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February 20, 2019

**WRITTEN NOTICE REGARDING
CONSIDERATION OF CLOSURE
ROSSCARROCK SCHOOL**

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

Date: Thursday, March 7, 2019

Time: 7:00 PM

**Location: Rosscarrock School
1406 40 St SW, Calgary**

INTRODUCTION

At a regular meeting on Tuesday February 5, 2019, the Board of Trustees of the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) passed a motion to consider the closure of the Rosscarrock 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 regular program at Rosscarrock School is declining. On September 30, 2018, there were 109 students registered in the K-6 regular program at the school, 22 of whom were out of attendance area. By January 9, 2019 enrolment in the regular program had declined further to 106 students. Low enrolment in the regular program is expected to continue into the future and have impacts on student learning.

BACKGROUND

Rosscarrock School was built in 1960 in the community of Rosscarrock and a two story addition was constructed in 1965 on the east side of the original building. The school has a provincial capacity of 416 student spaces with a floor plan that includes 18 classrooms. From 2008 to 2013, the school experienced stable enrolment of approximately 150 students per year in total. During this period of time, enrolment from the community of Rosscarrock averaged 94 students with out of attendance area students averaging 46 students per year.

In 2014, enrolment at Rosscarrock School was 201 students which included 15 students overflowed to the school from the community of West Springs and 22 students attending from the community of Cougar Ridge. There were 102 students attending from the community of Rosscarrock. Additionally, the school had 12 students enrolled in the Paced Learning program (PLP) as well as 50 out of attendance area students.

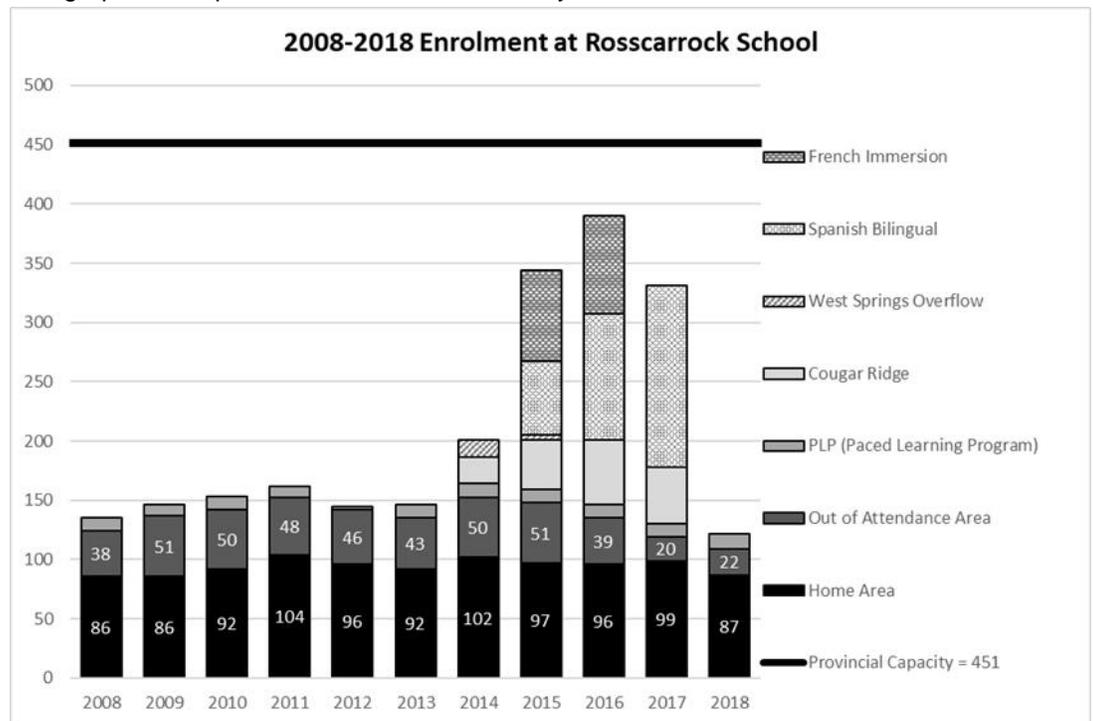
The addition of kindergarten programs for both French Immersion and Spanish Bilingual programs saw enrolment in Rosscarrock School climb to 344 students in September 2015. Numbers of out of attendance area students as well as students from the Cougar Ridge community remained consistent while the number of students considered overflow from West Springs declined considerably as West Springs School was able to accommodate all students from the community. Enrolment of students

living in the Rosscarrock community remained low at 97 students and there were 51 students attending the regular program from out of the attendance area.

By 2016 enrolment in Rosscarrock School consisted of students from the communities of Rosscarrock and Cougar Ridge and a small number of out of attendance area students as well as 11 students in the PLP program. The temporary addition of a Spanish bilingual GR1 class along with the continuation of kindergarten French and Spanish programs helped enrolment at the school grow to 390 students.

In 2017, French Immersion kindergarten students were designated back to Westgate School. The Spanish Bilingual program at Rosscarrock School grew by a grade to include K-2 Spanish Bilingual programming. By this time, out of attendance area numbers had dropped to 20 students, less than half of what the numbers indicated two years prior. Enrolment from the community of Rosscarrock remained stable at 99 students and there were 48 students attending from Cougar Ridge. The PLP class continued to be located within the school bringing the total September 30 count to 331 students for 2017-2018 school year. On September 30, 2018, there were 109 students registered in the K-6 regular program at the school, 22 of whom were out of attendance area.

The graph below provides the enrolment history since 2008 for Rosscarrock School:



If Rosscarrock School remains open, enrolment will remain low for the foreseeable future with a total of 111 students projected for September 2019 as follows:

September 2019 Projected Enrolment at Rosscarrock School if the School Remains Open

ROSSCARROCK SCHOOL

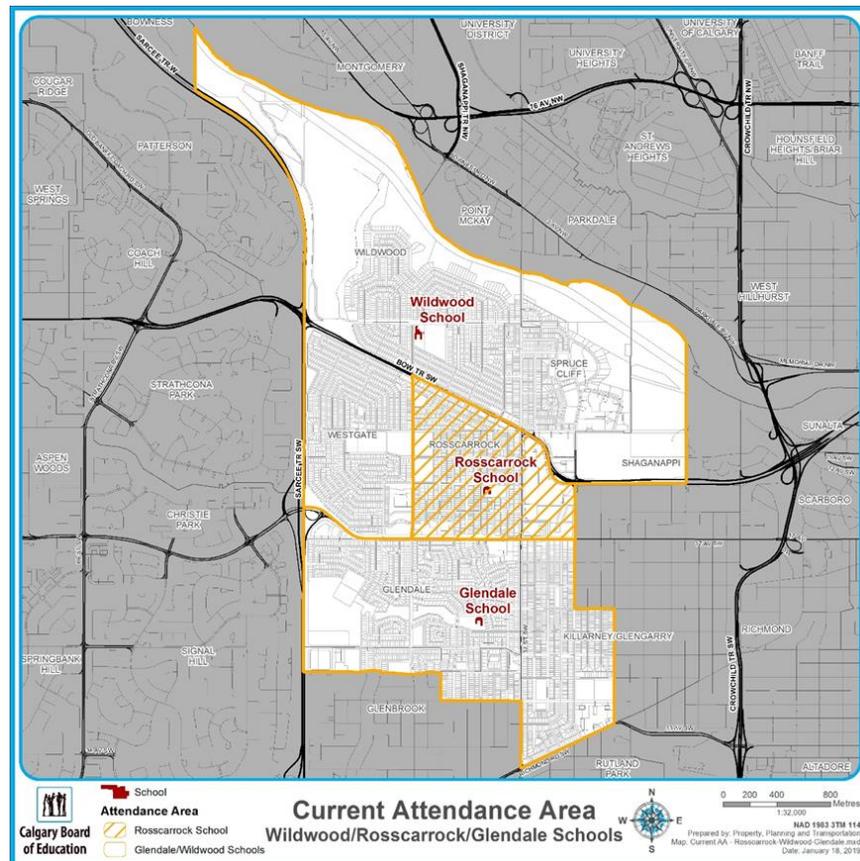
Provincial Capacity = 451

Projection for September 2019

Community	K	GR1	GR2	GR3	GR4	GR5	GR6	Total
Rosscarrock	14	9	5	13	10	12	14	77
PLP Program					2	5	6	13
Out-of-Attendance Area	2	4	2	2	4	3	4	21
Total	16	13	7	15	16	20	24	111

ATTENDANCE AREA

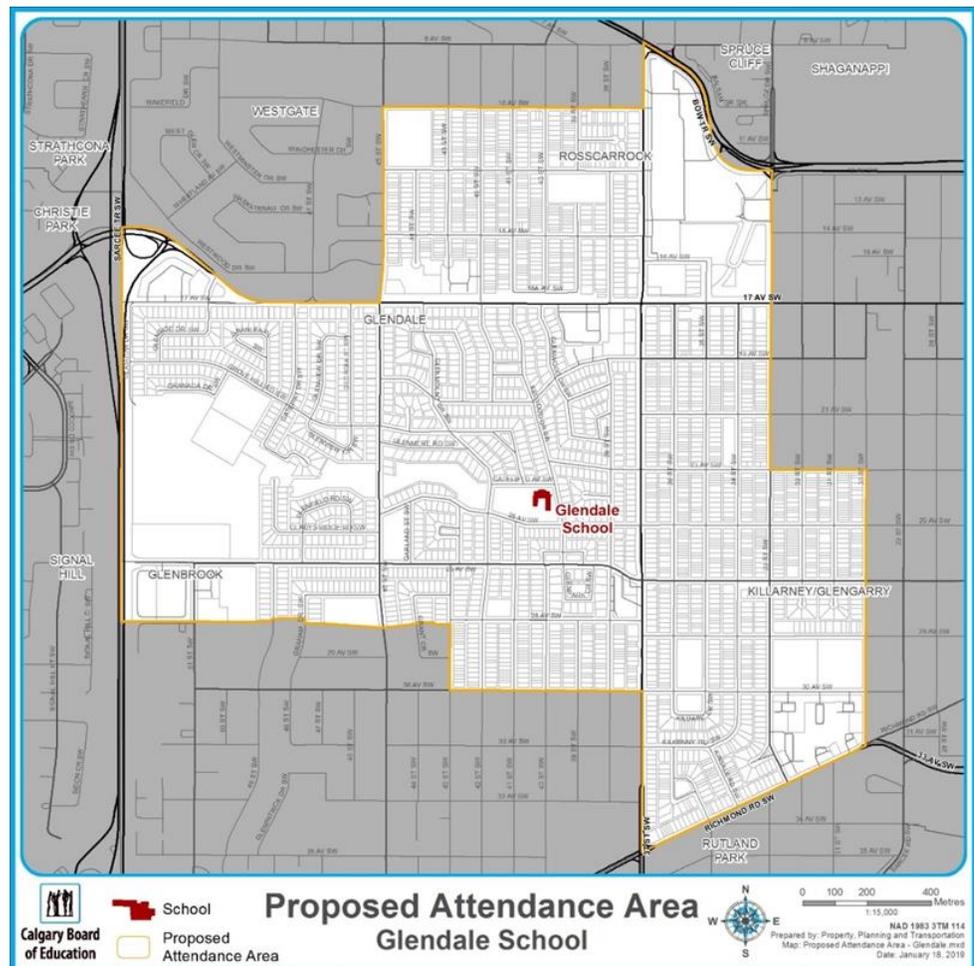
There are two schools in communities adjacent to the Rosscarrock community that have space to accommodate regular program students living in the Rosscarrock community in the future; Glendale School and Wildwood School. Both schools are within walking distance for some students living in Rosscarrock. The map below shows the current attendance area for Rosscarrock School, Glendale School and Wildwood School.

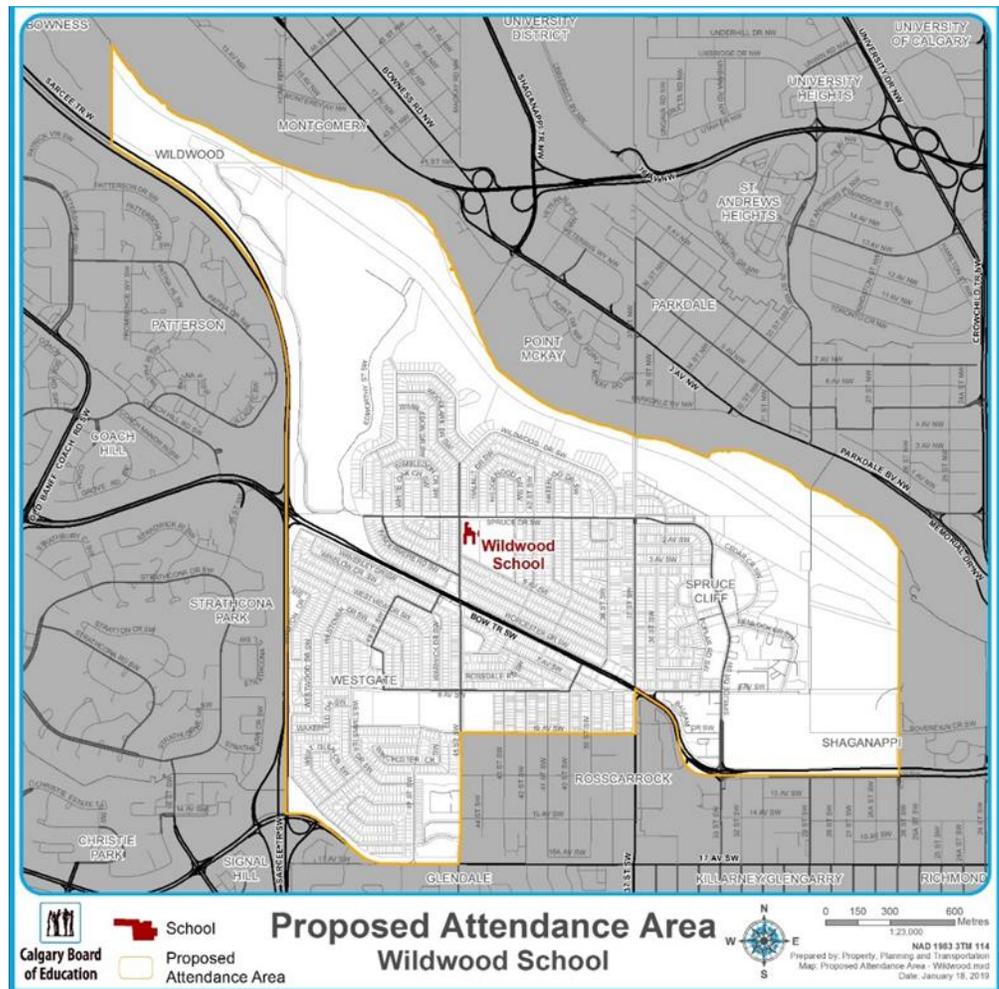


If Rosscarrock School is closed and the proposed accommodation plan is implemented for September 30, 2019 there is space at both Glendale and Wildwood schools to accommodate regular program students who live in the community of Rosscarrock. Out of attendance area students would be expected to return to their designated school.

A new location for the PLP program would be determined during the annual CBE review of complex learning class locations which takes into account available space in schools as well as the residential areas of these students. Students are assigned to these complex needs classes based on their home address. At this time, it is anticipated that all students would move together to a new location. However, should space in a similar program closer to the student's residence become available, the student may be offered placement at that location.

The two maps below show the proposed attendance area for Glendale School and Wildwood School if Rosscarrock School closes. If Rosscarrock School closes students would be designated to one of these two schools based on their home address as indicated in the maps. The maps are followed by two tables that indicate the number of students, based on the proposed boundaries, projected to attend Glendale School and Wildwood School if Rosscarrock School closes.





This accommodation plan was informed by feedback and in relation to the planning principle of having students attend school as close to home as possible.

Both Glendale and Wildwood schools have space to accommodate additional students. The two tables below indicate the projected enrolment at these two schools if Rosscarrock School closes and students are re-designated based on the proposed attendance areas above.

September 2019 Projected Enrolment at Glendale School if Rosscarrock School Closes

GLENDALE SCHOOL

Provincial Capacity = 304

Projection for September 2019

Community	K	GR1	GR2	GR3	GR4	GR5	GR6	Total
Home Area	18	20	35	27	24	32	26	182
Students from Rosscarrock	6	8	3	9	8	9	13	56
Out-of-Attendance Area	3	0	4	2	3	3	11	26
Total	27	28	42	38	35	44	50	264

WILDWOOD SCHOOL

Provincial Capacity = 628

Projection for September 2019

Community	K	GR1	GR2	GR3	GR4	GR5	GR6	Total
Home Area	37	42	32	58	43	44	53	309
LEAD					6	6	8	20
SKILL		3	4	5	3	1	1	17
Students from Rosscarrock	8	2	2	4	1	3	1	21
Out-of-Attendance Area	3	3	1	2	4	8	4	25
Total	48	50	39	69	57	62	67	392

STUDENT ENROLMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

The number of students who would need to be relocated as a result of the closure would be up to 77 students. As noted above, regular program students living in the community of Rosscarrock can be accommodated at schools within walking distance of their residence therefore there are no transportation impacts.

Students attending the Rosscarrock School in the PLP program are transported to the school from several communities in south Calgary. If Rosscarrock School closes, a new location for the PLP program would be determined during the annual CBE review of complex learning class locations which takes into account available space in schools as well as the residential areas of these students. Transportation services would continue to be provided for students in this program to their new location.

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

A decision to close Rosscarrock 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 either Glendale or Wildwood school. These schools have a strong student population base and the number of students re-designated to each location can be accommodated now and into the future. There would be no educational or programming impact at these schools due to the number of students being re-designated.

Program Implications for Students

The re-designation of Rosscarrock students into existing K-6 schools offers the students access to a larger peer group, which enhances the ability for grouping and regrouping students based on programming need. Greater access to teacher expertise

in areas such as music, languages and resource support can contribute to student success. A larger student population also provides greater access to a variety of extracurricular and co-curricular activities and field trips. The larger student population in either Glendale or Wildwood translate into a greater number of teachers. This affords staff with the opportunity to work in teams to design learning opportunities for students and discuss teaching practice with one another. This kind of professional dialogue has been shown to have an impact on student achievement as staff hold one another accountable to student learning outcomes.

PROGRAMMING AND EDUCATIONAL IMPACTS OF REMAINING OPEN

Lack of enrolment in the current year has reduced the resource and administrative support available to students and confines the way in which the school is organized. The ability of staff to regroup students based on need is diminished.

Should Rosscarrock School not close, there will be impacts on learning for existing students. Currently there are only 2 Kindergarten pre-registrations. This would mean re-designating the Kindergarten students to another school or looking at a blended kindergarten, grade, 1 and grade 2 single classroom. The latter would be a very complex undertaking.

Due to lack of enrolment, it is anticipated that there would be limited extracurricular and co-curricular offerings for 2019-2020 as both the number of staff and the volunteer base to meet required off-site supervision ratios would be a challenge.

The support and development of a School Council is a challenge; the current School Council only has two members. It is anticipated that, should the school remain open, this challenge will continue into 2019-2020.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If the program were to remain open

There are currently 8 FTE administrative teaching positions assigned to support the learning at Rosscarrock School:

- 1 School Principal
- 2.5 Learning Leaders (.5 FTE assigned as a Math Coach funded by the system)
- 4.5 teachers (.5 FTE for music teacher is being supplemented by funding from Area 7 Office)

Support staff supporting learning at Rosscarrock School include:

- 1.0 FTE Administrative Assistant
- .4286 FTE (15 hours/week) Education Assistant assigned to Kindergarten and funded through PUF
- .5714 FTE (20 hours/week) Education Assistant funded through Area Office
- 2.0 FTE (2 X 35 hours/week) Education Assistant assigned to the PLP class
- .8571 (3X 10 hours/week) lunchroom assistants
- .5 Library Assistant

Including staffing costs, the total annual administrative costs to operate the school are approximately \$1.5 to \$2 million dollars.

The Area office through the Area basic discretionary funds would likely need to increase financial support beyond what is currently provided. Depending on final enrolment as of September 2019 it could be as high as \$150,000 (approx. 50% of the funds allocated to the Area).

If the program were to close

Closure of Rosscarrock School will allow some of these dollars to follow the students to their new school sites while some would result in savings. The per school allotment for a principal, office and library staff would be saved; this would amount to approximately \$200,000.

The annual average building operating and maintenance costs are approximately \$150,000-\$190,000. This includes maintenance and custodial staff, utilities and maintenance and repairs.

There would be no impact on transportation costs as per the proposed accommodation plan as students will be re-designated to schools within walking distance from their residences. The PLP students will continue to require bussing to a new location and as bussing is currently in place, and as long as the bell times at the re-located site(s) are similar to Rosscarrock School, no added costs are foreseen.

Future Use of Facility

The future of the facility will be monitored and planned in alignment with processes outlined in CBE's Three-Year Capital Plan, Three-year System Student Accommodation Plan and Ten-Year System Accommodation and Facilities Strategy.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Trustees welcome your views and input and invite you to provide comments to them directly (BoardofTrustees@cbe.ab.ca) or through administration at the Area 7 Office. Questions regarding the Board of Trustees' consideration of closure of Rosscarrock School may be submitted in writing on the attached form, **prior to 12:00 noon on Monday, April 8, 2019.**

Attention: Calvin Davies, Director, Area 7
Calgary Board of Education
3445 – 37 Street SW
Calgary AB T3E 3C2
t | [403-777-8750](tel:403-777-8750)
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 meeting, 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.

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 Rosscarrock School until at least three weeks have passed from the date of the public

meeting. The Board of Trustees will give due consideration to any written submissions on the proposed closure that it receives after March 7th and prior to the final debate and decision at a meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Yours sincerely,



Trina Hurdman
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 Rosscarrock School 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

