

# Calgary Board of Education Area 6 and 7 Impacted Schools

Report of Findings  
January 24, 2018

Prepared by:  
CBE Communications &  
Community Engagement



**Calgary Board  
of Education**

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# About the Participants

# Background

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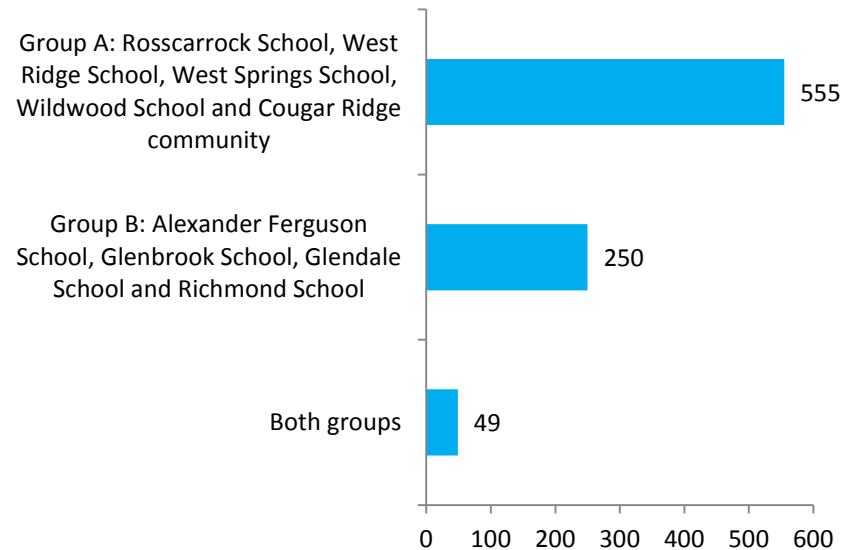
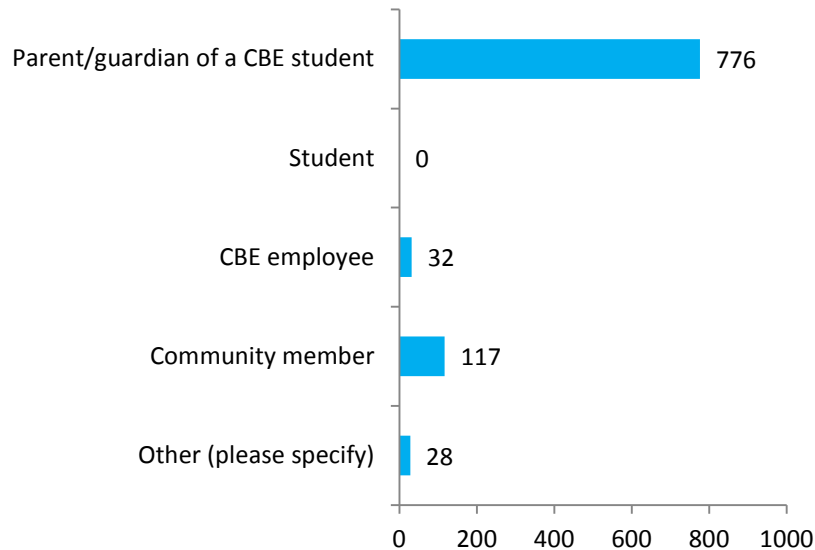
- ❖ The Area 6 and 7 impacted schools online survey was available to parents and others from Dec. 20, 2017 to Jan. 15, 2018. The thoughts and perspectives provided through this survey will be considered in developing options to be presented for feedback at in-person sessions in early February 2018.
- ❖ The survey received over 600 completed responses.
- ❖ Results for Group B schools have been weighted to account for the significant over-representation of one school and significant under-representation of one school. Group A results have not been weighted as responses are reasonably proportionate to populations.
- ❖ This report includes survey results and comments.



# Respondent Profile

*I am responding as a (please select all that apply to you).*  
Answered: 854

*Schools have been grouped based on common issues. For which grouping would you like to provide feedback?*  
Answered: 854



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# Findings – Group A

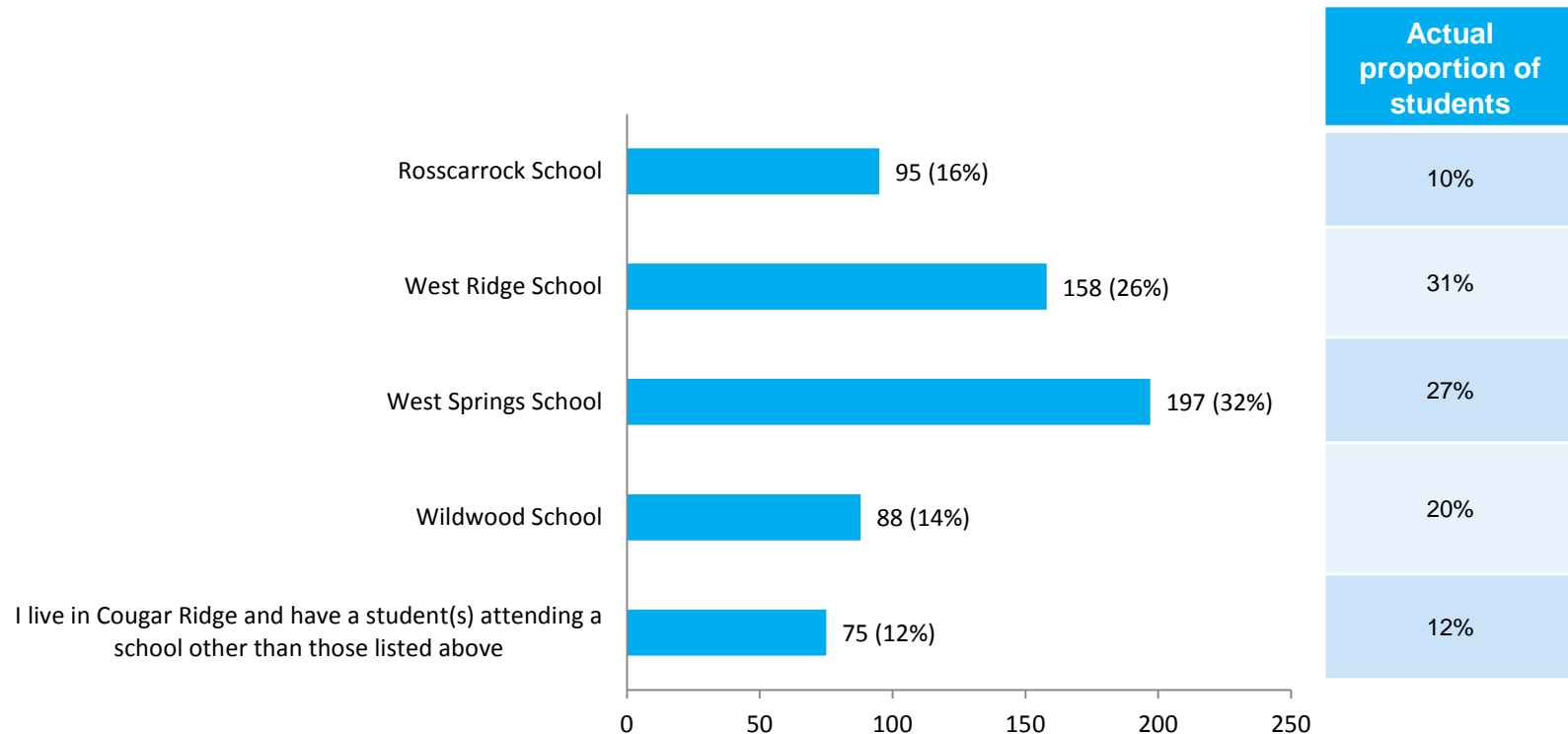
Rosscarrock, West Ridge, West Springs and Wildwood  
schools + families in Cougar Ridge with students  
attending another school



# Group A – Representation by school or community

Please select the school that you would like to comment about in this survey. The schools listed here are the ones directly affected by proposed changes. (select all that apply) Answered: 415

**NOTE: Rosscarrock and West Springs schools are somewhat over-represented in the survey, and West Ridge and Wildwood schools are somewhat under-represented.**

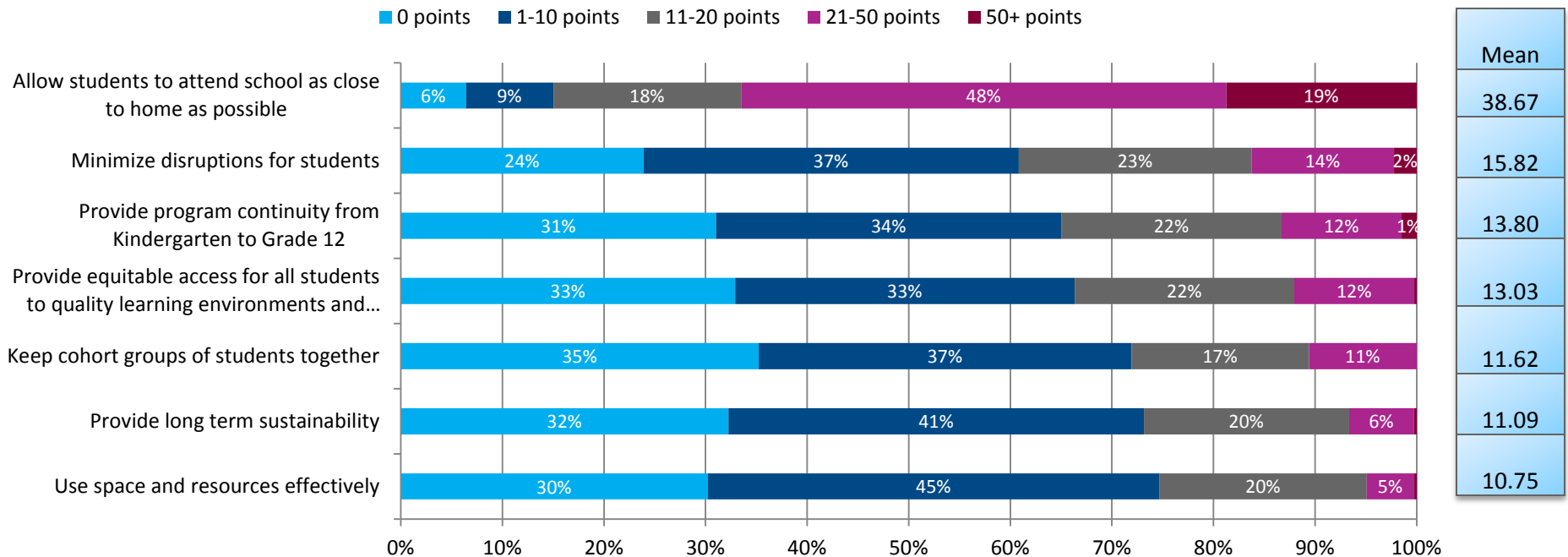


\* As some respondents selected more than one school to comment on, the total number of responses (613) is more than the number of respondents (415)

# Group A - CBE Planning Principles

*CBE planning principles guide the decision-making process. Some planning principles are more important to some people than others, and it is not possible to address some of these principles for all communities in the same scenario. Below are the seven planning principles. Please allot 100 points in total to the principles, giving the most points to the principles you find important and the least points (or no points) to those that are less important to you in this decision-making process. The values should add up to 100. You must assign a value to all factors. You can choose zero (0) for those that are not at all important to you.*

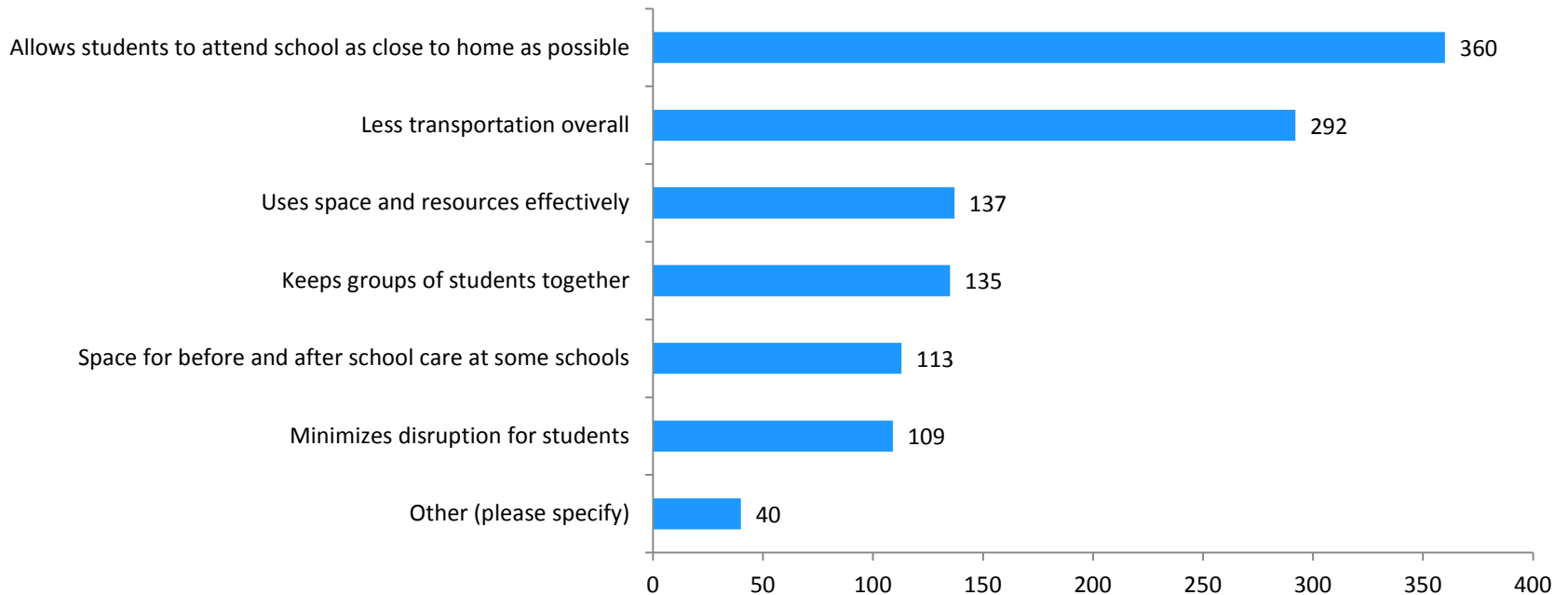
Answered: 406



# Group A - Opportunities

When considering the possibility of K-4 students from the community of Cougar Ridge attending school closer to home, what opportunities do you see?

Answered: 401

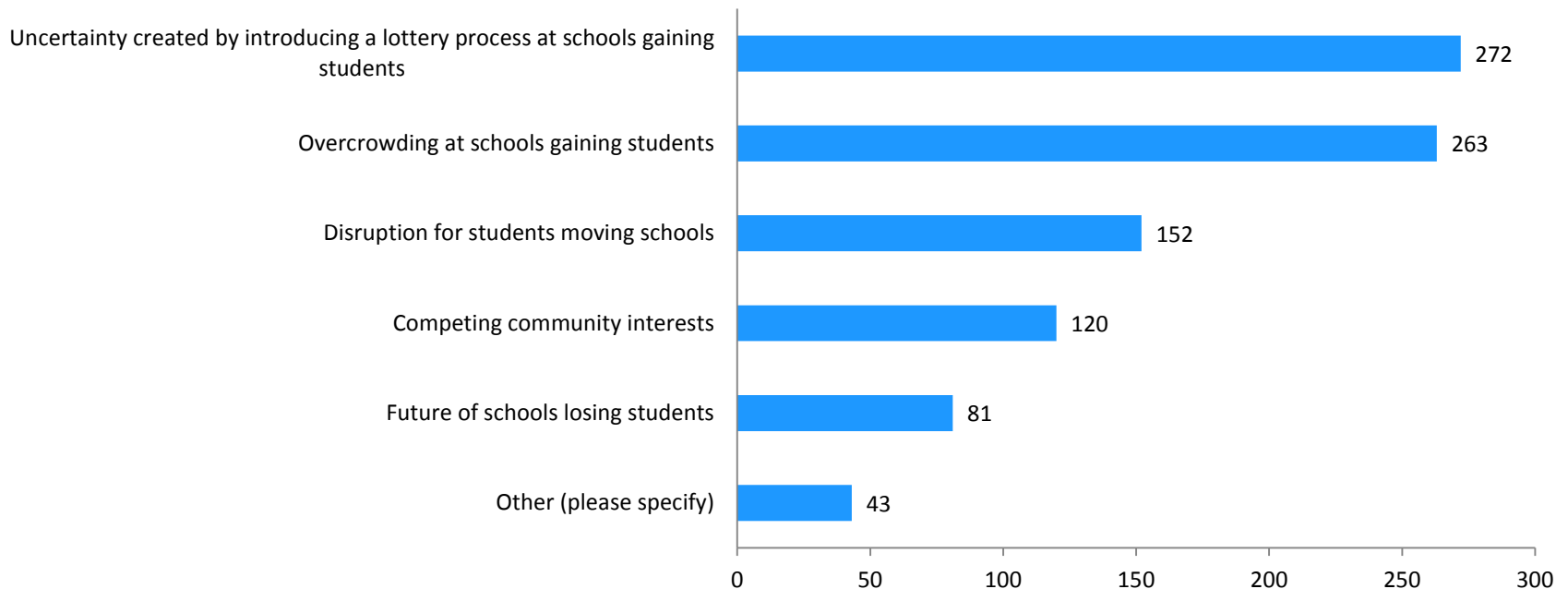




# Group A - Challenges

When considering the possibility of K-4 students from the community of Cougar Ridge attending school closer to home, what challenges do you see?

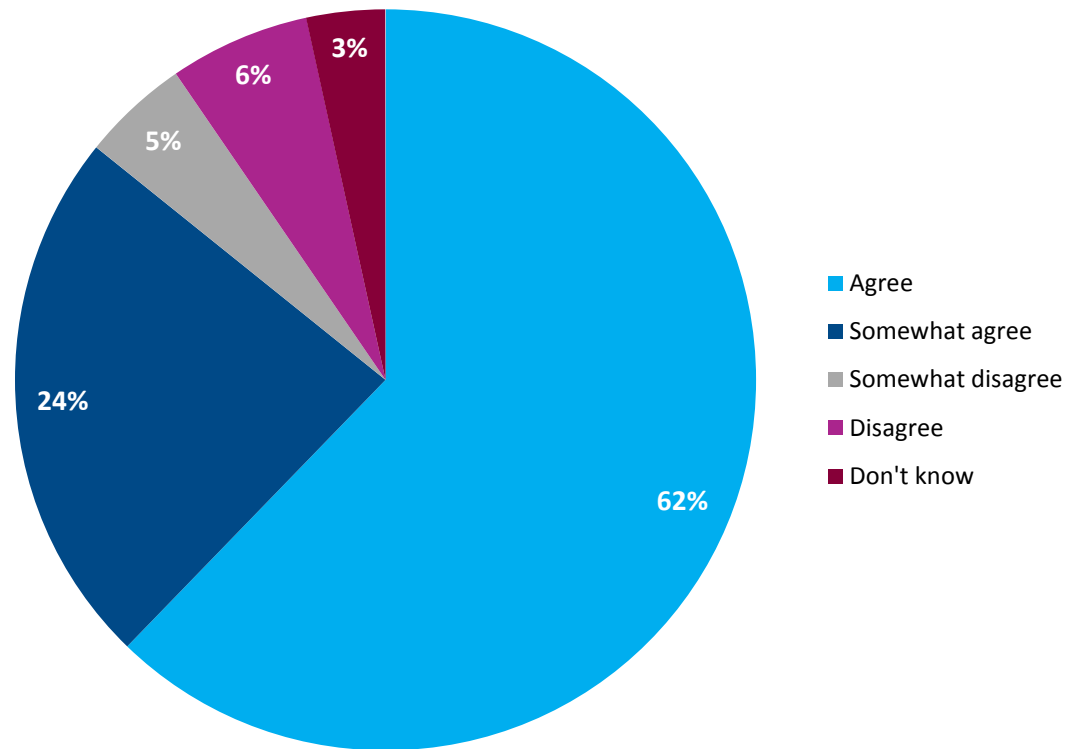
Answered: 401



# Group A – Extent of agreement

Overall, to what extent do you agree with the possibility of changes to allow K-4 students from the Cougar Ridge community to attend school closer to home?

Answered: 408



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# Findings – Group B

Alexander Ferguson, Glenbrook, Glendale and Richmond schools

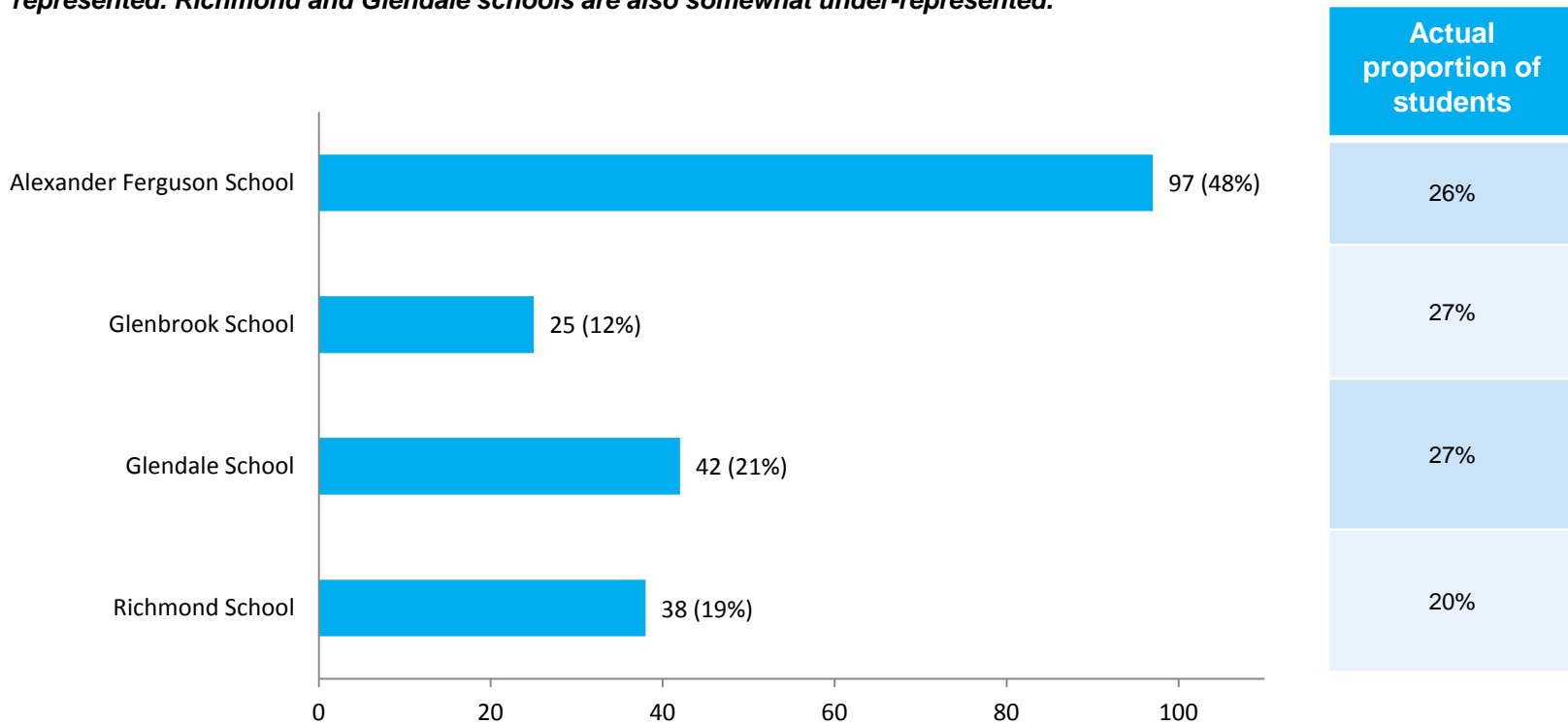
\* Results have been weighted to account for the significant over-representation of one school and significant under-representation of one school.



# Group B – Representation by school

Please select the school that you would like to comment about in this survey. The schools listed here are the ones directly affected by proposed changes. (select all that apply) Answered: 190

**NOTE: Alexander Ferguson School is significantly over-represented in the survey, and Glenbrook School is significantly under-represented. Richmond and Glendale schools are also somewhat under-represented.**



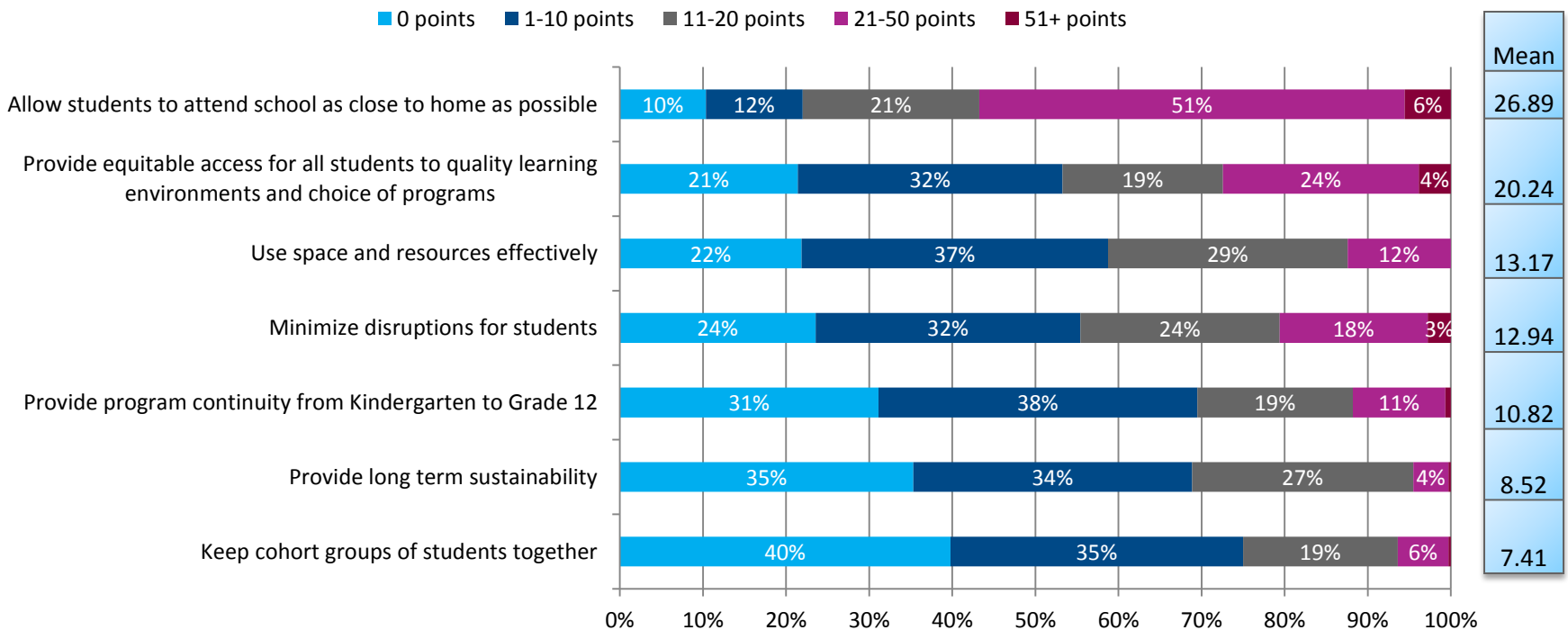
\* As some respondents selected more than one school to comment on, the total number of responses (202) is more than the number of respondents (190)



# Group B - CBE Planning Principles

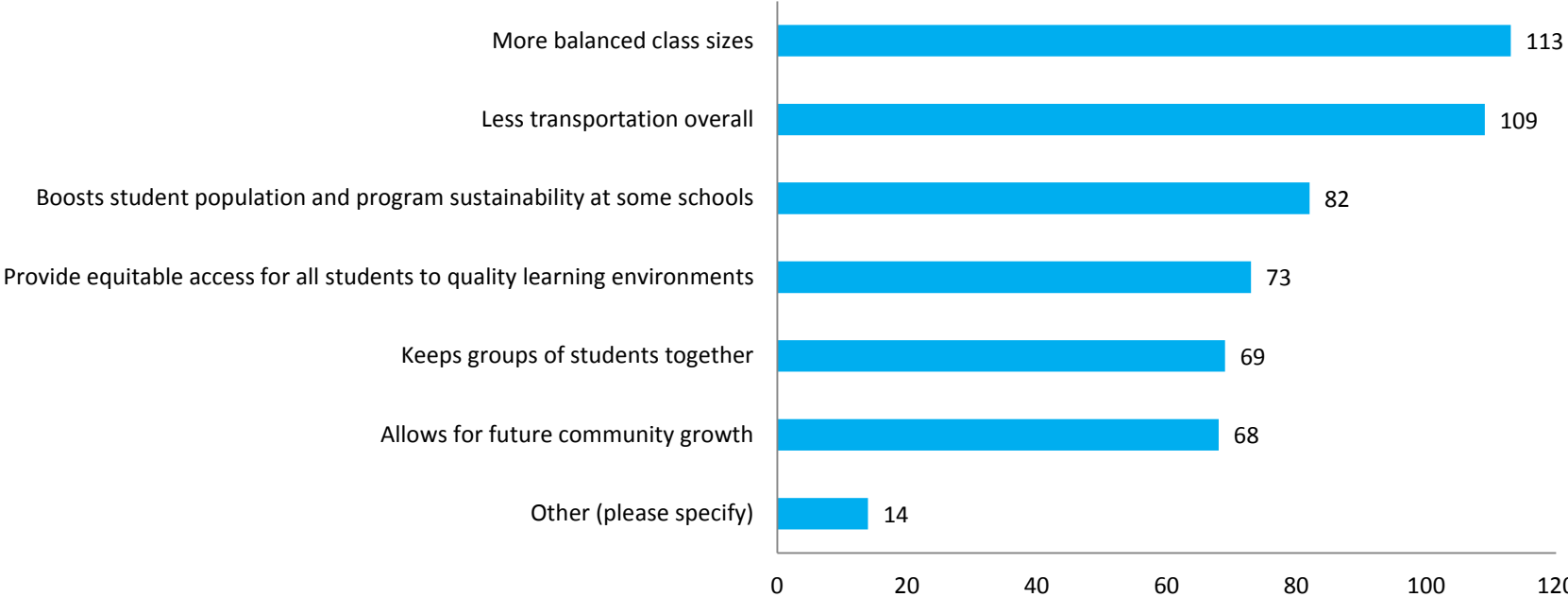
*CBE planning principles guide the decision-making process. Some planning principles are more important to some people than others, and it is not possible to address some of these principles for all communities in the same scenario. Below are the seven planning principles. Please allot 100 points in total to the principles, giving the most points to the principles you find important and the least points (or no points) to those that are less important to you in this decision-making process. The values should add up to 100. You must assign a value to all factors. You can choose zero (0) for those that are not at all important to you.*

Answered: 183



# Group B - Opportunities

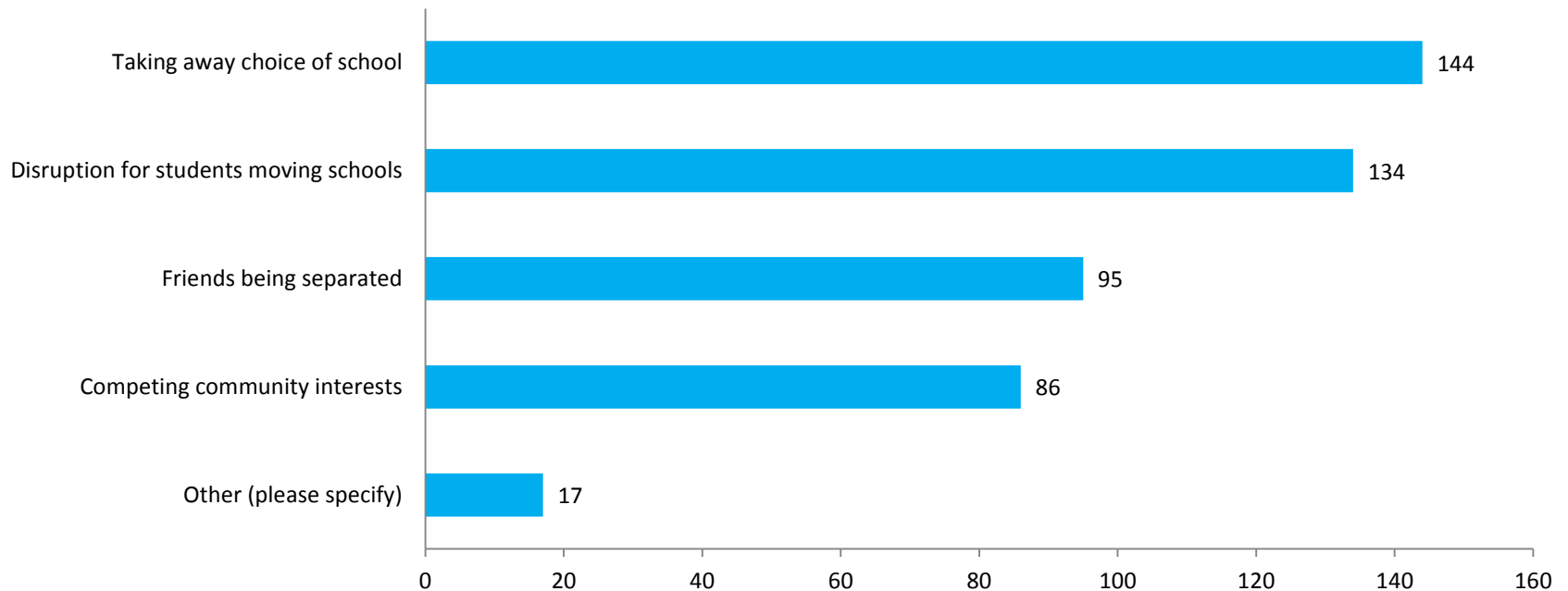
When considering the possibility of clearly defined boundaries for the four schools, what benefits do you see?  
Answered: 183



# Group B - Challenges

*When considering the possibility of clearly defined boundaries for the four schools, what challenges do you see?*

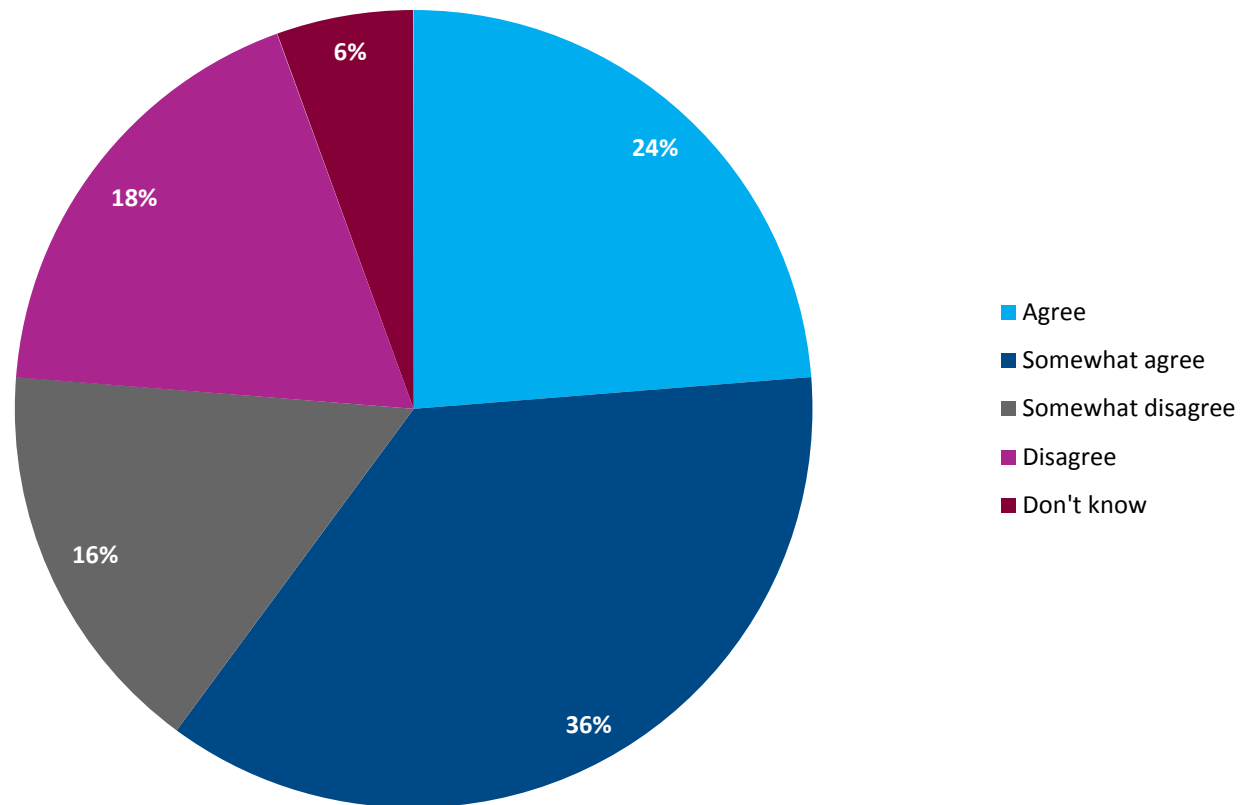
*Answered: 182*



# Group B – Extent of agreement

Overall, to what extent do you agree with the possibility of setting clearly defined boundaries for the four schools in this group?

Answered: 183





# Survey Comments

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- ❖ Following are the comments captured for all open-ended questions in this survey





# dialogue)))

## Area 6 and 7 Impacted Schools Online Survey Comments for Decision-Makers – Dec. 20, 2017 to Jan. 15, 2018 Comments compiled: Jan. 17, 2018

Below you will find all comments provided in the survey as they were written. Comments have not been edited for spelling, grammar, sentence structure truncation or otherwise. Comments have been edited to ensure anonymity. We also edited or omitted abusive, discriminatory and otherwise inappropriate comments.

### Q1 (Group A and B). I am responding as a (please select all that apply to you): Other (please specify) – 26 responses

- We had to find alternate school options since we did not have acceptable options available within CBE for our area (Cougar Ridge)
- future CBE student
- Parent of kids soon to be enrolled in cbe
- Parent child not registered currently
- Parent of a future CBE student living in CougarRidge
- Parent of children that go to another school
- Parent of future cbe student
- Glendale
- Thinking of moving children to one of the affected schools
- parent of future CBE students
- Parent of preschooler
- parent of a child going to attend school
- Future parent of CBE students
- Parent of future CBE students
- Soon to be parent of cbe student
- Parent
- Parent of a future CBE student
- Parent of a preschool child living in Cougar Ridge
- Future student
- Parent of school aged children attending Private option
- Future parent of CBE student
- Child will be starting school (Kindergarten)
- Parent of children currently attending out of bounds elementary school
- I'm parent
- Parent if children in out of bounds school at present. But if given the option would love my children to go to school closer to home.
- Guardian of a Future student



# dialogue)))

**Q5 (Group A). When considering the possibility of K-4 students from the community of Cougar Ridge attending school closer to home, what opportunities do you see?**

**Other (please specify) – 39 responses**

- All of the above
- Building a community with future citizens
- There is no good option to attend a CBE school for Cougar Ridge kids from grades 1-4.
- Missed opportunity in planning earlier. You are trying to bring in more trouble for area. This communities have matured and have relatively stable population. Receiving 1200 to 1600 kids of K-4 is not sustainable plan.
- Time saving for students
- Enhancing feeling of community when all students from one area go to same school
- BUT Before and after school care is FULL
- To provide Cougar Ridge fair and equitable school opportunities as close to home as possible as all adjoining communities are being given the opportunity.
- it promotes a community where the children live close together and go mostly to the same school. Right now there is a mix of 4 public/catholic schools and several private schools that children attend. Children benefit from a sense of community.
- Building community amongst families. Children making lifelong friendships na having children support children because they live in the same area and can be friends at school and out of school. Parents can work with each other to provide support if we all go to the same school from the same community.
- Reduced emissions/cost/time spent travelling.
- I feel that West Springs school has more resources/opportunities available to the students than Rosscarrock can provide
- allows my children to attend schools close to each other
- i see no opportunities, only disruption
- none
- May be better suited to some families day-to-day routine.
- Wondering why I pay bus fees to be in a program that represents one of Canada's official languages
- Help develop a sense off community
- common sense. first come first serve.
- Concerned about overcrowding in the school and classrooms and losing our music room and library again
- This is a loaded question!
- More quality time with family and community, less commuter travel time
- Helps build our local community



# dialogue)))

- Kids don't have to spend an hour every day in a car driving to and from a school across town.
- Builds community, -allows kids from the community to come together and belong to their local community.
- Increasing the sense of community for Cougar Ridge. Schools have always been one of the only problems for this community.
- The elementary and middle schools should have been built large enough that handle all of west springs and cougar ridge right from the beginning.
- Paskapoo kids in Cougar Ridge attend different schools than the rest of the community. This is unfortunate for the kids as they don't get to know other kids living near them.
- Easier finding before and after care closer to home
- Allows students to make friends within the community
- None
- Builds friendships with friends in the same neighbourhood
- kids get to know other kids who live near them, builds community spirit.
- Scheduling and transportation for parents
- West Springs is still developing areas around the school which will accommodate a lot of families with children and need to attend this schools rather then children from other communities in the years to come
- Would love to see the space provided to the GATE Program
- Access to better literacy programming.
- Allow younger children to be close to siblings at West Ridge
- its ludicrous that we have a school 5 minutes from our home ( with space for students) but are meant to bus or drive down the hill. Cougar ridge students are on the second overflow school, its outrageous. We have several schools open near us, but child cannot attend.

**Q6 (Group A). When considering the possibility of K-4 students from the community of Cougar Ridge attending school closer to home, what challenges do you see?**

**Other (please specify) – 43 responses**

- That schools closer to home also have the early French program
- Lack of continuity for students at Wildwood would like to continue their schooling there.
- CBE in-class aides being moved.
- I do not see any challenges.
- Not really a challenge. Should have been done from the beginning.
- Capacity and teacher/student ratio's would be be concern as a parent of a child at West Spring School today. My child already has 23 students in class and I wouldn't want to see class sizes increased to accommodate a larger intake from other communities



# dialogue)))

- Cougar Ridge kids are not accepted at West Springs and must be bussed out of the neighbourhood. Increasing demographics with all of the proposed development in this area will only make it more difficult for Cougar Ridge kids unless another school is built as part of the new devlpmts.
- change to Walk zone
- Planning process is tweaked to meet certain outcome. Challenge is there will be another sessions like this in near future as community already started to mature.
- Consider what it was like in the community 3-4 years ago.... families/neighbors divided from each other as some could get in and others didn't know
- Don't know
- problems for before and after care if it is not considered by CBE and in advance of making changes
- Kids from the same community attending the same school rather than scattered all over the west side
- none
- A lottery system s very disruptive and prevents families from being able to plan. All students from Cougar Ridge should be allowed to go to the school in their home community
- Rosscarrock losing students then the ability to juggle resources as the pool will be smaller. That is an area that can benefit from a larger resource pool
- The most direct route to school walking across at 89th street is not a safe crossing for pedestrians, even with the flashing light
- Please contact CBE and Provincial Board to apply for funding to build onto West Springs.
- I do feel like the pressure has been relieved from many of the opening of new schools and this overcrowding will not be an issue as it was before.
- Kids going to multiple schools in short periods of time. Ex: my child will have to change 3 schools in three years!
- Don't see any challenges.
- Large class sizes impacting learning.
- Way more traffic because kids from Cougar Ridge will not walk to WSS. So more car traffic and more buses. Also overcrowding in the school.
- Schools losing important personnel and resources because of lack of funding available, stretching everyone thin.
- loss of school space designated for other uses other than classrooms
- I don't know that any of these problems above exist - planning absolves these. Lack of French program close by.
- Worry about before / after school care, but that's a self-serving interest.
- Living in a walk zone that is just at the 1.8 km mark. A far distance on cold days and scary with the reported "stranger sightings" and attempt in the West Springs area. I do not like my child having to walk such a far distance



# dialogue)))

and it is difficult to drive to and from school and work a full-time job, especially with other children in different schools.

- None really, it is the same as any other community where students must attend school closest to their residence. It is a challenge for CBE to provide more resources and better facilities to manage the demand.
- new families have no school
- indirect subsidization of newer communities
- This is overdue
- Not being welcomed by current students and families
- The lottery process is terrible. Use portables if necessary and better planning. There should be no surprises about demographics.
- A division between west springs and cougar ridge students/parents
- Cougar Ridge students and families not feeling welcome by the people who currently go to school there, are who don't support the idea.
- Continued marginalization of CR
- I dont see any problems...
- Shortage of before and after care spaces
- I don't see any significant challenges
- want Wildwood school to stay open; no school, no community
- I really so no major challenges. I believe we are causing more issues by not allowing The community access to schools closer to their community.
- Not enough before & after care options

## **Q8 (Group A): Do you have any other comments or questions you would like to share?**

### **170 responses**

- Students should have access to quality education closer to their home but not at the expense of other schools being shut down due to low student count. This additional cost should be looked upon as an investment and not as a cost for keeping the school open and running.
- Our child goes to Dr. Roberta Bondar as we wanted to stay on the hill. It's important for us to keep our kids in our community.
- It is time that Cougar Ridge students get to go to school closer and be treated fairly not always be the afterthought! They have been pushed around for too long!
- On transition you must consider different paths for schools with multiple children in attendance, students that have attended for multiple years vs new students and have a long term vision based on growth statistics. It would be hugely disruptive if not consistent movement and based off lottery for transition.
- I find it ridiculous that my child cannot attend the new school in west springs when that school was built as a cougar ridge - west springs school. The ability for interest groups to politically pressure the CBE is unbelievable and



# dialogue)))

creates a have and have nor system. Everyone contributes to the school system equitably and should be provided schooling at the closest school to their home.

- I think that the students from Cougar Ridge should have the opportunity to attend an elementary school close to their home. However the students of Wildwood should have this same opportunity and in addition the families of Wildwood have moved there in many cases to allow their children the opportunity to go to already existing Wildwood School (as opposed to one that is to be built as in Cougar Ridge). Many of the Wildwood families have chosen to live in this community because of the inner city commute and the surrounding nature. We pay a premium to live in a community like Wildwood because it speaks to our values and the way we want to raise our families. It seems unfair that we should have to be concerned about losing such an amazing school that already exists! It would be truly sad if people were deterred from moving to such an amazing established community because they were unsure of the local school's future. With all of the talk and moves toward urban densification it makes no sense to be considering altering a school that is already working. Families will continue to move to Wildwood because of it's amazing attributes, including it's school. Respectfully I would hope that the CBE would be considering these plans for urban community densification as a grounds to keep already existing schools available for future population trends.
- It would be very disruptive to students currently at Wildwood to have to change schools if that is not their preference.
- Allowing children in Cougar Ridge to attend school closer to home is a decision that is way overdue.
- My child has an incredible in-class aide who I would want to stay in his class. As a shared resource, if some students left I would not want that to effect her availability with my child.
- Rosscarrock school is far away from Cougar Ridge and it does not make any sense to be the designated school for this area.
- It's a shame that the community of Cougar Ridge was developed without a public community school. This area caters to young families and I feel bad that their kids are having to be bussed away from the community for school. This area does not have the schools in place to accommodate all of these students and I would not be surprised if catchment lines would be redrawn; thus creating new boundaries and forcing other neighbourhood children to attend other schools.
- It would be nice to see Cougar Ridge students attending a school closer to home, however, I see overcrowding challenges. If overcrowding is an issue, I don't think it is favourable for any student or teacher. There are also new housing developments going up to consider.



# dialogue)))

- Our two children are students in West Ridge School. Our third child is to be forced from Wildwood to Rosscarock. Should the 3rd not be next door to the other 2?
- Thank you for asking for our feedback!
- It's important for siblings to attend the same school, a lottery system should not be applied for siblings
- what happens when there are more kids from Cougar Ridge now allowed into West Springs school than there is room? What happens when the new development along OBCR and 85th opens and there are even more kids wanting into the schools? We don't want to allow the CR kids in, and then tell them a few years from now that they are no longer allowed in.
- as a parents of child living in Cougar Ridge we find it unacceptable a young child would have to be bussed out of the cimmunity to go to school therefore we ade investing in our child going to a private school
- It is in family's best interests to be allowed to attend schools that are closest to them so as to provide a service that has the least amount of impact on their lives
- The lottery process at West Springs caused what I saw to be great divisiveness among what was to be a 'community'. If all kids for a given area can fit then great, if not find another option.
- Ultimately, I agree with the proposal. But I do fear that families will be forced to accept a certain decision that won't work for their individual needs. I'm hoping a transition period to help those families, rather than a frim line in the sand.
- I agree with moving them into the community schools if there is room. Solid population studies need to be done to ensure sufficient space for them. With all the new schools opening, the current numbers are not an accurate reflection of what numbers will be 2 years from now. Cannot risk HIGH overpopulation in current schools, only to make changes again in a few years.
- The bussing changes this year have been absolutely terrible. The system needs a complete overhaul. The last few years have had their share of problems but this year - route changes, distance to stops, walking distance from schools so NO Busses, etc. Disaster.
- Please provide continuity for the kids that are already at Wildwood. They need to stay in their existing school. They need to continue to be bused to the school where they are succeeding and thriving. Please let them finish what and where they started
- Development of new communities should take into consideration of school availability in the area.
- It is very important to me that my children attending Wildwood can continue to attend until grade 5 when they move to West Ridge
- Most importantly for safety of the children it is vital for them to be in a school that is close to home to minimize their additional time on the road being at





# dialogue)))

high risk of accidents and making longer than necessary days. There is too much confusion on which bus top to get off at and I have too many stories hearing children having this problem and ending up far away from home. Unacceptable. Schools must be offered in the communities where children can access the necessary resources they are entitled to.

- I am concerned that by allowing children from Cougar Ridge would change our walk zone and my child would then be forced to Dr Roberta Bondar. This would have a significant impact in the relationships and community we have built over 2 year. I am not against Children from Cougar Ridge from attending West Springs School, I would be very disappointed to accommodate this existing West Springs Students could be moved and impacted.
- We moved to West Springs so our children could attend West Springs School and West Ridge School. We do not want to compete with Cougar Ridge in a lottery.
- We purchased a home in Cougar Ridge with the expectation that our children would attend their assigned school which was Olympipc Heights at the time. When our children were ready to go to school Olympic Heights was capped and caused our children to go to a further school outside of our community. Had we know this at the time of buying our house it may have changed our decision to live in this community. The designation of schools for a community need to be more accurate so parents can take all factors into account when they decide where to live.
- With the new school opening up in the west, there should be no reason why cougar ridge and surrounding commiuties cannot attend school in there communities. CoougarRidge seems like one of the only communites that was removed from being able to attend school in the area. I believe back in 2006-2007 the communitiy of cougarridge was suppose to be getting a school and then it never happened. School was build it west springs and cougarridge kids were removed from the option of attending. .
- Biggest concern would be that students within the current walk zone not be negatively impacted (ie. be guaranteed space in the existing school)
- The residents of cougar ridge were promised from the beginning of the development a public school in the neighborhood was to be built that our students could attend. One was then we were displaced. Unfair
- Overcrowding at West Springs School
- I have concerns with over crowding as was the case when West Springs school was K-6. I do side with Cougar Ridge parents wanting to be closer to their school but fear the idea that my child may be bumped out of the walk zone to make room for Cougar Ridge families. I also fear what will happen when the familes of the MANY Truman high density complexes are built, where will all these children go to school?



# dialogue)))

- 1) Why at this time when city planning for 10 years have been done earlier.
- 2) Who has wasted interest in certain outcome.
- I don't know why Rosscarrock School is designated for Cougar Ridge. It should have been West Spring School.
- Still seems absurd to me that the city would allow two private schools in a community without a public school anywhere near it.
- The ability for Cougar Ridge to attend depends on long term planning. How will this look in 1, 3 and 5 years not just the current year or two. It divides communities and neighbours when you have competing needs/interests depending on how old your child is. West Springs has after/before school which is amazing to have in our community. think about other uses for the space.
- It is great if they could attend West Spring but bussing for all of Cougar Ridge needs to be provided, it is too far to walk even for the older kids and with no lights by the Max and Petro-Canada station it is very dangerous.
- It doesn't make sense for a middle school to allow for Cougar Ridge children and not the elementary. Very poor planning overall and very unfair to parents to have two children in two separate schools so far away from eachother. But it is equally unfair for West Springs elementary to suddenly burst at the seams again and then go back to a lottery system. Are we going to go back to having children in a library as their classroom? Does this stand by the mission statement of the CBE which is to put children first? I'm not sure.
- This survey in no way provides any type of concrete plan on which to comment. It is vague, and does not provide enough information on which to make comment about affected schools, total student impact, or potential issues.
- Why can't you plan more efficiently and effectively? Something very wrong with how schools are placed.
- No
- It would be nice for Cougar Ridge to attend closer to home, but not at the expense of kids already attending West Springs (than moving West Ridge).
- The over capacity issues of space are short term and can be successfully managed. I think opening up space for only some Cougar Ridge residents is problematic (lottery) and divides community. Would like to see accommodation of all in some way, even if it means considering changing configuration for a short period of time.
- what does "Keep cohort groups of students together" mean?
- It is tough to drive kids 20 minutes down now trail in winter to go to kindergarten or any other class. Most kids get to walk to school or bus less than 5 or 10 minuets



# dialogue)))

- I would have to see the numbers projected for cougar ridge compared to the space available at west springs. I don't want bigger class sizes and I want to maintain a music room and library.
- I very much agree with providing all students with the best opportunity possible for them to attend a school close to home. However, I admit that I have NO idea what "changes that allow K-4 students from the Cougar Ridge community to attend school closer to home" actually looks like. What school(s) would they be removed from, and moved to? Which schools would be gaining students and which losing students? I don't know the background, and would have appreciated getting some as part of this survey so I could be more informed.
- For question 5 - as a west springs parent, it's hard to agree without visibility into the long term projections (of students). As far as I know we were already at capacity, hence making West Ridge 5-9.
- Are there considerations for grade 4+
- The Province and CBE should be ashamed of themselves for allowing homes to be built without a school for kids to attend. Make the builders who profit in new communities build the school and then the homes.
- It makes more sense for students from the Cougar Ridge community to attend West Springs school as they live & play sports in the same community.
- If there is room. But I do have to say that overcrowded schools are far from ideal and lotteries cause parents alot of stress!
- Rosscarrock and Wildwood are not desired schools for Cougar Ridge students.
- All students should have the right to attend their community school. This enhances the school experience for students and schools need to be an active part of the community it is in. Students being bussed in would not be part
- My youngest is currently at a private school in Grade 4. I wanted to be in a school in our community. I have paid privately for many years for this privledge. I was very disappointed when I learned there was not a close public school in our community.
- I see this as a move to help parents and not for the students. The CR kids will still need to bus, WSS will then face space problems and the Rosscarrock kids will loose out in the extra funding and programs that they can have by having a larger school and then potentially they will be bussing if their school closes or can not run on their small populations.
- I would really like to have the option for my child to attend a school closer to home.
- Why do Cougar Ridge families have to bus their kids so far in the first place, when all communities adjacent have several close options to choose from,



# dialogue)))

eg, Aspen having Olympic Heights and Bondar. The most frustrating issue now that West Ridge is designated, is that K-4 remains Rosscarrock.

- If there will be uncertainty for space from year to year, and a lottery of some sort will be part of the process, I think it is not worth pursuing. I think it is disappointing that Cougar Ridge students have been shifted around 2 times already, and would be very frustrated to see a temporary change to closer to home, only to have it change again to a further school.
- I feel VERY strongly that families in Cougar Ridge should be able to attend West Springs. My kids can literally WALK there but instead need to be bused very far away, to a community we have no ties with. Where was city planning and CBE planning when Cougar Ridge community was being built? Where was CBE and city planning when they were building Westsprings school? HOW could this have happened. We need to build onto Westsprings. CBE and the City of Calgary and AB Education need to be flexible and make CHANGE!
- no
- I believe children from K-4 should attend a school as close to home as possible
- I personally feel that Rosscarrock is too far for a kindergarten student to go, especially with cold weather and traffic. Cougar Ridge has been waiting for an school for a long time and we keep getting knocked further down the list. I have accepted that there will not be an elementary school but I think it's important that CBE accommodates our community as well. The pressure has been relieved from all the other communities on the hill and Cougar Ridge is still in the same position. I'm hopeful that in the next year there will be changes to our designated school and my child will be able to go to a school closer to home.
- It would be nice to have a couple years of reprieve of this issue. It causes a lot of anxiety in parents when things keep changing.
- I've seen many families move out of the neighborhood for this reason alone. This means my child's friends continue to move away. Some stability for school would transfer to stable relationships being built in the community as well.
- This is so long overdue it's ridiculous. It's crazy that the furthest community up the hill is the one travelling to go to schools down the hill. The CBE should have redrawn the boundaries a long time ago. It's crazy that the CBE is sticking to community boundaries as defined by the city rather than using common sense.
- This survey should've been done before, to minimize the impact of moving schools on kids. The current school assignment makes no sense at all. I have kids attending Westridge and Rosscarrock.
- no



# dialogue)))

- What's really needed - and should have always been part of planning - is a public school(s) for Cougar Ridge. It is unfair for CBE to create possible overcrowding, and/or a return to a lottery system to accommodate Cougar Ridge students at West Springs. The lottery and overcrowding issue has finally resolved itself in the last few years and we have a sustainable school with appropriate #s in West Springs. Completely unfair for this to be ruined simply because the proper planning wasn't done by City, CBE and Cougar Ridge developers to build public schools in Cougar Ridge!!!
- Bussing kids away from the community puts strain on CBE resources
- There wasn't supposed to be an elementary school built in CR. Why overcrowd West Springs school for those families who purposely bought in that community for access to that particular school?
- I would love to have my Cougar Ridge child attend West Springs, but would hate to see a lottery arise because of it, or have issues down the road and possibly having CR kids not allowed to attend.
- Adding additional students from Cougar Ridge to West Springs School, we feel, will negatively impact the school in many ways. If class sizes increase, the overall learning experience will decline - especially if the music room, library, learning commons and staff room will be moved to accommodate more classrooms. West Springs School, currently, already feels very crowded. We disagree with opening the boundaries for West Springs School to allow students from Cougar Ridge. We are concerned that West Springs school is already full and that current students would be negatively impacted if more students are added. Thank you.
- it's very difficult for my youngest to make friends in the neighborhood and feel like a part of our community when he attends school so far away. He doesn't have the opportunity to meet kids in our immediate area like he would have in a normal situation. This makes it difficult for him to be motivated to play outside and be active on weekends and evenings as well as during the summer. If he went to school nearby he would get to know kids closer to home and be much more comfortable
- Do not overcrowd schools. Build infrastructure. The risk of too many kids in schools and the risk of high school kids (new drivers) having to drive far because there is no room is unacceptable.
- What did the city think was going to happen when they allow this extent of development in the young family demographic. The city and developers need to be held accountable for providing infrastructure in a timely manner to support all these residences, to just how much money they will make. All these families pay taxes. Not enough schools but 2 Tim Hortons!
- I strongly disagree with having those students attend West Springs or West Ridge Schools



# dialogue)))

- Cougar Ridge has not public or catholic school with a walking distance. It seems like West Spring has more privilege than us with Catholic and Public options.
- It is a difficult decision. There are a lot of children in Cougar Ridge in different programs that might've choose to make the move if it becomes available. I am concerned about overcrowding and the fact that the decision could be reversed in a couple of years which would cause even more disruption. It needs to be a sustainable move that will last longer than a couple of years. There will be more animosity if it goes ahead for 5 years and then gets reversed
- The West Springs and West Ridge School are overpopulated and any further changes will interfere with education and learning.
- Question 5 is difficult to understand: "Agree with the possibility of changes?" What does that mean?
- We specifically moved from Cougar Ridge to West Springs in order to send our kids to a community school. Be clear on the intentions related to eligibility criteria (walk zone/ bus zone) as early abs possible. Eliminate uncertainty for parents and be consistent with the use of the lottery process. Eliminating uncertainty for parents as soon as you are able will maintain the goodwill of the community. The last recess was less than ideal.
- The coming West District build is going to greatly increase these issues and yet the Province indicated to the developers that there was no need for additional schools. Development of schools should be a requirement of community builds. This happens in other provinces and I cannot understand why it is not the case here.
- I believe there should be provision for families who desire to remain at their current school. Recognizing transportation is a challenge - combine the bussing for Rosscarrock and Wildwood to accomodatw these families.
- We have been waiting for this for years!
- Cougar Ridge has received the short end of the stick when it comes to education. We moved from Cougar Ridge to West Springs to attend a closer community school but we know not all families have the choice to relocate.
- French Immersion should not be considered an alternative program. As it costs more, as it is far away, rather than a possibility in a greater number of schools, there is a deterrent to families selecting the french (One of Canada's Official Languages) immersion program.
- Cougar Ridge was supposed to have their own school- what ever happened to that? It was promised before Aspen even existed.
- Have you considered ensuring those living in the current walk zone to have definitive placement hoping to allow room for Cougar Ridge students but if a lottery ensued it would be a lottery for those living the farthest away (ie cougar ridge students)



# dialogue)))

- Overcrowding will benefit nobody's education- quality education should trump location.
- No
- Build some new schools, please.
- We need a CBE sponsored Chilcare like Thornhill Child Care, preschool programs are very expensive we need support from CBE
- Only that those questions were confusing and I wasn't sure what exactly I was saying or agreeing to. All those issue are important.
- If children in West Springs are unable to attend a school named West Springs, then the CBE should probably consider the logic underlying this process.
- Having kids close to home is ideal only if you can guarantee long term of not overcrowding and disruption and letting everyone in. And not making lotteries etc, too stressful on the community.
- build a cougar ridge school. if cougar ridge has capacity for 2 private schools, it surely has demand for 1 public school.
- Concerned about overcrowding in the school and classrooms and losing our music room and library again
- Students should attend schools near their homes to safe time
- My child attends French Immersion Program at Westgate. How will this program be impacted?
- Ironically, we JUST discussed all of these issues a few years ago! Have we already forgotten?
- I agree with allowing CR students to attend WS schools. However, not at the detriment of WS families. I personally chose to move from Cougar Ridge to West Springs for this reason.
- Cougar Ridge is the only community in those areas that gets plucked out and sent farther away. It's not right!
- Qlty plnning focuses on rvtlzn & cnsdrs all aspcts of cmmnty; mxd-use and ped friendly; these alrdy exist in WW/RC/WG. CBE should work closely with cmmnty groups instd of in the pocket of developers.
- The hill. Staying on the hill reduces risk of travel in winter and current problems today for cbe in busing delays.
- We have been forced to look at other school boards which is not our first choice as Cougar Ridge has been completely disregarded by CBE.
- I'd eventually like to see enough schools to accommodate all students without these things becoming issues
- Unfair to date. Treat same as west springs
- It is an inefficient use of resources to expand suburb schools while inner city schools lose these students. Fill the schools you have first.
- Bussing should be offered to cougar ridge students at Dr Roberta Bondar and Joan of Arc even if we have to pay for it



# dialogue)))

- I would love to have my kids go to school that is close, with friends from the community.
- Stop dividing our communities. Stop making our kids travel so far on the bus. Stop the uncertainty between siblings over the years as we cannot predict nor plan for schools when they change so much.
- It's ridiculous that there are 2 schools a 10 minute walk away that our Cougar Ridge kids cannot attend.
- Very disappointed about the change of wildwood to Rosscarrock as designated elementary
- My concern is increased student to teacher ratio. Overcrowding; putting strain on West Springs School
- It is imperative to have my child connect with other students on a social level with kids IN his community. Bussing can take over 1 hour one way. Please strongly consider CR students in Westsprings.
- It would be great for Cougar Ridge to have this opportunity for our families
- Paskapoo kids fall between the gaps with schools. All the kids on our little culdesac are at different schools... not ok! Our kids belong in their local school with their local community.
- Overcrowding is a huge concern. The CBE is using incorrect numbers for WSS and we risk losing music and library rooms and too big classes. Again. Not okay.
- Having kids closer to home is a great idea.
- This would be a wonderful opportunity for our children. To be able to walk to school. Have school friends in our neighbourhood. Decrease transportation cost. Increased quality of life.
- Expand the school if necessary to accommodate kids going to school in their communities.
- If there is no option for our child to attend school closer to home, we will be forced to move out of a community and home we love.
- Leaving decisions late in school year make it hard for parents to secure before and after care for their children
- With no CR school in the future, must find a place for CR K-4 closer to home. Kids will be together in West Ridge grade 5, would be good to get groups together sooner and reduce busing across Sarcee
- Kids go 2 NW sch. New Cougar Ridge families not allowed 2 go 2 Wildwood 6 yrs ago. West Springs Sch. opened, we're not allowed b/c on wrong side of Old Banff Coach. West Spr's Sch. - lottery sys.
- There is no consideration for before & after care for younger students in West Ridge. Grade 5 and 6 students are too young to go home alone, but there are no regulated options for these students.
- I live in cougar Ridge. My child attends westridge. Right now, my other child is attending wildwood. It just doesn't make sense to send them further school by paying school bus fee.





# dialogue)))

- Sadly, my kids won't benefit from this long needed change but I feel strongly it needs to happen.
- Students who currently attend Wildwood and are living in Cougar Ridge should be allowed to finish out all the grades available to them at Wildwood. Disruption too hard on the kids and the families.
- When students are already lacking access to a walkable school, a small amount of added travel time is not of concern to me.
- Cougar Ridge should be allowed at West Springs period, not bussed to the inner city.
- As someone who has lived in West Springs since 2001, I always thought it was unfair that West Springs children finally had an Elementary close to home while Cougar Ridge children did not.
- Need to know clear and concise consequences to the existing student body of WRS and WSS if the CR students were to move closer to home.
- If this change will put West Springs student/residents in a lottery process to attend West Springs I don't agree with it.
- Bussing for CR students is important - we should be allowed to bus our students to these schools on the hill even if we have to pay.
- We need more transportation options. We need West Springs and West Ridge to align school bell times better
- Build another high school in West Calgary ASAP so that we don't have this issue again in a couple of years when all these kids are in grade 10.
- As long as Wildwood kids stay at Wildwood, with the existing classes sizes and current teacher/student ratio, Cougar Ridge families should be able to do whatever works for them
- It is too little too late in benefiting CR students. We deserved a school 10 years ago
- I am concerned that it would mean my child would not be allowed to finish Grade 6 at Rosscarrock.
- Worries that our school wildwood will loose many students
- With the developments happening in this area significantly we certainly we will need another Highschool next to EMS in the SW
- I somewhat agree because I feel the CR students should have a school closer to home but scared that west springs will become too crowded with larger classes. Also scared of a lottery
- No bussing of low income . great # of families in this neighbourhood to continue to use Wildwood. And a new affordable building going up!
- I would like my children to be able to go to West Springs School for the 2018/2019 school year.
- It is unfortunate that a community with many young families has to travel 4 or 5 communities to take their kids to school.



# dialogue)))

- I somewhat agree with the possibility of allowing K-4 cougar ridge students to attend school closer to home so long as it does not disrupt current students education (ie. overcrowding implications)
- To help with the discussion it would be helpful to get projections of the number of students expected to attend in each grade over the next 5 years.
- Cougar Ridge bussing is not going to be continued to Wildwood from Cougar Ridge for the school year of 2018-2019.
- As a parent, it makes much more sense to send my child to the school closest to our home. Putting the student on a bus to a far away community is not practical.
- Siblings of students attending West Ridge should be allowed into West Springs school.
- As long as students currently enrolled in West Springs get to stay, then I am in favour of Cougar Ridge kids joining. Otherwise, it's a firm no.
- Allwong cougar Ridge kids to at to attend school closer to home would be amazing
- Increase in students at WSSchool must be supported by increased resources (teachers, before/after care) and effective space utilization (music room to remain a music room)
- The early dismissal Friday's, odd (late) hours and lack of bussing makes West Ridge School unworkable for our family - can students stay at Rosscarrock for Grade 5?
- Cougar Ridge residents grandfathered into Wildwood because of older siblings will be losing their bus, making the issue more important. Is there an option to keep the bus?
- I find west springs very very crowded.
- If West Springs school has capacity, I think it makes sense to have students stay closer to home, less transportation and disruption.
- Are there other programs Wildwood School could offer to keep the school open?
- Please put in more crosswalks that light up or pedestrian controlled street lights. Paint 30km zone in huge letters on the street in a school or playground zone.
- As a member of the Cougar Ridge Community and parent, it is extremely important to me to have my child in a school that is closer to home. This allows for a shorter day, closer to friends and community, and safety. Our community members should be allowed access to schools on the hill and closer to home, the same as our neighboring communities.
- We never thought it was fair that we lived closer to West Springs School than some West Springs kids, but weren't allowed to attend.
- Why was Westgate school left off the list? There are many from Cougar Ridge that go to school there.
- its high time the interest of cougar ridge students was considered.



# dialogue)))

- Children already at West Springs should not be disrupted
- Very concerned that we could lose our school in Wildwood.

## **Q11 (Group B): When considering the possibility of clearly defined boundaries for the four schools, what benefits do you see? Other (please specify) – 13 responses**

- More background is required to understand this question! does clearly defined boundaries mean no choice?
- Establishing boundaries must consider "grandfathering" students that now find themselves outside the boundary, allowing them to attend the school they have attended for at least two years.
- Don't see any benefit
- No Benefit to my family
- Builds community
- Na
- N/A
- I don't see one from the parents perspective as the clarity and transparency exist now
- This removes the option of choice for our children's education.
- Not all schools are created equal.
- Certainty for residents who may purchase in an area based on schools they are eligible to attend.
- Alex Ferguson school is at its maximum capacity of students currently. It will allow this school to be at less capacity and have smaller class sizes.
- I don't see a lot of benefits for us. Our children would be required to move and that is disruptive.

## **Q12 (Group B): When considering the possibility of clearly defined boundaries for the four schools, what challenges do you see? Other (please specify) – 17 responses**

- Not all schools have enough before/after care openings
- Longer travel times for both parents and students in opposite direction from commute (I.e. far less family time at home, less homework time, more stressful meal times, rushed mornings)
- Biggest challenge is this survey not providing enough context to understand the issue.
- Continuity of education for siblings
- Too rigid of criteria in attending schools of choice.
- Over sized classrooms and split grades in one class
- Forced to attend low ranked school
- Less diversity and student population in the school
- Not being able to place a child in an environment that best serves her or his individual strengths, challenges and personality.



# dialogue)))

- I don't intend to disrupt my child from his current school so if that is a risk, it would be a substantial challenge.
- Less choice of programs (i.e. arts-based learning)
- Disrupting the relationships amongst the community, parents and staff of a school
- Quality of education
- Imbalance in quality of education. Not all CBE schools are the same.
- Schools in rich areas getting better resources
- Little ones should not be crossing busy highways when there's a school within a km. Young students need consistency with teachers and school

## **Q14 (Group B): Do you have any other comments or questions you would like to share? - 54 responses**

- While I don't like the thought of taking away choice of school from families - I am extremely concerned about school closure due to under capacity. I am very happy with the school we are at and would hate to see it closed due to under capacity. I would like all the schools to have long term sustainability. Having a clearly defined boundary may also enhance the community in some ways. There is something sad in some ways to be said about living on a street where it seems like none of the kids go to the same school anymore and yet they live in the same general community.
- I would rather have my child go to our designated school but I could not get a before/after care spot for that school.
- 1. There are other ways to solve this problem rather than bureaucratic boundary changes. Program and/or facility improvement at a school alone may make a difference in demand for a school. For example, we love Alex Ferguson, but it lacks virtually any extracurricular activities. If a school were to adopt a more progressive, dynamic environment for clubs or sports, demand will go up. I encourage decision makers to think creatively rather than institutionally. 2. Many parents have recently moved to the neighbourhood (root cause), but they have made the decision looking at school boundaries. For example, when we moved across the country for work, we selected the neighbourhood with Alex Ferguson in mind. We made a very expensive decision believing we had chosen the right school for our kids.
- Suggestion: A lot more information re context is required... though it may be clear to the writers of this survey what "clearly defined boundaries" are it is not clear to me.
- While I think that setting defined areas versus optional areas may be of benefit - I feel that it is extremely important to have this affect new students starting in Kindergarten/Gr. 1 only and not to disrupt the important school/community for existing students. I have 3 children who have attended AFS. We have developed relationships with the teachers and staff, and forged life long friendships with other families in the AFS community. It would



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be so disorienting to have to uproot this way of life for the last few years of our elementary schooling. Also - we live a few blocks down from the school and yet we are in the optional area. It seems ludicrous that we would have to switch to a school that is driving distance away. Lastly, the non optional catchment for AFS is has huge areas on non residential area and is not sustainable for providing the population base and diversity that it key to this school's success.

- Establishing boundaries must consider and adopt a policy of "grandfathering" students that now find themselves outside the boundary, allowing them to attend the school they have attended for at least two years. Our house is geographically in between of two school choices. We should be able to choose which one is easier and safer to access, and best for our child.
- It is very important to us that our children are able to continue at this school until the end of Grade 6.
- Proper accommodations for kids to achieve success
- Don't move kids that are already in a school.
- I think students currently attending a school other than their designated school should be grandfathered into their current school, particularly in grades 4 plus.
- Alex Ferguson has been an outstanding community school--a gem--and should not be negatively affected in any way.
- Glamorgan does not have a community school due to the TLC. We have to drive to school anyway so it is nice to have a choice. Alot of Glamorgan kids go to Glendale instead of Glenbrook. My kids are there and I do NOT want to have to change schools!!!
- I think it should be a progression over several years.
- I live close to AFS, and even closer to Sunalta. I was not allowed to send my kids to Sunalta and I'm fine with it... but mad at first. I like AFS, but the current "option" zone is ridiculously huge.
- Depends on the student population in certain areas
- No
- Alex Ferguson has a strong Fine Arts base out of all of the 4 schools. Tradition and legacy are a challenge to sustain when uprooted from a community. The community school is critical in a neighborhood as a common meeting place for the community. There is no other community meeting place in the Shaganappi area.
- If my children have begun their education at a school, they should be able to stay there until Grade 6. I made a clear choice about sending them to their school.
- None
- I live quite close to Alexander Ferguson, so would expect my child to continue there even under more tightly defined boundaries. Having said that, if I lived outside newly set boundaries, I'd be fighting tooth and nail to keep



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my child there. Alex Ferguson is a fantastic, nurturing school. It's focus on creative learning through the arts is ideally suited to my child's personality and needs. I would hope that even under hard-line boundaries there would be allowances to address an individual child's needs and natural abilities through placement at the school best suited to maximize her or his potential.

- My child moved schools due to bullying and conditions and is happier now.
- This should not disrupt students currently in schools. It should be a rolling change where students entering kindergarten would be under the new rules but students currently attending schools should be able to finish their education where they are. I know personally I would move to keep my children where they are if that was my only option. But I know this isn't an available option to everyone attending school in our neighbourhoods. You have many families new to Canada that have had huge changes in their lives as well and have found comfort in new routines. You can't uproot them again.
- 1. Only consider an option that has students staying with current schools but new enrollment would have students assigned within clear boundaries.
- existing students should be allowed to stay
- We moved into our neighborhood so that our children could attend Alexander Ferguson. We like the arts and music focus in the curriculum and our children are thriving. I hope that if boundaries do change, that current students will be grandfathered and able to finish their years at their current school if they choose to do so.
- The boundaries should be set to the closest school. We are in the optional area to AF and kids walk there, if they were sent somewhere else we would lose that option as AF is the closest school to us.
- address the clear difference in quality between schools in the area - forcing parents to choose a school with failing grades is not a good solution even if it does take the pressure off surrounding schools
- First, I don't understand how this option boundary review relates to the new schools that are opening. The new schools appear to be all west of Sarcee Trail whereas the option boundary is a small area considerably east of the new schools. Secondly, I live in the option area, and I am very concerned about the impact this could have on my family. Both students and parents are deeply invested in Alexander Ferguson, which is also the closest school to our house. We are concerned, without seeing proposed zones and therefore only rumours to go on, that we will be put outside of the zone and be forced to leave Alexander Ferguson. Our child has forged strong relationships with students and teachers that would be torn apart by a forced move. It would be both heartbreaking and stressful and detrimental to their social development which is a key learning goal of early education. Furthermore as parents we have also forged strong relationships with staff and parents at the school. We invested time and effort volunteering with the



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school and building a community amongst parents and staff that would be dismantled and laid waste should our child be forced to move. Finally, even if my child was allowed to remain, I am concerned about the prospects of their younger sibling's ability to attend Alexander Ferguson which, is important to because it provides continuity, strengthens our ties and community involvement with the school and improves socialization. I hope that any actions that are taken will not cause undue hardship to the students and families living within the option boundary. Thank you.

- I would like to know what the boundaries would be.
- I love that I currently have a choice. We live very close to Richmond school and wish our children to go there.
- If the boundaries change I think that the students currently attending the school should be allowed to remain there until grade 6.
- There is a evident lack of quality of education between this school as well as a mariet of program styles. My children will not go to a school with open classrooms. We will simply switch to the catholic system
- No
- If you would give more information about the proposed boundary changes I could make more educated judgment
- This is a huge challenge, I appreciate. Glad to have opportunity for input. I like keeping kids together but we also need to think about our communities and schools are cornerstones in many communities. I am concerned that firm boundaries could lead to lack of sustainability in the future as children age.
- Will kids in existing schools be grandfathered into staying at their current school if they are out of bounds?
- I worry that all schools are not considered equal and there is a perceived benefit to some schools and feel like some schools currently suffer from many families finding loopholes to get their children in other schools.
- If a family moves out of area but their child has an established relationship with a school would cause disruption and less continuity - families create relationships with the school, its students and teachres.
- Our child attended Alex Ferguson, and it was by far the best school available to us. Don't take this option away from families.
- I think in our communities none of the 4 schools are full and therefore parents should be given the choice of where they want to send their children.
- I would like to see minimal disruption for students and ensure students can still attend the closest school to their home.
- This is a terrible survey. Why not have us rank them instead? Also, many of the principles are unclear and need more clarification.
- Younger students should be closer to home
- I was happy to have a choice for my kids but do not see it as a sustainable option based on calgary's growth. I hope that any changes do not affect students already enrolled at their school



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- The choice of education freedom needs to be high priority and parents shouldn't be forced to attend schools if the school does not match the parents values/beliefs.
- Families that are in the optional area should have maximum weight on decision-making.
- I think 'challenging' students should be shared among all schools and classes equally not lumped together. This would be for their benefit and for the benefit of other students.
- before/after care availability is important to many parents & parents should have the choice of which school their kid attends based on their family values without needing to move addresses
- option of having defined boundaries as a go forward mandate. ie new students would go to schools defined in the new boundaries. Also, keep younger siblings going to the same school as older siblings.
- I don't mind out of area kids helping boost enrollment, but children in the zone should be given priority access to the school and school programs.
- My answer to 5 really depends on how the boundaries are set.
- Don't further restrict Alexander Ferguson boundary. Annual census and flexibility could help future planning.
- I will email my concerns.
- For specialized program schools, like Alexander Ferguson, which offers an arts-based program, boundaries should be more fluid, to allow for a broad range of kids to attend the program.