



POLICY MANUAL  
POLICY14

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## CONSOLIDATION AND/OR CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS

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2. The Board will consider the information and recommendation provided by the Superintendent and either:
  - 2.1 Conclude that no action or further study is required, or
  - 2.2 Forward the information to the Operations Policy and Planning Committee.
3. The Operations Policy and Planning Committee shall review the materials and provide its recommendations to the Board no later than January 15 of the following calendar year.
4. The Board will review the recommendations from the Operations Policy and Planning Committee and either
  - 4.1 Conclude that no action or further study is required, or
  - 4.2 Initiate discussion and consultation with parents, staff and the community.

#### Public Consultation Process

Community awareness of possible school consolidations and/or closures is a priority of the Board.

5. Discussion and consultation must be initiated by February 1 and concluded not later than April 1 and will include the following provisions:
  - 5.1 As per Ministerial Order 194/08 (M194/08), the public consultation process shall include:
    - 5.1.1 A fair consideration of the community's input and adequate opportunity for the community to respond to a board's proposal to close the school permanently;
    - 5.1.2 Consideration of future enrolment growth in the district of persons of school age, persons of less than school age and adults; and
    - 5.1.3 Consideration of possible alternative community use for all or part of the school.
  - 5.2 The Board shall forward information initially provided by the Superintendent and an invitation to the NWTU and CUPE 409, the Parents' Advisory Council(s), and the New Westminister city council for their input.
  - 5.3 The Board shall inform the public through parent newsletters and notices, meetings with employees, notice to rental groups, notices in local newspapers, and information posted on the school district website. The school(s) being considered for consolidation and/or closure and the proposed effective date shall be specified.
  - 5.4 The proposed consolidation and/or closure will be addressed and discussed in a public meeting involving the affected communities. The time and location of the public meeting shall be widely advertised to notify affected persons or groups in the community. This will mean written notification to parents of students currently attending and registered to attend the school, a notice in the local newspaper, notices to neighboring schools, Parent Advisory Councils, DPAC, Board Committees, employee groups and information posted on the School District website.
  - 5.5 The Board will make available, in writing, the rationale for the proposed school consolidation and/or closure, including, but not limited to, the pertinent facts and information with respect to the following factors:



*Legal Reference: Sections 22, 65, 73, 85, 96, 100 School Act  
Section 23 Ombudsman Act  
School Opening and Closure Order M320-02  
Disposal of Land or Improvement Order M233/07*

*SD No. 40 (New Westminister)*

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*Adopted: May 30, 2017*

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