

School Opening, Closing and Reorganization

Policy No. 402.13R

REGULATIONS

1. An official ceremony may be held to celebrate the opening or reopening of a school building or district facility or the opening of a major addition or renovation to an existing school or facility.
2. The Board shall allow a period of not less than 60 days for public consultation to take place between the time that a potential permanent closure, or a significant reorganization of a school is announced and the final decision is made.

The Board must provide for public consultation that includes:

- 2.1. A fair consideration of the input from the affected community and provision of opportunities for that community to respond to the Board's proposal to close a school permanently, or to significantly reorganize schools in a community.
 - 2.2. Consideration of future enrolment growth in the school district, of persons of school age, persons of less than school age, and adults.
 - 2.3. Consideration of possible alternative community use for all or part of the school. "Alternative community use" is use by a community agency or organization of land or improvements, other than for the educational purposes of the Board of Education, e.g. health care, therapy services, social services, etc.
3. Persons or groups in the community, who could be affected by a school closure or significant school reorganization, should be made aware of the Board's proposal.
4. A public forum will be held to deal with the proposed school closure or significant school reorganization, and shall form part of the public consultation process.
5. Consultation will be meaningful, and fair consideration will be given to all public input prior to the Board making its final decision. Fair consideration includes the concept that the Board's proposal to close or to significantly reorganize a school could be changed or reversed.
6. The closure or significant reorganization of a school should not normally take place until the September following the final decision. This will give parents, students and school staff time to make alternative arrangements.
7. The final decision to permanently close a school will be done by bylaw.