

Webster Niblock & Southview School

Long-Term Facilities & Sustainability Plan

Tuesday, January 6, 2026
MHPSD Board Meeting





Agenda Overview

- Capital Planning Overview
- Timeline: School Amalgamation Engagement
- Data Collection: Community Engagement Session & Stakeholder Survey
- Planning Considerations:
 - Programming
 - School of Choice
 - Financial
- Webster Niblock School Information
- Southview School Information
- Recommendations



Capital Planning Overview

- The 2026-2029 capital plan was informed by a 3-day value scoping (VS) exercise that occurred in January 2025.
- Alberta Education staff and external architect consultants experienced in replacement and new school construction projects provided valuable insight.



Value Scoping Criteria

Project Evaluation Criteria. Capital options considered must meet **ALL** criteria:

- **Priority A (Fiscal)** – responsible use of government resources.
- **Priority B (Fiscal)** – right-size facilities for operational and staffing efficiencies.
- **Priority C (Facilities)** – address aging infrastructure and facility inefficiencies.
- **Priority D (Education)** – facilities that provide spaces for 21st Century Learning.



Capital Plan Overview – Submitted April 2025

- Priority 1 – Southeast K-9 on Crestwood Site
- Priority 2 – Elm Street Replacement School
- Priority 3 - Vincent Massey Replacement School



MHPSD Enrollment Trends

Traditional School Buildings	# Students 2015/16	# Students 2025/26	Category	# Schools
Elm Street	171	118	Under 200 students	4
Southview	229	137		
Herald	242	148		
Webster Niblock	315	174		
Vincent Massey	310	204	Between 200 - 299 students	6
George Davison	349	208		
Ross Glen	326	222		
Crestwood	487	286		
Christian School	296	286	Between 300 - 399	2
Dr. Ken Sauer	-	298		
River Heights	318	312	400+ Students	4
Connaught	468	379		
AMS	360	425		
DRWLC	665	726		
CHHS	1,248	1,177		
MHHS	1,188	1,298		

- Over the past decade, the number of MHPSD schools with fewer than 300 students has increased from 5 to 10.
- Having 10 schools below 300 students is atypical compared to other urban and metro divisions in Alberta.
- No two MHPSD schools are located more than 10km apart.



Process Timeline

- **Tuesday, November 4, 2025:**

The Board agreed to explore the closure of Southview School and Webster Niblock School for September 1, 2026, in accordance with the consultation process outlined in Policy 724.

- **November 10 - 14:** Staff engagement conversations

- **November 17 – December 5:** Stakeholder online survey window

- **November 20:** Webster Niblock School Council Meeting

- **November 27:** Southview School Council Meeting

- **December 3:** Southview School Community Engagement

- **December 4:** Webster Niblock Community Engagement



Community Engagement Sessions & Survey

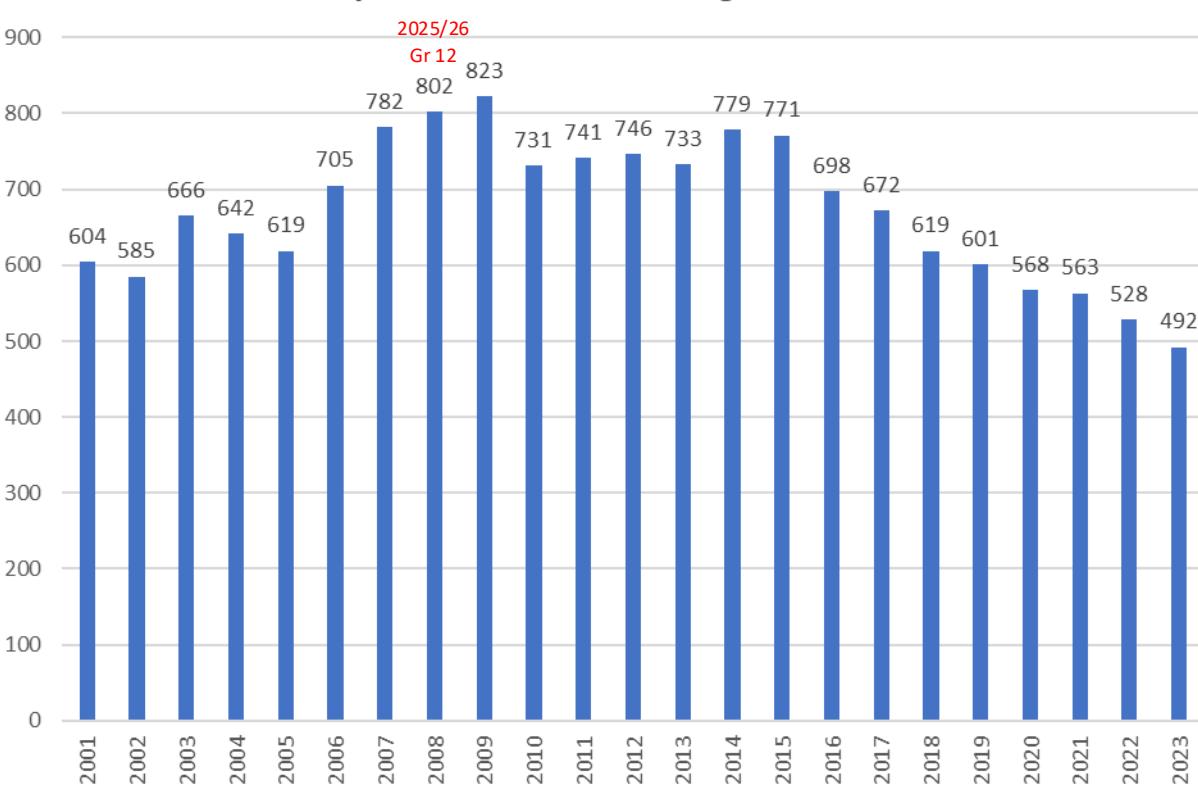
- 99 Survey Responses
- 102 participants attended The Community Engagement sessions hosted at the MHPSD Office and Medicine Hat High School.
- **Feedback informed the planning and recommendations shared in this presentation.**
- Key Feedback Themes:
 - Relationships, Belonging, and Community
 - School Capacity Constraints
 - Class Size Concerns
 - Transportation
 - Transition & Change
 - Staffing, Supports, and Services



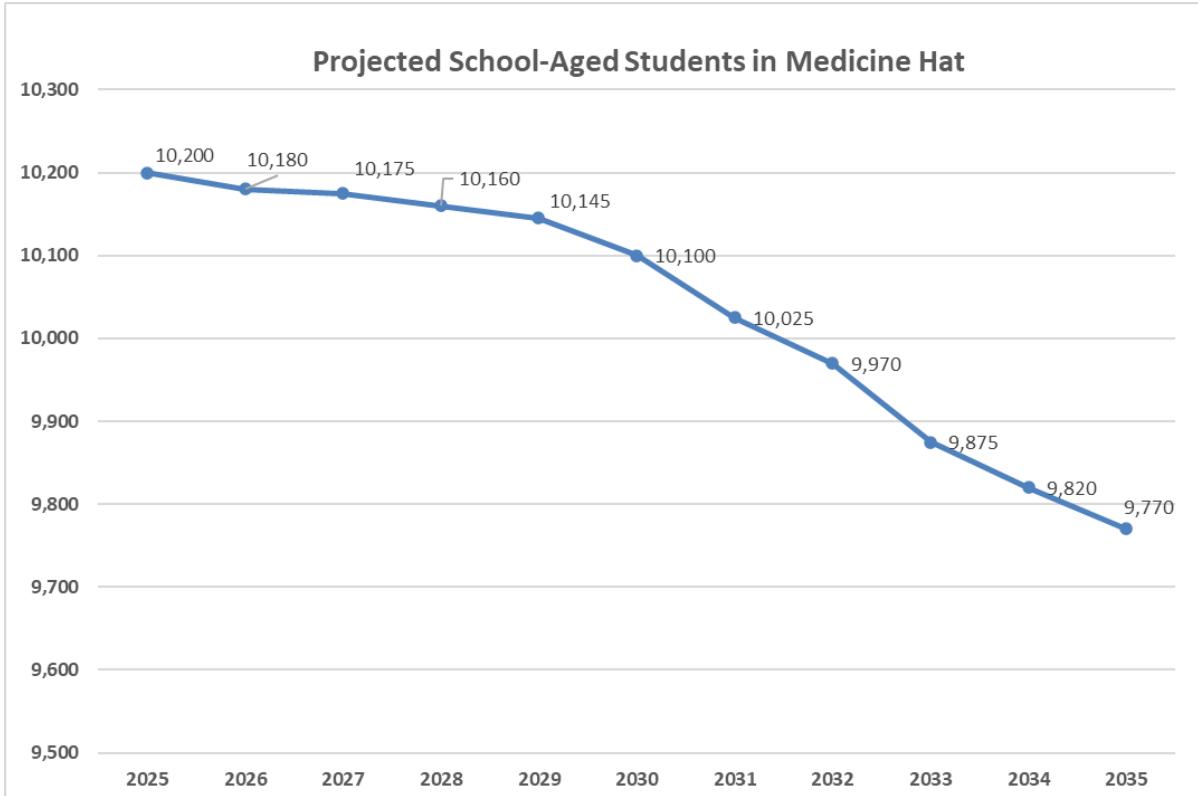


Medicine Hat Population Trends

Births by Year for Mothers Living in Medicine Hat



Projected School-Aged Students in Medicine Hat



- This chart considers births and migration trends.
- There is an expected reduction of 430 school-aged students in Medicine Hat over the next decade.



MHPSD Enrollment Trends

- Population trends and projections indicate a continued decline in the number of school-aged children in Medicine Hat.
- Kindergarten enrollment – A decline in births over the past decade has directly contributed to smaller kindergarten class sizes in recent years.
- Annual kindergarten enrollment is significantly lower than the number of students graduating from grade 12.

	# Students
5 Yr Average of Outgoing Grade 12's	- 621
5 Yr Average of Incoming Kindergarten	<hr/> 386
Net Annual Expected Reduction in Students	- 235



Universal Programming

- Higher school enrollment:
 - offers greater programming flexibility
 - expanded student opportunities
 - multiple classrooms at each grade level enables staff collaboration and professional growth opportunities
 - reduce split grade structures



Student Supports

- Amalgamation offers efficiencies and new opportunities with system supports:
 - school flexibility to strategically plan for academic and SEL interventions
 - increased accessibility to contracted service providers
 - enhanced responsiveness of division-level targeted supports for school teams (ex. Alternative Learning Team)



School of Choice

- Participants indicated that they value the opportunity to have school of choice decisions.
 - Education Act 10 (2 & 3)
 - Parents would be able to make school of choice requests through the registration process.
- The Division will support collaboration between amalgamating schools to support continued relationships to the greatest extent possible as well as providing timely communication to families.
 - The proposed boundary revisions are intended to ensure healthy and stable school populations without overcrowding.
 - Impact on transportation if you choose a school outside your boundary.



Staffing Enhancements

- Looking at the last 7 years, at different times, Webster Niblock and Southview School have received supplementary staffing to support class size and classroom complexity. Despite funds being redirected from other division schools, staffing remains a challenge.
- At minimum the cost has been \$373,000, this does not include additional funds redirected mid-year to support challenges.
- With a number of small schools, the Division needs to address the ongoing concerns of being able to support all of our schools with the funding we have.



Staffing in General

- Participant feedback focused on continuity, adequate staffing levels, and staff placement.
 - Staffing Levels
 - A majority of funds directed to schools are on a per pupil basis, staffing will follow the students
 - Government does not fund directly per individual student need
 - Division Administration continues to prioritize funding at the classroom level and was able to maintain ratios this past budget, with reductions to centralized services
 - Any additional operational savings would provide an opportunity to invest further into classrooms.
 - Continuity/Staff Placement – this presentation is based on maintaining a majority of our current students. This movement of students will create positions at the receiving schools.
 - All school staff are part of collective agreements that identify the process in which staff will be placed. We don't anticipate a reduction in staffing if students move from WN/SV to one of the receiving schools in our Division.
 - Clearly there is wisdom in having staff from WN/SV move with the students to the new location. However, staff will have input in the process and may look to other opportunities within the Division. This process would begin in the spring, once registration numbers are available.



Financial Considerations/Cost Savings

- **Operating** - Annual cost savings of closing Webster Niblock and Southview
 - \$500,000
 - To be reinvested in the classroom in teacher/EA positions.
- **Capital** - Deferred maintenance required for each school
 - Webster Niblock \$4,374,000
 - Southview \$3,558,000
\$7,932,000



Transition Planning

If a decision is made to amalgamate schools, we know, and our families confirmed, that intentional transition planning is essential.

- Short-term (pre-registration):
 - Meet with administration at impacted schools.
 - Create an opportunity for families to visit and/or communicate with the other schools in their area (e.g. open house).
 - Identify and communicate other important information families will need to make an informed decision (e.g. bus routes, boundary info, before & after school care).
- Long-term (post-registration):
 - Continue to work with school administration to create other opportunities for student and families to familiarize themselves with the school and staff at the new school (e.g. family nights).
 - Student services to support transition planning and continue work with the school's FSLW and school administration to explore what mental health supports are available to assist students and families around coping with change.
 - Work with impacted schools to check-in with families around what supports are working and what additional supports might be considered.
 - Support staff with the process and actual move to a new location.





Webster Niblock School

Webster Niblock School: Theme Analysis

- Relationships, Belonging, & Social Connections
- Staffing, Supports, & Services
- School Capacity Constraints
- Class Size
- Process, Decision-Making & Communication
- Transportation

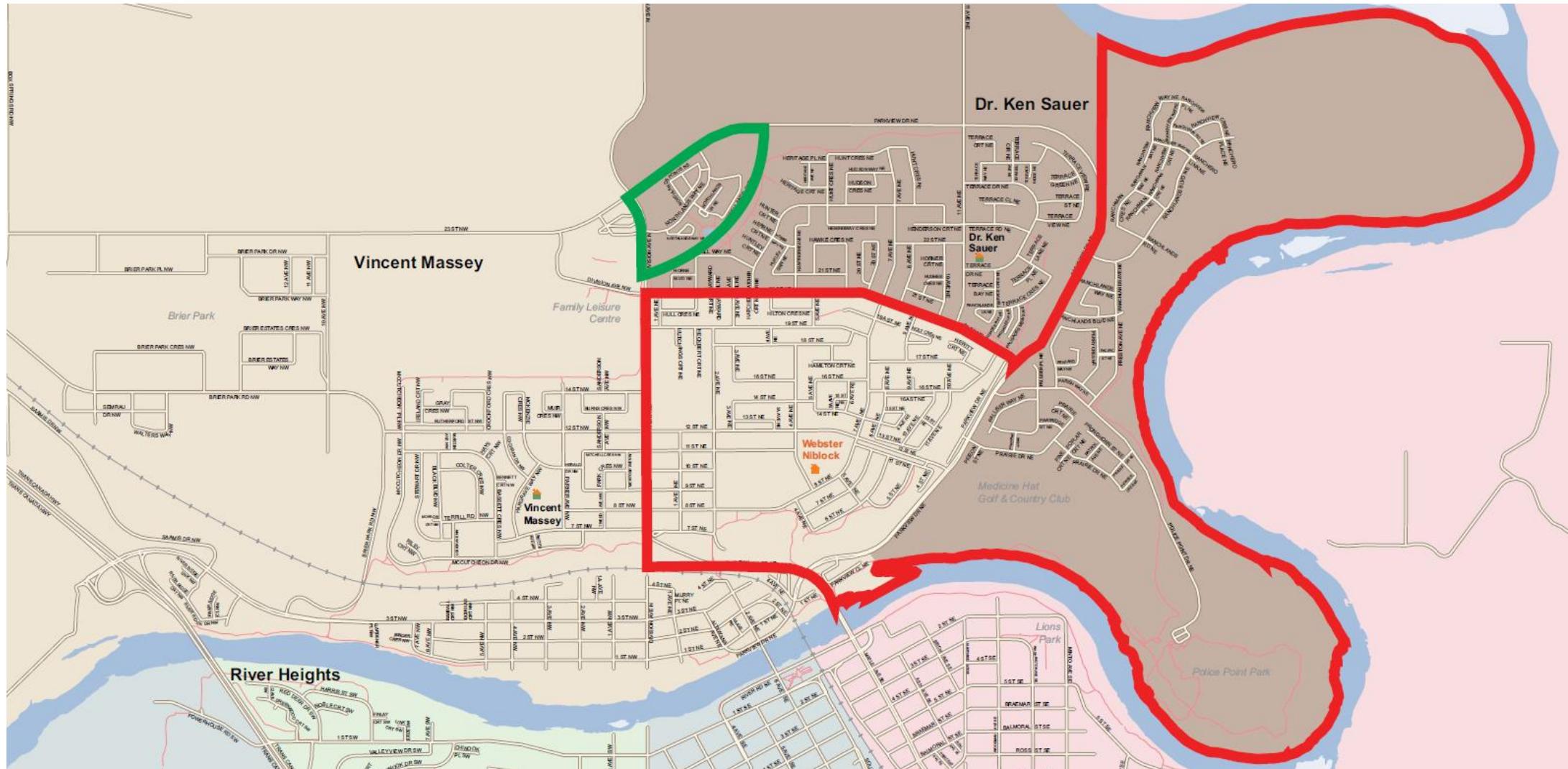


School Boundaries – North Elementary (Current)





School Boundaries – North Elementary Reconfiguration





School Boundaries – North Elementary Reconfiguration





Building Capacity – North Elementary

School Building	Current Enrollment	Current Building Capacity	Modular Additions	Updated Building Capacity (with modular additions)	Updated Projected Enrollment
Dr. Ken Sauer School	298	348		444	359
Vincent Massey School	204	391		439	320

**Projected enrollment based on the boundary reconfiguration presented.*



Transportation Webster Niblock

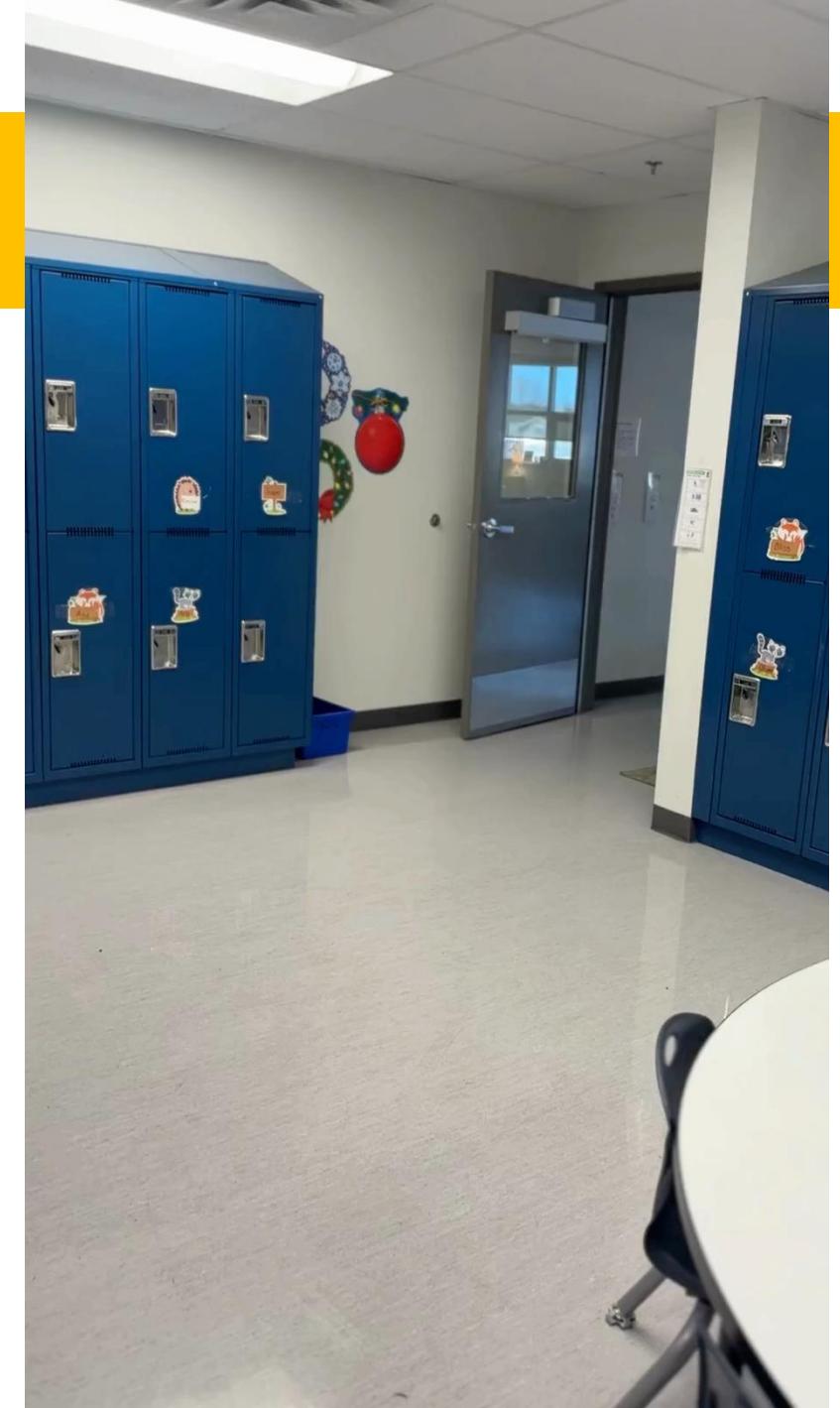
- If a decision is made to amalgamate schools, updated bus routes will be provided to families prior to registration.
- Alberta Education provides transportation funding for elementary students that live greater than 1.6km from their school.
- With current available capacity, the proposed updated bus routes will provide bus transportation at 1.4km.





MODULAR CLASSROOMS

- Directly connected to school building.
- Fully equipped with features like advanced HVAC, smart boards, plumbing, energy-efficient lighting, and security.
- Two classrooms can be connected to support collaborative learning environments.
- Built to the same stringent codes as traditional buildings, ensuring safe, durable, and modern classroom.





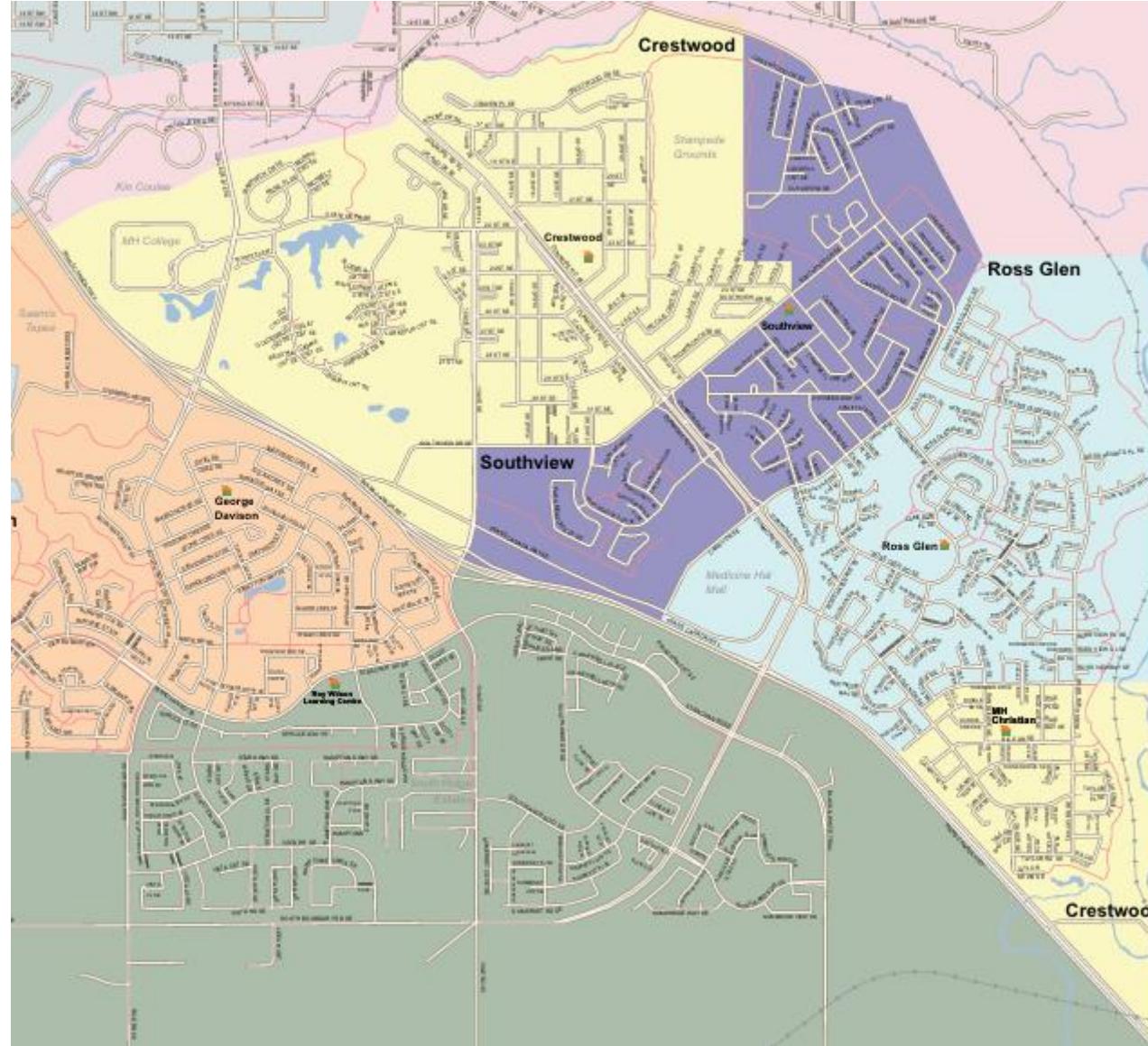
Southview School

Southview School: Theme Analysis

- Staffing, Supports, & Services
- Transition, Change & Planning
- Relationships, Belonging, & Social Connections
- School Capacity Constraints
- Class Size
- Transportation

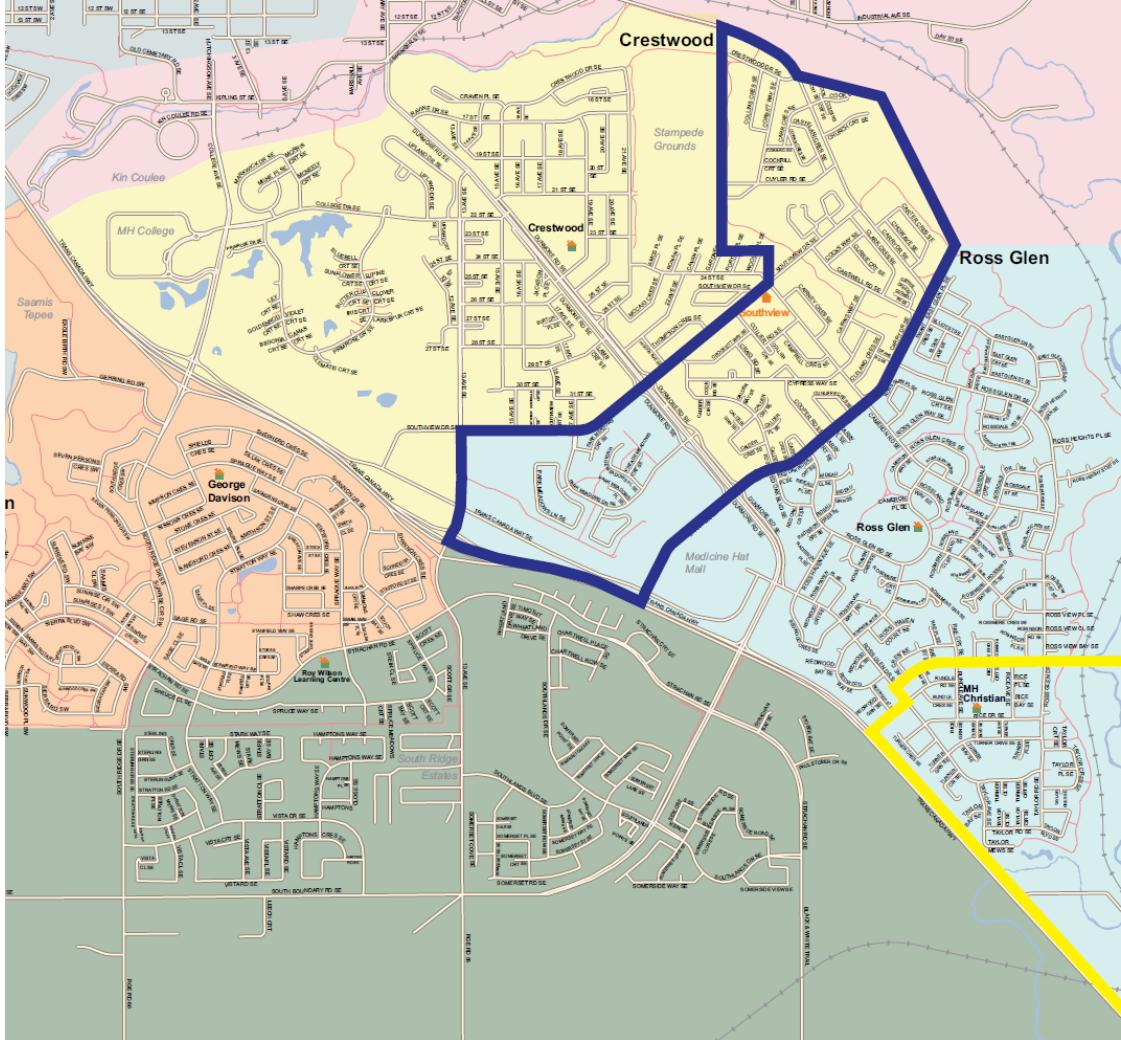


School Boundaries Southeast Elementary (Current)



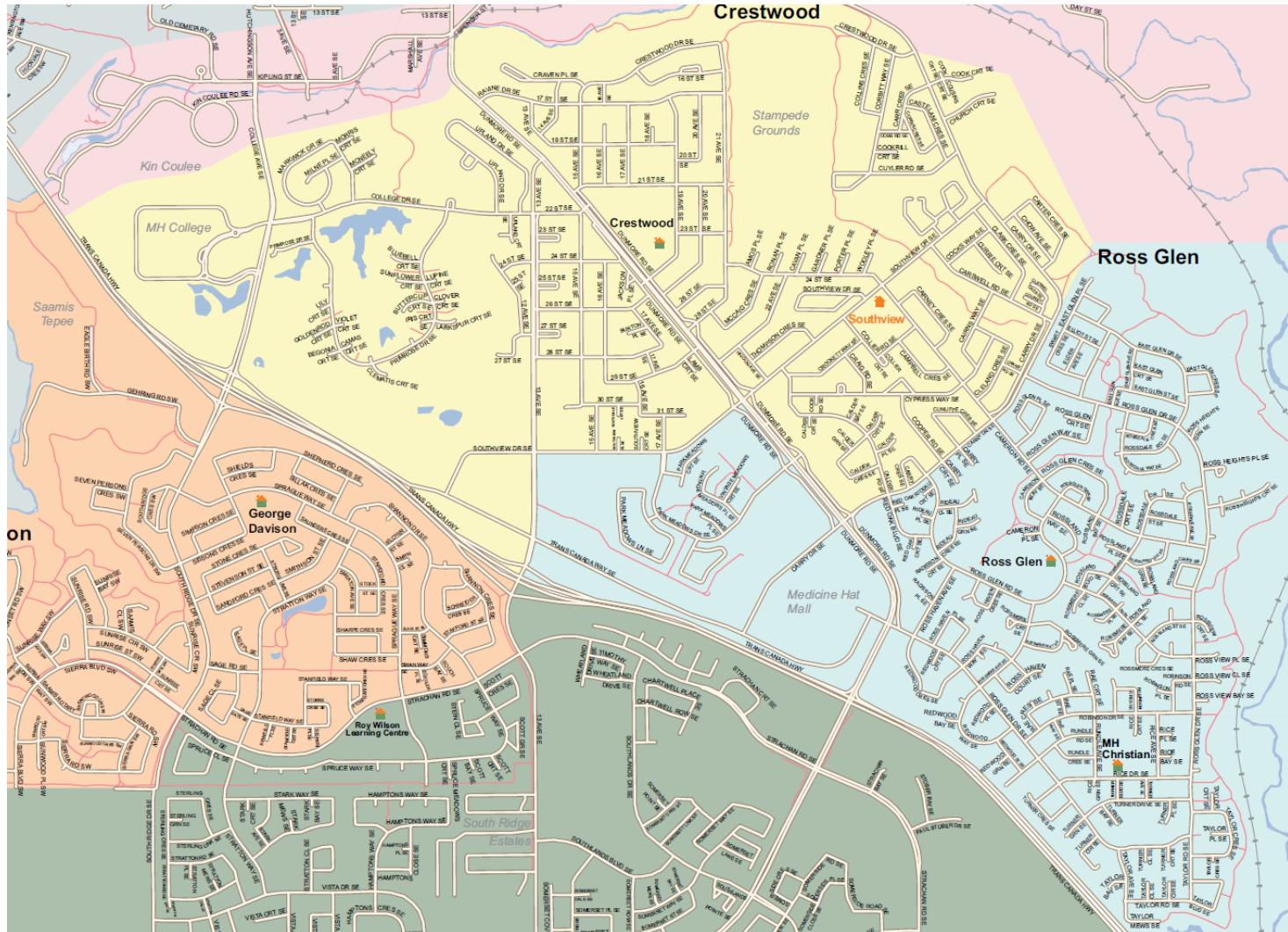


School Boundaries – Southeast Elementary Reconfiguration





School Boundaries – Southeast Elementary Reconfiguration





Transportation Southview

- If a decision is made to amalgamate schools, updated bus routes will be provided to families prior to registration.
- Alberta Education provides transportation funding for elementary students that live greater than 1.6km from their school.
- With current available capacity, the proposed updated bus routes will provide bus transportation at 1.4km.





Building Capacity – Southeast Elementary

School Building	Current Enrollment	Current Building Capacity	Updated Projected Enrollment
Ross Glen School	222	430	241
Crestwood School	286	576	441

**Projected enrollment based on the boundary reconfiguration presented.*



Southview School Recommendation

The recommendation follows the process outlined in Section 62 of the Education Act and Medicine Hat Public School Division Administrative Procedures 724. All feedback was reviewed and considered in the decision-making process.

It is recommended that the Board approve the closure of Southview School, at the completion of the 2025-2026 school year, and direct administration to develop and implement a transition plan.



Webster Niblock School Recommendation

The recommendation follows the process outlined in Section 62 of the Education Act and Medicine Hat Public School Division Administrative Procedures 724. All feedback was reviewed and considered in the decision-making process.

It is recommended that the Board approve the closure of Webster Niblock School, at the completion of the 2025-2026 school year, and direct administration to develop and implement a transition plan.



Board Discussion of Recommendations

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the closure of Southview School, at the completion of the 2025-2026 school year, and direct administration to develop and implement a transition plan.
2. It is recommended that the Board approve the closure of Webster Niblock School, at the completion of the 2025-2026 school year, and direct administration to develop and implement a transition plan.

