

November 2014

W.H. Cushing Workplace School

The questions below were received at the parent meeting on October 29, 2014 and from emails and feedback received following the meeting.

1. Is a lease with TELUS still an option? Why do they not want to renew their lease?

TELUS has supported the Calgary Board of Education's W.H. Cushing Workplace School located at the Len Werry building since 1995. The CBE leases the space from TELUS and operates the school, for the past 19 years TELUS has subsidized the space (including operating costs and taxes at a cost of \$1 per year). This lease arrangement with TELUS will expire on July 31, 2016.

TELUS is not able to renew the lease as redevelopment of the north side of the 100 block of 7 Ave. S.W. (which includes the space WH Cushing School occupies in the Len Werry building) is expected to start in the fall of 2016 and the redevelopment period is expected to be lengthy. TELUS' commitment to the TELUS Sky building project includes plans to redevelop and revitalize the corridor between 1 St. S.W. and Centre Street.

2. Could you please confirm that there will be a school next year (2015-2016).

The lease agreement is in place until July 31, 2016. The CBE will continue to offer a K-Grade 3 program until that time. Should enrolment in any grade fall below 15 students, grade configurations may change.

3. What is the current square footage occupied by the school?

The current lease area is 804.2 square meters or 8,656 square feet, which includes space(s) utilized by the child care operator.

4. What are the criteria for space in an office building?

A chart that outlines the specifications required for a school in an office building is attached at the end of this Q&A. Below are specific answers to some individual questions:

- How high up can the school be in a building?
Prefer main level for ease of student access. There are no child care licensing restrictions with respect to floor level in an office tower environment.
- Are there bylaws that impact the location of the school?
Typical land use zoning in downtown core allows for school instruction and child care provision.



5. What about all the redevelopment in the East Village – have you considered the impact of the 12,000 people moving into this area? Cushing could address accommodation concerns there?

The CBE has one school in Inglewood and one school in Ramsay that have space to accommodate students moving into the East Village in the future. Based on the number of teaching spaces available in the school (rated room capacity), the current utilization rate at Colonel Walker School is 43 per cent and 26 per cent at Ramsay School.

6. Do not underestimate the numbers of families moving into downtown condos that will affect enrolment at schools like Ramsey. Have you considered this?

The CBE receives annual pre-school census data for all communities in Calgary. This information allows us to know the number of students we can expect to enter kindergarten from a community in the coming five year period. CBE urban planners work with the City of Calgary, the Calgary Catholic School Division and developers through the regional context study, area structure plan, outline plan and tentative plan phases of community development to ensure there is adequate provision for school sites or space in existing surrounding schools to accommodate future projected student populations.

7. Is there a taxable benefit for TELUS providing the space?

- As a landowner, TELUS can receive an offset in property taxes for the area utilized by CBE, as CBE is a tax exempt organization.
- Organizations are currently able to make monetary donations to the CBE or to the Education Matters foundation. While the CBE may consider alternate partnership arrangements, naming rights or similar actions are not permitted and require the approval of the Board of Trustees.

8. Can parents pay for space? Is it an option?

Section 49(1) of the School Act states; “A board shall not charge any tuition fees with respect to the enrolment in a school operated by the board of its resident students or the resident student of any other board or the Government.”

9. What does it cost to build a school?

The CBE prepares an annual Three Year School Capital Plan for submission to the Province. The plan outlines new school construction priorities and requests funding approval from the province for these priorities. In the Three Year School Capital Plan 2015-2018, the funding requested for a typical 600 student K-4 school is \$15 million.

10. Can we get the Province to pay for a leased school downtown?

The CBE may submit a request to the Minister of Education for lease funding; however, lease support is generally viewed by Alberta Education as necessary only on a short-term or temporary basis and not as a long-term or permanent accommodation practice, particularly for school jurisdictions who may have surplus capacity elsewhere in the system.

The CBE receives Provincial funding for staffing, materials, and day-to-day maintenance of our facilities. Capital or other construction and tenant improvement costs would require additional funding approval which is unlikely to be provided or approved by Alberta Infrastructure/Education.

11. Can we get the Province to build a school downtown?

Requests for funds to build new schools are made to the Province through submission of an annual Three-Year School Capital Plan. All school construction requests are prioritized using ranking criteria. A new downtown school would be subject to the same ranking criteria, which may result in the school being prioritized behind other school construction projects.

Funding provided for new schools is specific to facility construction costs, and would not be provided to acquire lands to accommodate a school building. The CBE does not have a vacant site in downtown Calgary on which to build a school.

The Three-Year School Capital Plan is a comprehensive document that outlines CBE's priorities for new schools. The full document can be found on the CBE website at http://www.cbe.ab.ca/aboutus/documents/2015-2018_School_Capital_Plan.pdf

12. Would the CBE consider a parent proposal involving multiple companies to donate space and or contribute to the lease expense?

The CBE will review all proposals, the details of each proposal and how it aligns with CBE Governance Policies and Administrative Regulations will determine if the proposal could be feasibly implemented.

13. How do we provide our priorities?

A parent Thoughtexchange process will be offered in the next few weeks for parents to share their priorities.

14. How many people are on the waitlist?

There is no waitlist at W.H. Cushing.

15. Are there exceptions in designated schools with lotteries for W.H. Cushing students?

A complete review of current student designation of families attending W.H. Cushing will be needed to determine which schools this may affect. This information will be shared at the next meeting.

16. What is the internal cut-off date? Is there a deadline?

The deadline for the CBE to consider lease space in the downtown core is June 30, 2015.

17. Can we have a list of people to talk to about concerns?

Please direct your concerns to your school principal. If she is unable to assist you she will pursue the concern and get back to you with a response.

18. What alternatives do we have from the CBE if W.H. Cushing closes?

All students attending W.H. Cushing School have the option to attend their designated school or an alternative program. Additionally there are several schools around the downtown core and parents may apply for their children to attend these schools as out of attendance area students. Acceptance of out of attendance area students is at the discretion of school principals based on available space and resources. More information will be available at the next parent meeting.

19. Before/after school care is not available in many Calgary communities. Does the CBE have any suggestions?

There are currently over 80 child care providers operating in CBE schools, in all quadrants of the city. The CBE will consider hosting additional child care programs where suitable space permits. Before and after school programs typically operate between the hours of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

20. What will happen to the teachers if the school is closing?

If the closure of W.H. Cushing School were to be approved, teachers and staff would be transferred in accordance with the Calgary Board of Education's current staffing processes.

W.H. CUSHING SCHOOL | STANDARD SPACE REQUIREMENTS *

Information provided below is intended for reference only and may not be representative of final space requirements. Layout and location of potential lease facilities will impact final requirements as it relates to facility design and building code conformance.

Description	Sq. Meters
Standard school spaces:	
3 classrooms of 80 m2	240
1 science room	95
Ancillary rooms (ie: music, drama)	220
Learning Commons (library)	60
Flex space (student gathering space)	40
Administration Areas	200
Staff and student washrooms (separate)	18
Storage	27
Wiring network closet	30
Facility Operations storage	15
Circulation areas (ie: entryway, hallways)	195
Non-standard spaces:	
Room for before/after school care provider	100
TOTAL SQ. METERS	
	1,240
Other considerations:	
* Reasonable access to gymnasium	
* Reasonable access to outdoor play area(s)	
* Reasonable access to public library (instead of learning commons)	
* Staff parking option (10 stalls)	
* Parent drop off availability	
* Ease of access in/out of building with students	
* Secured/restricted access to school	
* Standard requirements for school capacity of 150 students	
Source: School Capital Manual (Government of Alberta)	