



June 16, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Re: Area IV Spanish Bilingual Program

Over the past week there have been several media reports regarding the condition of Viscount Bennett and we are aware of a recent blog post expressing a number of concerns about the future location of your child's program. Please be assured the Calgary Board of Education will provide suitable accommodation in September 2015 for students enrolled in the Spanish Bilingual program at Westgate School.

In March, a decision was made to relocate the Spanish Bilingual Program from Westgate School to Glenmeadows School for the 2015-16 school year. At that time, Viscount Bennett was identified as a possible location in the event that the Arts Academy located at Glenmeadows had not transitioned to their new location. This decision was appealed and, on June 10, 2014, the Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools determined the March 19, 2014 decision would stand.

Some concerns have been raised about the state of Viscount Bennett Centre. However, rumours about the building being condemned due to mold are not true. CBE Facilities and Environmental Services is currently examining the facility and preparing a report that will be presented to Superintendents and the Board of Trustees. The safety of students and staff is always a priority for the CBE. The section of the building that is under review is not currently occupied. No students or staff are in an unsafe environment at the facility.

As part of the overall student accommodation issues on the west side of Calgary, your needs will be considered in a report being developed for November 2014.

We are committed to continuing an open dialogue on the future location of the Area IV Spanish Bilingual Program. Should the plan need to deviate from the current decision and as new information becomes available, we will share through the school.

If you have any questions, please contact the Area IV Office at 403-777-8750 ext. 0.

Sincerely,

Calvin Davies
Director, Area IV

Darlene Unruh
Director, Planning & Transportation