



Board of Trustees

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February 3, 2017

WRITTEN NOTICE REGARDING CONSIDERATION OF CLOSURE JUNO BEACH ACADEMY OF CANADIAN STUDIES

A public meeting for the purpose of discussing information contained within this notice will be held:

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Dr. Norman Bethune School Gymnasium
315 86 Ave S.E., Calgary, Alberta

In order to comply with the *Closure of Schools Regulation*, the Board of Trustees will convene a second public meeting for the purpose of discussing the information provided in this *Written Notice*. Another meeting will be held on Monday, February 27th, 2017. Further details will be announced.

INTRODUCTION

At a regular meeting on Tuesday December 6, 2016, the Board of Trustees of the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) passed a motion to consider the closure of the Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies located at Dr. Norman Bethune School.ⁱ No closure decision will be made by the Board of Trustees until parents and the public have had an opportunity to provide input with respect to this important community matter. The public meeting will provide those in attendance with an opportunity to be informed, participate in a discussion, ask questions and make statements respecting the information provided in this notice.ⁱⁱ

Enrolment in the Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies continues to decline. There are currently no students enrolled in Grades 7-9, and 15 students in Grades 10-12 enrolled in the program. Ongoing engagement work and efforts by the parent and school community to attract students to the program have not been successful in increasing enrolment.

BACKGROUND

Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies was initially opened in 2003 at Sir William Van Horne High School with an enrolment of 112 students in Grades 7-9, expanding a grade a year. In 2006 the program was moved to Lord Shaughnessy High School and enrolment climbed to 182 students as the school expanded to include Grade 12. Two years later, in September 2008 the program had a peak enrolment of 195 students. In 2010 due to the development of the Career and Technology Centre (CTC) at Lord Shaughnessy High School, the program was moved once again to Dr. Norman Bethune School which is located in the community of Acadia on the same school site as Lord Beaverbrook High School. For the 2015-16 school year the Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies operated as a shared campus with Lord Beaverbrook High School under one principal. There were 52 students enrolled.

www.cbe.ab.ca

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The Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies has continued to see declining enrolment since its peak in 2008. The low enrolment was identified as a concern in CBE's Three-Year System Student Accommodation Plan in June 2013. Since that time the CBE has held numerous engagements with parents to support a plan to increase enrolment. As of September 2016 there were 15 students enrolled with no students in Grades 7, 8 or 9.

When considering accommodation of students, CBE Administrative Regulation 1090, Student Accommodation Planning Process, outlines the following guiding principles:

- a) minimize disruptions for students;
- b) provide program continuity from Kindergarten to Grade 12;
- c) keep cohort groups of students together;
- d) allow students to attend school as close to home as possible;
- e) provide long term sustainability;
- f) use space and resources effectively; and
- g) provide equitable access for all students to quality learning environments and choice of programs.

In consideration of these planning principles, the 15 students currently registered in the Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies are accessing core and complementary courses at Lord Beaverbrook High School integrated with Lord Beaverbrook students. This provides the opportunity for students to access the programming necessary to meet their personal learning needs as part of a vibrant high school with more than 1,700 students. It allows a cohort of students to learn together and supports the effective use of resources.

Students in the Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies come together at Dr. Norman Bethune School to access the courses that define the program: Military Studies, Canadian History and Canadian Geography.

The table below provides the enrolment history since 2008 for Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies:

Year	GR7	GR8	GR9	GR10	GR11	GR12	Total
2008	18	26	39	39	27	46	195
2009	21	18	39	34	39	34	185
2010	17	22	20	38	28	39	164
2011	11	22	29	20	30	21	133
2012	15	21	30	29	19	32	146
2013	20	17	17	19	27	17	117
2014	16	18	20	16	18	26	114
2015	0	9	15	12	7	9	52
2016	0	0	0	5	5	5	15

Given current enrolment and attrition rates, projected enrolment for the next two years is between five and 10 students. Up to 10 students would need to be relocated as a result of a school closure.

ATTENDANCE AREA

As this is a single site program, students currently attending Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies come from across the city. Fifteen students are currently enrolled with five anticipated to graduate in June 2017. If the current Grade 10 and 11 students

choose to return to their designated schools across the city, there will be minimal impacts within those existing schools given the low numbers of students.

The remaining students could also be accommodated at Lord Beaverbrook High School as out of attendance area students and several have expressed a desire to stay at Lord Beaverbrook High School until they complete Grade 12.

STUDENT ENROLMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

The number of students who would need to be relocated as a result of the closure would be up to 10 students. As noted above students can be accommodated at Lord Beaverbrook High School or return to their designated schools.

Across the city, high school students access schools using Calgary Transit so there are no transportation impacts.

CBE CAPITAL PLANS (Three-Year School Capital Plan and Ten-Year System Student Accommodation and Facilities Strategy)

A decision to close the Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies would have no implications relative to the CBE's Capital Plans. The CBE's Three Year Capital Plan identifies projects and priorities for new school/replacement school construction and major modernization projects and is submitted to the province on an annual basis. The document can be accessed on the CBE website through a link at:

<http://www.cbe.ab.ca/schools/building-and-modernizing-schools/Pages/default.aspx>

The CBE Ten-Year System Accommodation and Facilities Strategy can be accessed through the link at:

<http://www.cbe.ab.ca/schools/building-and-modernizing-schools/Pages/default.aspx>

PROGRAMMING AND EDUCATIONAL IMPACTS OF CLOSING

Program Implications for Other Schools

Students will be re-designated to their community high schools across the city. Should any or all students return to their designated high school, there would be no educational or programming impact at these schools due to the small numbers of students being re-designated.

Program Implications for Students

The re-designation of Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies students into existing high schools offers them better access to courses/programming through increased course option selections. Parents and students have expressed a desire to remain at Lord Beaverbrook High School. Students will benefit from being mixed with the larger group of students at Lord Beaverbrook, with whom they are familiar, as larger classes will enable them to have access to more diverse viewpoints brought into the learning conversations. In addition a larger high school provides access to greater variety of course offerings as well as extra-curricular opportunities. The return of these 10 students into existing high schools will have positive outcomes for their learning.

PROGRAMMING AND EDUCATIONAL IMPACTS OF REMAINING OPEN

Lack of enrolment in the previous years has had an impact on how the program has been delivered. Effects of low enrolment on program delivery can be seen in how the principles of the program were not met in the years prior to the 2015-16 school year. Core components such as Military History 7 and 8 as well as Military Studies 25 were not offered. Canadian History 20 and Canadian Geography 20 have both been optional. These courses were identified as the foundation of the Juno Beach Academy of Canadian studies program.

Should the Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies not close, there will be impacts for learning for existing students. Next year's Grade 11 and 12 students would continue to access their core and CTS programming at Lord Beaverbrook High School; however, reduced staff would mean that required courses to meet program integrity may be challenging to offer.

Due to lack of enrolment, it is anticipated that there would be no programming offered at Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies for students in Grades 7-10 if the school remained open.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If the Program Were to Remain Open

There are currently 3.0 full time equivalent (FTE) administrative and teaching positions assigned to Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies, along with 1.7615 FTE support staff positions. Total annual cost of these positions is approximately \$425,000.

Yearly annual average building operating and maintenance costs are approximately \$150,000-\$200,000. This includes maintenance and custodial staff, utilities and maintenance and repairs.

If the Program Were to Close

Closure of the Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies program will allow per student funding dollars to follow the students to their new school sites. The per school allotment for an assistant principal, office and library staff would be saved; this would amount to approximately \$175,000.

The annual average building operating and maintenance costs are approximately \$150,000-\$200,000. This includes maintenance and custodial staff, utilities and maintenance and repairs. The closure of Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies will have no immediate impact upon the facility operating costs.

Future Use of Facility

The Dr. Norman Bethune School building may be used as a contingency space to support modernizations of other facilities or as CBE administrative space. A small number of returning Grade 12 complex learning needs students are currently accessing the building. Use of the facility for this purpose will be monitored/assessed into the future.

The future of the facility will be monitored in accordance with the process outlined in the Three Year Capital Plan.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Trustees welcome your views and input and invite you to provide comments to them directly or through administration at the Area V Office. Questions regarding the Board of Trustees' consideration of closure of Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies may be submitted in writing on the attached form, **prior to 12:00 noon on Wednesday, February 8, 2017.**

Attention: Sydney Smith, Director, Area V
Calgary Board of Education
1123-87 Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2V 0W2
Phone: 403-777-8780 Fax: 403-777-8789
Email directly to dialogue@cbe.ab.ca

It is not possible to respond individually to questions or inquiries prior to the public meeting. At the public meetings, having reviewed questions for relevancy and redundancy, selected questions will be answered. Should your specific question(s) not be selected for response at the public meeting, you will have ample opportunity to direct questions to administration, and you are invited to do so.

In order to comply with the *Closure of Schools Regulation*, the Board of Trustees will convene a second public meeting for the purpose of discussing the information provided in this *Written Notice*. Another meeting will be held on Monday, February 27th, 2017. Further details will be announced.

As outlined in the Alberta Government *Closure of Schools Regulation* Section 6(1), the Board of Trustees shall not make a decision on the consideration of closure of Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies until at least three weeks have passed from the date of the second public meeting. The Board of Trustees will give due consideration to any written submissions on the proposed closure that it receives after Feb. 9th and prior to the final debate and decision at a meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Yours sincerely,



Joy Bowen-Eyre
Chair of the Board of Trustees
CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Form For Return: Question Submission Form

End Note

ⁱ Pursuant to the School Act, R.S.A. 2000, Chapter S-3 and its associated regulations, the power to close a school or a school building rests solely with the Board of Trustees and cannot be delegated. The Closure of Schools Regulation identifies the formal process that will be followed when closure is being considered. In accordance with those process requirements, the information in this notice is provided to the parents/guardians of students registered at Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies and is available on the CBE web site.

ⁱⁱ The Closure of Schools Regulation (AR 238/97) is directive regarding the content of the Written Notice. The layout of that information is discretionary. For ease of presentation, the specific information set forth at s. 4 (2) and (3) of the Closure of Schools Regulation (AR 238/97) is set forth in this Written Notice in the following manner:

- s. 4 (2) (a) & (b) are contained within this document at the section entitled ATTENDANCE AREA
- s. 4 (c) & (d) are contained within this document under section entitled STUDENT ENROLMENT AND TRANSPORTATION
- s. 4 (2) (b.1) is contained within this document within the section entitled CBE CAPITAL PLANS
- s. 4 (2) (e) is contained within this document under the section entitled PROGRAMMING AND EDUCATIONAL IMPACTS ON LEARNING
- s. 4 (2) (f) is contained within this document under the section entitled PROGRAMING AND EDUCATIONAL IMPACTS OF REMAINING OPEN as well as under FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
- s. 4 (2) (g) is contained within this document under the section entitled PROGRAMING AND EDUCATION IMPACTS OF CLOSING as well as under FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
- s.4 (3) (a) & (b) are contained within this document under section entitled FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS under subsection Future Use of Facility

