

Help Plan Our Future

St. Angela School Closure Consideration Process Table Talk Feedback, Questions and Answers February 25, 2020

The following provides a summary of the input and feedback received during the Table Talk portion of the engagement meeting. Similar questions, arising from different tables, have been grouped together, and one answer has been provided for these questions.

Question 1: Do you have any questions about the information presented tonight?

General Comments arising from this round of table talk:

- Did not know that our kids could attend here.
- Demographics-superficial overview of the numbers; the numbers are on the page, but the interpretation is lacking. What the presenter said the numbers mean, aren't what they mean.
- The stats are missing on what will happen to the local kids when the Langevin School closed; the impact may not be felt for a few years
- You mention 3 to 4 million to upgrade, in the long run it will not save more money for the district. We can learn from our history. The Calgary General Hospital was removed and then we needed the Sheldon Chumir center because a downtown hospital was needed. If you close St. Angela, you will end up needing to build another school eventually to meet downtown student needs. That will cost much more than the 3-4 million upgrades currently needed.
- Concerns about conditions surrounding before and after school care have changed.
- Langevin was going through the same thing 15 years ago and reinvented itself to attract new students and is now busting at the seams with an alternative program.
- Parents at this table were looking for this workplace type of school and found out by fluke, this shouldn't be the case.
- Fund and advertise the definition of a workplace schools!
- We understand that money is a deciding factor, but we love the small community. They have been very supportive of my diverse learning child.
- Understand we have to see collective picture.
- Bridgeland community continues to grow in population. Currently there are 3 multi-dwelling buildings that are proposed to be open for residency immediately. A fourth property has been demolished as to erect a residential multi-dwelling building. All of these properties are within 3-5 blocks of one another and within 7 blocks of the school.
- Concern surrounding the only other access to a CCSD school is St. Alphonsus. There are concerns surrounding factors such as bussing, opportunity for students to walk to their community school and to attend school with their neighbors and friends.
- Even if we were to reach school capacity, this still is a smaller school community that may provide greater relationships (For example, Waldorf School Philosophy).
- I am concerned about all of the families who live in Bridgeland and who have their children at St. Angela's school because they live in Government funded housing. We live here and our children go to St. Angela's because of our family income. The majority of the families at St. Angela's school are within low income households and the housing and childcare facilities support all families and allow us to be a family, feel safe and be able to have

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children attend school with their friends. We help each, we are Single Mothers who rely on one another. Our school feeds our children without judgement with a pantry where they are invited to bring food home.

- It seems like the decision is made. **(Editor's note: A decision has not been made. The final decision will be made by the Board of Trustees on April 8)**
- Please consider the fact that Langevin school is closed to Bridgeland. Students in the community are not being considered for Langevin which means that if St. Angela closes, students of this community will not have a school to go to in their community.
- We want our students to be able to walk to their schools.
- Transportation will become an issue (financially and time wise)
- This school closure issue seems like it is more about a management issue rather than an enrollment issue.
- Options of St. Alphonsus for one student and St. Angela for the other, we are worse off as a family because the class size increases.
- If we look at the Environmental Criteria, closing a school and asking students to be transported to other schools is not very environmental.
- Totally missed that St. Angela was a workplace school. Only focused on the attendance area. Only focused on the deficits no positives.
- The only focus was on the Bridgeland community and should have been more of a focus on a workplace school.
- Phys. ed program is strong and link to the church is also strong. We have members from the parish at our table.
- Uniforms promote self-esteem and that's a positive of the school.
- The pantry helps many families in need
- Langevin is the only school to service Bridgeland. Where are students supposed to go? Students may not be able to go to Langevin as it is a lottery program.
- We have considered financials but not the historical makeup of the community. Bridgeland has young couples and we should consider waiting until they have children. The families may be able to use the school in the future. If more funding is required, we can diversify usage.
- Census data 2016 demonstrates the population will skyrocket 2024 according to a stakeholder.
- St. Angela has not opened up the boundaries to the whole city. **(Editor's Note: St. Angela School website identifies the school as a workplace school and states "Families from communities across Calgary are welcome to enroll their children at St. Angela. All families are welcome to inquire.")**
- Disappointed with some of the answers to the questions - it is inappropriate to discuss the answer now. April 8th is a short timeline to make decisions for families.
- The children of this community benefit from having this school and true it is a smaller school and it is a benefit.

Questions arising from this round of table talk:

Questions about the St. Angela School:

- How has enrollment been addressed within the last 5 years as a preventative measure?
St. Angela School has been allowed to accept students from across the city since 2010. When closure was considered in 2009, the Board agreed to support the parent proposal of a Workplace School. In spite of implementation of this model, and the opening up of the school's attendance area, enrolments have consistently shown a decline.
- St. Angela did have full-day K, and when funding was removed school enrolment drastically dropped - how does the loss of enrollment balance the funds re: the half day?
Full day Kindergarten was supported by government funding until 2013. The district continued to support full day kindergarten for a couple of years, but the model was not sustainable, and full day kindergarten was rolled

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back. The additional cost of full day kindergarten is not offset by increased enrolment and would only increase the deficit at the school. The district still does have full-day kindergarten in some schools, but the costs are fully borne by the district, and no additional funding would be received.

- Would the district consider making St. Angela a Science School to help increase attendance?
- Have you thought of specialized programs here to increase enrolment?
- Has the District looked at bringing alternative programs to St. Angela like a Chinese language program or something like that?

This is useful feedback and will be considered prior to the final decision being made. In the past district experience suggests that dual track schools are not ideal pedagogically, and present scheduling and staffing difficulties.

- Could St. Angela develop money generating companies to offset costs?

This would not be consistent with district practice and is also limited by joint use agreements and Education act as to what other activities a school can engage in to earn additional revenue.

- Is there any benefit to turning St. Angela into a year-round school?

Experience has suggested that year-round education programs are not a preferred model by most parents.

- Workplace school, Before and after school care part of the school or private?

Before and after School care is provided by Adventurers School Age Care Ltd., an independent local organization.

- Do people know this school exists?

The school is listed on the district website as a workplace school.

- Why will the district not give us funding for full day kindergarten as a workplace school?

Full day Kindergarten was supported by government funding until 2013. The district continued to support full day kindergarten for a couple of years, but the model was not sustainable, and full day kindergarten was cut. The additional cost of full day kindergarten is not offset by increased enrolment and would only increase the deficit at the school. The district still does have full-day kindergarten in some schools, but the costs are fully born by the district, and no additional funding would be received.

- Why is the district considering closure when Bridgeland community has 4 new day cares? Why are they coming up with a decision now that a lot of children in the community can't attend the other school, Langevin, has a lottery system? External children to the neighborhood can attend that school but not internal students. So, in reality St. Angela is the only community school left in this area.

This is not reflected in the enrolment history of St. Angela school, which suggests most parents unable to register at Langevin School are seeking registration in other schools.

- We have seen new developments of condos which house lots of young families, have these families been considered?

This has been factored into the enrolment projections. As noted in the presentation, 55% of the population in the Attendance Area are married without children living at home. This is 18% higher than the Calgary average.

- Would the district consider an advertising campaign district wide calling attention to St. Angela as a workplace school?

This would not be consistent with District practice. There is no specific funding provided for advertising or marketing. The district does promote district schools through the City of Calgary Recreation Guide – at least 3 or 4 times a year (these also have a long shelf life), and Calgary Catholic School District Internet site. A Google search for “workplace school Calgary” returns St. Angela as the first hit.

- No information was provided on evangelization. Can we look at accepting more non-Catholic/Non-resident students?

There is no restriction on the acceptance of students at St. Angela.

- Why did some of the programs that were once in the school leave?

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Full day Kindergarten was no longer funded by the government. The Reception Centre continued to grow and serve greater numbers. The Reception outgrew the space it had at St. Angela and needed a space of its own.

- If the issue of closing the school has come up before, and the school is dealing with the same issues, why are we looking at this issue again? What is the reason for closing it now?

As was the case in 2009, St. Angela is being considered for closure due to operational deficits and declining enrolment. In 2010, the board agreed to keep the school open at the request of the school council, who promoted a workplace school concept. The board has attempted to support this concept; however, it has failed to yield the hoped-for results. Having given the workplace school concept ample time to succeed, it is now time again to reconsider the closure of the school.

- What would happen to enrollment if the district invested more in promotion of a Workplace school?
- This is a workplace school but what is being done to advertise that this is a workplace school? How is this marketed throughout Calgary? This has been asked several times in the Q + A document and not answered. This would not be consistent with district practice. The district has excellent schools throughout the city and does not market one in favor of another. Marketing schools is not a district practice. In 2010 the School Council felt a workplace school would appeal to Calgarians. Although the concept showed initial promise, the reality is the hoped-for results have not materialized.
- What is Calgary Catholic School District doing to keep inner city schools open? What else is being doing to ensure we are able to get to capacity?
Inner city schools are managed the same way as all district schools. As population shifts, the district responds to student enrolment in a variety of ways, including some of the actions taken at St. Angela (addition of new programming options such as the Workplace school, which is unique for the community, full-day kindergarten, KinderCare, and working with before/after school care providers).
- What is the District's overall plan for inner city schools? Is shutting down smaller inner-city schools the best solution? This neighborhood was chosen for a reason...because of the school.
There is no overall district plan to “shut down” inner city schools. The St. Angela School closure consideration process was implemented for a variety of reasons as noted in the presentation, including low enrolment, capital costs and recurring operational deficits.
- How is this school different than Langevin Public Schools?
Langevin School is an alternative program within the Calgary Board of Education. Admission is through application and lottery. St. Angela is a regular program workplace school and registration is open to anyone who resides within the jurisdiction.
- The presentation talked about extracurricular opportunities in other schools. What is so different in those schools than St. Angela?
Extracurricular activities, such as intramural sports and clubs, are best provided in schools with larger populations, from the perspective of the ability to draw from both a larger student population and a larger staff group.
- What has the district done to promote growth?
The district supported the St. Angela Workplace School concept by eliminated all barriers to registration. In addition, the district has continued to support St. Angela School in spite of consistent low enrolment and operational deficits.

Questions about the budget and potential savings

- How is the salary cost saved if the teachers are dispersed to other schools?
While it is true that teachers will be redeployed, there are a number of salary units that would no longer be required, including principal, administrative assistant and caretaker, to name a few.

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- Would there really be a cost savings of salaries? Was there an assessment of the costs? How were those costs determined? What is required vs what is the want?
Slide 19 and 20 show potential cost savings of salaries. The figures are based on actual costs and were provided by the district's Accounting department. Allocation of teachers and school administration are a function of district administrative procedures and collective agreements.
- How do the financials compare when the school is at capacity? Are we still at a deficit then? At what point are we no longer at that point?
Any school operating at capacity would not run a deficit on an annual basis.
- What is the actual cost of running an empty building?
- If the school is closed, what is the annual expenses associated with an empty building? What are the plans for its future use? The Q + A document says it is minimal costs.... what does this actually mean?
Slide 19 identifies current utility costs as \$39,168, Slide 20 shows a maximum utility savings of \$30,208, suggesting that the annual cost of running an empty building would be around \$9,000.
- Can outside contracts be given to teachers in special positions to offset costs?
This would not be consistent with district practice and may violate existing collective agreements.
- How are the upgrades to St. Angela determined?
All district schools are reviewed by Support Services annually for life of use of the various components of all district buildings. Support Services has an objective of providing consistent learning opportunities fro all of our instructional spaces. As noted on slide 22 of the February 25th presentation, this includes exterior wall and window replacements, central heating upgrades, asbestos removal lighting retrofits and control and electrical distribution improvements. Dollar value for these upgrades are derived from the cost of other recently completed school modernizations with a similar scope of work.
- Has the district applied for grants to Alberta Ed. for upgrades to St. Angela?
Modernization of St. Angela is not currently a capital plan project.
- Can the district provide a breakdown of the current deficit?
This information was provided on slide 19 of the February 25th presentation
- Funding for marketing - is there any available?
Funding for schools in Alberta is provided by the provincial government and includes grants for base instruction funding. Additional funding is supported for unique characteristics such as the number of English as a second language learners, the socio-economic status of the local population, and for geographic location (i.e. Northern Allowance). Funding to school authorities is also provided through targeted funding for provincial initiatives, other provincial support, and capital funding. Information on funding of Alberta schools can be found [here](#).
- Where would the funds be specifically used for St. Angela if the funds are distributed as discussed?
There is no specific planned use for funds saved should St. Angela close. Reduction and elimination of deficits serve to help balance budgets.
- Why did the deficit decrease from the year prior?
The information on slide 19 of the February 25th presentation shows a decrease in the deficit. Slide 19 shows a decrease of \$261,407 in Salaries and benefits. This is the primary source of the decrease in the deficit.
- Beside government funding, is there other opportunities to fund the school? Is there any grants or private funding available to keep it open?
Government funding is the primary source of funding for schools. The [Calgary Catholic Education Foundation](#) established in 2009 as a means to provide additional funds for enhanced learning opportunities for students provides annual grants to schools. It is important to note that these grants are of a one-time nature, and not intended to be on-going annual grants.
- What is the goal of budgets? Is it always to have a 0\$ deficit or does this vary from school to school?

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The district is obligated to produce a balanced budget each year, based upon the funding received. When a deficit is incurred in one area, it must be offset by a surplus in another area. The district must meet a legislated requirement to maintain a balanced budget district-wide.

- Are there other ways that are more cost effective to advertise?
Perhaps, however enrolment is just one of the factors that has led to this closure consideration process.
- Will the provincial budget have an impact?
As noted above, funding for schools is provided by the Government of Alberta. Changes in funding, positive or negative, have a direct impact on school districts in the development of their budgets. The new formula based funding will provide less revenue for each new student, so increased enrolment will not immediately result in a 100% increase in base grant funding, it will now take 3 years to receive 100% of the base student grant
- If a full-time kindergarten teacher attracts more students, wouldn't it be cheaper to pay \$50 000 to hire a full-time person versus closing the school?
Perhaps, however enrolment is just one of the factors that has led to this closure consideration process.
- Will shifting students to other schools truly save money?
Yes. Slide 20 of the February 25th presentation identifies the cost savings that could be achieved.
- Is this the only school that is operating at a loss?
No. A number of district schools operate with a net deficit. When this becomes consistent over time, the district has an obligation to ensure good financial stewardship of the funds it receives from the government.
- Outside of the formula, what other considerations are taken to keep a school open?
The workplace school is one example of an action undertaken to keep a school open. The district has supported this through a widened attendance area for St. Angela as well as working with Adventurers School Age Care Ltd., an independent local organization that provides before and after school care at St. Angela.
- Is this closure being a preventive approach anticipating a bad budget?
The closure consideration is a function of natural district processes that see the review of district operations on an annual basis. The district scrutinizes all aspects of operations to continue to ensure good financial stewardship when longer-term low enrolment is not covering the costs to operate the school.
- The deficit will be redeployed as teacher salaries will still be active. How does the deficit breakdown?
The primary deficit recovery arises from the elimination of a principal, administrative assistant and caretaker. Additional deficit recovery occurs in the utility savings as noted on slide 20 of the presentation.
- Savings in parent letter had a range and now the number is exact. Why is that?
The savings range in the letter is based upon two different analysis, one was how much it is costing us annually to keep the school open, the second was what were the total savings to the district if the school were closed, which happens to be more than the annual losses. The reality is the end result would likely fall somewhere in the middle.

Questions about the outcome:

- If the school closes, would other school populations increase too much?
As noted in the February 3 letter to parents, all students could all students could be accommodated in other district schools should St. Angela School be closed.
- What is missing is the whole discussion of the operationally small school. Is the district is looking to make all of their schools larger?
There are a small number of operationally small schools that the district monitors on an annual basis. St. Angela is one of these. The district supports all schools regardless of enrolment. The St. Angela School closure consideration process was implemented for a variety of reasons as noted in the presentation, including low enrolment, capital costs and recurring operational deficits.
- What does that mean for the growth of education of other students? Larger class sizes-is bigger better?

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The district is proud of the programs it has available to residents of the district. It is important to note that all schools are staffed according to district standards and collective agreements, and larger schools does not necessarily mean larger class sizes.

- If the students who live in this catchment don't have this school anymore, which school will they attend?
- What supports are available for students if they need to move schools?

Once a final decision is made, parents can expect further consultation regarding sustainability (if the decision is to remain open) or options available to students (if the decision is to close).

- Will this be the last school year if a decision is made to close the school? Or will it be September of the following year?

Board Policy statement 14.8.5 requires that all school closure consideration procedures be initiated and completed within the school year in which the decision whether to close the school is made.

- There are very few Catholic School choices in the inner city - by closing St. Angela School aren't we discouraging Catholics from attending Catholic Schools?

The district values excellence in Catholic education, guided by shared responsibility and the moral authority of the Church, and hopes that all Catholics seek out Catholic schools for educational program.

- What about split custody homes – where do their kids have to go if St. Angela's is directly in the middle?

A student's address for registration purposes is the address of the custodial parent. If custody is 50-50, then parents must elect which address will be used as the address for registration purposes prior to registering the child and inform school administration of this decision. Should transportation be required, and the student eligible for transportation, pick up and drop off will be from one location.

- A significant number of families within the community do not drive or have access to personally owned vehicles (sidewalks and street routes to St. Alphonsus are both far and during winter months unsafe due to the hills within the city). What considerations have been made to support community access?

It is inappropriate to discuss options available to parents prior to a final decision by the Board. Once a final decision is made, parents can expect further consultation regarding sustainability (if the decision is to remain open) or options available to students (if the decision is to close)

- Bridgeland Daycare and Afterschool Care Program opened in 1972, specifically a present member of the community in partnership run since 1984. This is deep rooted, has the impact on the community businesses been addressed?

The district's obligation is to provide parents and students with a fiscally responsible and publicly accountable Catholic Educational program. To this end, the City of Calgary and the Bishop's Office have been notified of the closure consideration process.

- Have the feelings of the students been considered in the decision?

Parents act as the voice of their children, and their best interests. That was, in part, the purpose of our consultation on February 25.

- Have you considered the input of the school community (New Canadians especially who face challenges with transitions?)

That was, in part, the purpose of our consultation on February 25.

- What is the impact of the students? What are the mitigating factors?

When school communities are moved, either as a result of enrolment pressures, modernization projects or school/program closure, transition plans are determined by school staff as the year unfolds. Open Houses, Family BBQs and common activities have all served to help students and parents in the transition to their new school community.

- What factors are being considered? Solutions? what are the options at this moment for St. Angela.

That was, in part, the purpose of our consultation on February 25.

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Questions about the demographic information:

- In the meeting presented tonight, 19 students were listed as falling within the catchment area of St. Alphonsus, yet the letter from Gary S to parents list 35. Why the difference?
The 19 students referred to in the February 25th presentation are non-Resident students (slide 37). Chief Superintendent (Gary) Strothers' January 29 memo to the board suggested approximately 35 students reside in the St. Alphonsus attendance area. Students attending St. Alphonsus was not part of the information in the February 25th presentation.
- Langevin School - How is this school included in the forecast of enrollment?
This is factored into the projections.
- If enrolment is 121, and "walk-able" is 53 students, how does that make 62% as presented?
- Population breakdown numbers seemed off. 48 students = 62%
The 62% refers to 48 students attending St. Angela of a total of 77 students residing in the local attendance area as presented on slide 31. The district offers a number of alternative programs, which parents have access to, including but not limited to French Immersion, Fine Arts, etc. Some parents within the local attendance area are choosing to access other CCSD programs.
- What capacity are surrounding schools?
This varies from school to school. As was noted in the February 3 letter to parents, all students could be accommodated in other district schools should St. Angela School be closed.
- From the statistics of married couples presented, how many are of child-rearing age?
As noted in the presentation, 55% of the population in the Attendance Area are married without children living at home, 18% higher than the Calgary average. The key piece of information with this statistic is that the incidence of married couples without children is 18% higher than the Calgary average., resulting in less school-age children in the community.
- How did you determine that there were only 6 instructional classrooms? What constitutes an instructional classroom?
A more familiar term would be classroom. An instructional space is a walled space within the building suitable for the delivery of instruction to approximately 25 students. It does not include areas such as the learning commons, the gym or ancillary spaces for art, drama or music. The school is currently using 6 of 12 available instructional classrooms with the school.
- Based off the census information, has the District taken in account that Langevin has changed their enrolment criteria that restrict Bridgeland residents from attending their school? Bridgeland residents have a lower chance of getting into Langevin and now are relying on St. Angela.
This is not reflected in the enrolment history of St. Angela school, which suggests most parents unable to register at Langevin School are seeking registration in other CBE schools.
- Has the school ever operated at capacity?
The school has not operated at capacity for well over 10 years.
- What will happen to enrollment when the Calgary economy improves?
This is factored into enrolment projections.
- Where do I find student success at large schools verses smaller schools' stats- it just can't be true?
There are no concerns with the performance of students at St. Angela School. Each school is required to review PAT results with School Council, and plan for continuous improvement. Provincial Achievement Test results for school, district and province can be found on the Alberta Education website [here](#).
- There was a statement about KinderCare – could that be clarified?
KinderCare is a district supported program that provides care for kindergarten students for the second half of their day. When full day kindergarten was eliminated, the district made KinderCare available to bridge the gap

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between the end of the Kindergarten day and the start of the before/after school care program. The KinderCare program was eliminated this year due to insufficient interest.

- The numbers are factual for Bridgeland but how many students would be able to access this from across the city?

St. Angela School has been able to accept students from across the city since 2010. This is noted on the school website, which identifies the school as a workplace school and states “Families from communities across Calgary are welcome to enroll their children at St. Angela. All families are welcome to inquire.”

- Are there other schools across the city that are in worse physical condition than St. Angela? Where does this school rank in those needs compared to others?

The current condition of the facility, and the required upgrades to meet the new building/post modernization criteria is just one of many factors assessed as part of the school closure consideration. Alberta Infrastructure conducts a cyclical review of all CCSD facilities. Per Alberta Infrastructure, the facility condition index (FCI) is comparable to a number of other district facilities.

Questions about St. Angela School facility and site:

- If the school closes, what will happen to the building and land?

The district may continue reviewing options and opportunities for students, the community and district needs as well as work with the City of Calgary as per terms of the Joint Use Agreement for municipal school reserves.

- Can anything be built on this current site?

There is currently no proposed use of the site or facility. Future uses of the site will be governed by the Education Act, the Municipal Government Act, the Joint Use Agreement and City of Calgary Land Use Bylaw.

- If the 3-4 million in funds for a "face lift" are not made available, what does the quality of the building look like moving forward?

- If there are serious renovations to be completed if the school stays open, will they be completed if the school stays open? If not, where will my child be left if the school closes in the future?

It is important to note that the upgrading requirements are not cosmetic in nature. The low enrolment history and projections disadvantage the facility for modernization consideration. Should the decision be to keep the school open, the district would seek additional avenues for increasing enrolment to better position the school for modernization consideration. A future school closure would be subject to the same closure consideration process as is occurring this year.

- Could modernization bring up enrolment?

Perhaps, although historically we have been unable to draw enrolment to St. Angela, regardless of attempted supports (e.g. full-day kindergarten, KinderCare, and working with before/after school care providers).

- What happens when St. Angela closes can we know?

Once a final decision is made, there will be further consultation with parents regarding sustainability (if the decision is to remain open) or options available to students (if the decision is to close). This consultation has been scheduled for April 28, at St. Angela School, at 7PM. More information regarding this meeting will be provided with the April 9 letter.

Questions about the closure consideration process:

- Does the decision timeline need to be this aggressive? Tight timeline for families to make decisions
- Normally this process occurs over a much longer period of time. Why is this process happening so quickly?
The timeline of the closure consideration process is typical of past closure considerations. There is a need to balance sufficient time for consideration with parent desire for certainty about the next school year. Board policy requires a minimum of 3 weeks between the public meeting and the final decision. In the case of this closure, the process allows just over 6 weeks.

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- Re: the process - it seems we are just getting to ask our questions now, there will be some answers provided, but then what happens? If other suggestions are provided, what will the district do to take those forward? It feels like that will be the end of the process. How will the district identify possible alternative solutions and bring them forward for discussion?

Board policy requires trustees give due consideration to all written submissions prior to making a final decision. This Table Talk Feedback, Q&A document is one such submission. Some suggestions were provided on February 25 and have been recorded in this document (e.g. science school, specialized programs, alternative programs like Chinese language program or something similar). These suggestions will be given due consideration using the sustainable decisions filters identified on slide 8 and throughout the February 25th presentation by district administration and the board. Only once this has occurred will a final decision be made.

Questions about educational program:

- Can't teachers collaborate outside the school we live in a big city? Surely, they can find another gr 2 teacher. Teachers do pair with teachers in other schools, however a lot of team planning, and collaboration occurs during time free from instruction, over the noon break, and immediately after school. It is impractical to meet with another teacher at these times.
- is it always best for students to have different teachers?
The district is proud of its teachers and the work that they do. When students are exposed to different teachers, it is usually because the second teacher has a specialized skill set (e.g. fine arts, physical education).

Questions regarding St. Alphonsus:

- What will be the impact on class size at St. Alphonsus? Is there space available for these 50 Bridgeland students?
All district schools are staffed according to district standards and collective agreements, and so a smaller school does not mean smaller class sizes, and a larger school does not mean larger class sizes. As noted in the February 3 letter to parents, all students could be accommodated in other district schools should St. Angela School be closed.
- Will St. Alphonsus grandfather in out-of-area students from St. Angela at the elementary level?
It is inappropriate to discuss options available to parents prior to a final decision by the Board. Once a final decision is made, parents can expect further consultation regarding sustainability (if the decision is to remain open) or options available to students (if the decision is to close)

Question 2: Given the four elements of sustainable decisions presented tonight, should the Board decide that St. Angela school is to remain open, what needs to be considered to increase St. Angela's student enrolment?

Questions arising from this round of table talk:

- If the school was at capacity, could they afford specialized programs, i.e.; music, French/language, etc.)?
If the school's enrolment was near capacity the increased staffing would result in the opportunity for specialized programs (e.g. Fine Arts, French, Physical Education)
- Because the city has allowed this type of land development (condos, young couples no children or singles), is there consideration that this is affecting the demographics of the neighbourhood?
This is, in part contributing to the issue. As noted in the February 25th presentation, the incidence of married couples without children is 18% higher than the Calgary average, and this does in fact result in less school-age children in the community.
- They showed the deficit for only two years, and it halved in that time - could we see the projection for upcoming years

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As noted earlier in this document, slide 19 of the February 25th presentation shows a decrease in the deficit of \$261,407 in salaries and benefits. This is the primary source of the decrease in the deficit. No further staff reductions are possible. Most costs don't change, so unless enrolment significantly increases, projections will remain the same, with less additional revenue for new enrolments.

- If you consider all day Kindergarten again - would parents have to pay or will government fund? Is there a number where this could become a possibility?
There is no funding available for full day kindergarten. As per the Education Act, the district is not allowed to charge tuition fees.
- Does keeping the school open attract more families to the area?
This has not been the case.
- If there was transportation available, would that increase enrollment?
District transportation eligibility criteria can be found [here](#). Currently there are not enough students attending St. Angela School who are outside of the walk limit and requested transportation, which is why bussing is not being provided.
- In response to this question - what has been done thus far to increase the enrolment?
The district has attempted a number of supports in trying to keep St. Angela School sustainable, including full-day kindergarten, KinderCare, and working with before/after school care providers.
- We noticed ELL numbers are low at St. Angela. We have huge numbers of ELL families in this neighbourhood. How are we not reaching them and letting them know we are here?
This is difficult to answer, as all ELL families are registered by the school, and supported through the Reception Centre.
- Is this the only workplace school?
This is the only Calgary Catholic School District workplace school. CBE had a workplace school (W.H. Cushing) which was closed in 2016 when the lease for the space was not renewed.
- Is it possible to bring the school up to standards for a K-9?
This is not possible because Junior High school design is different from K-6 design. There is a difference in construction specifications between elementary and junior high schools, including the height of toilets, sinks and fountains and the presence of CTS labs.
- Would the school benefit in enrollment from being named St. Angela "Catholic School" rather than "Workplace school"?
The school's name is St. Angela School, as noted on both school and district websites, as well as the sign on the building. This is consistent with district practice.
- Can parents who are taking advantage of workplace program pay more fees like a charter type school?
No, this is an option for private/charter schools that is not available to public schools. The district is restricted in the type and amount of fees it can charge.
- Does St. Alphonsus have the capacity to house more students?
Yes, based on current enrolment.

Comments arising from this round of table talk:

Comments with respect to advertising/marketing:

- More monies directed towards advertising - is it marketed downtown in office spaces / community boards
- The website does little to promote St, Angela as a school that may entice parents whose problems would be solved by one with soft-boundaries (workplace school) - more needs to be done in promotion of St. Angela's program format in service to working parents (i.e. when Googling ""what's my school"", there needs to be some way of funneling parental interest to St. Angela's school, which is listed as one that serves Bridgeland).

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- Information online needs to more accurately promote and guide parental interest to St. Angela. May families in communities all over Calgary need to know and more easily be able to find/discover that St. Angela is available to serve family needs.
- Community awareness is low in Bridgeland - engaging with the community association, School Council used to share through the community association to community
- Use of Bright signs
- Social Media tagging
- Find a creative way to fund full day Kindergarten...as the slide shown did indicate an increase in enrollment.
- Invest money in promoting the school downtown in other workplace sites
- Marketing strategies to help increase enrollment
- Better communication and advertising with the community and accepting of non-resident and workplace school. Like the small class sizes.
- Advertising the school-daycares
- Somehow get the word out to more people who may not understand or know Catholic schools exist.
- Marketing the workplace idea, full day kindergarten, is there a possibility of having free parking at OLPH, this was available in 2014. That was part of the advertising campaign in 2009 to grow in enrollment. This location has a great potential to grow.
- We have to sell St. Angela and its programs and make more people aware within Calgary. We have to inform others of the benefits of our school community (low teacher-student ratio, before and after care, great teachers, opportunities for students to engage with seniors in the neighbourhood)
- Advertise in all church bulletins, community newsletters etc. to make parishioners aware of the Workplace School option.
- A more consistent message on if school is going to close or stay open. The uncertainty can cause parents to look elsewhere.
- Better promotion of the workplace school- lots of people not aware
- Approach developer (Truman Homes) involved in community to assist school financially- upgrades, donations and ideas to boost the population.
- Improve information about the location of the school and its availability to the greater community.
- Promotion of the KinderCare program to the greater community to attract families to the school.
- Place a greater emphasis on, or market around, the workplace school.
- Widespread advertising of the school since it is a city centre school - it may appeal to a wide range of people in all quadrants.
- The need for better advertising of the school and its features, supports and programs. For example, the Bridgeland Daycare and Afterschool Care Program supports 20-25% of the school population.
- Advertising of the school as being a Workplace School Site and extend an invitation for all community members to register. Advertisements must include specific details of the services offered through a workplace school site.
- All social media outlets; Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, billboards, signs, sandwich boards, Google, flyers, newspaper articles, pamphlets and community newsletters throughout Calgary. These advertisements must be in various languages as to support all members of the community. The advertisements should be throughout all communities as well as throughout inner city, city center (downtown), all educational settings (SAIT, U of C, Bow Valley, Columbia College) these are all central locations.
- Advertising for the workplace school.
- Partnerships with downtown daycares. Provide the daycares with the information about the workplace school environment.

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- Market the "small community school" (Parents like small schools) especially for diverse learners and complex needs learners.
- More marketing for the school
- Advertise the workplace school placement and St. Angela should be open to the entire district this way we can evangelize more students. One family shared that they converted since then.
- Advertise that we accept students from all denominations.

Comments with respect to alternative/specialized programs:

- Look at other ways to deliver curriculum - STEM, STEAM,
- Introduce a STEM stream; parents have a great interest in this now
- Make this school specialized in a specific area (E.g. STEM fields) to attract a certain population (engineers, etc.)?
- Convert this school to French immersion
- Increase different programming-FDK was popular
- French Immersion population
- Invite the Bridge Foundation or other organizations to run programs here e.g. mentorship
- Full day kindergarten
- Special programs (language, arts, extracurricular, programs to support academics)
- More stable before and after school program
- Bring alternative programs to St. Angela like a Chinese language program or something similar
- Specializing a Chinese language program within this school. Engaging with the church in the neighbourhood and making families aware of the program/possibility. The Chinese Catholic church in the area is a growing parish. There is no Catholic Chinese school in the area. Spark the interest of the Chinese community.
- St. Alphonsus is specializing in fine arts and Italian.
- Increase clubs, programs with volunteers to increase the enrollment of the school
- Consider a Tech/Programming school (preferably), maybe a Science school.
- Make it a Fine Arts School
- We must be intentional in the introduction of programs to the school, the fear is that what will occur is that the families at Langevin School are now experiencing a lottery where their children are not able to attend their community school due to the school being at capacity from the programs being offered and filled by students travelling from all over the city. We would not want this to happen at St. Alphonsus School.
- Provide a viable alternative to full day Kindergarten.
- If we add more programs in this school (Science, fine arts, Athletics, French Immersion or other languages) it might attract more students to this school living in the community and beyond. (Using the Langevin school as an example)
- Introduce a language program into the school to increase attendance
- Other schools have been successful by introducing alternative programs into the schools and they are thriving e.g. science, IB programs, fine arts, Spanish programs are proving to be popular

Comments with respect to attendance areas:

- Can you increase enrollment at St. Angela by sending some of the students from St. Alphonsus? Given the fact that some of the St. Angela's students feed to St. Alphonsus, it seems logical that this could be done both ways.
- Change boundaries for St. Alphonsus (i.e.; Mayland Heights is currently bused to St. Alphonsus, change the attendance area so that Mayland Heights comes to St. Angela

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- Prioritize enrollment from other areas to increase population at St. Angela
- Redirect schools that have a high enrollment here
- The most obvious answer is to separate the area from St. Alphonsus-leave it as a Jr. H and move the K-6 here at St. Angela
- Merge another smaller school with St. Angela
- Direct students overflowed from other schools to attend here
- Access other venues - shelters, etc. for more population
- Reshape the attendance area. New communities that are overflowing could use St. Angela.
- Make St. Angela k-4 and St. Alphonsus 5-9?

Comments with respect to current educational program:

- Get the marks up - ranking (sample size is low) - Fraser Report
- Do the technical considerations apply here - example teacher professional development (are they complaining?)
- Reduce teacher turnover every year, this is frustrating to the parents and students
- Increase school from grades k—9
- Extend the years to grade 7-8-9
- After school program needs to stay open.
- There are zero transportation fees here at this school.

General comments with respect to school closure:

- Closing the school will create a void in our community. CBE has a lot of enrollment with the science school. Cannot attend due to lottery system.
- We like the school. It is close to home. Walk to school.
- There are lots of resources within Calgary to bring together. Reasonable effort and good return.
- Looking at what the City of Calgary is trying to do by building of density. Long term, the accessibility of a publicly funded school will continue to attract families to this area.
- Before and after school care = peace of mind.
- Helps with shared custody issues - restructure court rulings.

Comments with respect to funding/fund raising:

- Is there a way/option for parents to help raise funds (via charity, contributions, fundraising) to maintain the status quo?
- Rent the space to other neighboring schools for the purpose of home economics, shop class, CTF
- Look for funding e.g. Calgary Foundation Funding - they are always looking for programs

Comments with respect to increasing services:

- Add transportation (bussing) for students who live more than 1 km away from school.
- Start Before and After School Care at 6:00 Am rather than 7:00 am (Many parents or guardians leave to work at 6:00 am - there are other schools that have an earlier start time for their Before and After School programs)

Question 3: Should the Board decide that St. Angela School is to be closed, what factors should we consider as we consider options for students currently attending St. Angela?

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Questions arising from this round of Table Talk:

- How can you plan without robust answers provided in the document?
The answers in the document were as robust as can be given that no decision has been made. Once a decision is made the district will engage with the community again on April 28.
- How do students who succeed in a small school environment adapt to a larger school environment?
Regardless of size, district schools and staff use a variety of structures and means to ensure each student feels that they are part of a safe and caring community where they can experience success.
- Will the workplace school program relocate to another school nearby?
The workplace school is a concept that is unique to St. Angela, although more and more schools are now providing before/after school care, reducing the need for a workplace school.
- Where would current students of St. Angela attend?
Once a final decision has been made, the district will engage with the community again on April 28 to consider options for students.
- What happens to the actual school building?
The district may continue reviewing options and opportunities for students, the community and district needs as well as work with the City of Calgary as per the terms of the Joint Use Agreement for municipal school reserves.
- When the economy picks up once again, have we considered that the school may re-surge then?
This possibility is factored into the enrolment projections.
- What will be the transportation solution if students are attending a different school (i.e. busing, etc.)?
Students that enroll in their District designated school may be eligible for transportation. Students that choose to attend a school outside of their community's designated school are not eligible to apply for transportation. District transportation's current eligibility criteria can be found [here](#). The 'Designated Schools By Community' list is updated every year and can be found [here](#). Parents are advised that the District is currently considering possible changes to the walk distance for 2020-21 implementation due to budgetary considerations. Should the distance change for next year, the public announcement would be made sometime in May or June 2020.
- Many parents do not have a way to transport their children to school. How will transportation costs to new schools be accommodated?
Once a final decision is made, there will be further consultation with parents regarding sustainability (if the decision is to remain open) or options available to students (if the decision is to close). This consultation has been scheduled for April 28, at St. Angela School, at 7PM. More information regarding this meeting will be provided with the April 9 letter.
- Can other schools take the influx of students from St. Angela?
- What would be the capacity of the new school?
As noted in the February 3 letter to parents, all students could be accommodated in other district schools should St. Angela School be closed.
- Will childcare be provided at more schools (in elementary) if students are attending home schools next year?
Many district schools currently provide before/after school care.
- How does the Catholic district feel that parents may have to remove their students from the faith-based district if the school closes?
It is a parent's right to choose where their child will attend school. The district is proud of its schools and programs. Many parents choose to place their children in a faith-based program even though it is not within walking distance.

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- What other small schools (our family's preference) are possibilities for us? We prefer a small school environment for our kids.
Parents are entitled to register their child at any Catholic school outside their attendance area, assuming there is available space and resources. Should a parent elect to do so, transportation is not provided.
- What are the other schools for Bridgeland residents?
- Many of the families have limited resources, how will they be supported should St. Angela close?
Once a final decision is made, there will be further consultation with parents regarding sustainability (if the decision is to remain open) or options available to students (if the decision is to close). This consultation has been scheduled for April 28, at St. Angela School, at 7PM. More information regarding this meeting will be provided with the April 9 letter.
- With the diverse needs of our students, how would they be supported in a larger school to the same degree?
As school population grows, typically, so does the number of students with diverse needs and the supports available to help those students be successful.
- For students outside of Bridgeland whose local Catholic school is at capacity where would our children go?
Whenever a district school reaches capacity, restricted enrolment procedures are implemented that result in students redirected to and hosted at a nearby district school.
- For those of us who are non-residents and we don't want our students to go to a public school where would our children go?
District practice with respect to non-resident (non-Catholic) students is currently under review. Parents of non-resident students can expect to hear more on this matter in the coming months.
- What would this building be used for?
The district may continue reviewing options and opportunities for students, the community and district needs as well as work with the City of Calgary as per the terms of the Joint Use Agreement for municipal school reserves
- If the school has been running a deficit for the past three years, why didn't our school community know?
We could have been proactive with a plan.
That is, in part, the purpose of the February 25 engagement.
- From the District's perspective is the budget of \$3 million renovation small or large? (i.e. St. Gerard's budget is 10 million)
St. Gerard is almost double the size of St. Angela. Modernization costs are a function of the size, age and condition of the facility.
- What will you do to address the needs of many of the current St. Angela students who come with trauma/PTSD (effects of war) from other countries?
All Calgary Catholic schools deal with students with special education needs from a variety of different backgrounds, including childhood trauma. The district has supports available to all schools to support these students.
- How will you prevent bullying in larger school settings further away from their neighbourhood and how will you create inclusive communities in those schools?
Regardless of size, district schools use a variety of structures to ensure each student feels that they are part of a safe and caring community.
- Some families will not have the financial means to go to further schools e.g. transportation cost. What can the district provide for these families?
Once a final decision is made, there will be further consultation with parents regarding sustainability (if the decision is to remain open) or options available to students (if the decision is to close). This consultation has

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been scheduled for April 28, at St. Angela School, at 7PM. More information regarding this meeting will be provided with the April 9 letter.

- Is there a waitlist for the before and after school program?
- Would parents who take advantage of the workplace school aspect be able to maintain that at the new school location wherever that may be?
- Would you consider making St. Alphonsus School a Workplace school?
Once a final decision is made, parents can expect further consultation regarding sustainability (if the decision is to remain open) or options available to students (if the decision is to close). The Boys and Girls Club (Renfrew) is aware of the closure consideration process and has indicated they do not have a waitlist, and they are able to expand.
- Will bussing be provided?
District transportation eligibility criteria can be found [here](#). Transportation is dependant on several factors, including eligibility and number of registrations. Parents are advised that the District is currently considering possible changes to the walk distance for 2020-21 implementation due to budgetary considerations. Should the distance change for next year, the public announcement would be made sometime in May or June 2020.
- Should St. Angela close, would all the students be allowed to move or redirected to St. Alphonsus?
- Where would Kindergarten attend in September?
Once a final decision is made, there will be further consultation with parents regarding sustainability (if the decision is to remain open) or options available to students (if the decision is to close). This consultation has been scheduled for April 28, at St. Angela School, at 7PM. More information regarding this meeting will be provided with the April 9 letter.
- How would the district support change for those students?
When school communities are moved, either as a result of enrolment pressures, modernization projects or school/program closure, transition plans are determined by school staff as the year unfolds. Open Houses, Family BBQs and common activities have all served to support students and parents as they transition to their new school community.
- Do I need to rush and register at St. Alphonsus in case it reaches capacity?
No, there will be further consultation with parents regarding sustainability (if the decision is to remain open) or options available to students (if the decision is to close). This consultation has been scheduled for April 28, at St. Angela School, at 7PM. More information regarding this meeting will be provided with the April 9 letter.
- Will enrollment be capped at St. Alphonsus if St. Angela closes?
- When will I know where my child will attend if he/she cannot attend St. Alphonsus if St. Angela closes?
- What will happen if St. Alphonsus School becomes full and reaches capacity?
- Is there capacity at St. Alphonsus? Or other schools? Will it result in over-crowding?
Once a final decision is made, there will be further consultation with parents regarding sustainability (if the decision is to remain open) or options available to students (if the decision is to close). This consultation has been scheduled for April 28, at St. Angela School, at 7PM. More information regarding this meeting will be provided with the April 9 letter. Modular classrooms are one way
- Could St. Alphonsus accommodate students? Are portables feasible or appropriate?
CCSD philosophy for school design is based on “right-sizing” to be able to accommodate the number of students being generated in the planned area and “life-cycling” towards ensuring the long-term stable population of the different age groups within the planned area in a sustainable manner. The addition and movement of modular classroom supports this philosophy.
- Could we work with other schools that have a similar schedule in the area? Will they accommodate if families are living out of the area?

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Parents are entitled to register their child at any Catholic school outside their attendance area, assuming there is available space and resources. Should a parent elect to do so, transportation is not provided.

- Some schools have wait lists. Would our children be accepted in those schools?
District schools at or near capacity have restricted enrolment procedures developed in consultation with the school community. Information on these procedures can be obtained from the school.
- How would non-Catholics be accepted into other schools?
- What will happen to the non-Catholic families that have been accepted?
District practice with respect to non-resident (non-Catholic) students is currently under review. Parents of non-resident students can expect to hear more on this matter in the coming months.
- We have not seen the fall out of the lottery at Langevin School. Would this leave us with no community school for Bridgeland residents?
Every community has a designated school, but not every community has a school within the community.
- Would the same services be provided at other schools that are similar to what we have? (i.e. before and after school care)
Parents can expect further consultation regarding sustainability (if the decision is to remain open) or options available to students (if the decision is to close). This consultation has been scheduled for April 28, at St. Angela School, at 7PM. The Boys and Girls Club (Renfrew) is aware of the closure consideration process and has indicated they do not have a waitlist, and they are able to expand.
- Can the student body all be re-located to the same place?
Parents can expect further consultation regarding sustainability (if the decision is to remain open) or options available to students (if the decision is to close). This consultation has been scheduled for April 28, at St. Angela School, at 7PM.

Comments arising from this round of table talk:

Comments with respect to any proposed solution:

- Consider the capacity of schools within the area
- We need a clearer plan as to where our children would go if our school closes.
- Students that live in the attendance area would be negatively impacted as well as receiving schools due to larger class sizes.
- The smaller school provides parents with a sense of security and belonging that we feel cannot be found in larger schools.
- We are family, it will be hard on students and families to break apart those relationships they have developed since Kindergarten.
- Cost for families will increase as they will need to go further for school. Friends at the school. Impact the family routine.
- A sub-par outcome.
- Our students are going to lose DPA, learning commons, librarian, our lower income families have a pantry and have can access, uniforms.
- It would be ideal if all of St. Angela could transfer to St. Alphonsus.
- Communities are much better served with small schools.
- Consider having advanced programming - engineering, computer programming etc. at all schools to give us more options.
- Parents will have to move houses, change communities, in order to have their children attend school

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- Priority access should be provided within a reasonable distance. Every other school is full (i.e. St. Alphonsus, St. Joseph)
- Transportation to St. Monica
- Absorbed into community school defeats purpose of workplace school.

Comments with respect to transportation:

- Bussing and transportation fees paid for
- Transportation. Tell us how this will be addressed and consider a subsidy to support this move (students out of the area, extra transportation fees)
- Transportation
- Bussing
- Transportation would be an issue
- Ensure that transportation is available to students
- Transportation aspects need to be looked at as the main hill to St. Alphonsus is a limiting factor for people that live in Bridgeland.
- Transportation would become a concern...extra costs and time.

Comments with respect to distance:

- Keep the students as close to the community as possible.
- Consider commute time for kids to St. Monica or St. Alphonsus.
- Travel time for parents and students will increase causing stress on the family unit.
- Not sure what the other options are; both schools within walking distance will be closed. The option is to put the students on a bus to have them go to a school that is farther away. A bus you have to pay for; this school has childcare for before and after school.
- People have one car or no car; makes it more challenging for families
- Parents will have to drive their children to another school and as newcomers to Canada, that is difficult for us.
- Long commute impacting the environment.

Comments reflecting concern about the potential closure:

- Disconnecting Bridgeland community from a community school.
- Empty school building will increase crime in Bridgeland.
- The role of the school in the community is being overlooked.
- St. Angela was the only option in CSSD that worked for our family, and I chose the Catholic system but may be forced to move.
- Consideration of the families. It will be a big void in this community.
- If the school closes, parents will have to look for jobs in a different area which can cause stress on the family unit.
- You are not just closing a school; you are forever changing the community. New students, especially immigrants to this neighbourhood will not thrive being bused outside of the community.

Comments with respect to faith and parish connection:

- Keep the connection with Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish - continue to visit, Father has option to visit and connect with students at the new school
- Work with parish to have specific community events for the families designated to St. Angela

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- Faith
- We need to know our Catholic school options
- Be clear with boundaries for closest Catholic schools

Comments with respect to transition:

- Supporting a smooth transition to new school - visits, lunches. get to know you BBQ
- Consider the integration process - students on a Learning Support Plan
- Maintain sense of community by transferring students (i.e. teachers moving with some students)
- All these kids have been together since kindergarten, it would be great for the students to stay together.
- We would have to move to another Catholic school - changing schools will be difficult for our children as we are newcomers - transitions are difficult psychologically

Comments with respect to Before/After School Care:

- Before and after school care - lots of current childcare options are or will filled by the time parents can register
- Ensure before and after school program continues.
- Before and after school programming needs to be considered for those parents who take advantage of it now.
- Consider providing before/after school program at St. Alphonsus and other schools close by - it is currently not provided, and this is a clear drawback to many families.

General Comments:

- Putting more pressure on society and families.
- Dog care could work as an option to make money.
- The teachers do a wonderful job in supporting one another and our children and families.
- There will be a loss of students attending Catholic schools in the area if it closes. This will reduce revenue to the district.