

Potential Walter Lee School Closure Information
May 2016 PAC Meeting

Schools on Closure List:

Blundell Elementary

Bridge Elementary

Diefenbaker Elementary

Dixon Elementary

Errington Elementary

Gilmore Elementary

Grauer Elementary

Lee Elementary

Maple Lane Elementary

McKay Elementary

McKinney Elementary

Mitchell Elementary

Quilchena Elementary

Thompson Elementary

Whiteside Elementary

Woodward Elementary

(Bold Schools are located closest to Walter Lee)

Proposed Timeline:

Report To Board of Education applying Policy 704R criteria.	April 4, 2016 Board Meeting
Committees at affected schools established and meet	April to June 2016
Public meetings to consult on options:	May 17, 18 and 19, 2016
Report To Board of Education reviewing public input	June 20, 2016
Further evaluation of options by staff	June to August 2016
Report to the Board of Education with closure recommendations	September 19, 2016
Board meeting to hear input from the school communities affected	October 3, 2016
Board meeting to make decision. School closure bylaws will be required.	October 17, 2016
Effective date for school closures	June 30, 2017

It is important to recognize that being one of the 16 schools being considered for closure does not mean that a school is definitely going to close. The need to close schools because of the combined factors of seismic risk and declining enrolment will mean that difficult and unpopular decisions will have to be made. It is our intent, however, that between the receipt of this report by the Board and the closure decision in October, all of the affected school communities will have meaningful input into the decision making process. - *Sherry Elwood*

Availability of Neighbourhood Schools:

Ministry guidelines consider schools within a 3 km radius to be neighbouring schools. This radius may be reduced in instances where there are significant natural features like rivers or major roads that run through the 3 km radius. We have considered a school to be neighbouring if its catchment is adjacent to that of the school under consideration, and if the school itself is with a 3km walking distance (walkshed) of that school. The 3km walkshed is shown on the map in green. For the purposes of this analysis, Highway 99 is considered to be the only significant feature that would reduce the 3 km radius.

Cost Considerations:

The list of 21 schools could be further evaluated by giving consideration to the amount of remediation that would be required to ensure that the schools are safe for our students. It would be financially prudent to retain schools that need minimal remediation, while continuing to consider closing schools that have higher remediation costs. The table below summarizes this next step in the evaluation process.

Elementary School	Classrooms Not Requiring Seismic Remediation	Estimated Cost of Seismic and Building Envelope Remediation (\$ millions)
Blundell	0	9.2
Bridge	0	11.7
Debeck	N/A	1.2
Diefenbaker	10	8.6
Dixon	12	8.5
Errington	4	6.7
Garden City	N/A	0.0
Gilmore	3	14.9
Grauer	0	16.3
Kidd	N/A	0.0
Kingswood	N/A	0.0
Lee	13	9.6
Maple Lane	4	6.4
McKay	5	6.4
McKinney	16	4.6
Mitchell	18	5.0
Quilchena	4	6.7
Thompson	7	11.8
Whiteside	0	8.1
Woodward	0	12.7
Wowk	N/A	1.9

5 of the 21 schools under consideration are not at high risk for damage following a seismic event. These schools have remediation costs that are below \$2 million, while the school with the next lowest estimated remediation cost is at the \$5 million level. The five schools highlighted in the table above would be logical candidates to be removed from the list of schools that are being considered for closure. This would leave 16 schools still under consideration.

Other Consideration:

Elementary School	Enrolment is >25% below capacity	>20% of the children in the catchment area do not attend the school	>20% of the children attending the school are from outside the catchment area	The operating cost per Student is above the district average	There is a need for significant capital expenditures to keep the building operational	The facilities restrict appropriate educational programming	The facilities have inappropriate accommodation for pupils and/or teachers	Any schools with a total enrolment lower than 100 (fte)
Blundell		56.7%	25.9%	37%	H1			
Bridge		31.2%	46.4%		H1			
Debeck		32.4%	25.7%		BE			
Diefenbaker		37.4%	33.3%		H3 BE			
Dixon		20.3%	60.3%		H2			
Errington		37.2%	27.5%	35%	H2			
Garden City		52.2%	53.0%					
Gilmore	68.9%	28.8%	39.2%		H1			
Grauer	45.2%	49.8%		54%	H1			
Kidd	57.4%	36.6%						
Kingswood		47.0%						
Lee	68.1%	47.8%			H1			
Maple Lane		33.0%	24.6%	27%	H1			
McKay	64.1%	46.5%		55%	H2			
McKinney		30.0%	30.4%		H1			
Mitchell		35.2%	20.2%		H2			
Quilchena		32.7%	31.5%	53%	H1			
Thompson	70.0%	36.3%	30.9%	39%	H1 BE			
Whiteside			74.5%		H1			
Woodward	45.0%	30.5%		99%	H1			
Wowk			28.9%		BE			