

Notice of Motion: Transfer of Junior High Program at Wildwood School

IMMEDIATE RELEASE – February 7, 2019 The Grande Yellowhead Public School Division's (GYPSD) Board of Trustees put forward a NOTICE OF MOTION yesterday at the public board meeting proposing a transfer of the junior high program (Grades 7-9) from Wildwood School to Grand Trunk High School in Evansburg.

In order to consider the potential transfer of a program, there are a number of legislative requirements that must be met under Section 58 of the [School Act](#) and sections 3 and 4 of the [Closure of Schools Regulation](#), as well as steps under Board [Policy 15](#). Board Chair Brenda Rosadiuk also is adamant that affected families have adequate time to share their thoughts with trustees, and opportunity to receive the critical factors that have prompted the transfer proposal.

A public meeting have been scheduled on February 25, 2019, to discuss the viability of the junior high program at 7 p.m. at Wildwood School as per the Closure of Schools Regulation, Section 1.1(2):

Where a board plans to transfer an education program pursuant to subsection (1)(c)(iii), the board shall organize and convene an information meeting for the purpose of informing the parents of the students affected by the transfer of the transfer and the alternative arrangements for continuing the education program at another school.

An operational review over the last few months has recommended to the board that the junior high program (Grades 7-9) at Wildwood School may no longer be financially viable to sustain due to declining student enrolment, and program equity issues. Affected students could transfer to Grand Trunk High School effective September 3, 2019. Wildwood School would continue to provide education for students in kindergarten to Grade 6.

The division's first priority is always to make decisions that are in the best interest of students. Over the last several years, the enrolment at Wildwood School has continued to decline; for the current school year, there are twenty-four junior high students enrolled in Grades 7-9. It is the board's policy that the minimum critical enrolment number for a program to be sustainable is thirty students in any three consecutive grades (Policy 15, Sec.1.1.2.2). Wildwood School has also posted a deficit budget over the last few years, indicating that its budget cannot support the identified percentage of the combined teacher and support staff budget for operations. (Policy 15, Sec.1.1.3.3) With the transfer of Wildwood's junior high program to Grand Trunk High School, it is projected that Wildwood School will erase its deficit and be able to operate with a balanced budget to deliver an elementary program.

The final decision on whether to transfer the junior high program effective for the 2019-20 school year will be made by the board at the Public Board Meeting on April 3, 2019. If a member of the public would like an opportunity to speak at the meeting in April, please review [Board Policy 7 - Board Operations, Appendix A](#) - Public Comments and Delegation Protocol - section 3 for the protocol for public comments in a public board meeting.