



North East School Division

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Consideration of School Closure or Grade Discontinuance:

Introduction

On September 29th, 2022, the Board of Education of the North East School Division passed motions to consider grade discontinuance and/or closure of Arborfield School. The school was identified for review based on Board Policy, meeting all the following criteria:

- Projected enrolment less than 88 pupils.
- If there are projected to be three or more grades, or more than three simultaneous course offerings in a classroom.
- If the projected enrolment would leave fewer than two students in a grade.
- If the projected enrolment is such that staffing allotment by formula will require consideration of more than triple grading.
- If the structural integrity of the school building present safety or other concerns that would require a significant capital expenditure.

Community Feedback and The School Review Committee

A school review committee has been established and consists of four members of the school community council, two people appointed by the town and two people appointed by the council of municipalities.

[The School Review Committee](#) is responsible for sharing with the community the information that has been provided by the Board and request feedback.

The Committee will share engagement plans with the community of Arborfield and the Board of Education in November.

During January 2023, the School Review Committee will provide the Board of Education with the written results of their community consultations. This will be done at a meeting with both the Board and the Committee.

January 2023 Board Meeting

The Board of Education moves to either suspend the review or to consider school closure or grade discontinuance. If the Board decides to suspend the review, the school review process will be considered completed.

Meetings of Electors

Electors are invited to attend a meeting in March.

School Review Committee Dissolved

[On March 31, 2023, the work of the School Review Committee is completed, and the Committee is dissolved.](#)

Written Submissions

In addition to the meetings, the Board of Education will accept written submissions from interested parties until March 31st, 2023.

Final Decision

In April, the Board of Education will make a motion to either close the school or discontinue grades or discontinue its consideration of school closure.

Background Information

The Board of Education has considered a variety of information about Arborfield School to make the decision to review the school's viability. A summary of this information follows.

Arborfield School

Board Policy 114: 4: Criteria for School Review

A school's viability may be reviewed if (a) and any one or more of the following criteria apply to the school:

- a. As outlined in Section 56(2)(b) of The School Division Administration Regulations, projected enrolment for the school under review for the following school year is less than:
 - (vii) for a school offering kindergarten to Grade 12, 88 pupils.

Arborfield School's enrolment

- **as of September 14, 2022, is 65 pupils**
- **2023-2024 projection is 67 pupils**

- b. If there are projected to be three or more grades, or more than three simultaneous course offerings in a classroom.

Arborfield School– Yes (grade K/1/2, 7/8/9, 10/11/12)

- c. If the projected enrolment would leave fewer than two students in a grade.

Arborfield School – Yes (grade 8, 11, 12)

- d. If the projected enrolment is such that staffing allotment by formula will require consideration of more than triple grading.

In Arborfield School, triple grading is maintained with the application of a 13:1 pupil/FTE formula in comparison to a 23:1 formula in larger schools. Additional support is given through courses provided by the NESD grade 10-12 Online School teachers.

- e. If the structural integrity of the school building presents safety or other concerns that would require a significant capital expenditure. (ie. Facility Condition Index, Independent Engineering Report, Ministry Facility Audit).

Ameresco Canada, a company specializing in facility assessment services, assessed the conditions of all NESD schools in 2015. This fall, an assessment of the condition of the schools at NESD will be completed once again for more current data.

The estimated cost of deferred maintenance for Arborfield School as of 2015 was \$2,737,500