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Louise Dean Centre Future Plans Discussion Public Meeting – March 18, 2019

Below you will find all comments as they were written. Opinions are the writers' own and content has not been vetted for accuracy. Comments have not been edited for spelling, grammar, sentence structure or otherwise. Comments have been edited to ensure anonymity. We also edited or omitted abusive, discriminatory and otherwise inappropriate comments.

1. What are the opportunities of relocating the program?

▪ Facility / Infrastructure

- Expansion of daycare
- Have facility with more modern infrastructure
- Larger school – to cover fluctuating numbers over school year
- Newer building = lower maintenance costs
- More appropriate childcare space
- Decrease in operating costs
- Increase capacity
- Less investment in infrastructure
- More opportunities to increase facilities & day care facilities
- All partners being in building – increased integration

▪ Programming

- Add space/capacity for enhanced program
- More education
- Gives the girls who attend Louise Dean Centre more opportunity with classes
- Other courses at Lord Beaverbrook
- Support for mothers with learning challenges
- Ability to support CTS courses & other academic HS courses at Lord Beaverbrook HS
- Availability of other programs & learning opportunities
- More courses
- Access to Beaverbrook



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- **Space**

- More space to support students & their families
- Bigger space
- More room as well
- Room for the children
- Space

- **Location**

- Have more opportunity for community support
- Community engagement possibilities for moms' involvement/growth in this new proposed area

- **Additional opportunities**

- Open and inclusive of fathers
- A fresh start at new things

2. What are the challenges of relocating the program?

- **Location**

- Being in one quadrant of city
- Community for students from the north part of the city?
- Not as central
- Not being as central in Calgary
- Not as accessible for the girls & staff
- Student alumni know where this building is and can return/check in to their community. This may be lost when the school moves.
- New environment for everyone

- **Transportation**

- Accommodate new transportation times for parents travelling with children including walking distance from LRT
- New bus routes for girls
- transportation

- **Stigma**

- Stigma of students
- Consideration: stigma managed ie not accepted highschool



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- Social stigma felt by moms with their school close to Lord Beaverbrook HS
- **Space**
 - The daycare has limited space
- **Additional challenges**
 - Consideration: Training needs
 - Costs of moving the program
 - Funding
 - Timing
 - Getting approvals needed
 - None
 - Change for students
 - Having to move all student to new building
 - Timing with year round school
 - Maintain program elements during transition to new space
- 3. What are the opportunities of keeping the program at its current location?**
 - **Location**
 - Keeping the school more central
 - Well known location for everyone. The new highway does not effect it.
 - Students past & present know that this place is here and available to them.
 - Location
 - **Stigma**
 - Safe (emotionally) in terms of distance from same age peer group (ie Social stigma issues).
 - **Transportation**
 - Less switches on transit?



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- **Additional opportunities**

- Learn and improve the original program
- Save money
- Consistency for clients/staff
- Not relocating the girls
- Continuity
- Size
- The devil we know.
- Current system in place
- I wonder about thinking outside the box re childcare room options – having a partnership with a daycare in the community may be helpful, while keeping one infant room here.
- More class opportunities – type – day & night

4. What are the challenges of keeping the program at its current location?

- **Facility / Infrastructure**

- Ongoing maintenance
- Aging infrastructure cost not adding to program capacity
- The cost of fixing equipment and objects that needs to be replaced or fixed
- This building is 60+ years so it's in need of remodeling. There is also limited space.
- Less optimal use of \$ required for improvements & operational costs
- It desperately needs updating but the upgrade money will only be used for fixes that can't be seen.
- Older building
- Need money to update infrastructure
- Size limitations that affect space available for children
- Size limitations to support special classes from moms with unique programming requirements

- **Space**

- Space challenge that hinder partnership development/integration
- Smaller space



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- Limited opportunity for class expansion, already at capacity for kids room
- Inclusive to include fathers & family so limited space
- At capacity
- Useable space available
- **Location**
 - Accessibility

5. Additional questions and/or comments

- As a teen parent back when there were no programs for this, I think Louise Dean is an excellent program and moving the program to Dr Norman Bethune would be a great asset to the students who choose to use this program.
- I would like more information on the budget for both the proposed & existing sites
- I worry that the decision has already been made and consultation is in name only – I may be a cynic
- Like all programs/services there is a desire to evolve. In this case it seems to make sense to seek a new facility if the benefits – both quantitative and qualitative is positive.
- Hi your information about Louise Dean says it is in the community of Kensington. That is not true. It is in West Hillhurst and Highbanks located nearby for that reason. Schools are community assets. Thank you.
- The focus for decisions made about Louise Dean Centre to remain on the quality of education for the students, and not the number of students the program can accommodate; there should be no emphasis on growing the student population – given the special nature of the school.
- An example of an outside the CBE box solution that could be corporately financed or donated - move stroller parking from the hallways such as a heated covered space created outside the current Louise Dean structure.
- If you are undertaking this move I believe you should consider looking at a new hybrid of HIGH SCHOOL. Charter or academy types of mixing CBE money with private / partner/ 1ST nations assistance



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to be determined -but the needs of each LDS student is more than double (mother and child) and funding by head count is not the way to look at LDS (see no growth above). If there was such a project considered-I would approach all the Rotary clubs in southern Alberta to join the CBE/CFS/ AHealth in the new facility project and on going community involvement focusing on special needs and fund raising a new playground. Again an example of a typical school yard project not customized to meet LDS 's unique needs.