



School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin)

OPENING, CLOSING OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION

Policy No. 1711

Effective: October 2009

Initial Adoption: June 2006

Preamble

The Board of Education believes that one of its major responsibilities is to strive to provide school facilities that will allow for operational efficiency and program effectiveness for all students throughout the District. In keeping with this philosophical tenet, the Board may from time to time have to open new schools or consider the consolidation or closure of schools.

Policy

The Board of Education may decide to open a new school or reopen a closed school and will provide written notification to the Minister of Education. Following a public input process, the Board may also decide to consolidate schools or to permanently close a school and will provide written notification to the Minister of Education.

Regulations

1. An official ceremony may be held to celebrate the opening or reopening of a school building, or district facility, or the opening of a major addition, or renovation to an existing school or facility.
2. The Board shall allow a period of not less than 90 days for public consultation to take place between the time that a potential closure of a school is announced and the final decision is made.
3. All persons or groups in the community who could be affected by a school closure should be made aware of the Board's proposal to close the school.
4. A public forum will be held to deal with the proposed school closure and shall form part of the public consultation process.
5. Consultation will be meaningful, and fair consideration will be given to all public input prior to the Board making its final decision. Consideration will include; consideration of future enrolment growth in the District of persons of school age, less than school age and adults; and consideration of possible alternative community use for all or part of the school. Fair consideration includes the concept that the Board's proposal to close a school could be changed or reversed.
6. The closure of a school should not normally take place until the September following the final decision. This will give parents, students and school staff time to make alternative arrangements.
7. The final decision to permanently close a school will be done by bylaw.