



NESD Board of Education

Arborfield School Review Background Information

The Board of Education, in its efforts to provide meaningful learning opportunities that reflect that Board's vision, mission and commitments for student learning, recognizes that it needs to maintain viable schools, classrooms and programs. Consequently, the Board has to consider grade discontinuance or school closure based on the learning needs of students and based on utilizing resources effectively and efficiently. The Board values collaboration and is committed to a process permitting input from community, staff, and parents to help inform its decision.

At the January 21, 2021, meeting of the Board, the following motion was made:

That be it resolved that the Board of Education plan for an attendance area inclusive of most of Arborfield and Carrot River students in a new K-12 school to be built in Carrot River; and that the school community and municipalities of Arborfield and Carrot River be engaged as stakeholders in the planning and future operation of a new K-12 school to replace the current Arborfield School, Carrot River Elementary School and Carrot River Junior and Senior High School;

And furthermore, that the Board of Education will initiate a school review process to consider closure of Arborfield School no later than October 15 of 2022 with the earliest date for possible closure being July 1 of 2023.

On September 29, 2022, the board received the following information:

Pursuant to Section 55(1)(a)(ii) of *The School Division Administration Regulations*, the criteria for school review are outlined in Board Policy 114 as factors to guide the commencement of a school review.

[Board Policy 114, Section 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:

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

On the September 29, 2022, meeting of the Board, the following motions were made:

That pursuant to Section 55 of *The School Division Administration Regulations*, the Board of Education for the North East School Division No. 200 of Saskatchewan intends to review the viability of Grades Kindergarten to Grade 12 at Arborfield School, Arborfield, Saskatchewan in accordance with the review criteria of Board Policy 114, School Viability Review.

That pursuant to section 59 of *The School Division Administration Regulations* the Board establishes a School Review Committee for Arborfield School to consist of the following members:

- a) four individuals appointed by the School Community Council of Arborfield School;
- b) two individuals appointed by the Town of Arborfield
 - i. One of whom is an elected member of the town; and
 - ii. One of whom is not an elected member but is a resident of the town of Arborfield.
- c) excluding the municipality mentioned in clause (b) two individuals jointly appointed by the following municipalities:
 - i. Rural Municipality of Arborfield No. 456, Rural Municipality of Bjorkdale No. 426, Rural Municipality of Connaught No. 457 and Rural Municipality of Moose Range No. 486:
 - * One of whom is an elected member of the council of one of those municipalities; and
 - * One of whom is a resident of one of those municipalities but not an elected member of the council of any municipality

On October 6th, 2022, in the following ways, the Board notified the school community council and the public of its intention to review the school inclusive of the criteria that will be used for the review and *The School Division Administration Regulations* requirements of notice.

Rural Roots – media outlet

Arborfield School Public Website (Additionally, the notice could also be view by families through the NESD/Arborfield Edsby family portal and app)

Arborfield School

Town of Arborfield office and Arborfield Town Hall

In the following rural municipalities: RM for Arborfield; RM for Bjorkdale; RM for Connaught; RM for Moose Range

NESD Division office

NESD Public website

In addition, the notice was emailed to the Arborfield School Community Council Chair, School Principal, Rural Municipalities listed above, MLA, and Town of Arborfield.

On October 20th, 2022, the School Review Committee was established with the following members:

4 Members from the School Community Council

- Melissa Gray, Brayell Dengler, Colin Cummings, Julie Gray

2 Members appointed by Town of Arborfield

- Chet Edwards (Mayor of Town of Arborfield), Stephanie Gray (resident)

2 Members appointed by the Rural Municipalities

- Alois Bronner (Deputy Reeve/Div 2 Councillor for R.M. of Arborfield No. 456), Kendra Lacroix (resident of the R.M. of Arborfield No. 456)

On October 28th, 2022, to support the work of the School Review Committee and in accordance *The School Division Administration Regulations*, the School Review Committee shared the following School Review Information Package:

School Review Information Package – NESD School Viability Data ARBORFIELD:

1. Enrolment history of the school under review since January 1, 2006
2. Projected enrolments and the source of this data (Saskatchewan Health birth rate data with applied average trends)
3. Information about the physical condition of the school
 - i. Arborfield School-Facilities (2015 Assessment)
 - ii. Facility Condition Index
4. Projected number of teaching staff based on projected enrolments and current board policy
 - i. NESD Cost Per Student
 - ii. Arborfield School – Current and Projected Staffing
 - iii. Salary and Benefit Cost Savings as a Result of Closing Arborfield School
5. Any other information the board of education plans to consider when review the school
 - i. Credits/Courses Available
 - ii. Online Credits/Courses Available
 - iii. Enrolment/Facility Capacity Projections
 - iv. Transportation Scenarios
 - v. Transportation Proposed Boundary

In addition, on October 28th, 2022, to support the School Review Committee and SCC, a School Review Handbook and Parent/community letter was shared. The letter was composed at the request of the Arborfield SCC and was shared with school families on Monday, October 31st, as well as posted on the school website.

On November 25th, 2022, the Director of Education, Superintendent of Business, and Facilities Manager met with SCC members and the School Review Committee to review the School Review Information Package and answer any questions.

On December 5th, 2022, a digital copy of additional facility information was shared with the School Review Committee as requested. In addition, The Director of Education offered the following supports:

In preparation for your the January 10th presentation to the Board, I would like to extend an offer to further support your work. Specifically, the division has resources you may be interested in using to engage all parents with the Arborfield catchment. I will follow up with a call to Melissa in regard to the list of considerations. The considerations are aligned with the *School Division Administration Regulations*, shared below and earlier through the school review handbook.

- 60(2) - The school review committee may provide advice and recommendations to the board of education with respect to the school review process, including a recommendation to consider the discontinuance of one or more grades taught in the school as an alternative to closing the school.
- 60(3) The school review committee shall:
 - (b) for each potential outcome of the school review, describe the impact that the outcome will have on the pupils and the community.
 - (c) share the information obtained pursuant to subsection (1) with the community, and request written feedback from the community in light of that information; and
 - (d) share with the board of education the feedback received pursuant to clause (c), and the recommendations of the committee in light of that feedback.

Considerations:

- To collect feedback from all current and perhaps future parents, we can make division digital

survey tools available to your committee.

- To reach all current parents within the catchment, we can publish your communications and share through Edsby as well as our websites.
- To ensure all current parents have notifications, we can publish your communications through our text message services.

On December 16th, 2022, the Director of Education shared proven busing route times and the addition of Tisdale bus routes to the Proposed Carrot River/Tisdale Boundary map as requested by the School Review Committee.

On January 6th, 2023, The Director of Education shared requested busing cancelation data.

On January 10th, 2023, the School Review Committee presented their community consultation results with the NESD Board of Education.

Between January 14th and 16th, 2023, a Family and Student survey was completed. Summary results were added to the Board of Education School Review Information package.

The Board of Education met in committee on January 17th, 2023, to review information pertaining to the Arborfield School Review decision.

On January 19th, an updated information package, including the results of a parent and student survey was shared with the School Review Committee.

At the January 27, 2023, meeting of the Board, the following motion was made:

Whereas the Board of Education of the North East School Division No. 200 of Saskatchewan identified Arborfield School under Board Policy 114: School Viability Review as meeting the criteria for a school viability review; And whereas the Board reviewed materials relevant to the closure of Arborfield School; Therefore it is moved that pursuant to Section 61(1) of *The School Division Administration Regulations*, the Board will consider the potential closure of the Arborfield School in Arborfield Saskatchewan or discontinuance of one or more grades taught in the Arborfield School, as the case may be; effective July 3, 2023.

On February 15th, 2023, a Meeting of Electors was held in Arborfield, Saskatchewan. In addition to advising the Arborfield Electors of the January 27th motion to continue the review, the Board presented information from the School Review Package and School Review Committee.

PREPARED BY	DATE
Stacy Lair, Director of Education	April 12, 2023