

Auburn Bay Attendance Area Decision Letter
Questions and Answers
June 18, 2019

The process to finalize boundaries for Prince of Peace elementary school and the new Auburn Bay Elementary School was very thorough and involved feedback from the current school council at Prince of Peace as well as a public participation meeting hosted on May 22, 2019. Feedback and recommendations were substantial, and a Q & A document was developed on key questions and comments. This information as well as the presentation from the public participation meeting are posted on the Prince of Peace School and District websites. Several key themes were noted in the Q and A document and final decision letter that are reviewed below. This information is being provided as additional background to Auburn Bay residents.

- What were the deciding factors in the delineation of the boundary?
As the district reviewed the input and feedback from the community, the filters applied to ensure a sustainable decision were:
 - Utilization rates for each school
 - Walkability and impact on the community
 - Major transportation routes and natural boundaries in the community
 - Keeping elementary age siblings together
 - Ensuring sufficient space at Prince of Peace for all Auburn Bay junior high students
 - Student safety
 - Feedback from community engagement

- You met with the community, but then adopted an attendance area that is virtually identical to Scenario 1 in the presentation. Was the community input taken into consideration?
A review of the feedback on the five scenarios presented at the May 22 engagement suggested that a majority of the community saw more strengths than challenges with Scenarios 1 & 5, with Scenario 1 having the most identified strengths relative to the identified challenges. Closer review of Scenario 3, which had more challenges than strengths suggested that the inclusion of the area around the dog park made sense due to connectivity to Prince of Peace. The challenge of Scenario 3 was the inclusion of the entire lake area, and the resulting utilization rates for Prince of Peace. Therefore, Scenario 1 was revised to include the area surrounding the dog park (Auburn Meadows Place) based on community input.

- Several scenarios were suggested by individual tables at the public participation session according to the Table Talk Feedback, Q&A document (pages 25 and 26 of the document). Were these scenarios considered?
Each of the scenarios were considered and analyzed. This analysis led to the following conclusions:
 - Scenario 6 (North-South boundary, page 25 of Table Talk Feedback, Q&A document): Of the three maps proposed by members of the community, the first two were not considered viable as they resulted in an unbalanced utilization, with a higher utilization at Prince of Peace School and a lower utilization rate for the new Auburn Bay School. The primary concern if these scenarios were adopted would be that the community would be at risk of not having room for all junior high students at Prince

of Peace School. The third map was not considered viable as the boundaries cut minor roads in a way that students living across the street or next door would be attending different schools.

- Scenario 7 (Diagonal boundary, page 25-26 of Table Talk Feedback, Q&A document): The first of these suggestions was identical to Scenario 1. The second map was found not to be suitable as the Prince of Peace elementary area was underutilized. Based on feedback from the community and knowing the boundary area could be larger it was not adopted. Concern also existed that the boundary line was very close to the physical building of Prince of Peace School. The 3rd and 4th maps were variations on Scenario 1 that were not viable as they resulted in unbalanced utilization for Prince of Peace with the school being underutilized or overcrowded. The district wants to ensure that all junior high students can be accommodated at Prince of Peace School and this concern was prominent at table discussions on May 22nd.
- Scenario 8 (East-West boundary, page 26 of Table Talk Feedback, Q&A document): Both East-West scenarios were identified as not viable. The first of these was not seen as a viable solution as students would have to walk through the attendance area of the other school to get to their designated school. The second of these resulted in higher utilization of Prince of Peace School. It also had an elementary boundary for Prince of Peace School that was very close to the new Elementary Auburn Bay School.
- Scenario 9 (staggered entry allowing for grandfathering): While the district recognizes that this would result in less movement of students currently attending Prince of Peace, the table talk feedback identified keeping the community together as important, and this scenario would result in students living next door to each other going to different schools.
- Scenario 10 (change grade configurations of the schools): This scenario was given consideration but ultimately rejected to honour the more typical grade configuration of CCSD schools in Calgary: K – 6 and K – 9. This configuration provides leadership opportunities for students in Grade 6, enhanced opportunities for data gathering from Grade 6 Provincial Achievement Tests and professional development for Division II (grade 4-6) teachers.

- Won't changing schools have a negative impact on my child?

The district is aware of the potential anxieties raised by change and a new school environment. Transition planning will take this into account. Parents are encouraged to have conversations with their child about change and transitions as a natural part of life, and to inform the school of any anxieties that are a cause for concern.

- What about the multifamily developments, the adult only/senior living development, and the Zen development in south Auburn Bay – have we accounted for the density or lack of density of children coming out of these areas?

All of these variables were taken into account in the calculations provided in the presentation, as well as in the subsequent scenarios proposed by members of the community on May 22.

- Does this mean we have to fundraise for another playground?

As noted in the May 22 presentation, the Alberta Government website states: *“Alberta Education provides grant funding of up to \$250,000 per school to support the construction of a playground for eligible projects.”* This information can be found by clicking the following link: https://www.alberta.ca/planning-and-building-schools.aspx?utm_source=redirector#toc-0. The new Auburn Bay School is on the list for funding.

- My child is in Grade 4 at Our Lady of the Rosary, and we reside within the attendance area for the new school. Will my child have to move to the new school for Grade 6 in 2020 and then move again to Prince of Peace for Grade 7?

Parents of students in Grade 5 at both Prince of Peace and Our Lady of the Rosary during the 2019-2020 school year can expect to be surveyed in Spring 2020 to determine if there will be sufficient numbers to organize a Grade 6 class at the new Catholic school in Auburn Bay. If there is a grade 6 class at the new school, all Auburn Bay Grade 6 students in 2020 will still have the option to attend grade 6 at Prince of Peace School.