

Calgary Board of Education Area 6 and 7 Impacted Schools – Group B

Alexander Ferguson, Glenbrook, Glendale and Richmond Schools
Report of Findings Feb. 23, 2018

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Community Engagement



**Calgary Board
of Education**

Background

- ❖ The Area 6 and 7 impacted schools – Group B online survey was available to parents and others Feb. 8-22, 2018. The thoughts and perspectives provided through this survey will be considered by decision-makers as proposed scenarios are refined.
- ❖ The survey received 71 responses.
- ❖ This report includes survey results and comments.

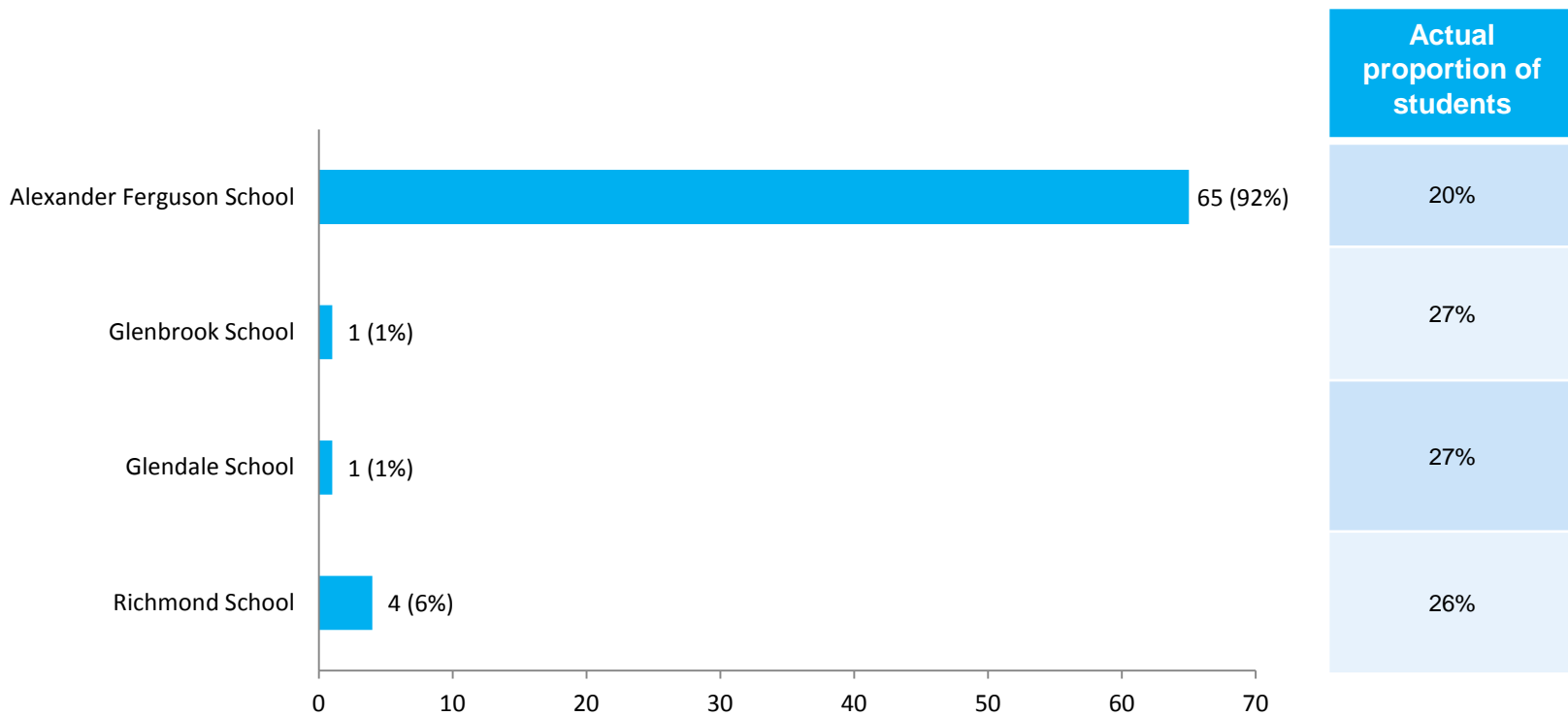


About the Participants



Group B – Representation by School

Please indicate the school you are commenting about. Answered: 71



Survey Comments

- ❖ Following are the comments captured for all open-ended questions in this survey





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Area 6 and 7 Impacted Schools Online Survey – Group B (Alexander Ferguson, Glenbrook, Glendale and Richmond schools)

Comments for Decision-Makers – Feb. 8 to 22, 2018

Comments compiled: Feb. 23, 2018

Below you will find all comments provided in the survey as they were written. 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.

Q2 What are the opportunities for the proposed scenario? – 51 responses

- Convenient for our children to be able to walk 3 blocks to school as opposed to bus ride elsewhere.
- Increase enrollment at Glendale and Richmond relative to their capacity.
- Can tweak curriculum at Richmond to draw more students.
- More predictable catchment areas.
- Boosting Richmond elementary schools population
- none, the new boundary suggestion is very small
- Keep the neighbourhood close
- Smaller class sizes
- To fix it.
- Clear guidelines for parents entering the school system.
- The boundaries are currently based on transit maps and single streets are split into two school zones.
- I don't see any
- I think that your decision to make the transition for existing students seamless is vitally important and I commend you for that.
- The benefits as explained by CBE make rational sense – to better use physical and human resources, and to ensure a more predictable planning process from year to year based on population in the designated boundaries. We would hope in the long term this resource planning would also result in an evening-out of have vs. have-not schools and a more even reputation of schools across the district.
- no
- My child would no longer be attending the school we have registered her for kindergarten.
- Reduced class size?
- Boundary changes for my child's designated school, are currently changing to not include our place of residence.
- Unsure
- 1. enhance programming and/or marketing to entice parents to schools within their boundaries - provide principals with resourcing needed to do this
- 2. continue to allow principals the discretion to take out of bounds students
- Richmond School is closer to our home



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- set boundaries create more clarity than an option zone
- I understand the objectives of the proposal, but disagree with the timing.
- From a personal perspective, I don't see any opportunities for the proposed scenario.
- Sustainable numbers across all schools.
- More stable enrollment for school
- Not clear there are any new opportunities.
- There are none. Our community only stands to be negatively affected
- I like the idea of one junior high for all students in Alex Ferguson so there can be some continuity for co-horts.
- To redesignate kids from Alexandar Ferguson to Richmond School and maybe this helps improve school perceptions.
- Manageable class numbers.
- I like that there will be no disruptions, that the children can finish at the school they are currently in.
- Better distribution/ ratio of kids
- None
- We live just 4 blocks from the school. It is easy to get to especially on days when walking becomes necessary.
- Better distribution of children to schools based on class size
- I think all the other schools gain from these opportunities, but AFS does not. AFS has done a great job attracting families, but with these boundaries, CBE is restricting those that can attend.
- Better allocate students among schools with capacity and those without
- None
- Keep numbers in school down so it's not over capacity
- The designated zone is so extremely small it isn't reasonable.
- Utilization of school space, predictable enrollment
- All students are close to school
- Kids will know the other kids who live on their street - community building
- To provide clear boundaries for each community school.
- Re map, very few. Re scenario - Students should primarily attend the school closest to home and current students grandfathered through grade 6 at existing school.
- Keeping all Alex Ferguson zoned kids together for junior high. Spreading enrolment more equitably among all the schools.
- 1. Richmond will hopefully increase its enrollment, leading to more funding and capacity for the school and ensuring its long-term sustainability.
2. There are lots of new family homes being constructed in Richmond's catchment area; this is a great time to be looking to the future and preparing for new families moving in.
- * Balancing school populations
* Possibly keeping cohorts together, however it is unclear what will happen at the junior high level to current students and potentially siblings that do not live in a school's boundary any more, but still attend that school



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- Balancing the school enrollment numbers, and hopefully funds for high quality staff will be equalized amongst the schools as well.
- It will be nice to have some stability and planning and more effective use of space (some schools are consistently at or above capacity, some are well below).
- Boost enrolment
- Nothing.

Q3 What are the challenges for the proposed scenario? – 62 responses

- If new zoning goes through our children will have to be bussed to Richmond school when we have Alexander Ferguson 3 blocks away.
- People who registered for Kindergarten in Jan/Feb 2018 may not end up at the school they thought would be at. It is too late for them to arrange appropriate child care and perhaps even get into another nearby school. Alexander Ferguson is the most desirable school at moment and this plan denies access to children that live reasonably close. People may be forced into a school they do not want to attend.
- The fact that registration has already passed will impact existing families and before/after care considerations. This change should be tabled for 2019/20.
- Limiting the community access to a great school
- The new boundary is assuming there are new families moving in and out of the area. The neighbourhood to the east of the school is established with very little turnover. Most of those families have already had their children come thru the school
- The timing of the boundary change is terrible. This should be done before Kindergarten registration day, most people who have registered for Kindergarten have already made childcare arrangements.
- People who already go to the school but live outside the new area
- Increase the catchment to include the north side of 17th ave to 26th ave. We can actually see the school from our house and we would be designated to Richmond School, that makes little sense.
- Some parents will have to change what they've made plans around regarding daycare etc.
- Parents who had already planned for their child this year and may be out of the proposed designation area.
- Existing families that live in the area or have moved to the area that may be impacted by the new boundaries because of their location.
- My older child attends the school and my younger child will too. I want our neighbours to be able to do the same. The new boundaries would put them at a school much farther away.
- I think that the decision to divide Killarney down the middle and send these children to two different schools, neither of which are actually in their community goes against the very principal of community development. There is a very naturally defined residential community that sits hemmed in by 17th



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ave/26th ave and Crowchild/37th St. The families within this area play in the parks/use the recreation facilities and fields within these boundaries.. hence the definition of this area as an identified community. We live a few blocks down from the park and Alex Ferguson. We can literally see the school from our front yard. We have met with other families and their kids at the park on the first day of school and walked together on mass to AFS for the past 6 years in a row. It makes no sense to me that the children in this area would have to cross over an overpass/highway to attend a school in completely different community. There are differences in the programming or opportunities offered at the different schools. Just because you increase the catchment does not mean you will increase Richmond School's population. I would ask you to look at an important data point: what % of school age children in AFS's current catchment attend AFS as compared to what % of Richmond's catchment. We moved to be inside the walk-on for AFS because we were doing what we felt was best for our children. At that time, my research brought my attention that Richmond school was identified for closure in the future. I'm not sure if that plan has changed - but if it hasn't I think it is deplorable that the half of the community of Killarney that is closest to and currently attending AFS would be uprooted and shipped over Crowchild to attend a school that is planned for closure. If that plan has changed - then I highly advocate that the CBE look at the differences in education experiences at different schools. So I say - fix the problem first, then possibly explore how schools might best address the growing needs of their adjacent communities. You can't just draw lines or quadrants through a map without considering the culture and naturally formed communities that exist within those spaces.

- The biggest challenge for the proposed scenario is timing. Families have been asked to register for the 2018/2019 school year based on existing boundaries and options within those boundaries. We have gone to great lengths to register at the school of our choice, to secure a coveted morning kindergarten spot and – most importantly – to secure before and after school care that supports a kindergarten schedule, and doesn't require our child to be on a bus twice per day between care and kindergarten. Now, we are learning this registration may not be valid. With the decision pending until April, we will be left scrambling to find new arrangements, not to mention losing a significant childcare registration deposit. We request any boundary changes come into effect for the 2019/2020 school year to allow sufficient planning time for new registrants rather than a last minute changing of the rules for those families who have already gone through the registration process.
- Other planning principals and considerations for the proposed scenario included providing equitable access for all students to choice of programs and offering more alternative programs. In the proposed scenario however,



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we will see choice removed, and in particular a choice of an arts-based program in which we believe our child will thrive

- it will kill our kids' potential of art talent. opposite this proposal!!!
- this proposed scenario give parents less choice for their kids.
- My children don't have the opportunity to go to their school of interest. New designated school is not within walking distance.
- The school they would now be assigned to is further away, we would not be in our ideal school and all plans we have made for next year would need to be reworked.
- Very small area compared to surrounding schools.
- Living three blocks outside of the proposed boundary will prevent my children from attending kindergarten at Alex F (our preferred school) in September 2018.
- These changes are coming after school registration has already passed, and we have not been given adequate time to prepare for a different school in a different location.
- Our house would not be within the new boundary for Alexander Ferguson School. We had hoped to send our child to this school as we have friends with kids currently attending this school and have heard great things. We also hoped our child's cousins would be at this same school, allowing us to share carpool/pick up responsibilities with my brother-in-law/sister-in-law. They would also be impacted by the new boundaries.
- Our kids live less than 3 blocks south of Alexander Ferguson and could easily walk to school. If the south boundary is moved up they would no longer be able to walk to school as we would be designated to Richmond and thus would require bussing, increasing costs. Please reconsider moving the boundary for Alexander Ferguson so far north.
- 1. children within the same community activities may not have the chance to go to the same school - continue to allow principals the discretion to take out of bounds students as this could help community friends stay together
2. timing should be moved to Sept 2019 and CBE website should be appropriately updated with maps so that parents registering for kindergarten will register at the correct school. Changing the boundaries after parents have registered and already paid deposits for before/after care in Sept 2018 will be a burden to families both from a schedule and from a financial perspective
- I would prefer my child to attend Alex Ferguson
- timing - people in the option area already registered for A Ferguson for the coming year and did not feel the need look into the other schools (catholic etc.)
- The proposed change to implement in 2018-19 school year is unacceptable. Many people have made family decisions like after-school care that cannot be refunded. I think it is unfortunate that in the Kilarney area, many families



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that are neighbors won't actually go to the same school. I would prefer to keep an option zone. I don't know what the downside is to keeping the option zone and letting people apply to the school they want with the knowledge they may not get in.

- My wife and I specifically moved to be within the catchment of AF, our preferred school.
- Kindergarten registration is complete so if changes are implemented they should be for the year after. We are in a location that will have a long walk regardless
- Potential timing of implementation of proposed changes is after kindergarten registration.
- Disruption to friendship groups for junior high when kids who currently attend AFS from Option Zone will be forced to go to a different junior high than their friends.
- Narrowing the choice of Junior high schools to just one.
 1. We live a 5 minute walk from AFS and would be considered out of area by the new proposed boundary change. Richmond is a 20 minute, quite unpleasant walk (windy, requires crossing Crowchild) and the school is not in our community. I would not want kids to walk on their own (crossing Crowchild requires a back-alley pedestrian bridge or a very busy walk down 26 ave) so driving would become the best option, given that I need to continue on to work. This does not promote active transportation.
 2. AFS has put a lot of effort into ensuring its program and teachers are innovative, student-centred and engaging. Changing the boundaries because it is almost at capacity is punishing a good school and is a disincentive to pursuing excellence.
 3. Our community has centred around the AFS area since we moved there. We regularly use the gully, Shag skating rink and community centre, AFS playground, and our preschool is nearby. Our kids knew kids that attended AFS long before starting K because they played with them in the park, at the rink and at preschool. We almost never cross Crowchild and do not consider that to be part of our community. Other families share our view. Changing the boundary will force children in our area to attend school outside of our community. The proposed change will not affect our kids, so I'm advocating for other kids in our community. I STRONGLY oppose the change in AFS boundary.
- I do worry that the population of the smaller area for Alex Ferguson, while it's enough right now, might not be in the future as families in the area age and move on. I know the school faced the possibility of closure very recently, and we wouldn't want to face the possibility of that again.
- Lack of choice. School reputations are not the same. It's a shame Killarney School could not be converted back to a neighbourhood school as having a closer school would help with the change.



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- Timing. Shouldn't come into effect until 2019. And the boundary seems quite small. The school isn't even at capacity and would be even smaller.
- No direct impacts for us, we will lose some friends, but I would imagine those who have to move schools will not welcome this disruption.
- We purchased our home with the understanding that we would be in the zone to go to Alexander Ferguson. We would have made a different decision otherwise. At this time we cannot relocate as the cost would be too great.
- Due to our situation it only makes common sense to send our son to Alex Ferguson, as it makes sense to cut out walking time. For medical reasons, walking is a necessity for our family
- Some people may be looking for programs not offered at new designated school
- Kids already registered are now outside the zone and are in limbo. May not get after school care in new school if they have to move cause it's already full. After school may already be paid on the school registered in before zone change. May not be refundable. The timing of the proposed changes seems off considering registration has all ready happened.
- 1. The timing of the proposed changes has occurred after families have already registered for the 2018/2019 school year which is unfair to them. These families have already made arrangements and paid for before and after school care. In addition, the decision of where your children go to school is an important decision for families. The options that were available before the January 22, 2018 registration date may no longer be available to families now. If these boundaries are going to be implemented, it should start for the 2019/2020 school year when families can make decisions with all available information.
- 2. The proposal looks at the current enrollment rate for the next 5 years. However, 5 years appears to be a short term range for this type of change. The enrollment rate that you predicted will likely be correct given that students will be attending from outside the boundary zone, but once these families are gone, the proposed AFS zone does not appear to have the population it needs to sustain itself. You are really relying heavily on the economy getting better.
- 3. If families in the area don't like the CBE school options in the area, they will go to private schools. It may not solve the problem of re-distributing the students among the various schools involved.
- Students will be forced to attend schools further from home
- Terrible timing, these changes should be made before registration. I feel for all the families that have already registered for Kindergarten and might now have to change their plans.
- The potential change date (September 2018) is not aligned with the registration cycle. The children, who are entering kindergarten, have been granted space in the school. In turn parents have been planning around this.



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e.g. setting up before and after school care, planning work schedules, etc. the lack of alignment with the registration cycle and the ambiguity until April around timing, puts parents in a position of purgatory. We can't plan for the fall. If you implement for fall 2018, we are at a disadvantage (e.g. loose deposits for before and after care, may not be able to find quality before and after care, etc). Please implement your zoning changes effective for the 2019/20 school year, that way no one new to CBE this year is adversely impacted.

- Families that moved to the area to attend AFS will no longer be able to attend if Boundaries changed
- It doesn't make sense why the zone for Alexander Ferguson is so small compared to others. Especially considering the learning routes for each school there should be more flexibility in the community.
- Our challenge is that we are in the current option zone, 3 blocks from Alexander Ferguson. We registered for Alexander Ferguson as it is our closest school, our child's friends are going and we've seen/heard good things from the school. With the proposed changes we are no longer in walking range for a young child, which was the biggest draw for Alexander Ferguson. We also were considering other school options but some of those options are now closed as we registered for Alexander Ferguson and didn't register elsewhere as we didn't expect the whole lines and districts would be changed by AFTER we registered. Its unfair to affect the change this year as you have essentially removed the options we had for our kid, as we were looking at other options which have now closed.
- The catchment appears small. Parents who live just on the edge of the border between schools should have choice between schools. The border is too specific.
- If current families are not grandfathered in, would be very disruptive. Could drive changes in some house prices
- We were not aware of the proposed scenario until mid-February 2018. Before that we have made the decision to pull our child out of a different school and have registered them for Alex Ferguson for the 2018/19 school year. The reason of our decision is to give our child the opportunity to attend our community school which all their friends on our street attend. With the proposed scenario, our child will not be able to go to the same school with their friends. Also the registration of their current school has been closed because all the spots for next year have been filled up. This would be a significant change to our child and our family.
- The catchment map doesn't make sense. I can stand on my sidewalk and see Alex Ferguson but it is no longer my designated school. Under the new plan, my child will have to walk twice as far and cross a busy unsignalized road. This is counter intuitive to the themes of safety and having children attend school close to home.



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- Timing - those who have already registered for Kindergarten could be booted from a chosen school if implemented for 2018-2019. Ensuring a process is in place for principals to follow when asked to accept a child who lives out of bounds. Lottery may not be the best option. Ensuring programming is robust at all schools so that families stay with CBE and do not choose alternates, eg. private, charter, etc
- It would appear that the total current capacity of the four schools is much greater than the current and projected total enrollments. In the future, there will surely be pressure to consolidate schools as budget constraints must be addressed.
- We want our child to go to Alex Ferguson school and currently we live in the boundary area. If the scenario is implemented, we'll have to move to the designated area and can't afford it. Not fair.
- People raised concerns about Richmond School, though they couldn't articulate specifically what gave them concerns. As a Richmond parent who strongly supports the school, I find that disappointing. If parents feel "forced" to send their kids to Richmond, they may find other options (specialized programs like the nearby boys' school, French immersion, a Catholic school). I think the provincial achievement test school rankings is a huge part of this problem, where we look lower because we are a small school, and a lot of our data are missing. I think our biggest challenge is to tell the story of the school's success, and how happy the parents and families are with Richmond. So far we are extremely happy with the school.
- I think the having the closest school be your designated school is being lost in the proposed boundaries. For instance the closest school for students on 27th ST and West between 21 and 26 AVE would be Alexander Ferguson, but their proposed zone is Richmond
- Reduction of choice
- Changing junior high designations, transportation logistics are changing, after my family has chosen to live in this community because of school designations. Now that will change - frustrating and disappointing.
- I can think of several students currently walking to Alexander Ferguson who will be outside the catchment zone. The other schools (Richmond and Glendale) are much less realistic as a walk for these kids.
- Takes away choice
- Not being able to send kids to the school of choice. We just moved to an area just outside the boundary (new scenario) because we would like to send our kid to this school. Now if the new boundary is implemented we would likely move away.
- That children who are already established in their school may need to be moved to a new school.



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Q4 Are there any other considerations for this scenario? – 47 responses

- I think the above speaks for itself. Budding kids elsewhere when they could walk 3 blocks seems outrageous.
- Killarney school may be impacting Richmond school's enrollment too, not just AFS. Against the lottery idea for remaining students as could be anyone in city then. Preferential treatment should be received for those closest to (but just outside) the boundary. Further to the above, the revised boundary results in some who live 4 - 5 blocks from AFS (within a block or two of 21st Ave SW) to go to further Richmond school.
- It appears that the new boundaries are penalizing successful schools.
- If the boundaries need to change, make these changes before registration for the 2019/2020 school year.
- Grandfathering people who already go to the school?
- You should study the current school catchments and determine how many people in the area are choosing alternatives vs sending their children there. Some schools suffer from a perception problem and you need to figure out how to draw people there vs force them to go there. They will just figure out alternatives and there are a lot of them out there. Fix the school, then the people will want to go there. That's what Alex Ferg. did to become a destination school.
- This scenario should not be implemented before the Sept 2018 school year as registration has already taken place.
- Consideration to allow for 2018 to be a shoulder should there be parents who had planned for their child(s) to attend Alexander Ferguson especially given the late notice
- Consider allowing families outside of boundaries to remain at the school until all of their children are through the program.
- Please consider students who needs arts based learning as a way to thrive.
- The proposed paring down of Alex Ferguson's catchment will result in an unprecedentedly small geographic/residential area. The proposed area encompasses large areas of low or no residential density; one block north and south of 17th avenue (which represents 2 blocks out of 4) are predominately zoned and actively commercial . The largely undeveloped area north of Bow trail may be slated for high density development down the road - but as those types of multi-unit developments near to public transit attract young individuals or couples - it would be many years before there would be any addition of school aged children. While AFS enjoys high demand and utilized capacity now, it seems irresponsible to assume that it can consistently draw to this degree from such a small and diverse population. It wasn't that long ago that AFS was on the chopping block requiring extensive advocacy and fundraising to bring it back to the thriving school it is today. I would ask you to look at another important data point: what % of AFS families over the past 5 years (to allow for natural



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fluctuations) have resided in the proposed area as compared to the % that have resided in the 'optional' area that you are planning to send elsewhere.

- As new parents to the system – ones that have just registered our child for the 2018/2019 school year – we feel disappointed by the timing of the engagement process that may impact our current school registration. We were alerted to the open house by the school at which we registered, only to learn that we may not qualify to attend that school come the fall. At the open house it was explained the engagement process was advertised through schools and on CBE school websites, but the reality is, new parents to the system are not spending time on school websites prior to registration. Given this, we would like to see any changes take place for the 2019/2020 year so that new school registrants can make fully informed school, transportation and child-care decisions prior to registering, rather than feeling as though the rules have changed after we have been asked to register.
- decision can be implemented 2019-2020.
- I don't agree with the new proposed scenario. The Education Board and the community schools should put more work on improving the overall performance of the schools other than setting up strict boundaries. And how come families were not informed before the registration for the next school year started? No child should be forced to go to a different school with a last-minute notice.
- I ask that the people who have already registered to a school get to keep their current location as plans have already been made.
- Current number and projected number of children in proposed boundaries.
- Those families already living in the current school zone should be accepted even if the new zoning is approved. Perhaps a three year transition period would help support those families who chose to reside in Killarney to attend the school.
- If this boundary change were to be postponed to the 2019/2020 school year, then our child could still attend Alexander Ferguson in the fall of 2018 which is our preferred school.
- We hope the boundary for Alexander Ferguson could include 26 Street (or remain as it currently is.)
- Consider a south boundary somewhere between the current and proposed.
- consider moving Currie barracks/Rutland Park to Richmond boundaries
- Moving the catchment area is not fair to parents who moved to be within the catchment of AF.
- I have taken my child out of private school to attend Alex Ferguson and can not get back into my private school. I think the proposal should not start until 2019 at the earliest.
- Kindergarten registration is complete so if changes are implemented they should be for the year after.
- The designated school for Currie Barracks is very far.



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- Encourage principals in the two previous junior highs Massey and AECross to be flexible about allowing kids from the former Option Zone and AFS for next six year.s
- Choice should increase, not diminish, at higher levels. I.e. 3 choices for junior high, limitless for senior high, much as it is in the separate system.
- In the early 2000s, AFS was at risk of closing due to low enrolment secondary to changing demographics. Future demographic changes may result in AFS suffering low enrolment in the future and be at risk again if the proposed MUCH smaller catchment area is approved
- Are the high school boundaries being changed? Now that Ernest Manning is even further west, it seems like more of the community (Killarney, Upper Scarboro/Sunalta West, and Shaganappi) should be in the Western High School boundary given that it's closer.
- You may see more people opting out of CBE schools and going to Holy Name. That's what we would do if our kids were just starting out.
- I like the idea of some flexibility in the defined boundaries. For instance, if a child would like to attend a school for a particular program, I think that should be honored.
- Delay for a year.
- We will now likely put our kids in French emmersion or an alternative school like Montessori. So the goal of getting additional kids going to the other schools in the area may not be achieved.
- Our older child, was a graduate from the Alex Ferguson school & we were extremely please with the quality of education & the cordial, friendly & approachability of the teachers
- None that I can think of
- 1. The proposed implementation date should be the 2019/2020 school year.
- The boundaries are so small for Furguson, what if at some point there is not enough enrollment to keep the school open.
- We've heard from other parents that they lined up and paid non-refundable deposits for child care options near Alexander Ferguson with the change the student would be moved to Richmond where the child care option would not work anymore.
- Again changing the district lines AFTER registration is extremely unfair for parents who planned ahead for there school and child care options.
- Have a transition zone rather than rigid boundaries. Very few families will live in a border area so won't impact enrolment significantly.
- Each new family who has already registered for the 2018/19 school year deserves the right to keep their registration at the school of their choice.
- The Alex Ferguson map contains areas with empty spaces ie whole block of the 55+ club on 26th, large open area west of crowchild trail across from sunalta, Jakes lodge site (empty and limited/no redevelopment plans)and road right of ways adjacent to crowchild and bow trail. If these areas are



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eliminated, Alex Ferguson catchment area is at least half the size of the other schools...doesn't appear equitable.

- You can leave southern boundary the same as it was (Richmond road) and do walk zone and attendance zone for Alex Ferguson, just like many other schools do. The phrase about CBE value for a choice of school doesn't sound strong: too many 'if's'... How can I be sure that the principal of Alex ferguson will take my child even if we live out of the proposed boundaries according to the new scenario?
- I really feel that the proximity of specialized programs like Montessori and the boys' school hurts our enrollment. I would hope that no more of these schools are allowed to open in our neighbourhoods.
- * Most significantly - Whatever proposal is chosen making the proposal effective September 2018 is unreasonable because registration for Kindergarten has already opened in January 2018.
 - * Many parents have already registered based on the current boundaries and they would have made their September Kindergarten decisions based on the current boundaries.
 - * I can tell you that many lined up early at their school of to ensure they get the time slot (AM or PM) of their choice. Throwing out registrations that began in January would throw the lives of many families into disarray.
- Parents need a chance to plan and understand their options and that process begins before January of a school year.
- With the city of Calgary pushing for walking to school these changes increase major road crossing for students who walk to school. These boundaries increase risks to active families.
- preference.
- There should be first come first serve at schools where school are at capacity. Or just extend the boundary till 37 street at least. Thank you.

Q5 Other comments? - 34 responses

- As above.
- I strongly recommend that this plan is not implemented until the 2019-20 school year based on Kindergarten comments made above. It still should be announced in the spring of 2018 so people have time to make appropriate plans.
- My only comment is that any changes should not be implemented until the 2019-2020 school year. It would not be fair to those families that have already registered their child for Kindergarten and made child care arrangements.
- These changes, if made at all, should be changed the following school year 2019/2020 since all new children to cbe are already registered
- Alexander Ferguson provides a great opportunity for children in the neighbourhood since it's learning thru the arts. That's why families gravitate



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towards it. Making this school boundary very limited makes children not have the opportunities we did. Our student is going into grade 6 so I'm speaking for future families.

- The changes should absolutely not be put into place until the 2019/2020 school year. Kindergarten registration has come and gone and Schools that may be options for the parents to change to are now full. It makes no sense for these families to lose their spot and potential deposits for childcare arrangements.
- Would like to see fresh thoughts and perspective at AFS. Concerned with teacher turn over.
- While redesignation is a necessity as the population expands and shifts and looking into the scalability of affected schools, there is the human factor to consider and some exceptions to be allowed should parents planned on their child's school
- Please keep the boundaries as is.
- While I am reassured that my children will be allowed to continue their elementary education at AFS with the proposed changes, I am spending my hard to come by time sending you my passionately worded comments because I believe that your proposed boundary change will results in an unproductive level of disruption to an area of the city and a school that I have proudly seen co-exist successfully for nearly a decade. While I fully respect the logistics of planning for the future - I strongly encourage you to address the patterns of registration and how they reflect the differing levels of programming, and outcomes and population diversity at the city's inner city schools. Don't hide behind blanket assumptions that because school teach the same curriculum that they offer children the same education. All students in Calgary should have the right to an equal education - and while I know that schools need a strong base of population to evolve into more dynamic environments... there are usually underlying reasons affecting the foundation of these schools that will not be addressed by just increasing the area that they draw from. You will just force families who are able to do so to seek alternative programs and private schools, further exaggerating the imbalance and instability in these schools.
- Thank you for your consideration of our comments in the final stage of the engagement process. There are many choices for our child's education – so many they were almost overwhelming as we entered the kindergarten registration process. After great deliberation, we chose a school we know will be an excellent environment for our child –one that is well within walking distance from our home, is a part of our community, and is attended by families we already know. We sincerely wish to start our school journey at Alexander Ferguson this fall, and hope that the time and effort we invested to find a school and a quality child-care arrangement to support the kindergarten schedule will not be lost.



dialogue)))

- At the recent open house, when questioned about why boundary changes would be made after the 2018/2019 registration process had already opened, the response was “sometimes it’s just better to rip off the band-aid.” We sincerely hope the planning team takes into consideration this is much more than a band-aid situation – this is our child’s education and the community in which we will be engaged over the next seven years.
- My children are at Alex Ferg and I believe that we will now be out of bounds for that school and designated to a school that is much further not walkable. I would not support these changes for my children or the younger children in my area yet to start school.
- against this proposal
- when we made the commitment to purchase a house in Killarney. the biggest reason was the multiple schools can be chosen for kids. the proposal was disappointed
- Please continue to keep children in their current schools. It may be helpful to have some flexibility to have children attend other schools depending on their interest (I.e. arts based learning).
- thank you for providing parents the opportunity to engage in this change
- I believe a grandfathered approach over a number of years should be considered. In other words, a small transition of children from the new catchment over 5 years. Not a sudden shift of the goalposts. That isn't fair.
- Kindergarten registration is complete so if changes are implemented they should be for the year after.
- Keep AFS and our community thriving, and our school walkable!!!!
- Please keep kids already enrolled in their current schools.
- I have to say that really my only comment is I am glad to see the current students do not have to switch schools if the current proposed boundary changes occur.
- Parents have already registered their children in kindergarten for 2018 school year. Implementing in 2018 will impose some difficult scenarios for families who were already committed for 2018.
- yes! please do not put the new boundary stipulations into effect as it would cause us needless hardship
- The timing of implementation presents significant challenges. It would be unfair to students and parents to implement for the upcoming school year as it doesn't provide enough time for parents to react appropriately (ie: register for after school care, find an alternate program to opt out of designated school, etc)
- Please implement your zoning changes effective for the 2019/20 school year, that way no one new to CBE this year is adversely impacted.
- None
- All families in the Option Area should be informed and have the opportunity to get their voice heard.



dialogue)))

- The CBE hasn't done a great job of sharing information...I only became aware of this issue in the last month. The information presented to date has been limited and very confusing. The previous survey was horrendous...I couldn't complete it. It appeared to be designed to solicit responses to back CBEs position rather than generate alternative ideas.
- Thank you for the opportunity to contribute via survey and in person sessions. The proposed recommendation seems the best option when CBE reps. state their goal is to keep all schools open. Those living near schools do worry about sustainability when projected enrolment is less than the goal for the CBE. Vibrant communities have schools within walking distance.
- * Any decisions made in April should be well communicated and apply to the school year starting September 2019.
- * With respect to communication - While parents with a child in CBE have received communication about this process how have you reached out to parents with children that will soon enter CBE and may now be in a pre-kindergarten program, day care, or just at home. Have you advertised this process in community newsletters? Local day cares, preschools, and day homes? Based on anecdotal observation at my youngest's preschool, I feel that some parents with their oldest in preschool were unaware of this process.
 - * I am concerned that there is only one proposal. It's an improvement on the zero proposals that we had just a week ago, but still there should be a number of proposals that balance different concerns so that people can understand the possibilities.
- Thank you for the time and effort invested in this to date.
- my concern is around Vincent Massey as designated school with no option for A.E. Cross or Mount Royal. What is driving that decision? Set boundaries should be less important than choice of schools as kids get older.
- I support the scenario, Thank you.
- Leave the west boundary till 37 street sw.