly make a 10 year plan based on this shallow work? The school board must halt this plan and direct the administration to come back with a plan that actually addresses the many good questions that have been asked in the consultation meetings.

The information we have recieved about the plan, the consultations, results from the consultations and opportunities for follow-up discussions/questions has been poor. More meeting times, clearer information about the process and clear summary of results are needed.

this process of 'renewal' had a preordained conclusion which was driven by monetary concerns. While i recognize the board has to be careful around tax increases it seems that this is not even an option. Also it seems doubtful that closures actual will give us substainial savings.

Please consider the students and communities first before you make any of the decisions outlined in this plan. Large super-schools are not the way to go - either educationally or socially.

My concern is for the children both being displaced and having to merge with established relationships. groups etc. How can you ensure that large group of students will be giving the same treatment when moving to a new school. When the receiving schools are so vocal about not welcoming or having these students come into their communities. Bigger is not always better, quality and acceptance is much more important in a childs development and education.



There have been many reasonable questions raised about the 10Year plan. Please do not take further answers until these questions have been fully considered and answered. Consider asking the provincial government to come up with a plan to address and guide education choices given the recent and really, unprecedented changes to the demographic and financial situation in Saskatchewan over the past year. I think that these are indeed important decisions that the board is being asked to undertake, and I strongly feel that they have not been given enough or accurate enough information to do so in the interest of their constituents.

I attended a meeting and heard that there is a Montessori playschool at W.F. Ready School that is in the school rent-free!! To top it all off, I heard that the Montessori has raised their fees. I don't believe businesses like that should be in our schools rent-free only to increase their profits.

thank you for coming to our school and sharing the plan

Transportation costs alone would be huge

I do have concerns around transportation for students. Has the school board been in discussion with City Transit to discuss needs?

The students from Robert Usher and the Uplands community as a whole deserve to have the school left open, and the school board needs to bring new programs into the school to bolster enrollment. and take the black cloud away that the school board put over its head with the last threat. The school board should look at the busing - parents need to be responsible for getting their children to school, and children who live more than 7 or 8 blocks away should be the only ones on the bus, but with that, the school board needs to close the boundaries so parents send their kids to schools in their own area, not send them to a different school just so they can get bussed.

I am concerned with what will happen to some of the heritage buildings (such as Davin, Connaught, Scott Collegiate) if these schools are closed. These buildings are significant parts of our community's built-heritage. The best way to conserve such heritage buildings is by making sure they have an on-going, compatible use. Once they use their use, it is usually not long before they are demolished. In the case of Scott Collegiate, I think the school board should consider rehabilitating the existing building for the North Central Shared Facility. Reusing heritage buildings is the "green" thing to do as it means that the materials don't end up in the landfill. Heritage buildings such as these contribute to the character of our neighborhoods. They are also important meeting places in our communities. I am also concerned about what will happen to the daycare programs being offered through many of the schools. With larger populations, some of these programs will no longer be able to operate as full daycares and may lose their government subsidies.

As Canadians we generally do not support the notion of separation (as in the Quebec situation), so I wonder why we would look at a form of segregation when it pertains to French and English education.

I am more likely to approve an increase in my taxes if the school board closes school buildings rather than shuffling of students. ie creating French Centers. In addition, I am glad to see the Board looking at implementation of Practical and Applied Arts for grades 6-8 since not all students are bound for university.

Age of the transfer school and its facilities are in question. Mc Veety school is an aging facilities that currently does not meet some of the building code & regulations, stuffing the kids from Massey into an aging facility is not the best solution, over crowding in class rooms, lack of washrooms & poor facilities is not a choice. Splitting of families french/ English only schools is not a viable alternative. Yet talking of creating a 2 track system further down, Massey is a school that this has proven track record yet you feel the need to disband the programs that are working. This doesn't make sense.

I feel that Davin and Connaught are very important schools to keep open. I WILL not bus my kids to a suburban school as one of the reasons we moved to this neighbourhood was the school options and our ability to walk everywhere we need to go.

This plan is all about "choice"? Our family feels that we are being forced to "choose" between community and opportunity. If we opt to stay with French Immersion, our children will not attend school in their community, will not know their neighbours, will be more anonymous, and possibly more likely to get into trouble as a result of this anonymity. If we choose community, our children miss out on the opportunity that accompanies French education. What kind of "choice" is this? With its suggested single track approach to French Immersion, RBE seems to be taking the worst part of the Regina Catholic system for its own. For families with multiple children who make not take equally well to French education, single track programs split up siblings and increase demands on time and energy of parents. This plan does not adequately reflect any of the things our family values.

look at examples of core school closures in other communities.

If you put the kids in larger classrooms they will not get the proper one on one assistance they are getting now. you put more students into one class they will not get the proper education they deserve.

If you merge McDermid with Imperial and MJ Coldwell with Ruth Pawson, why not leave the high school alone. Haven't the kids from this neighborhood been through enough changes???

My concern is for the children who cannot handle the french program and are forced to go into the english program after a few years and then would have to change schools as well. I know that there are always quite a number that do that and it will be very hard on the child to change, without the extra (changing schools). It could end up that the parents have other children in the french program and then would have two schools to be involved in and two schools to drop children off at and the siblings would not be able to walk to and from school together. It would be a hardship on everyone. I hope you have consulted a child psychologist in this matter.

During a time of renewal, it is beyond me why the School Board would choose to stop charging daycares and preschools rent. The thousands of \$\$\$ in lost revenue is unbelievable. This money could be used to have more teachers and assistants. As well I don't think it is necessary for the school board to buy crayons, pencils, etc. for students in more affluent areas. Provide them for the community schools yes.

Some of these schools are in such bad shape and need to be closed

I'm glad that they are planning on building new schools in areas that need them and closing unsafe schools and schools with ultra low enrollment. These are changes that need to be made.

## Paper Comments

The following pages contain all comments submitted via a handwritten survey questionnaire. Responses were entered by members of HJ Linnen Associates and were checked for spelling and grammatical errors. Individual responses are separated by a blank line.

### Q5. Are there any important changes that would make the plan better?

Are there plans for easement of transition to the schools children will be going to? Class sizes - Keep them smaller! Support systems for children with learning needs.

Don't close the school

Stop thinking about #s and think more about the kids

Need to take into consideration the emotional well being of the kids.  
Need to ensure children do not spend more than 30 minutes on a bus.  
Need to consider the financial cost to families for before/after school programs now required and lunch room costs at noon. Take a teacher to the school with the children to ensure someone as a contact.

Keep bussing down to a maximum of 20 minutes. Ensure that all routes for children walking to school are SAFE.

Consider at risk students and small class size, also sense of community in local school. "It takes a village to raise a child"

Combining school boards

I think it needs to be a shorter plan like 5 years.

Keeping things on the "small" level

Better lead time to the meetings!! The transportation issue will be a nightmare!

Combining a "community" school with a "non-community" school is a great idea. All students need opportunities or access to programs. It also could be the start of breakdown of stereotypes.

Keeping 1 elementary school open and keeping Martin open. Informing the public cost of keeping schools open.

Keep school smaller

No. Don't do it.

No. Herchmer should be fixed and stay open.

Committing to rebuilding at least 1 but 2 school for the North Central Area.

I can't see it.

No.

If schools can be closed earlier, do so. Money is being spent to run uneconomic schools. I understand it takes time to get new schools ready, but the sooner the better.

Closing schools is very delicate to begin with but by choosing a school that is in an area where growth and improvement is being fostered and encouraged is a step in the wrong direction

I think smaller is better. The one on one (teacher student atmosphere) benefits all students.

Keep Usher open, close older falling apart schools.

Do not close Robert Usher. We are one of the newest schools and effort should be made to increase our population and make use of our facility. There are better choices than destroying a community to save a few bucks to then later build a new school in a newer, more affluent, higher income community (SE). We are losing out!

Keep a new school (Usher) open and encourage student enrollment by stating it won't close.

Don't be bent on getting schools to the target numbers when your own studies don't support that concept from either a financial or educational point of view.

More . . . enrollment numbers should be considered.

This 10 year lacks substance and is basically a numbers thing. The communities voices are not being listened to.

The blinders need to come off and look to keep the newer schools open.

Many - more consideration to quality not numbers. More thinking outside open school or close school box.

Don't go through with it!!

Allow students to make the choice across Regina before you decide to close any schools based solely on enrollment

Allow adjustment time for Usher students. The decision is made in March and the school would close 3.5 months later. That is not fair, particularly for Gr. 10 and 11 students.

- Keep Robert Usher open. (newest and best shape for mtn) - Move other students (programs) from run-down schools to our newer, better school (grade 8 kids). - Close old falling apart Balfour (\$16.6 mil to fix) and keep Usher (@ \$590,000 to fix) open. - Keep our school open (not a

new high school in Southeast Regina) and let people in SE (who can afford transportation) send their kids across the city.

Give Usher the 2 year review process that the others schools have been given.

No, your plan is hurting a lot more than you're helping. Ruining lives, killing dreams. Don't shut down Usher. We will fight.

There are no possible changes that could be made to this so called plan to make anything better. If this was any kind of plan you would have taken into consideration the well being of the students and not base all your decisions on money!

Keep Usher open. We are all one big family!

No, because the plan sucks!

Close old dilapidated schools. Close borders bolster enrollment in smaller populated schools.

Don't close us. It's as simple as that!

Don't close

Smaller classroom sizes!

Think of the kids, not the bottom line and a short sighted vision.

Yes, I think Robert Usher should become a 7-12 school. There's your 600 students!

Make Usher a grade 7-12 which will rise our student body to 600 or more.

Make Usher a 7-12 grade school. That will give us 600 students.

Look at what you can do to keep our school open, rather than how quickly you can close it - to become a super elementary school or the new School Board office.

Make the school a "super school".

Less busing, a very high cost to the School Board. Many elementary schools may need to be closed due to low enrollment and poor upkeep on buildings, however to have oversized classes and less teachers will only lead to future problems.

Transportation!!!

Listen to the people of the district

Not doing it.

This plan does nothing to enhance the quality of education. What kind of plan closes 14 schools and ends up costing taxpayers money. Your plan states high schools of 600-1200 students. 6 out of 10 high

schools don't meet your criteria, even with the confidence bands. So what is the real reason for closing Usher? Enrollment of Usher feeder schools are increasing. I do not live in the community but choose to have my children attend Robert Usher by their choice.

Don't close our school!! - Implement transportation or students will go to Separate who has bus service.

Involving facility, community and relocation of larger schools in the plan. Revising the plan to keep Usher in use than rather empty for four years before anything is going to happen to it.

Stop counting on the numbers for guidance.

Revise the plan and factor in all factors.

Close Hunt school to save 2.5 million the first year. Don't increase taxing to reduce services.

Appears to be inadequate collection and analysis of population data.  
- French English ratio data - Impact of merge population on affected schools

- Because of growth in the area, the plan should be put on hold for at least 4 more years so that they can establish a proper demographic.

Why is this rushed? Wait & get all of the facts.

Need to explore & explain the French center concept. We should have inclusive schools rather than exclusive schools. We should delay the Wilfred Walker decision based on the facts. There is too high a cost of being wrong.

Waiting 2 years before implementing the first closures of schools and programs until adequate French Centre research can be finished.

What would the Wilfred Walker English program numbers be if Steward Russell and Hunt programs close? The economy of program changes result from closing Hunt not discriminating Wilfred Walker.

Allow more time to review the impact/information on French Centres and present the information to families who will be directly affected.

Ensure capital \$ are correct for new builds.

More details on demographic projections, assumptions etc., since there seems to be uncertainty whether specific criteria was considered (e.g. property development with the area, which may increase enrollments in future.)

More info to parents

More info should be sent out and that info should provide clearer details

- French immersion drop-out rate is excluded. Impact on children who drop-out is unknown. Strong recruitment for French immersion is not

noted as a contributing factor for growth. Yet, decisions are made on the growth rate without considering why.- Determine French Immersion dropout rate.- Develop brochure/booklet to provide parents the pros and cons of French Immersion including the impact on a child who drops out of the program.- Include parent surveys at the start of the school year. Ask if they feel pressured into the French program at a dual-track school.

#### Speed up French move

- Increase significantly LRT, SLP, Specialist times - More help for teachers (offering aid times, budgets for resources, more say in transition and renewal processes) - Lower class sizes, especially in French Immersion K-6 grades. 22:1 is a maximum #! And for every student on specialized programming is counted as '2' students!

- Close the schools < 200 sooner, rather than later. - Consider a French Immersion Centre in the north end of the city.

If community schools close and students are moved to other schools, appropriate supports must be in place (ie: lunches, Cree lang, snack program?, etc.)

- Include facility planning - i.e. inside the school and outside. - Don't sell existing school property - How do we measure . . . (*not legible*)

The proposal that a high school should not be considered until 2018 should be reviewed on a regular basis. School may be needed before that, based on growth in east - southeast Regina!

Looking at other Immersion possibilities such as First Nations Cultural Immersions schools, Ukrainian Immersion schools or German Immersion schools.

- A move toward smaller classrooms. - Establishing a sense of community for those now being asked to leave their community to go to a new school.

#### Reducing class size.

Wait a couple of years for true data for the Gardiner Park growth in population from new housing. If you have to close schools, close the ones with the lowest # of local students to minimize bussing costs.

Communicate the benefits of a French-only school.

Parents, teachers and tax payers need to be informed of all steps of the plan to ensure their understanding of what is to happen.

I believe that the plan is an excellent way to improve the learning situation for most students. I cannot think of any changes at this time.

Equity of pupil/teacher ratio in English and French Immersion classrooms. Sometimes (almost always) the English classrooms are



higher and in most cases they are "way higher". For example, 15-20 students as compared to 25-30. Image how much "one-on-one" assistance we could give if our enrollments were lower. Also, just because we teach at W.S. Hawrylak, it does not mean that we do not have "challenges" in our classrooms.

An "Immersion Centre" @ Wilfrid Walker would serve to enhance the quality of that program.

I wouldn't mind if it happened faster than 10 years or more.

I think this plan is well-thought out, considers parent & community issues and offers choice to parents. I am somewhat concerned about the effect that open boundaries might have on existing schools.

Implementation of a plan for a jr. high school

Make sure that community school supports follow Jenkins school when they go to a none community school (eg. Community Associates, lunch program (food for learning), etc.) and/or consider a second/late bus run to accommodate children whose parents don't get them ready for the bus.

Consider services for community school students moving to non-community school

- plan for Usher bldg

Are we prolonging the agony? There are too many schools for the population and too many are in a state of disrepair.

Include consideration for Community school supports - allow for extra transportation support.

If you wait even 2 more years to see what the growth of Gardiner Park addition & what new families will be going to the school (Wilfred Walker) then you may be surprised at how the numbers have grown, you will not need to terminate the English program.

Yes - don't close viable schools based on a purely arbitrary enrollment formula. No research to back this up - seems to have been plucked out of thin air.

- Given choice to pay more taxes - Any way to work with Board to keep school open

Keep Dieppe school

Keep the elementary schools open.

Keep Dieppe school open

Only listing the first few schools to be closed, not listing the long term schools

Consider social, emotion and physical factors that influence education besides money and number of students. - You need to look at each community separately in order to see the potential negative impacts.

Maybe entertain ideas with community members like pushing up the mill rate. We would pay more to keep our school. Maximize the buildings potential by consolidation (special needs), French immersion.

Close Rosemont, not Dieppe. (facility costs to upgrade)

More community input as the impact closing the schools would have on our children as well as our community and its population

More integrated facilities with the separate system. You can keep the programming separate, but sharing facilities and capital investments can provide a lot of money for program enhancement and greater or better facilities for all.

More political will or fortitude. Individuals schools (perhaps better organized than others) raise their voices, influencing the plan. Other schools merely become casualties of the plan. Objectivity and fairness can be corrupted and eroded.

Sell the extra land, if money is short, to the city and add to revenue for school.

The plan all hinges on the financial implications whether we like it or not. Remove the financial limitations and look solely at the considerations other than \$ and the plan will stand a better chance of succeeding.

To maintain an ongoing 10 year plan as to not let schools get run down and the need for major renovations encourage the separate and public school boards to co-habitate and share resources. ie: gyms, libraries, computer rooms.

I think it sounds like a good plan. As long as the kids get the education that every individual requires and needs.

Ensure the plan does not go stale. Review and if changes are needed, communicate and make the changes required.

It's an endless cycle, the only thing that would make it better is if the school got more students from schools that have too many.

Increase # of teachers / child ratio (less kids) more classrooms per grade if necessary.

Focus on quality of education, not the pocket.

Increase the elementary / high school learnings, give children as young as Gr. 4 a chance to see the real picture, give them a chance to see trades. Male & Female.

Providing transition time for proposed closures.

I don't think closing schools is the answer we need for our children.  
Hire more teachers.

Dealing with PTR as part of plan, increase number of teachers /  
teacher's aids in classes.

I would like to see more schools involved in discussions of zone  
redesign, ie: more schools than just schools that are going to be  
merged.

Addressing class size and the current formula used to determine the  
pupil teacher ratio (It needs to be reduced).

1. Increase transportation 2. Uniform curriculum 3. Get the opinions  
from the 2 communities involved. 4. Counsellor needed to build up  
psychological make up of the students

Build a new school for Lakeview, Athabasca & Argyle

Ensure there is ongoing flexibility and communication. Plan needs to  
be adaptable to changing demographics.

I am in favour of developing Wilfred Walker school as a French centre.  
I think it would be beneficial to have French students at Hawrylak move  
to Wilfred Walker in order to ensure Wilfred Walker's French population  
remains within the ideal 200-400 student population.

I'm concerned too much choice re: opening boundaries for high schools.  
- Athabasca or Argyle should merge with Lakeview, not a merger between  
Athabasca & Argyle

Recent development of housing etc south of Airport might impact local  
High Schools - Class size is an important issue. Too big and too small  
are a concern.

Transportation study. Resource allocation details for within schools.

- Lowering capital costs with less buildings. - Larger enrollments at  
elementary schools is good. I like the 200/400 student model.

More details of enhance quality learning for students

1 - If Athabasca School closes, should be combined with Lakeview 2 -  
Should be joint Lakeview, Argyle, Athabasca Committee meeting.

Some of the schools slated for closure in a few years will be left in  
limbo. It would be better to close them right away (unless they are  
dependent on waiting for a new facility to be constructed, which will  
take time.)

Put more focus on the children and community. Education is the best  
key for the future of Saskatchewan, Regina.

Leave our smaller schools alone. Large schools are not the answer.  
Save our Canadian learning standards, do not destroy our children.

Use the funding for better educational tools (equipment, books) instead of closing schools.

Take the cost of building one school and divide it to fix both Haultain and Glen Elm and don't hurt our communities.

With population increase, hold off on firm decisions.

Put money for new schools into the 2 old ones.

Maybe closing 2 or 3 schools, but closing the only school in Eastview area is a bad idea. Having smaller classes would be better for most kids.

The public school system must be receiving too much funding from the city. You need to be cut back. Since all you want to do is build new schools and spend more money. Try to look at saving some money for the tax payers.

The current plan states that new schools will be build and old ones closed. With the current trends, the costs of building are jumping in leaps and bounds. I am worried that when it comes time to build a new school the cost will be too high. Meanwhile, our existing schools will crumble due to lack of funding.

More meeting for community involvement.

Community schools serve a purpose. Haultain is not only a community school, but a focal point for the Eastview community which is a city within a city.

Wait and see.

Because of the smaller community and the bullying of the school.

Rebuild boundaries for high schools - broaden in some cases, scale back in others.

Look at facility as well as numbers. Stop looking at numbers - not good enough.

Make it a well rounded plan. This plan focuses on enrollments (projected)? Does not take into consideration building condition, changing demographics.

Consideration of the impact these changes will have on the children. Diversity is extremely important and must be considered.

Massey needs repairs/improvements and I would like funds allocated to these.

Decide on French Centre or Dual Track. Do not offer both.

Why focus on French Centres? It appears that this decision to "improve" the quality of French Immersion program (based on what, we aren't sure) has just added an unnecessary factor to school reduction.

Obviously as a parent of an English program student at Massey, I would love to see our daughter (grade 4 currently) graduate from Massey. If that is not going to happen, then I want more clarity on whether I should immediately move her to McVeety/Grant Road, or whether the environment at Massey will continue to enrich her growth. If she should end up in a much smaller English class, is there an opportunity for her to receive enhanced French education at Massey?

1. The Board has finally made a long term plan. They need to stick with the long term plan but perhaps not all of the recommendations. The last thing they need to do is back out totally like they did last time. 2. Parts are good ie: schools with 80 students must close. Other parts are not. 3. Not adequate choice for all. ie: Kids can't walk home for lunch. Some elementary schools are not wheelchair accessible. 4. The plan does have potential to offer enhanced quality learning for students in some areas.

It would be a good consideration to have students grandfathered to the school. However, to say we'll not accept students after, ie: Sept 2011 and then allow to finish their school year and their original school.

More support for French Immersion students with regard to learning assistance.

I believe a dual track school is the best option for the Massey community. I think you have forgotten the core principles of the Regina Public Schools by considering to implement this plan.

I'm not sure this is a change, but major planning for transitions need to be done.

I think the city should be given the option to pay more to keep the schools. I don't feel the less teachers is appropriate.

The plan appears to be suggesting change to a lot of schools simply for the sake of change and hasn't taken into account the cultures of the schools and a variety of other factors.

Seems to be inconsistency between benefits of dual track and French Centres. Need to choose one or the other and be consistent with which is deployed across the system. - Would like to know what benefits of capital/cost savings will go to maintaining or improving the schools staying open. This is an overall good thing to downsize overall.

Upgrade schools that are not being reconstructed. Massey - gym floors and windows. Add middle schools grade 6,7,8. Build a real gym on the school!!

We need to focus on improving the structure of our good old schools. Safety first!!

Dual track schools are beneficial to all

"Adequate choices" have not been offered at any point during the consultation process. In phases 2/3 we were presented with an "option" and strongly encouraged to accept it. and embrace it.

The process to decide which schools remain open (Argyle, Lakeview, Athabasca) needs to be fair and not a school vs school issue.

Argyle School needs to be considered for the value of school and community program in a large catchment area. If Argyle school is removed, it leaves a big gap in services.

Keep Argyle School open!

- re-asses demographic projections - re-asses optimal size for elementary schools

I am very satisfied in the direction the Board is taking

Following up bussing for schools being closed.

Stop considering French and English systems at Connaught school as separate numbers. Consider the school as one unit.

I would recommend that the board spend more time and thought put into how this plan will affect the children. The students of Massey are of a wealthier class and to put Connaught students there it would impact their self-esteem and cause long term damage. I feel that student teacher ratio would be increased and that would not benefit anyone. Families will be split. Both Connaught and Davin have daycares and the children in those daycares will suffer because there is a daycare shortage. Bullying will increase and 1 major reason will be because of socio-economic differences between students. It is not beneficial for students to be on a bus for 45 minutes

The plan does not address the impacts to the non-school community due to the closure of the school. That is, what happens to the property? What happens to the playground? How will the school property be maintained? What is the likelihood of a closed school being vandalized?

Consider the impact of the plan on city and community planning & development

Include more people in the consultation

Smaller school are the optimum learning environment for our children. It appears very short shift is given to the Immersion students. Leave our schools in our neighbourhood and communities.

More monies should be spent in marginal low income areas not less. Less busing is better.

I would prefer to see a plan that adopts a 'small school' model and not one that involves more busing and more children per school.

I cannot endorse a plan that doesn't take into account communities. Also, the plan seems to be based on "program model" based on school size. Research on school size not used accurately - what his study says is that it depends on the school population - socially & economically. In addition, the projections that these decisions are based on are clearly incorrect.

Yes - focus on the kids not the money. Do your cost - benefit analysis based on non-monetary and real costs, not on old data.

Explain clearly what the problem is and why change is necessary. Do analysis of the social, economic and environmental impact of this plan. Explain the impact of school closures on kids in lower social economic condition. Use accurate enrolment numbers - Connaught has over 300 students!

Don't bus children if it can be avoided. There are dozens of reasons - environmental, social & it goes against all other notion of sustainable community. Look at studies of urban renewal & sustainability. Also the social importance of schools to a neighbourhood community - community impact of closure.

Scrap bussing - it is completely the wrong direction and should only be a last resort. There should be a plan evaluation in terms of urban renewal and sustainable communities because in inner communities the schools play a large role in the community.

Changes need to be more drastic: quicker. Plan is too slow.

I'm concerned about the fate of schools such as Campbell that are not mentioned in the "near future" plan - equal class sizes (small schools, large schools)

Make sure the future projections are correct, and we are not looking to replace the schools that we closed if growth continues in Saskatchewan.

I don't like pitting communities against each other. I am referring to choice of two schools to close, the Board will pick one.

Take in account small community school & population for F.N. students the needs to establish personal connections with community. Need for trust is a need.

- Partnerships with First Nations and input on what would make the aboriginal students more successful in the future - The drop out rate of an aboriginal operated school for the urban aboriginal population. Although the school board has made efforts to include aboriginal content, it is very minimal and not mandatory. Therefore, the aboriginal culture, language and identity will be completely lost in the next 10 years.

Yes, Usher is wheelchair accessible, other high schools are not. Put trades centre education into Balfour, Cochrane, already they have trades training

Issues like teacher dev't and quality are not addressed - Don't agree with debt financing or bases. - encourage communities to come up with creative solutions - moving French to Massey will mean Connaught parents will not enroll kids in French or will sent them to St. Pius school

To make everything more specific and iron out all the wrinkles in the plan that are causing major problems

As the community association indicated, the plan is silent on the implications for Campbell. If people don't know they may fill in the blanks - fear of the unknown. Commitments on some of the parameters outlined.

Merging schools together to the east of us (Glen Elm), so the transition is easier for children

Maybe consider merging with a school in Glencairn as we have more interaction with children from this area.

Check demographics ie. school teams playing against each other (already know each other)

Special city transit bussing for high school students that have a great distance to go.

Don't close Usher

Do not close Usher.

More information! More communication! More answers!

Changes that involve closing schools, particularly in inner city areas, are the result of short-sighted planning. There is nothing about removing schools from communities that is good for the community. How is a school out of a kid's community good for the kid?

Closing schools that need 16 million dollars of repair (Balfour) would be a much smarter move and I think the taxpayers would be more for this as well.

Keep MJ Coldwell open. I would be happy to pay more \$ in property taxes.

Spend as much time and effort to keep the schools open as the Board has invested in closing the schools. This plan has no benefit for the children or families.

Transitional bussing should be only for a short time.

Focus on class size (smaller).

- include reduced class size (I have 27 students in a 5/6 split). - ideally, about 20 students. This would really make a difference!

Transportation be well thought out to provide timely transportation for all students K-8, especially in areas where schools are closing down. We cannot have students walking more than .75 to 1 km, especially in winter.

Presentation - too long & boring. - Good overall information, needs to be more brief. - Would be nice to have an intro snapshot of our school, before heading into the overall generic presentation.

Re-examine Leifwood report! It is not substantiated! Infrastructure.



Offer Lakeridge parents bussing to come to MacNeill

Do not close Robert Usher Collegiate

Please do not have the core (inner) elementary school's enrollment higher than 250 students. We will lose these vulnerable children.

Once the plan is voted on it happens. Do smaller schools get to have smaller enrollments at the expense of larger schools. Example 23% of students go to Campbell and their classes are full.

Promote technology and extra curricular for those students moving to new schools.

keep the school open

Take into consideration that Eastview has many low income families and that in the case of sickness, there may be issues in getting the children home if the school is outside of Eastview.

Parents in the Wilfred Walker area need to hear the benefits of a French Centre

Close Hunt and move to Wilfrid Walker. Band-aid solution to keep Hunt open is stressful to community!!

Keep classrooms the size of 20-25 students. LD program to be kept at Dr. Hanna. Trans to high schools - support system.

A plan for parents to see how schools will be enhanced.

Ensure to continue the communication process and a 2 year review.

Ensuring equality amongst all schools. Not expending huge capital dollars at the expense of other initiatives.

Just need to implement.

Keep high school numbers low.

Several where noted at the meeting.

Ensure the long term sustainability of the plan by continuing it as a 10 year rolling plan rather than a 10 year static plan.

Don't merge Haultain and Glen Elm - very little in common. Stewart Russell should be sent to Glen Elm - more in common with students.

Smaller class sizes

Because of the bad condition of some of the school buildings. There should be a harder line on closure of these locations.

## Q6. Do you have any other comments?

Stricter regulations for sick kids to stay home so others don't get sick

Larger schools are more impersonal. Concerned about transition of Gr.7/8 students into a new school

Small classes do seriously benefit aboriginal students. We face great challenges daily and attention to details (one on one time with teachers) is imperative to our learning and development.

Smaller classes will help the kids get more one on one contact. Larger classes will be harder to handle teaching wise as well as discipline.

Don't close the school

I've had four children that have attended Stewart Russell School and have seen the numbers decline from over 400 to less than 100 and I agree that children do not get all the advantages of a school with numbers of 200+. Although I love this school, I would prefer a larger enrollment.

As for high schools, better transportation options.

People will accept change

If a parent has choices they will accept change

Affects real estate. If they (board) should choose either Rosemont, Walker, Dieppe, they should keep Martin as an 'Anchor' for the community. - Students will absolutely pick a higher based on friends/peers, what is offered

Thank you for the opportunity to voice concerns.

Work on those separate school board members to combine with Public. Maybe you could suggest having Walker/Rosemont kids use the empty Martin facility

If closure of all schools in one community close everyone in community suffers!

Doing the Jr. High thing sounds like it would be a positive thing.

Year round schooling

There is going to be a lot of fights going with kids.

This is just to save money so they can line their pockets. Leave our heart where it should be, in our community!

All brought up at Herchmer School

Why close any schools?

Excellent to have a plan. Encourage Board to move forward.

Are these "consultations" really going to make any difference in what schools will be kept open or improved.

I think by closing one of the older schools, Usher's numbers will go up. Without the threat of Usher closing no one wants to go to a new school that will be closed but everyone wants to go to a new school.

Please listen to us.

Balfour for example is an older school and perhaps you should look at that closing instead. Didn't the plan include enhancements to schools in that area? What about closing Thom - area students are the same as Usher - migration brings up their numbers - well migrate to our school then. We are newer, we have a bigger school area, parking etc. Don't close in Fall 2008 - our grade 11 students especially do not have time to make a decision and are being robbed of their Grade 12 year at Usher.

Keeping Usher open maintains a strong community with good ties and develops strong young adults. Large numbers of students does not reflect on a good education.

I purposely took my child out of a large crowded separate school to help him with his education as well as his social skills. As he tells me, there are no fights or trouble here because we all know each other. If Usher closes, my child and other children will go to the separate system as well as my and everyone I know tax dollars.

Studies based on "input" fall short of a room full of parents and students who say with one voice that above all else, the best education for their students is the school they have. - Lee Harding - CTF SK

Bigger is not always better! Usher gives excellent opportunities to their students. The Board's inconsistent reasons is a huge concern. 2 years ago the Board wanted to make Usher a super elementary school and indicated that closing Usher as a high school had nothing to do with enrollment. 2 years later it's all about enrollment, nothing else!

It saddens me to think that our School Board could not come up with a more feasible and logical plan for the Regina Public School systems.

Strongly believe that a smaller school has a better education. The smaller school enhances community feeling among students and creates more respect amongst students.

The study (Leithwood) contracted by the School Board sites many advantages to smaller secondary schools (ie: lower drop out rates, higher student engagement scores, higher scoring in core curriculum etc.) We serve North Central. As mentioned in the recommendations by Leithwood, indicate that schools serving students from disadvantaged backgrounds are better served in schools < 600. Let's talk engagement. It is evident a RUC. Our staff and students are a family. Our students strive to be involved for the better of their school and as a result benefit by becoming more involved in their school and their

community. As parents, educators and citizens, it is to our benefit to be producing and nurturing not only the students of today, but the adults, community members and leaders of tomorrow.

Small schools rule

The idea of creating a joint public/separate school should be seriously evaluated before the Jan. 17 meeting.

- Younger child transfers @ buses downtown NOT!! - Costs of transportation and babysitters (b/c older children taken care of smaller @ lunch and after school) - Smaller school makes our children and school a family community, not a number in a large school. Quality of education is great. - Property values and people move to area w/o a high school - Our children will be shunned/uninvolved/fighting in large school - If choice had been given sooner b/c our children have 3 mos for enrollment if another school - Separate school system provides transportation to high schools and are willing to help our children get to school - We would not have moved to this area if it had not been a 3 block walk to elementary and 4 block walk to high school - Need to look at plan again because Usher students walk and many cannot afford to go to other schools (transpiration). "High school boundaries are open" means nothing b/c many are forced to go to next closest school. - Our current gr. 11's who have worked their way up the ladder to become the "biggest fish in a small pond" and they are now the smallest tadpole again (detrimental to our kids). They have worked hard and created positive reputations. - Usher is newer and needs little maintenance but many other that you are keeping open are older and cost more to fix. - My child will not go downtown to transfer (especially before school) b/c I work downtown and see the crap that goes on downtown.

Bring Gr. 8's back to Usher to increase the student population

Not only us are mad, students at other schools are just as upset.

We may be small but we are a family and that is how we function and it works very well. Guaranteed, nobody will function as well as we did here if we are forced out of our community.

Don't close the school.

Keep us open, close the run-downed schools!

This whole plan is a joke. Don't close Usher! Keep us open. The Board says it's all about numbers, but the only numbers they care about are the numbers with dollar signs in front of them.

You are endangering a whole community! Smaller is better.

Need to consider all the other options raised to keep RU sustainable.

RUC for life

Don't close us

Smaller is better!

Usher - add other grades. Uplands - why is MJ not combined with Ruth Pawson & close MJ, if you're after savings. Board made its mind up without listening.

Ya, you guys worry about money, what about what the kids want. We here are like a family to break us is selfish because you don't have enough money and your plan really is disturbing.

This is a good school, almost new and in perfect condition, while schools like Balfour are falling apart. Shut them down and send them here.

You keep going on about quality education but we are getting quality education here at Usher. Who are you to tell us that we aren't getting a quality education? How would you know? Bigger doesn't always mean better . . .

The Board should stick to their plan, and close the school in June.

Usher is a great school with a lower enrollment that is due to the School Board threat previously of closing the school. The building is solid and the community & expanding area are deserving of proper consistent education.

Do not close Usher

The school board should re-elect officials.

Consider selling Usher to the Separate School Board. I'm sure the public school board won't miss the tax revenue not only from the families with children but the senior's in this community and the families without children.

This all comes down to economics. The rich want a new school. The School Board can't get a new school with the population #'s. Close the small schools - fill u the larger schools then the funds can come for a new school for the rich. The rich can afford the transportation costs. Close Balfour, keep the rest open.

The amalgamation of our public & separate is a very good idea.

The plan is based on only enrollment and not any other key factors. - The plan had no community input, but made by those who enforce it. - Transportation is not decided on. - Smaller schools have much more to offer a student in the aspect that our "shared learning values" leans towards. - The current plan is single visioned, narrow minded and focus ONLY on building a new school by closing smaller, well functioning ones.

Do not manipulate the community work with it. RUC for life. Larger schools are not as accepting.

Improve your processes. Data gathering is suspect. Goals are suspect. I will be wring my MLA and the minister of Education regarding these proceedings.

One very important concern I have in the impact on the children.

This doesn't seem well thought out. Why should we pay more taxes for less services?? This doesn't do anything good for the community. How is it decided where students are bused? Why Hunt instead of Walker? No opportunity for growth in that area.

I feel that the question on specialized programs in phase II, specifically French Centers, was biased by rolling the question into things all high school (not legible). Also, the question on school size vs program size is biased. No school will hold 800 students = 2 successful dual track programs.

Whereas there are many pieces of data that are not known at this time, be it resolved to delay a decision on the Wilfred Walker English program until the 2009-2010 plan review.

1

I request the School Board wait 2 years and gather more information. Look at other options such as bringing Wilfred Hunt to Wilfred Walker to keep a dual track system.

I look forward to the approval of this plan.

Very concerned that the increased numbers will mean less use/more demand on the facilities (library, gym, playground etc.)

- French immersion program appears to be higher priority than English. The long-term plan may be to remove English from Elsie Mironuck.- Shutting down community schools?- Include demographic data - how many children live near Wilfred Walker, but have not attended because of strong French influence (I know of some.)- Have French immersion assessment before a child starts the program. Provide parents complete information (pros and cons) before they make a decision instead of "selling" it to try and see if it works.

- Reduce budget for school is good. - Limit hrs . . . (illegible)

- As long as student/teacher ratio's stay lower than 25:1! - In order to accommodate the additional students (K-4) from Wascana, Mironuck requires more room (classes, gyms etc.) In French, we can't afford larger class sizes as then we begin "losing some through the cracks". SLP, LRT times will need to increase. We will be bigger (student wise) than most high schools. How is this fair? - When will we know about the new boundaries for the Centennial/Mironuck French Immersion Program? - Will Mironuck teachers be offered the chance to open the French program at Centennial to help students with transition (as in the Mironuck/Wascana merger)? - Are policies being reviewed to make sure at least one administrator is French speaking at every French/Dual track school? - Once the Board makes its decision in March, how long until "everything" falls into place? Are we (teachers/students) going to have all the necessary supplies/portables etc. in place when students return September 2008? - Ken Jenkins & Wascana are community schools and Mironuck pulls French students for 9 different community school areas. Once the boundaries change (Centennial/Mironuck) will Mironuck have the chance to get the "perks" that come along with a community school? Or, because of only 4 French Immersion schools in RPS in 10 years, will the French Immersion status keep it from acquiring Community School status/ - How was it determined that

Walker/Massey would become French Centres and Centennial/Mironuck remain dual track?

I don't want to see anything done/changed for my kids that I wouldn't want to have done/changed on me.

I think the "choice" provided to families is a huge improvement over the previous plan.

Concerns re: # of bathrooms, gym size, teacher parking, equipment, etc. Will this be sufficient for the influx of students?

My concerns are related to staff. At present, I am in a school with approximately 350 students & 20 regular staff. If the English program were to move out, we would lose 5 or 6 staff. Here are my concerns:1. The same 'out of class' programs and extra curricular activities would be expected, but fewer staff would be available to deliver these 'extras'. I would hope that this would be a point considered when making decisions. Teachers are already spread way too thin & a school model of 200 students/10 regular staff is (in my opinion) too small. Regardless of the size of a school there are still a minimum amount of 'extra' jobs that need to be done. I would much rather spread those 'jobs' around to 20 staff members than 10. Teacher absence & stress leaves are rising at a noticeable rate. Spreading us any thinner will only add to this problem. I know parents think 'small is better', but from the point of view of a teacher, staff in a smaller school just simply cannot provide the extras a larger school can.2. Relocating students & merging student population - I worry that some of the moves will still only result in student population very close to 200. What will happen if those populations drop to below 200 at review time in 2 years? It would be disastrous to move a population, only to close & relocate the population again in a few years down the road . . . Having said all of this, I know it is necessary to make changes to the present structure. I do not envy you in your position. Good Luck! This is not an easy process for anyone, including the decision makers.

I believe that if the Board is putting this plan forward, then they need to follow through and maintain their credibility as decision makers. Always being swayed by emotional testimony of parents shows that they're unable to make decisions and follow through. After money has been spent on conducting surveys and holding meetings over the past 2 years, a decision should be made final. This will show people that they need to be less reactive and take a more active role from the beginning.

I like that you gave a notice of what you hope to do in the form of a timeline. There are no surprises and the public should be informed.

I believe that this plan will greatly improve the learning environment for French Immersion students. Change can be very difficult for some people but that doesn't make it an ill conceived plan. Please stick with it. If at all possible, we like our secretary. Thanks.

1. Doesn't it make more sense economically to close Hunt & save all costs in that school & move them to Wilfred Walker? 2. Switching Wilfred Walker to French only will teach our children segregation rather than inclusion and appreciation of multi-culturalism.

Considering our Canadian heritage this plan goes against our national, local and my personal values. 3. Only 92 parents were consulted in the Phase 2 study. Basing any recommendations on a sample that small is unbelievable.

- I like the total French immersion school concept. We may be able to draw students from St. Andrew's French Immersion program. - Having 200-400 students at elementary schools is a good idea. - I understand Hunt will become the Gardiner Park home school, yes?

- Will adequate funds be available for future repairs to infrastructure without increases in property tax? - Are enough schools closing in 2008 or are we moving slowly in response to the public?

From a personal perspective, I like the idea of a French centre at Wilfrid Walker, but I also appreciate the fact that they considered Hawrylak's high French enrollment during the past few years and left our school as a dual track. I really feel they listened to the voices of our school's parents.

Very impressive, well-thought out and should meet the needs of everyone involved. Thanks to those who developed the plan.

Change is necessary and people in leadership positions have a responsibility to lead changes so thank you for taking steps to implement needed change.

I am concerned that parents will be up in arms and it will all be cancelled like last time, which I hope doesn't happen as well as I am hoping no one is put out of work for the changes. I am also wondering about the Ukrainian Language program. There was no mention of it but Athabasca may close and there is a very low enrollment in the class. My child in grade 2 is in the 1/2 program this year and my other son will start next year. We also have a 2 year old and relatives that will eventually use the program.

- At first glance \$8+ per year increase in taxes doesn't appear to be a lot, but once the City adds its portion, this could become a problem. - I can see problems with a free "universal" lunch program. Where are we going to get the supervisors? - Could the lunch hour be reduced to a half hour and have a 3:00 dismissal?

Uncertain about the feasibility of keeping a French Immersion program at a school other than Wilfred Walker, particularly Hawrylak.

- busing for community school students - merging non-community with community schools - do resources follow

Prepare for 2-3 pickups. 8:30 - 9:00 - 10:30 for community areas. Otherwise some kids will never get to school & 10 yr olds will be in charge of younger siblings all day.

Is it wise to combine a community school with a suburban school? Will community services remain in tact? Will there be room in schools for special services staff to counsel, assess or provide therapy? Are there details that have not been disclosed?



May need to allow for the building of new schools if demographic increases in a community

We just moved to the community. One reason we picked Gardiner Park was the closeness of the school (Wilfred Walker). We would have thought twice if we knew the school may change to completely French. Please re-consider.

The only difference between this plan and the previous - is that you seem to think you have a better chance of closing schools without public outcry if you do it a few at a time rather than all at once.

Small schools are ALWAYS BETTER. Dieppe school has a great sense of community, everyone knows everyone - you don't get that in bigger schools. It would be detrimental for children to go to a bigger school.

I moved into this area because of the school. Now if it is closed I will have to relocate to achieve this convenience.

The advantages of centralization, including economies of scale, are often never seen due to increased bureaucracy costs as well as unforeseen costs.

I originally moved to Dieppe intentionally to raise a family and closing this school is going to discourage new homeowners to move to this area. Based on reputation of other schools (ie: Rosemont, Walker etc.) I would not feel comfortable sending them to a farther school to get the quality school. I think transferring our children to another school, which is 10 blocks - 15 blocks away, is discouraging quality education and involvement for the student based on the commute. I think we need to reevaluate and reconsider other options positively on how to keep these smaller schools open: 1. Increase in taxes - people get upset when there are increases, but if it is to give us a better education and to have a safer residential community, I think people would overlook to benefit the child. What can we do to keep these smaller schools open?

- Why would you make all of these changes without studying the impact of the community as a whole. - THIS IS A REALLY BAD IDEA FOR THIS PARTICULAR COMMUNITY. It may make sense for other schools, but not this one.

Let Dieppe residents have the option to invest in our school. Dieppe community is unique in its situation, we have no other facilities to utilize here for our community association meetings and nightly floor hockey nights, in which we have invested thousands of \$ into. Our community association will dissolve, and crime will reign here. What a waste of my efforts to better our community if our only school facility were to close.

- Universal lunch room for everyone - Change building boundaries so that children can be bused here. Our school can accommodate - we have the heart and the will to make it happen.

Have a continuous 10 year plan to avoid the "big bang" problem of capital investment problems, enrollment problems etc. When you review in 2 years, extend the plan by 2 years.

Douglas Park has the room to build a new school on same property, while staying in the existing one. Bringing in relocatables is not feasible. A retrofit is not an option.

Listen to all the school communities, not just the ones that have stronger parent associations and more vocal opinions.

We would really like to see more space for Boothill community use in the school.

A new school for the Douglas Park area would benefit the students and the community as a whole.

Please continue to keep us (the parents and community) as the plan progresses.

I'm not too sure what else to say. If it happens, it's going to happen. If Ken Jenkins closes, my kids will end up moving to a different area to be close to a school. This is going to affect a lot of things in the future, I mean, I'm not going to buy a house that's not close to an elementary school.

Once to read over the proposal I may send more opinions . . .

I would suggest that there should be another high school and elementary school like Cochrane high school, whether it be building one for younger students or advancing Cochrane school itself.

Please keep the community school model. I really like it and it is working very well for my kids.

I really appreciated all the administration showing up for meetings

Email any other comments

I have a son in Gr. 2 with Autism in main stream class. I don't want to see these children lost in the shuffle. I would like to see continued support for these children and the teachers.

Well presented. Felt like previous concerns have been addressed.

I am pleased that Regina Public School is looking at French Centres. As a parent of a French Immersion student, I am interested in giving him the best opportunity to become bilingual I can.

- Concern about impact on daycare in Argyle & Lakeview. - concern about impact on Discovery Preschool @ Athabasca and if 3 school mergers, at Lakeview - On the RPS website, place a presentation of what a technologically current school looks like for those of use in the older schools to see the advantages of bigger/newer schools.

I would be interested in having more about possible locations for new schools. - I believe the concepts for our area are good and appreciate

how difficult the entire process is and also appreciate the time you are putting into meetings etc.

- Please provide quality and timing info to help communities make decisions. - I am disappointed that the Catholic School Board is not entertaining working together to create efficiencies.

Main concern over class size and program improvement.

How do you educate the public on what the 10 year Renewal Plan is?

Main concern is some children getting "lost" in large school.

Southwest Regina shouldn't get money unless the schools can reach consensus. - Move Lakeview School to project adjacent to Lakeview United Church - outdoor rink.

Don't back down this time - move ahead with the plan!

The idea stinks. Not in the best interest of children.

If we close our small community schools, and open "super schools" with large attendances, many students will fall through the cracks. We will have many illiterate children. I, for one, want to keep the high standards of Canadian learning, and NOT resort to the Super Schools of the USA. The opening of super schools will bring more problems than good. - illiterate children, gang activity increase, more racial prejudice, more students, less structure and supervision, property values will drop, etc. Our community (Eastview) has the small town feel. Everyone concerned about their neighbour and community. The loss of our school will destroy our "small town". - Eastview is a unique community. I'd suggest research be done on both communities before any discussion or decision is made. - Closing Haultain will destroy the heritage of Eastview.

Haultain should stay open. This plan is not gonna work and will fail or not work. Haultain is a great school, provides help for the kids in Eastview, stuff to do, and even helps local mothers or fathers. Without Haultain, Eastview would be nothing. Basically the school, the local store (Ross Foods) and the community centre are the things that provide kids, opportunities for a great education, and provide our needs. Eastview would hate to see our wonderful school close. This plan will fail because some families do not support it, most will hate it and rest will have a whatever thing to it. About 80% (wild guess, but it is a high number) of people don't approve of it and will be against it. This "super school" will make new element, element which no one which will approve of, gangs, drug use, and more stuff no one will like. So my statement is: screw this plan and find other ways to solve this problem. Do not close the school in Eastview ever!

Hi, my name is Micah. I was in the school since Kindergarten. I meet new people every day. I like the school so much. I never want to leave the school. It is so fun to be there. If you were at the school you will have fun. I never want to leave the school. So please do not shut the school.

If the school closes at the end of June, where would the students go to school in a few years?

I see this plan used by the city in order to make more money while skimping on the amount of education a child receives. By increasing the school size increases the risk for gangs, and safety in the community. Teachers can not adequately perform their duties on a one-on-one basis for classes of this size. Smaller schools offer more chances for a child to excel in certain areas.

Do not cram all these kids in a single location.

Leave our community alone.

You would be doing a great disservice to the people of Eastview by closing the school. Within the next 5-6 years there will be more families moving into the area and more kids starting to attend the school. You will make it harder for kids with special needs. By sending them to a bigger school, the less chance for 1 on 1 attention. It will also leave an empty building in the area for kids to vandalize. I'm sure the School Board made a great profit from the sale of the land near the General Hospital to developers. As well as part of the land at Usher for the Fire Dept.

Have you looked at possibly teaming up with a Catholic school since a lot of the kids are Catholic going to Haultain because they didn't want to be bused across town when St. Paul closed many years ago.

Busing is a great concern for me. I really don't want my kids to spend an hour or more on the bus each day.

Will there be some repairs done to Haultain while waiting for either a new school to be built.

They're friendly and helpful. What about daycare centres and home care for children?

The closure of Martin Collegiate would be a detriment to the entire community. We will have no high school south of Rochdale and West of Lewvan.

Loss of a community family.

Make me a believer! Show me the Board has done their homework. Make it an equal playing field for all high schools - keep the zones closed!

How does this plan interact with current policy, especially the division foundational statements. Should program changes take place, children should have the ability to complete their education (to Gr. 8) at Massey.

Consider new facilities. Crash down McVeety, Grant Rd, and Massey and build a new school to house all students. Keep Massey the way it is.

Look at the benefits of dual track to the English students - not just benefits to the French besides - we do have a quality French Immersion program in our school already.

You can't stand up saying 2 known studies make French Centres a good idea and then announce a new dual track school. Pick one or the other. Also, what about the studies of the impact of learning on the English students in dual track? Massey is a multi-cultural school - a unique entity and sometimes things are not about number crunching and money - family impact, emotional impact, going to school with your neighbours etc. Learning experiences and not going back to segregating kids based on some "factor". You should be able to keep and make the dual track system work at Massey until English enrollment lessens to a non-viable point.

The schools in Regina School Board are not for the most part wheelchair accessibility and services there are students not in special programs that are regular classrooms. These plans do not see permanent wheelchair/disability accessibility.

I would like to see programs for French Immersion students who need extra "help" but maybe doing fine in French. They have to change English schools to get the help!!

Closing schools and shuffling programs is an easy solution. Keeping schools open is difficult and takes real leadership!

Special Services - eg. LRTs - #s of support services in both elementary & secondary schools are extremely LOW.

I don't believe this plan will help the RBE to attain its goals of meeting the learning needs of students or to have teachers share expertise. - Based on the population needs of Massey - both currently and under the proposal - a school redesign would be extremely beneficial. - The loss of teachers to the school district will not be beneficial to the students.

Seems to be inconsistency between benefits of dual track and French Centres. Need to choose one or the other and be consistent with which is deployed across the system. - Would like to know what benefits of capital/cost savings will go to maintaining or improving the schools staying open. This is an overall good thing to downsize overall.

This school is so culturally rich. It is a great community. How can you take some of the kids from this community away. My children are upset. I have 2 in French and 1 in English. My family will be separated NOT BY CHOICE.

Middle school will give us young adults for 6,7,8 students instead of big kids. Reduce bullying by taking out the age misses etc etc etc.

I believe dual track schools are extremely beneficial for children's education, community and multiculturalism. I would suggest taking a close look at feedback from both parents & teachers. A dual track school like Massey is very proud of their diversity and all-encompassing culture. Dual track schools need to be looked at separately.

Parents may have a choice but we need to know enrollment numbers for each class in 2008-2009 as well. Closing English @ Massey is going to affect a lot of families @ Massey, McVeety & Grand Rd.

There is still time to improve the plan by listening to the concerns of parents and community.

With Argyle's decreasing population, I think it is a positive thing to add more students. I of course would like Argyle to remain open and welcome new students here. A new building is a positive outcome. The Argyle site with the Kinsmen Park is a very attractive location.

Argyle school facility condition, gymnasium, school yard, playground equipment, location should be looked at more favourably than the condition of Athabasca School.

Thank you for coming out, the time you took, and the quantity of information.

We need to take into account community needs before closing schools.

I am excited to see the results of the implementation after 5 years

The process that has occurred has been great. I think we need to hear back regularly (e.g. 6 mo.) & publicly what changes have occurred.

My only concern is for adaptation students

The plan should provide real options - such as how much money needed to keep "small" schools viable.

Personally I would be willing to increase my taxes more in order to keep Connaught open. I also put my kids in a Dual Track school for the bilingualism. If I wanted a French Centre, I would have put my kids in St. Pius.

The plan must take into account more than just the School Board's mandate & challenges. Schools are an important part of the community and impact the families and homes nearby whether they currently have students already attending the school or not. Schools provide green space, parks/playground, ice rinks etc. The needs of the development of the downtown/central part of Regina must be part of the equation. Both Connaught & Davin contribute to the value of downtown Regina. In particular these two downtown schools make downtown Regina a desirable place to live.

It seems that there was a plan and you were hired to find justification for it.

The Boards has not put the resources into the existing facilities - especially those in lower income neighbourhoods and this plan is just a reaction to the lack of proper resources in the years previous. It appears political in that the Board didn't want to increase the mill rate and now our children suffer for that.

1. Info distributed inaccurate, ie: Baragar projections. 2. Increase size of school not beneficial for increased learning, in fact shown to be detrimental for behaviour control. 3. Loss of community.

Don't be afraid to go to the public and ask for a mill rate increase that will allow building upon the current system - not shrinking and dismantling.

Let's scrap the current plan and build a new one based on the children's personal futures and how this will affect them including environmental, social and health costs. If you think these effects will far outweigh the cost savings, then I think you missed out on the most important part of school at the socialization and community levels.

I believe that this is not a well developed plan. Schools are not just brick and mortar, and students are not items to be shifted to different warehouses. They have emotional & social needs and are a part of a community. Connaught School is an important & essential part of this community. I chose to live here & send my son to French Immersion only because it is a program available here. Closing Connaught would be ill-conceived & create irreparable damage to this community & the city.

I think this plan counts beans, but misses many non-economic factors - child obesity, community need, environmental impact (all that bussing!), the public desire for "improved program delivery", etc.

Your numbers are wrong. Our school is under-counted by 87 students. You cannot make such long term and critical decisions with incorrect numbers. So are your assumptions - that all Connaught French students will bus to Massey. Only a handful will - talking to the parents - and that changes the equation. This really means decisions based on this plan will be done in ignorance. Don't bus, don't close, find alternatives or go status quo.

Connaught currently has more than adequate enrollment and a strong French immersion program. I do not see the imperative to make changes here. Access to both programs in the neighbourhood is valued and supported.

Equity important among schools

I just hope the right choices are made before closures are made.

This is a well-thought-out plan backed by an enormous amount of research & input by Administration

I think the idea of "super school" was great. I would jump at the opportunity to teach at a school like that. To have the chance to work with 2 or 3 other teachers with same grade level enhances learning for students & teaching for teachers.

The renewal plan was not inclusive, it excluded the voice and input of community coordinators and aboriginal parents and community. This is the first survey asked to complete. The majority of the parent council members in the community schools are not representative of the community, ie. no/few aboriginal parents, few parent and/or community

members that have awareness of aboriginal culture or community socioeconomic problems

Of the cuts to employees, I have not heard of administration cuts as to fewer schools and programs, I need to see a reason as why this is not happening.

It is essential to re-evaluate area populations as Regina grows. - If all these schools are moving to other schools it is imperative that teacher/student ratio be reduced.

- more budget information for financial decisions - Consult students - they will be affected in the future and know how they are affected now
- Include options for alternate/arts oriented learning opportunities

I think the school board should look into having middle schools to aid in the knowledge and learning and maturity of the students as they grow.

This plan would be beneficial as it would allow more teachers to come over to larger schools like Campbell and decrease the class number (of students). Instead of having some smaller schools, teacher to student ratios will be better and allow teachers to have better and more controlled classes. - if there are new schools in the southeast, schools like Campbell will lose a large amount of students, which could lead to the closure of Campbell. - more students aware so you can have everyone's say, not many students are aware of what is going on

By the community association would provide good peace of mind (ie. school size, class size, teacher-student ratios, etc.) Can those commitments be made? And what is the timing of those commitments?

My fear is fighting/bullying that may happen by taking one group and putting them into another. Did anyone think of safety? What happens when people start moving because they don't want child to attend other schools?

I like the 10 year plan because it gives everyone time to reflect and make decisions. It makes everyone feel as if they can help shape the future of their school.

I think my questions were answered.

Please take a look at what impact closure will have on community.

I feel the Regina Public School Board understands there is a communication problem, but ARE NOT WILLING to discuss it!! This whole plan puts a lot of families under stress with not knowing what the future holds.

How does the "Renewal Plan" fit with SchoolPlus? What is the offering to our kids? Why do the vulnerable inner city communities appear to be hardest hit by Board decisions regarding closures?

I am a big supporter of the plan, despite losing both an elementary school and a high school. I support the plan but wish there was another option rather than Usher closing.



I don't believe this proposal has anything to do with "quality" of learning or "quality" of anything. Closing schools and putting children in over-populated schools does not help our children at all, and if anything their learning suffers.

If this plan is truly based on 'Quality learning', then Robert Usher would NOT be closed. Larger schools does not guarantee 'Quality Learning'.

It is irresponsible to maintain schools with very low enrollments. Do not make the mistake the Library made and back away from the tough decisions, or all students will suffer. We cannot put all our tax \$ into avoiding change for a small # of families who are receiving lower quality education at very small schools anyway.

Make teachers feel like a priority when forced to transfer - it would be ideal to post positions and have us bid on specifics (ex. grades, subjects, etc.)

Call it a "French Immersion Centre" to avoid confusion for parents (fear that they cannot speak English in the building).

Ensure when a school closes/program merger that teachers move along with students. - Infrastructure concerns be addressed before changes made-electrical, plumbing, portables. - Try to ensure community programs, i.e. daycare, PSHI, ESL stay in our school because a school is not just about abc's, it's about ensuring we raise well rounded people and communities, so I would like to see portables brought in before we ask community programs to leave.

- Speaker/presenter shouldn't read from his notes. Speak to the audience and refer to the notes. Qs & A was excellent - very frank & informative. - Terry is very knowledgeable; a real asset.

Require an infrastructure plan that is transparent. How can we trust the Board commitments as the Board changes and as the ideas change. Hold up the previous commitments of the previous Board! Focus on \$, not the students. This is a negative.

Keep on track. Change is always hard.

I feel I don't have all of the information to agree or disagree. How will Special Education Programs be handled in the changes?

I like having the high schools numbers high, but the core elementary school numbers need to be kept low. As for the whole plan, thank you. As a tax payer it angered me that my tax dollars were being wasted on falling down schools

Any ideas for 5000 immigrants coming to Saskatchewan. If only 1000 come to Regina this year we are not prepared. Can we be proactive not reactive if this is the government's plan?

I am pleased that the public has a say in these proceedings. More has to be done to educate parents on a cost basis for closing schools. I

trust the extra equipment from these schools will go to the feeder schools for dispersal.

Keep the school open

If the school closes my daughter will not want to get on a school bus to go to school for she will get picked on. She gets picked on right now while walking to school. So what is going to happen when she gets picked on while taking the bus?

That location of the new school is going to be a huge issue and Eastview will be at odds with Glen Elm.

I know the media tends to concentrate on those who oppose a plan such as this one. We should have folks who are in favour of it interviewed as well.

Long term plan. Quality learning, teaching, facilities and choice.

I think that the daycares and Montessori's and whatever else may be in the school should not be getting a free ride. Yes they are good for the schools, but they do not lower their prices for their customers when they are not paying rent. I feel it is a fair deal if they pay for cost recovery. It is still a much cheaper deal for them than paying rent anywhere else. The money earned could be put towards repairs for those specific schools or better yet a high school in the east end. I really think a high school should be built sooner as there is so many young families out here. MOST IMPORTANTLY - this plan says it wants to increase the education of the students. A major area of this is teacher quality. I think the school board needs to look at its procedures when complaints are made against a teacher by more than one family. I believe that when complaints are made against a teacher by more than one family and especially multiple families. The principal and the school board should be able to talk to the assistants that may be in that room as well as the teacher that may now have students from the teacher in question. If the teacher in question has teaching practices that are in question they should maybe take a refresher course or be found a position that better suits them. Rather than subjecting a classroom of children to unsuitable behaviour and practices by a teacher, after all the children are why the teacher is there in the first place. At any rate, I think that should be looked into. Thank You

Very well prepared and researched.

I like the 2 year review. The plan is well thought-out / researched.

Board needs to present a "team" presentation. Having Conway bring forth info that is new to the other board members at the November 2007 presentation to the media is NOT ACCEPTABLE. I was disgusted by his approach and very disappointed that there is someone on the board that seems to have his own agenda.

Keep Usher open.

My main question - Is money more important than children and their well-being?

\*The extra hours students will spend transported is an issue. \*If there is an accident or students become ill, they are a long way from home to have parents or guardians arrive at the school quickly. \*Their lunches would not be as good as if they are able to go home. \*The bus ride for young children for that length of time can be scary. \*Waiting outside on the street for the bus is not safe. \*There should not be a comparison between a large city such as Toronto to Regina. In Toronto, with so many high rises, etc. They have the ability to have a large school population in a small geographic area. Regina especially areas like Glen Elm, do not have this. \*In areas where there are no schools, the property values drop. \* This area attracts young families because of affordable housing. Many older people in this area will be moving to senior's places in the next while so more families would have the opportunity to purchase a home near Glen Elm School. This would change the school population in a positive way. \*The train tracks on Park would affect bussing times and seem to be a natural boundary. \*Will the provincial government give financial support to our school division so that there are not as many school closures. \*When schools close, businesses in the areas are also affected. \*What happens to our new playground equipment if we are moved to Haultain? \*If students are transported to another school and are late, they will miss school day entirely. However, if they were in walking distance, even if they were late, they still would attend school for part of the day.

For a smoother transition it would be helpful and reassuring to parent of students whose school has closed, to know of busing and lunchroom arrangements as soon as possible. Also in some areas before and after school programs would be beneficial.

There has certainly been enough researching and planning as well as plenty of communication and chances for opportunity. A decision such as this can never satisfy everyone because of the passion and varying interests. Enough time and energy has been spent on this. I am in full support of moving ahead with the plan. Media, as usual, loves the controversy and gives too much voice to a small group of people.

There is a need for clear guidelines for "open boundaries" between schools. "Choice" should have a caveat about appropriate times when parents/students declare their choices. Eg: If students use "choice" to run away from issues at their current schools or attempt to transfer at inappropriate times of the school year, this would not be in the best interest of learning.

There should be a model classroom situation created so other parents can see what they will get.

## Comments received by email

The following pages contain all comments submitted via direct email to HJ Linnen Associates.

I forgot to add on my comments about the renewal that if they continued to charge even a nominal fee for the daycares, playschools etc that are renting space in the schools they could afford to build a high school in the South East sooner. Also, I would not be opposed to a small tax increase (similar to this proposed \$8 to \$10) to have a high school built sooner.

We need to question the "model" that is used. It seems to be based on a classroom size of 22-24 students. The implication is that this is the "ideal" classroom size. But someone said that studies have shown that a smaller classroom size is really "ideal" such as 8 or 12 students, so let's not confuse what is convenient or affordable (22-24) to what is ideal. If we need money to pay for more teachers to keep classroom size small - then say so and ask the public for more money for better quality education. Don't say we can only afford a bigger size, so we're going to settle for that bigger size, and tell the public that it is "quality" education. The "model" seems to be a model of convenience, to allow the School Board to do what they wanted to do anyway. The model seems to be based on false premises. And the reasons for closing schools to save money short-sighted.

As for the need to have a pool of positions on hand to hire teachers when some schools' enrolments are unexpectedly high, due to higher mobility in some areas, and more need for teachers' aides, ask for more money for this particular purpose. Don't close down French programs so that you can have this extra pool of money. Also, shouldn't there be some provincial money for that purpose - supporting higher risk populations?

Also I would like to see engineer's reports on these schools that are supposedly falling apart. How bad are they? What are the repairs needed? Like the Library Board, this kind of information is withheld from the public, and we are expected to trust the engineers. People can look at these reports, learn and understand them, and participate intelligently in these kind of decisions. The idea of leaving it all to the engineers is very old style, and went out with the idea that you shouldn't ask professionals questions, such as your doctor.

The cost savings for Davin and Connaught closures are this: to upgrade Davin the repairs are 3 million, to build onto Davin would be 8 million - for a total of 11 million dollars. To upgrade Connaught would be 7 million, plus 8 million for an addition, for a total of 15 million. Or to repair them both would cost 3 plus 7 equals 10 million dollars. Couple this with the fact that by the time transportation costs are considered, it is actually more expensive to close the schools. Few parents will want to send their children by bus to the south end, so the French program will diminish greatly. The concept of Connaught type parents and students like is a mixed school. A separatist French school "centre" would not be appealing. So the French program will be negatively impacted. And children in the south end (read middle and upper class) will be more likely to attend the French program than downtown children (more lower income and more single parents statistically in the Cathedral area - see the Census).

So lets go back and rethink this plan. And discuss it. Not in cold impersonal and stilted discussions with a consultant but in honest discussions with the communities involved where all the factors are laid on the table. And where the residents can ask questions of the School Board, who will not be afraid to answer. And be sure to ask the students what they think. They seem tto have ben lost in this process. Thank you for the opportunity to express these views.

Usher has had low numbers before and has stayed open, so why can't we do it again? We have the best teachers, the best students, the best spirit, the best learning system, but most of all the best school in general. People ask me what school are you going to next year, I simply say, Usher, well when it closes they ask, I say Usher. I will literally stand outside in minus 50 weather at the board office or at the school to keep this school from closing. You will not be seeing me at another school on the first day of my grade 11 year other then Usher if it closes. I will stand outside of usher to keep satisfied. I have talked to many people and they said they will not graduate from any other school other then Usher, meaning they WILL drop out! The board really needs to stop thinking about money, and start actually caring for our education. If the board is prepared to have 324 students drop out of school and not graduate, so be it close Usher. But if you actually care for the students for once you would keep it open! We will not go down with out a fight; we will keep our school open!

P.S. In your plan all you guys are concerned about is the money! For god sake stop thinking about the money for one time and start thinking about our education! In there its says the enrollment should be at least 600 for MOST schools why can't Usher be the school that is not in that category for most!

One more thing is Usher is a small enough school that we can have one on one help with our teachers, unlike a larger school the teachers do not have time to sit down with that many kids. I no when I need help I can go to my teachers and they will take the time to help me, increasing my marks for a college degree, as of me going to a larger school the teacher not having as much time to sit down with me and go through these things. I have older siblings who did go to a large school and teachers would not help them because they did not have time to sit down and have that one on one. Going to a smaller school my parents have noticed that marks have changed since larger school marks because teachers in a small school can help the students. Increasing a future for us who care about our education!

WE WILL NOT LET YOU CLOSE OUR SCHOOL WITH OUT A FIGHT! SAVE THE UNICORNS AND KEEP USHER OPEN PLEASE!

Planning is a difficult task for the School Board. Obviously, not everyone will be pleased with the plan. Given that I do not have the full picture of the choices and options available, my comments are on changes that could make the consultation process better, which might in turn allow for suggestions to make the plan better. Most of us providing feedback have only a few documents and our own experience to draw on. I like the 2 year review concept but fear that it will occur too late in each cycle. I base that on the timing of this round, where it seems to me the consultation started only months before the decision will be made on changes to take effect in a few months.

(As expected) the debate I am captured by is the one affecting the school my children attend and may have to attend as a result of the plan. I was hoping that when I attended the meeting I would find good

reason for the change proposed. Instead, I came out opposed to the plan. I wanted to hear the rationale for moving the French Immersion program that had to do with the program but it was all about numbers in the program. I could not see anything that would argue that the FI program would be better consolidated at Massey. Instead, I find the FI Study is not even concluded yet.

I see that increased bussing costs would be offset by admin savings. There was no reference point to the status quo: what does the plan do that is better than the status quo? What would status quo cost in comparison? - some buzz words about education quality that didn't help at all. The only concrete thing I heard was some facilities have serious conditions issues. Hard to see that applied to my nearly 300 student school (Connaught). Yes, there are 2 program but not 2 buildings... no triple classes...etc.

So, to make the plan better... drop the concept of moving FI from Connaught to Massey and leave both Connaught and Davin open.

the lack of an alternative option (such as status quo model based on keeping as many of the current schools going as could be achieved for the same increase in taxes or how much taxes would have to increase to keep the current system going as is) - - - --- the student numbers seemed off and at the meeting I went to there was lots of criticism of their accuracy - don't know if the criticism was justified (I hope not) but I was surprised to see a decrease in high school enrollment of 1000 predicted.

I am at a loss to understand why Davin and Connaught are threatened. They are excellent schools with stable populations, community support, good programs, diverse populations that celebrate diversity. There's an old saying, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" and I see very little about Davin or Connaught that are broke. What is more, I don't see any commitment in the report to fixing or improving whatever the perceived issue is with Davin or Connaught.

I am extremely concerned about the effect that closing a school or even proposing a closure will have on the Cathedral neighborhood. Proposing that a school be closed has a tendency to create a self-fulfilling prophecy. There are already young people reconsidering whether they should move into this area, now that there is talk of closing a school. There are also young families wondering whether they should put their children in the French program at Connaught, if it will be shut down within a few years. The community has been very supportive of the work to build the playgrounds at the two Cathedral area schools. It will be difficult to generate enthusiasm for these projects when people are wondering whether the work will be for nothing. It is also a slap in the face for the people who have contributed so much time to these projects. It is therefore very important that the school board have accurate and reliable information before it proposes such decisions. It is shocking that much of the information that the board will, or should be considering, isn't even available yet, when the decision to close some schools will be made in little more than a month (I realize that is not the plan for Davin and Connaught). I am also concerned about the effect that a closure will have on the Cathedral community spirit. The schools have been the source of a lot of community organizing, fundraising and working together. These things generate tremendous 'glue' for a community and it would be a shame to lose either of these institutions which have contributed so much to building and maintaining a community.

I am concerned about the fate of the Davin or Connaught building if a closure happens. These are heritage buildings that reflect the architectural character of the neighborhood. When I travel to other places in the world I marvel at the old buildings which have been preserved and continue to be used. I have talked to many other Saskatchewan people with similar sentiments. Obviously, we can't have 500 year old buildings given the relatively short period Saskatchewan has been settled, but we won't ever have 500 year old buildings if we don't preserve the 100 year old ones we have. It is important for our children to appreciate and learn that resources are precious in this world, and that they shouldn't continue to simply discard and demolish old things rather than rehabilitate them and continue using them - particularly with the tremendous population growth now occurring. My daughter attends the before and after school program at Davin and I can't see how that would be able to continue. Regardless of which one of Davin or Connaught closed, there wouldn't be space in the consolidated school for a daycare program. That means that the community is facing a loss of two daycare facilities. Since daycare space is so short, that hardly seems like a desirable result. I am also concerned with the environment impact of closing either of these schools. Closing schools means more driving, more bussing and more building materials wasted in the demolition process. The city is on one hand trying to encourage renewal of the core areas, to minimize suburban sprawl. If the school board on the other hand is working at odds with that policy by closing schools in the core areas, the city's plan is sure to fail. Living closer to the core is healthier for people and the atmosphere because there is less time spent driving and walking is more feasible. At the Davin meeting the other night, it was obvious that the board is still waiting to receive much of the information it needs to base its decisions upon. It was also apparent that there are some real questions about the data and assumptions upon which this report are founded. One assumption that seems questionable is that the parents of French immersion students at Connaught would choose to have their children go to Massey, instead of a school in the area. If that assumption is incorrect, where will the board put all the students in a consolidated school? It surely would make little sense to close one school and then have to construct additional space at the other to accommodate additional students.