

# Proposed School Closures Survey – Raw Data

This survey was conducted from November 6 - December 5, 2025 to gather feedback from parents, staff and community members about the proposed closures of Webster Niblock and Southview Community Schools. There were 102 responses and any comments that identified a person have been removed. Respondents were parents/guardians, staff, community members or other. Responses have not been edited and are grouped by school.

<b>Southview Community School</b>	<b>Webster Niblock School</b>	<b>No school selected</b>
16 responses	83 responses	3 responses

## SOUTHVIEW COMMUNITY SCHOOL

(Parents/guardians, staff and community members)

### What are your overall thoughts about this proposal?

- Terrible idea, my son has adhd/odd and having a smaller school where all the teachers know him has made it easier on us. He transitioned to ELP when daycare was no longer safe for him and the environment at Southview has calmed him and made him enjoy school. If he's sent to a larger school with more kids there will be more issues for him. And this will be the same for many neurodivergent kids that are in South view.
- Do not close the schools. Very much needed in the areas they are in, many lower income families live near by. Smaller classes have advantages for both students and teachers. More 1:1, more connection, less frustration on all.
- Absolutely ridiculous to close schools then to moves more students to other schools to increase class sizes
- I don't believe these closures will benefit the kids at all
- I do not like the idea. This school has always provided great accommodations for my autistic and ADHD son, and I would hate to see those supports lost.
- Updates about where we are in the process before it goes out to the public
- I feel it is time to move on. It was a handful of students at Southview school when I worked there that could be easily placed between Ross Glen and Crestwood school. A major expense for few students.
- I am a pastor at a local church and we love our partnership with SCS. As a church we have volunteered at back to school BBQS, we have made yearly pancake breakfasts at the school for students/staff, we volunteer to mentor kids each week and we make goodie bags for the students each year at Christmas. With the potential of the school closing, we do not just lose a school but a community partner that is seeking to make this neighbourhood better amidst all the complex needs this community has.  
These kids are not just classmates, they are part of a community together. The SCS zone is a small zone (comparatively to the other school zones) and so these kids see each other

beyond school hours. I have seen these kids playing basketball on street corners with each other, tobogganing at the school hill all weekend, playing on the various playgrounds in our neighbourhood. This is the benefit of a community school vs a larger commuter based school.

As a volunteer, I have seen the struggle staff have faced with the varying learning needs of students. Each of the last 4 years, a good teacher has gone on stress leave and not returned to SCS to teach the following year. I have seen first hand the struggles teachers have faced with the large class sizes while trying to meet all the complex needs of the students.

However, this year is different. The culture has shifted within the school. I believe one of the primary reasons for this is the class sizes are smaller. Although teachers still have their struggles, it is more manageable then in the past. In previous years 25-30 kids in a room with high complex needs left kids acting out, disrupting the class and falling through the cracks. As classes have gotten smaller this year, students have more direct attention from their teacher and EA support. The environment at the school has changed. You can walk the halls now and there is a sense of peace, you can hear kids engaging with the lesson rather than acting out as in previous years.

Many of these kids come from challenging home environments, coming to Canada as immigrants or refugees. Many of the students have a higher score then the average school when it comes to the ACE score. This school is providing them with not only an education but a safe and reliable place.

Yes, wherever these kids end up, they will be loved and cared for by teachers, EAs and staff. My fear would be that these kids would get pushed to the margins, would not get the attention that they are currently receiving and that they need and would fall through the cracks or end up acting out causing increased struggles for that student and the rest of their class/school.

- I have a ten month old, seeing the closure of a school that I had gone to is heart breaking. In the next 4 - 5 years I will have to start thinking about schools to enroll my son, who knows by then if half of the elementary schools will be shut down.
- Not enough data provided, no capacity noted
- I do not think that this proposal is wise. If we close down Southview, children will be dispersed, which will impact other schools in the community and cause over crowding. Also, many students at Southview come from immigrant families and often do not have transportation so they walk to and from school as parents do not drive, if it is not in their community, then they will need to be bussed which is another expense.
- It will be devastating not only for the kids but also for our teachers and community as all
- 2 of the first 3 years I volunteered at the school it was chaos, and not at the teachers' or leaders fault. Class sizes were too large and the amount of coded kids that each classroom had was totally unmanageable for the teachers. In those two years I saw teachers quit or take stress leaves in the middle of the school year. It hasn't been until this year now that class sizes are semi-manageable for teachers have I noticed a significant difference in terms of school culture. The school is more peaceful and kids that require the extra help are getting the extra attention that they need. As a homeowner in the Southview community as well, I know and can attest to visually seeing the benefits this school has on our neighbourhood. Many of the kids I know and see at the school will walk to the school and I'll run into them occasionally

on walks. The majority of the kids I see walking also come from the community housing and apartment buildings located nearby.

### What factors are most important to you when considering school closures and changes to school boundaries?

- How it will affect the children going from a smaller school where they matter and everyone knows each-other to being new kids at a big school. Causing neurodivergent kids to act out and needing extra supports to calm them. Or making it hard on parents when you still won't have these supports and you'll just call and send them home. This not only affects the children's mental health but the teachers too. Southview community school has been amazing for our family and this is really disheartening to hear
- Class sizes, quality of care, safety of the building, staff and other kids, distance from home (many bike, walk, etc)
- Don't close schools
- Supports my child/ren will receive in a new location.
- Struggles for children to make friends in new environments.
- Transportation
- Class sizes after merging

### What ideas or alternatives do you suggest the Board considers?

- Look at other costs you can cut instead of closing schools
- More fundraisers, Community events
- Keep schools open to keep lower class sizes
- Expansion to schools to allow smaller/more diverse classrooms Additional teachers to support said classrooms
- I have no alternative ideas. I believe it's time for closure even if it is difficult for our hearts.
- Realigning schools to be K-3 and 4-6
- Alternative would be to properly maintain the current school.
- Well to keep the school the way it is
- Knowing that Southview has a large number of complexities to it, what would leaning into it look like? Making it more of a specialized school for the kids that do have learning disabilities or the kids that are also ESL students? That would be my thoughts if it came to closing the school, as an opportunity for continued use of a building while also being located within a prime location for learning complexity. While yes it may be a smaller school in number, it makes use of what would be an unused location, takes advantage of it's neighbourhood context, and relieves the surrounding schools of further complexity.
- Keeping it open. Figure out a way to get funding for older schools not just new schools.
- I think my answers above is something the board should consider. It will be such a shame if the board closes this school and burdens the families affected.
- Turning Southview into an ESL school to better support the communities immigrant population

- Really consider closing Southview school. Decisions are tough to make sometimes and we must move forward. I live on Riverside and I remember the controversy when that school was going to close. A good decision was made. Times are changing and lets move forward.
- Keeping Southview School open would be great, continuing to maintain the small class sizes to support the students with their complex needs.
- BUT, if the school is to close, perhaps the kids from the Taylor portion of Rossglen could become part of the Rossglen zone and then the Southview School students would all proceed to Crestwood. This would allow for many of these kids to continue to stay together but also helps maintain the sense of community in this neighbourhood.

### General Comments, questions feedback

- This is a very terrible thing to hear. Not only for the children but for the teachers and the community.
- When will this occur? Where will my children be sent to? Will siblings be kept together? Will friends be kept together?
- Thank you for including staff in the process. As district employees we go where we are placed and understand that we actually didn't have to be consulted. I appreciate the opportunity.
- The timing is suspect, right after an election, nobody campaigned on it
- My question for the Board is essentially if the decision is a financial one, the benefit better outweigh the cost. I understand the benefit of closing this school to save money and put more support towards Crestwood and Rossglen, but if those schools are put to capacity as a result, you can't tell me that won't come at the cost of student wellness. As personally knowing the classroom complexity of Southview, injecting that into other schools could be detrimental to the wellness of the students as sizes increase and students lose the support they might need. And if the decision is primarily financial then I struggle to see it being a decision made without actual consideration of the types of students that attend Southview. A school that is complex with multi-ethnicities and learning abilities.
- How much does Edsby cost?
- Keep small, community schools, we don't need schools with 300 plus kids. We need smaller, more engaged classrooms.
- Take our open classrooms and hire more teachers. Have small community based classes"
- If you or anyone would like to set up a meeting and discuss this... I would be more that happy to meet with you. I may be reached at xxx.xxx.xxxx
- As a pastor in this community, I understand how rare it is for a church and school to get to partner together in the capacity that we have had. We love SCS, the students, the teachers and staff. We understand the complexity of the issue and decision you are having to make. We would love to see SCS remain in our community. If not, we will look at ways to get involved at either of the schools where our community kids are attending with a hope to continue to make the Southview community better.

### What role has this school played in your community? (community members)

- I went to this school from grades 1- 6
- Neighbourhood kids go there

- This school is within my community and I have a child at Crestwood School.
  - A very important role, we've been committed to serving our community throughout our church, we provide movie nights for the kids, also through our ministry with different activities
  - I have been a volunteer there for the last 3 years.
  - It is part of my community.
  - They are a fountain of youth and my church Southview Community Church gives them an opportunity to participate in their own community. Closing down any school takes the life out of community because in my experience those schools sit and rot
  - My niece and nephew attended. I am a Ross Glen parent
  - It was a community school filled with many cultures
  - I have been a volunteer at SCS for the last 4 years and have seen first hand the excellent work of the staff yet also have seen the great needs these kids from the Southview community have in comparison to other schools I have been involved in previously.
- We have had the privilege of partnering together (Southview Community Church and the school) in trying to make this neighbourhood a better place for kids and their families. We have been blessed with this partnership as a church to be able to volunteer and get involved in the lives of the kids from our community. Together, we have been better!

### What can we do to honour the legacy (community members)

- Don't close them
- By remembering all the sacrifice that our teachers and community did to try to keep the school open
- They can't. You made the wrong decision
- It won't. It will undo all the work that has gone into Southview school over the last five years. And completely overload other schools
- I would like to receive the brick I purchased on the wall mural at the school. Thanks

## WEBSTER NIBLOCK SCHOOL

(Parents/guardians, staff and community members)

### What are your overall thoughts about this proposal?

- No, totally against it. Before we bought our house we looked at schools and their sizes. We liked Webster because it's small. Dr Ken is closer but it's too full. Also the demographics of our area have changed in the 11 years we have lived here. When we bought our house only one other kid who lived on our street out of 36 houses/units. Now there are 14 school aged kids, and another 10 younger kids. Where will these kids go to school? It's short sighted to close a smaller school with space, then to pack them into fuller schools. Especially when the demographics of our area are changing. I will be pulling my three school aged kids from the public system if Webster is closed, as it doesn't sound like the public system has their educational interests in mind.
- This is a terrible decision and extremely short sighted.

- Webster niblock is the most amazing school my whole family would be devastated by this. I think it's a bad idea. Where will all these kids go to another over crowded school. That is a bad idea
- Very concerned about classroom sizes and zoning. The community feel Webster created was astounding. I am concerned about staff- their allocations etc.
- Currently not in favour
- Extremely upset and frustrated. This will tear apart a close knit community, splitting kids up from their role models, friends, teachers and people they look up to, feel safe and comfortable with. This will contribute to overloading other schools and class rooms, contributing to larger class sizes and less supports and help for our children.
- Strongly against this proposal
- Would be so sad to see Webster close, I love the small school feeling
- Schools and classrooms are already over capacity, it would be foolish to close a school down and increase other schools beyond what they already are
- Extremely disappointed
- Not happy, we love Webster and would love to keep it in our community
- I think it's terrible
- This makes me absolutely sick having to respond to this survey. Closing Webster Niblock School is not just the loss of a building—it's loss of a community family that has flourished over the years. Families, teachers, and local residents have put their time, energy, and hearts into making the school what it is today. Shutting it down risks unraveling the immense chaos that the future will hold. Taking all of these kids away from years of supports, LOVE, friendships, and connections within the school will destroy them. This school has been around for some of our students that had grandparents attending, which makes it extra special when they show up everyday. Talk about the struggles of mental health now? Separating the teachers from families, kids from their friends and the entire school from a community that is everybody's safe space; will cause a MASS amount of trauma. Such an amount, that the schools won't be able to handle or hire enough help to manage. Cramming more kids into already overcrowded schools is NOT the answer. The kids that struggle in silence now, will be pushed further into the corner as the number of children with higher needs continues to grow. This school isn't even the smallest or oldest one in Medicine Hat. It has had many upgrades over the years and continues to have constant enrolment. The amount of success stories that have come from within these walls wouldn't have happened if it wasn't for the teachers and community that accepts everyone like FAMILY. CLOSING THIS SCHOOL IS A HUGE MISTAKE. I encourage you to reconsider this school even as a thought.
- I do not agree with the proposal of closure for this school.
- MHPSD is doing a poor job in retaining children in the neighbourhoods they live in. Parents may be free to take children to other schools for other programs, that is their choice. but by not offering programs at these community schools they effectively create have and have not schools. New schools effectively get the desirable programming regardless of their class sizes. My proposal is to attract students by putting the desirable programming at these schools. Parents transport their children clear across the city for a program just for their

children to quit the following year and then stay in that school, thereby stripping the community school of funding and student population stability.

- It makes me very sad. I took the survey with the last proposal and my stance remains the same; children need stability. We love Webster Niblock for their smaller class sizes and the intimacy of connecting with families in this area of town. The surrounding schools are crowded and I think you'd be doing these kids a great disservice. I'd recommend maybe relocating some of the kids from other schools to Webster to remove the crowding there. We love the staff and my two kids have been there since kindergarten. My children are fearful of not seeing their peers and teachers and not knowing what to expect.
- I think that we have a great community at Webster and my son and myself like the smaller class sizes compared to other schools. With closing Webster it will make class sizes larger at other schools.
- Crap, let the kids learn
- It's a complete backwards proposal. Teachers say there's over crowding to these schools so now you close two just to completely overload the other schools. What kind of bird brained idea is that? They have all the cores, what more is needed to be worthy? Or would you rather fill it with fluff so they don't know anything useful in life?? You're ruining the kids who love this school and has been begging to go back to it. Now explain how this is beneficial to any parties involved??
- I don't like it, our kids love it there and everyone knows everyone which is nice. The classes are small enough, giving the kids a better opportunity to learn. The kids have made their friends and are not wanting to switch schools
- Confused and curious. Does the building need significant upgrades? Is there a proposed location for a new public school? Will public schools follow the Catholic model and do K-9?
- Hate it, should not happen, stupid
- I don't want the school to close
- I am strongly opposed to the proposed closure. Our school's small size is one of its greatest strengths. It creates a close-knit, welcoming environment where every child is known by name and feels seen, safe, and supported. The sense of community here is exceptional—our welcome back barbecues, dances, and shared events help children feel connected and valued.

Closing the school would take away more than a building; it would dismantle a community that helps kids thrive both academically and socially. This school offers stability, belonging, and relationships that simply cannot be replicated in a larger setting.

- I am completely disheartened. I do not think this proposal has been thought out clearly enough. Being in a smaller city like Medicine Hat, I do not understand why 600 kids in an elementary school would be considered a goal. I sincerely hope the school board takes the time to listen to all of the impacted families.
- I'm against the proposal of closing down a school of almost 200 kids, when Elm Street has under 100 and is in a more decayed condition in comparison
- I am incredibly disheartened at the thought of the school potentially closing. My first child attended Webster niblock from kindergarten to grade 6. Now my youngest also attends

Webster niblock. We have been with the school a total of 10 years. My children and self have created wonderful relationships and friendships with fellow parents, students and staff.

- I think it's a horrible idea to close a school that is helping deal with the over follow from the other schools in the area once you take away Webster. All these other schools are gonna have. Larger class sizes and more complex's needs with no help yet again I truly believe this move will cause more harm than good
  - I'm not for it.  
If funding is the issue, are you not at all concerned that families may choose to stay in their neighbourhood, and go to the brand new Catholic school being built? Why would we choose to have our children bussed - with all the hassles that come with that - when we can choose to go to another walkable school. Now not only are you losing a school, you're losing the funding for those children.
  - We are so sad. We moved to Webster and this is honestly the greatest school ever. The staff and students are so friendly, the kids are learning far more at this school and my kids are actually excited to go to school. This would make things so difficult. Between Covid and the Strike... these kids need consistency. This would hurt so many families.
  - Confusing. A lot of money spent at Webster the last few years updating infrastructure. Our kids love this little Gem. Our son is seriously stressed about potentially losing some friends. WHY were the kids informed?!?!?
  - I think it is ridiculous my children really enjoy this school and staff and we have never had any issues since enrollment for both children!
  - Extremely concerned
  - It's the most insane thing I've ever heard. There's nothing wrong with Webster Niblock. In fact, in over the last few years there have been major UPGRADES. Costing the board hundreds of thousands of dollars, where Elm Street is literally falling apart at the seams. This is such a rushed "proposal".. let's cram even more kids into a school when that's the whole reason teachers went on strike. CLASSROOM COMPLEXITIES AND OVERCROWDING. Looks like we don't seem to care about these teachers or children and it all comes down to the \$\$.  
Absolutely disgusting behaviour. But once again, why would the board members of MHPSD ever come into the schools to see what it's really like. By closing down these schools, you're going to create more problems at the other
4. RIDICULOUS.
- I don't like the fact that the school is closing forcing 200 kids to go to other schools that probably already struggle with large class sizes
  - Disgusted
  - Moving schools and changing dynamic will increase the difficult students already feel when going to school. The sense of belonging and being known is important for developing minds. It would not be beneficial to move current students mid way through their time at the school.
  - Stupid
  - The dumbest thing I've heard since the teacher strike.
  - Very bad



- Terrible Idea to close the school. Alberta is fighting for smaller class sizes. We have a school with teachers and low enrollment- public school division needs to clamp down on boundaries and enrollment-keep numbers stable and class sizes uniform in all the schools.
- I do not see any beneficial or constructive reasons to support this proposed closure. This short-sighted decision appears to invite unnecessary disruption and chaos, with the potential to create significant and lasting negative consequences. At this critical developmental stage, and or social-emotional development, our children are just beginning to feel comfortable and confident in their school environment. They are forming friendships, building trust, and gaining independence; to uproot them during such a formative time would be detrimental to their emotional and social growth.
- Our child just moved to the school and we love the school, the teachers, the community. We have been welcomed whole heartedly. We are worried about our child being pushed to another school where she will have less support and larger classrooms.
- I think it's disgusting that we just had kids out of school for multiple weeks with the major factor being overcrowded classrooms, then the kids finally get back in school and days later we get a notice that our perfectly viable school is at risk of closure, which will further crowd classrooms. Not only do I disagree with the proposal, but the timing is incredibly tone deaf and borderline malicious.
- Please don't close our school.
- I not happy just had a strike on issues of over populated classrooms now closing two schools this does make sense at all.
- Webster Niblock has been maintained, upgraded, and improved — over a million dollars of proof that it's worth keeping. You don't spend that kind of money on a building you plan to close unless the plan was never about maintenance in the first place. Its teachers are dedicated, its students are thriving, and its community is united.  
This isn't about numbers. It's about priorities, honesty, and leadership. And right now, what we're seeing doesn't reflect any of those things.  
Transparency — or the illusion of it.  
We keep being told that “no final decision has been made,” yet credible sources inside the Division are already saying it's a done deal. If that's true, then this consultation isn't a dialogue. it's a performance.  
Because if transparency and accountability really matter to this Division, then Webster Niblock deserves a fair process, not a predetermined fate.  
Do NOT close Webster Niblock. Our Students, Our Teachers and Our community deserves better.
- Closing Webster Niblock would be tragic for the community, all other schools will be even more full and classroom sizes will increase and get more complex instead of more manageable. There will be a derelict building and people will be sad everytime we pass it. This school has been a pillar in NE Crescent Heights, generations of my family have attended here including my own sons and the teachers love the school and the students. I have spoken to many who have or wish to retire here. Add some new clubs or an academy to increase population and don't just let the school be complacent and left behind!

- It's ridiculous. Moving these kids to Vincent and Ken Sauer would put undue stress on already crowded schools. When you have a class size of 38 (KS) and it's considered normal there, it's not alright, especially to add more kids to overworked teachers with minimal support. Webster is one of the most welcoming and supportive learning environments I've been part of in this city (part-time EA). To take that away from these kids would be a disgrace and a disservice to the community.
- Crescent heights needs Webster. Vincent and Ken Saur especially are already overcrowded. Unbelievable, really, after a month long strike revolving primarily around overcrowded classrooms.
- I do not agree.
- I am against the closure of Webster Niblock.
- Stupid
- It dose make me happy know elm is going to be open but two those schools that are both better off then elm are going to close.
- Not happy. Specifically bought where we did because it was walking distance from the school. Now that are kids are there we love it! My 5 year old asked me today. "Daddy, please save my school."
- I look at this like it's a manipulation of the numbers and borderline fraudulent the way the board is attempting to access funds from the province. As a board you are transparent, but not in the way you wish to be. You have made this decision. You have had this in the works since last year. Past board members have even stated as much. You present that this decision has not been made, but it has. You treat parents as though they are sheep and you have dressed yourself as a sheep dog, but really you are wolves. You used guided discovery last night to coddle the fragile egos of your board and trustees. The fact you could not bear the brunt of an open discussion and required everything to be positive shows how you truly feel about the students and parents of the school. You were fearful of the truth. The truth that this is not about the children. It is about trying to find something new and shiny. To move away from brick and mortar schools, for a trailer park style shows just how much you care for our kids future. We want to talk fiscal responsibility, let's talk. Is it fiscally responsible to keep open a school that is crumbling- no. But you will because it houses a vulnerable population. Should we keep open a school that has a higher amount of deferred maintenance than another- no, but you will. Should we continue to cram kids into unsafe portables that are weather sensitive and unsafe to other threats- no, but you will. Let's be real you don't actually care. You care about photo ops like ones with premiere Smith. You care about your images. Don't disguise this as it is good for the students. If it was you'd promote Webster rather than rip it apart. So here is your cold water comments you were so scared to take on last night.
- I am hesitant and nervous, I do not believe it is what's best for my children. I believe it is happening to fast.
- Blindsided. I feel that there will be a surplus of teachers after this move. Students are already talking about being split up and wondering where they will go and what friends they will have. Schools in the north side (other than Webster) are full or almost full, will we lose programs like ELP? It makes the rest of this year feel very sad and pointless for our school community.
- It is a bad idea and a waste of tax payers money.

- We have an amazing school and like a big family. I'm very disappointed and angry that we have been considered for closure.
- I don't agree with it. Webster is a beautiful community. Staff is very supportive of each other and kids. It would be a shame to stuff everyone in a school fuller schools. Outsiders that come in say we have the best school. Very welcoming, clean and caring! Let some people that are designated to go to Ken Saur come to us. Make their class sizes smaller and fill us up.
- I do not like it. I think Webster Niblock School is a great school where children thrive because it has that small school community atmosphere. Staff know the children, the families of the children get to know each other. The staff works well as a team and our assessment results reflect this. I also am concerned that the children will end up at schools that are overcrowded.
- I'm sad about it, but with the right support we can make the transition work
- I want to begin by sharing that I am genuinely neutral in this proposal; I can see the merits and challenges in all of the scenarios being considered. My concern lies with the people who will be most affected—both in significant and subtle ways. While transition planning often prioritizes meaningful supports for students and families, it is equally important to recognize that teachers are at the heart of this work.

Staff will shoulder much of the impact of this decision, often without having input or choice. Many will be required to pack, move, and reorganize classrooms largely on their own time—much of it during the summer months when educators should be recharging and preparing for the year ahead. We can acknowledge that certain responsibilities come with the profession; however, I respectfully urge decision-makers to ensure that teachers are meaningfully supported through this process.

Please strongly consider what practical supports might be needed and how the division can help teachers feel seen, valued, and acknowledged during a transition that can otherwise leave them feeling like collateral damage in broader system decisions."

- If you wouldn't have built Ken Sauer you wouldn't have taken most of the students away from Webster. You did this school a disservice.
- The process feels like a means to an end, the checking of boxes. While it is appreciated that we are informed of the way that the decision was made and the divisions "Why," it does not make the process any less difficult for the school community as a whole. We have a close-knit staff, students and families. While other buildings have academies, STEM or fine art programs, and have bussing from all parts of the city, we have our small community that has done amazing things academically and social emotionally to become what we are. This proposal feels like it is saying that this work isn't enough.
- I am very disappointed and disheartened. Webster Niblock School is a rich, healthy community of students, parents, and staff. Relationships have been established, and continue to grow, year after year, within our school building. Relocating entire families will not add, but take away from good that already exists.

## What factors are most important to you when considering school closures and changes to school boundaries?

- Size of school, I went to big schools in Calgary and got lost in the system academically due to too many students. My parents moved to Medicine Hat when I entered grade 6. I was at a grade 3 reading level. The primary reason they picked medicine hat was smaller classroom sizes.
- School sizes, concerns over proper time given to students with challenges (my children do not have challenges), are you even considering children's growth and development or are you hiding behind the excuse of funding. Fight harder for our children. I find it comical that you're only speaking with the parents from these schools and not speaking to those who have children in the schools these children may be relocated to. You're showing you don't really care to hear from all stakeholders. I'm sure they would not be impressed to hear their children's allocated time of learning which is already small as per the ATA, would be even further impacted. Yeah I see you addressed that in your template you had sent out, but that's lip service. Yet again we are having to fight for our school when the last time this was brought about you we met with a resounding NO to restructuring and closing. Listen to the community!
- If we were in the middle of strike about class room sizes maybe but the whole province is fighting over classroom sizes and closing two schools will just make that even more of a problem with almost 200 students being moved to other schools
- Size of classes in the new school and bussing distance.
- Children's friends not going to same school, class sizes, project base learning
- Not being close to our school no longer. Our children walk to and from school. Tearing my children apart from the people they have built important relationships with whether it's their teachers, support staff and friends when it is at a crucial time in their lives and development and thrown into a new environment that will throw Hinder their personal developments mental healths.
- Class sizes, school support, transportation to school (including length of bus rides)
- That I have a say in which school my children go to. My children have a tough time with changes, and not having control over which school they go to is extremely concerning.
- My autistic daughter transferring to a new school. Webster is easy walking distance within our community. More over crowded class sizes at Ken Sauer and Vincent Massey taking in the Webster kids.
- My kids love it here, their parents and grandparents attended. They are comfortable
- THE CHILDREN, TEACHERS AND FAMILIES. You are wanting to split everyone up that has been a part of a STRONG community for years. Every teacher knows every families situation, story; they nurture our students with love and support and continue to be there for our families, even after hours. The good, the bad, the tiny successes and the enormous losses. The foundation within childhood that is SUCH an important part, you're willing to rip away. And at what cost? Cost of our children's mental health? After COVID and the teachers strike, kids need STABILITY! Having school boundaries will divide and separate friendships. Knowing where my kids friends live, we definitely know they won't be attending the same school. Early relationships set children up for stronger connections as they get older. Teachers that know

these kids truly, make for their learning to be altered for continual growth. These kids are not going to be able to start from the bottom after years of these constant influences and be successful. It will take YEARS. Years that our school has already built. Don't set our kids in a downward spiral. This is not the way the "funding" issues will resolve themselves. It will make them WORSE.

ONCE AGAIN, YOU ARE MAKING A HUGE MISTAKE CONSIDERING CLOSURE OF WEBSTER NIBLOCK SCHOOL.

- My child enjoys the school he is at that includes the teachers, staff, and all of his friends. It is also in close proximity to our home which makes it easier for our family for drop off and pick up. My daughter attended this school all through her elementary school years and really enjoyed her time there which is what I wanted for my son.
- NE cres heights children will have to be transported across the city as I understand Ken sauer is at capacity
- Capacity. Before and after programs are completely filled at our neighbouring schools and bullying is a huge issue as a result of it (we know several families at these schools and have heard nothing but issues, hence us choosing Webster Niblock) We can currently walk to and from Webster and it's why we just purchased a house in this area.
- Class sizes, losing friends as may go to different schools, impact on the children.
- Distance and teachers
- The stresses on the surrounding areas should it close, how well they are meeting standards, enrollment, and students happiness.
- Bigger classroom sizes, kids trying to adjust to a new school
- Losing our neighborhood school, it allows independence for our children. Many transitions for my son in grade 5.
- Changing schools, school bussing, friends being split up, having to be the new kid and treated as such when it shouldn't be happening
- I like the small size of the school, more individual approach
- I am concerned about loss of community and relationships.

That the children would be separated from long standing connections and friendships (depending on location).

Loss of the small school setting. This is the biggest factor for me. My children are thriving in this setting and I worry about what their experience would look like in a larger school. They belong to a community at Webster and this has been such an important piece to their success thus far.

- Bussing cost, transportation cost, classroom sizes, teacher/support staff allocation.
- Close the schools that require the most maintenance and money to keep running. I don't believe that Webster is this school.
- Originally we chose to pull our oldest from Elmstreet school to utilize the before and aftercare program offered at Webster. This was well before it because a secondary childcare through the YMCA. This is an important part of my child's attendance to be able to continue to work. Now schools will be "closing" and forcing more students on additional rooms or larger classes.

- The age of the school . If the school is a health risk. Kids the always getting sick form asbestos or other issues. Leave the schools alone upgrade them. Get grants
- Studies show that children are healthier overall when they are able to walk to school. As well, Costs of closure are often underestimated as transportation, transition supports, and receiving school costs are almost always more than projected. The municipality may be affected by real estate decline or house values declining as they aren't in a walkable school catchment.

Economies of scale may be present but may also be addressed through re-configuration of grades or facilities. It may be better to try to gain enrollment through academy or magnet type programming and co-location with community services, and transparent, equity-centred engagement processes that stress safe, proximate access to high-quality instruction (Eddins, 2024; Gordon et al., 2018).

Walking to school reduces issues with traffic safety and emissions (Frank et al., 2006).

- We went out of our way to move closer to the school so us as parents could work and have them walk to school. This would change so much for so many families who rely on that so we can work.
- Our children's feelings and Big Changes for young minds should be considered.
- Children's learning experience, friends and just overall support we get from Webster!
- The happiness of my kids. They have established relationships with the teachers and students. This will cause them much anxiety!
- Knowing where my children's friends live, this will be devastating. All of them will be split up, without a choice. Forced as you would say. I'm better off taking my kids to the new CATHOLIC school that will be opening. Then there won't be any uncertainties as they grow into their youth. Or better yet, decide if homeschooling is better for us or not. And it definitely won't be through the hub.
- The community that is involved with the scholl. Travel distance to the new school
- I don't understand how we can add that many more students to 2 schools that are already at capacity. The teachers were just on strike for overloaded classrooms and needing help so the solution to cram more students together doesn't seem to be in the best interest of the teachers and students? I chose to keep me children at Webster because I don't agree with the specialty schools (hockey, art, stem ect.) I don't want to be forced into a school that has that. At this point I'd rather transfer to catholic school division.
- Increasing class sizes, changing teachers that know the students needs year to year. Distance from home to the schools. Loosing friendships built around the school.
- No crowded class rooms
- The hypocrisy of the teachers demanding classroom caps, and then closing schools that would most definitely be adding to the INCREASE of classroom numbers AT OTHER SCHOOLS!
- I bought my house because I can see their school, my kids are able to walk to and from school!!! I understand it's a small school and the numbers aren't high but how do you feel you can accommodate the extra kids at the other schools? Vincent already took kids from a different school that closed 9 years ago now you want to make the boundary bigger? They don't have room! Ken Sauer is at capacity as well. Now my kids would have to be bussed to

and from school. Where do the teachers go? My kids are looking forward to having certain teachers as they move on to higher grades.

- Once a school is closed, it's likely not opening again. Communities have ebbs and flows in population among neighborhoods. Enrollment is low currently, so redefine boundaries of neighborhoods, ENFORCE the zoning to prevent overcrowding in a "popular school" and stop the low enrollment in other schools.
- The human impact is more than just numbers and budgets. Our children's time at Webster Niblock is not just about academics, it's about stability, relationships and the foundation of self-confidence. These children depend on their teachers, peers and community as their safety Nets. Many families, especially those with multiple children, are deeply intertwined in this school's day-to-day life. Removing children from this familiar support system would compromise their sense of security and belonging.

You close these school and you are taking these children from a sense of home and safety some of which is the only feeling of home and safety they have.

- Whether my child will need to switch to the catholic division or back to the prairie rose. Whether my child will receive enough support with the changes.
- Classroom size and proximity to home.
- Walk ability to school for many students, short bus commute, it's nice to have our child at a smaller school. It's a better sense of community.
- What impact this is going to be on a child's emotions and if effect on thier learning
- You change the boundary lines and what's there to say that 50% of the students and or families decide they want to stay in the same area and go to the new catholic school being built? Because it's easier for them to get to their school without the added transportation, You lose students, families, community and funding for those students.
- Schools will be more full, increase class sizes and my children will have less support in their learning because teachers are too stretched over too many kids!
- Class sizes, ease of access, and learning environment.
- Class size, proximity from school to home, continuity at the same school for my child.
- More transitioning for my child that already doesn't do well with changes.
- Proximity of the school to where we live is a huge consideration. We are located within walking distance of the school, and my child regularly wants to walk to school. Also my child has built a familiarity with Webster after having attended there from Kindergarten through to currently grade 4. The stability offered from staying at the same school is a big consideration, as there has already been enough disruptions to their education between Covid, and the closures due to the teacher strikes.
- Class size
- It will not be easy for anyone, teachers, parents and most of all the kids
- Class sizes aka too big. The impact on the kids mental health. Kids this young struggle with change. Look at all the numbers, Not just birthrate data but immigration migration patterns and migration potential. Crescent Heights is on the verge of transition. It is one of nicest but still affordable places in the city (and really the province, believe me I looked before moving to the city). It has the potential to transition back to a young person area that will need three schools.

- Don't close Webster- you saw the turnout.
- Distance would no longer be walking distance.
- send the kids somewhere else
- Distribute students across the schools to reduce class size. Increase incentives to families in the neighbourhood to send their children to this school. Consider offering unique programming (indigenous), specialized development similar to the PAS program partnership or early childhood programs in partnership with the YMCA.
- Keep the schools open so students receive the education they deserve and quite frankly, the education parents and the community are paying for.
- Look out for the children. too many kids in 1 class doesn't benefit neither side.
- To not close down the school.. we already have such big class sizes and the schools we have are already full.
- Consider zoning, consider age of the building, recent upgrades, costs.
- Keep things the way they are and don't take away two important schools in so many aspects following a public charter school model - instead of just shutting them down, create a unique structure in which a body of parents who might be interested in special programming takes the lead on revitalizing programs -- people think charter schools are the devil, but if you close these schools the trend in rural AB is that communities will respond by creating a charter school, and then families will flock to them and the division will be made and accuse them of 'stealing' the students for an elite program (which would be wrong) .... instead of letting budget dictate everything, try something innovative - you CAN keep the school in the district and have it operate differently - local country seems to be working everywhere where rural schools closed and reopened because a group of parents got behind an idea - you could end up making money
- There are other schools with less kids attending than Webster Niblock so if a school must shut down, close the one with the least amount of students as possible so that as little people are affected
- In my 35 years at Webster Niblock I watched the enrolment of WN rotate from 304 students in 1976 down to 220 students in the 1990 then back up into the 300's in 2012. During the low years students from the Tower Estate trailer park were bussed to WN.
- Utilize the schools you have especially when they just have been upgraded
- Find ways to make small schools more efficient to keep them.

### What ideas or alternatives do you suggest the Board considers?

- Better management of resources. Travel time for support services staff was cited as a reason, why have them travel to a school for several half days, make it full day cuts travel. Renovation are excessive, get back to basics. Find out why so many medicine hat students are switching to catholic, home schooling, or prairie rose. I know I have looked it to switching for various reasons.
- Go Fund Me, fundraising, fight for our children.
- Can't you find a different way. I don't understand why you to close a school that's been running for years



- Revisit the proposal from last year regarding making Webster 1-3 and Vincent Massey 4-6
- K-3 Webster, 4-6 Vincent massey
- Spreading registration out amongst all schools in the division so each school is more even.
- I'd suggest taking a more creative look at the budget. How else can funds be generated to keep these schools running? Are there unexplored grants? Community funding? Are funds available that could be invested to generate income for the school board?
- More funding to keep these schools open until new ones can be built.
- No closures , stop filling other schools and classrooms
- Consider the other schools you seem to take right off the table. Elm St is an old building that takes even more money to up keep. They have a low amount of students, if not the lowest in the city which in return, would be a lot less stressful on surrounding schools. Bussing would be available for each side of the city. Why keep an older school with the least amount of kids open? Wanting to add to Ken Sauer would cause for total chaos. Taking them from their 300+ kids to around 400? Seems like insanity to me. They are already overcrowded as is, ask any parent that have kids that attend there. Herald is classified as the "special needs" schools. Pretty sure years ago that was what Southview was and they were able to transition that programming into Herald. Why not transition those programs and kids into Webster? Adding for more continual space to grow as a school and adding more inclusivity to the gem Webster Niblock is.

Why not offer our school to come up with the option of finding financial stability within our community? Fundraising. Sponsorships. You instantly make this all about the budget.. but give no time for our school to resolve this issue? It's crazy what can happen when a community comes together when given OPTIONS.

- Move desirable programs to schools that have capacity to take children. As severa new schools already have capacity issues simply for the fact that people choose to drive their children to a new school
- Moving some of the crowding at KS or Vincent to Webster if enrolment is too low, it'd help the families with issues regarding before and after access.
- Let the kids learn
- Being honest to the public may be a nice change. Oooh, or, great idea, think of the damn kids first! The cores are being taught and all kids are maintaining what then will need to graduate. Where do you plan on sending the before and after children when you overload that program? You don't have any idea as you don't care or don't think that far ahead.
- Transparency with school (building) needs and costs; could we fundraise? Add a school fee? Take back the before/after school care program (as an income source).
- Not doing it
- Ask for more funding, change school zones to let more children to enroll
- Some options to increase enrolment may be:  
Investing in Specialized Programming: An alternative to closure is to invest in a specialized learning program that would attract and retain students. Right now, programs like the one offered at Herald School draw families because they provide a unique learning experience. Creating a similar program in the north would give local families access to those opportunities without having to travel outside of their area of the city.

Boundary Adjustments: Before closing the school entirely, the division could review school catchment boundaries to ensure enrolment is balanced across nearby schools. I believe, shifting boundaries slightly can bring in more families who currently live closer to our school but are zoned elsewhere. This can stabilize numbers without causing the large-scale disruption of a closure. It's a far less disruptive option and preserves the strong community that already exists.

Resource Sharing: Rather than eliminating a school, the division could explore sharing resources—such as specialist teachers, support staff, or programming—across two or more nearby schools. This helps reduce operating costs while still keeping each school open. Schools can also collaborate on things like clubs, admin support, or facility use. These partnerships let students keep their home school and community while still benefiting from broader resources.

- Elm Street school services merely 90 students, whereas Webster averages around 200. Elm Street has tons of maintenance issues, is not wheelchair accessible, and has a major drug problem given the area it is in. Every family in Webster would require bussing to either Vincent Massey or Ken Sauer as neither of those schools are within walking distance. That would mean more bussing costs for the division. Elm Street school student could just as easily be bussed to another school. I would sincerely hope you would consider closing that school since it already costs the division so much in maintenance. Close Elm Street School
- I don't have any additional insight to suggest. Webster neighborhood has been a part of our family for 10 years now. My child would be saddened to no longer be a part of this fantastic school.
- Why not try to increase enrollment by coming up with creative ideas like having an academy/ specialty programs at Webster in addition to Vincent Massey and Ken Sauer? If you're losing kids to Prairie Rose, Catholic, MHPSD needs to adapt or become obsolete. And that doesn't mean closing schools that means trying to get more enrollment. Why can't Webster be a baseball academy with all the green space they have?
- Reconsider this plan. Close Elm maybe?
- Why close schools if we are already having classroom size issues. Wouldn't it create more of this problem?
- Keeping Webster open!!!!
- None. There's no alternatives. Keep the school open. You are only going to cause more issues by shutting it down. It'll be more on the teachers and the kids. They are our future, and every WRONG choice you guys make, will only CAUSE more damage than good.
- Letting the students whose school is closing the chance to pick which school they would like to attend instead of being forced to one school due to rezoning.
- Build a bigger school like Catholic division? Give the public more options than closing doors? There is no information or statistics we have to help you come up with alternatives.
- Leave the schools open.
- Na
- Bring back mandatory school boundaries - zoned kids should be expected to attend in their communities. You'll find your bus transportation savings in not having to ship kids from one end of the city to the other.

- Stop having specialty elementary and focus on the fundamentals that elementary schools are supposed to provide. Have one school dedicated in each area of the city to be specialized for children that need extra help and attention.
- 1. Review zoning/boundaries  
2. Don't allow people from out of boundary/zone to register
- Fundraisers, Go Fund Me. Let the community and school and teachers figure out the fiscal avenues. Only miscommunicated Incompetence would have a newly renovated school closed down with an 85% capacity.
- Looking into development into increasing enrollment into Webster Niblock instead
- Can it with all of these “academies” and have kids go to the school they are supposed to based on where they live. These kids are too young to be specializing in ANYTHING at school, especially sports. Kids should have a well rounded education that focuses on everything. This academy idea is going to make our kids dumb and leave them less options as they grow older.
- You Keep the school open, change boundary lines or enforce them if need be and you will see an instant rise in students. If it really isn't about monetary interest, and if it is leave it to the community to figure out our gain in funding, don't close an extraordinary piece of our children's or future children's lives for something so trivial.
- Add an academy! Send a survey to the community whether they need a STEM school in the northeast! The closest one we have is Crestwood School and it's not manageable for a lot of people here to drive them there every morning! Maybe another ecole immersion school is needed in the area! Adjust the mission, don't just close down!!
- Keep it open. Move a small amount of kids from Vincent and KS to Webster, even out the class sizes between the three schools.
- Keep Webster open.
- Maybe to create more interest in the school with some extra programs to increase enrollment.
- Not closing
- Elm street school has way less kids along with a much older building get them bussing and split between Vincent massy and Webster
- K-3 schools and 4-6 schools aka spread some kids from the crowded ken Sauer to Webster. A robust communication strategy to increase enrollment at Webster. There are lots of kids I know that should be at Webster but left the public school system completely to French immersion, or Catholic or home school because of issues they had with the administration of Ken Sauer. Closing Webster will have the same impact. Work with the city and the provincial government to create a long term growth plan for crescent Heights and really the city in general.
- That you actually take an open discussion night from the parents before making your decision- that we all know has been made already!
- Putting more incentives to fill the schools we have versus closes them and making kids move to another school.
- close it already

- I live beside River Heights school. The majority of students do not live in the neighbourhood. There are almost 10 buses that pass by twice daily. Isn't there a better way to improve access to schools and reduce travel for families?
- There are several split classes at Ken Sauer, and several classrooms sitting empty as a result of budget and not enough students to fill them. Closing Webster would help with those situations. Ken Sauer has the space, and the ability to take more students. Plus it is a new school with great amenities.
- Anyone with common sense can see this is not a good idea
- be innovative - school closure is low hanging fruit
- How will you accommodate the risk of increasing class sizes and stretching out the support that is needed for kids with disabilities?
- There is roughly just under 2,000 daycare spots for children in Medicine Hat. 600-700 spaces are located near southview school, assuming that 50-60% attend the school within that zone that's 300-420 possible future students. 450-550 spaces for children are located near Webster Niblock, again assuming 50-60% attend a school within that zone that's 225-330 future Webster student. We constantly are getting new daycare and dayhomes in Medicine Hat to accommodate for the amount of young children needing care, you do not build or expand daycare capacity and availability in a dying area. You do it in a growing one
- It seems like there is about a 15 year cycle for neighborhoods. I have also watched the use of portable classrooms being added to schools and then moved to another location when the attendance dip. There was a large expenditure to have these portables added to existing schools and then moved somewhere else. It would seem that bussing students to boost enrolment would be more equitable than all the expenses of attaching portables for a few years and then moving them and attaching them elsewhere.  
I can only assume that the school division is paying substantial rent to run the Hub School on South Railway and the Hockey Academy on Maple Ave. where is that money coming from. I don't understand why they are paying rent somewhere else and closing schools due to financial difficulties. It seems unless you are offering a specialized program (Sports Academies, Fine Arts Programs, STEM) the neighbourhood schools aren't valued enough.
- Add more TA 's to help with classroom, keep classroom size down so each child has the best chance to learn before going on to junior high. These first years are the most important ones.

### General comments, questions or feedback

- Let the kids learn, first its not enough help for teachers and now school closures. Its annoying
- Let the kids flippin live and be happy IN PROPERLY STAFFED CLASSES AND SCHOOLS WHERE THEY ARE HAPPY. LEAVE THE SCHOOLS ALONE BECAUSE FAMILIES LIKE ME CAN NOT OR DO NOT HAVE THE ABILITY TO DRIVE ALL AROUND THE CITY AS CHILDCARE DOESNT STAY OPENED LATE
- I am genuinely confused what the strike was about then, teachers complained about big size classes while you are trying to close the school. So we close schools that don't have enough students while schools that are overrun struggle. It doesn't make sense to me.

- Webster Niblock is an amazing school and it would be such a shame to lose this special place where our children learn and grow. I understand there are a lot of pressures right now but I do believe the benefits of keeping the school far outweigh the costs of losing the heart of this community we all love.
- 1. Your meeting needs to be moved to a location on the north side of the city to allow families who cannot drive the right to attend. Your board office is small and intimidating. Every family wanting to attend should have the right to attend.  
2. Many parents, like myself, are considering all of our options, including moving our children to another school division. This isn't something we would take lightly. We were just out of school for a month while teachers fought for smaller class sizes, and here you are planning ways to increase ours.  
3. Portables aren't an answer to classroom space. No one would feel proud that we have to attend a school that is overcrowded and pieced together with portables.  
4. The Catholic school's big new school directly across from Webster is an option our family and many others are considering.  
5. Webster is a family, and we will not go down without a fight. We love this community with our whole heart. The staff and parents do not want this. No one does.  
Please keep the school open.
- Medicine Hat Public enrollment as stated on your budget documents on your website shows a steady decline- in 2019/20 you had 7406 students attending and in the spring of 2025 you show 6881 students attending. Other local school divisions such as Prairie Rose are showing a 4% increase on their website with Medicine Hat Catholic remaining the same for the most part. Why do you believe this is and how are you addressing this?  
What evidence informed data do you have to provide reasoning for why Webster Niblock is selected for the potential school to close?  
What information can you provide us with that will ensure you want to retain our families in the public system as Medicine Hat Catholic is building a new facility within a block of Webster Niblock as well as it may be worth the drive to a school in Prairie Rose School Division as they seem to have the best programming, innovative financial solutions to grow their programming and encourage enrollment at the high school level, maybe our kids should enroll there now to become familiar with their values, programming and make friends with those they will continue with?  
What are your statistics on bus behavior, are there many misconducts? Are there enough drivers to fill additional routes?
- I was the Custodian at this school for a few years and have to say this Proposed School Closure took me by surprise.
- No need for school closures. We enjoy Webster niblock and will continue to do so!
- KEEP THE SCHOOL OPEN!!
- This is not taking into consideration the parents or children currently in the school who are thriving or once struggled but finally are comfortable and in a routine that benefits them.
- What does Danielle Smith think of this proposition? You should add her opinion to your consultation meetings!

- My alternative would be to pull out my kids and move to catholic or cape as this is now the second time it has been brought up in 2 years to disrupt Webster Niblock
- Don't close a good school
- Do not let the closure of Webster Niblock become a decision that future boards look back on with regret. Keep this school open. Keep this community together. Keep your promise to the parents, teachers, and the children who call Webster Niblock home.
- I feel like there are better alternatives or solutions that closing the school.
- If this school gets closed, kids must be able to get home at the same time or earlier than they do now. Lots of kids have extra-curricular activities outside of school (where they belong). Forcing kids to a school that is further away can seriously disrupt these activities.
- Please don't close this wonderful school. You will lose a lot of families from the public school sector.
- If this process is truly about efficiency, then use the newest Ministry data — and it tells you Webster Niblock is not the problem.  
If this is truly about progress, then show progress because eight years of deferred modernization isn't progress, it's paralysis.  
And if this is truly about what's best for students, then start by protecting the schools that are actually serving students well — not dismantling them for plans that haven't been delivered.
- There needs to be another use or way to increase population, closing and giving up doesn't help the community, it's going to put a stress on it!
- After striking for class sizes and supports, this seems an odd move to close a smaller school and increase sizes elsewhere to past capacity.
- That school has one of the most beautiful gymnasiums, a great park, good staff, a great location. Having this discussion about closing public schools while building a massive catholic school right beside the school you want to knock down is utterly infuriating.
- Waste of time
- I think this whole bigger newer schools isn't the answer! Education + community/children's health/mental should/MUST come before dollar signs
- You claim you value community and collaboration and you care about my kids. Your teachers just went on strike because classes are too big, now you are going to close a perfectly functional school where I feel like the staff genuinely care about my kids because the classes are too small? What efforts have you made to shift enrollments? Attract people to the area? Get students to switch out of home school Catholic and other alternative school? You are closing the school because of data and money. Use creative thinking, patience and the community to keep it open. The Webster staff are the best I have seen in the three provinces I have lived in and the dozens of schools I have encountered. Find a way to get them more students instead of just doing what is easiest.
- If Vincent Masey has a hockey academy program and ONLY 3 STUDENTS registered in it Why wouldn't they move the Hockey academy program over to Webster Niblock??? Where there are at least 10 players. It would bring the needed revenue to Webster Niblock. It seems like such a wasted opportunity.
- Dialectical- is just a way of sitting on the fence. The use of this psychological tactic is in poor taste.

- It will be very hard on kids with special needs to transition to a school that will have larger population.
- Dr Ken has a capacity of 300, it was at 296 students in fall 2023/2024. Room for 4 kids. Vincent had a capacity of 313, it had 211 in fall 2023/2024, so room for 102 kids. Webster has a capacity of 375, it had 166 kids in fall 2023/2024. So room for 209 kids. Moving 166+ kids into 106 spots sounds like massive over crowding. This doesn't deliver better educational results... it only save the district money for more un-need renovation or poor executed ideas like academies.
- I'm sure you have gotten my point. If not, use AI to gain some clarity and come up with some ideas. At least it would show some effort.
- I'm very frustrated that this is even an consideration. My son is Autistic and Webster niblock is so kind to him and they care we have been to other places and there's not a school like Webster and you can't make recreate the environment and atmosphere that they have created. Please don't do this
- This is a terrible idea which will tear apart a thriving community. And what is the plan for the future 5-10 years when the neighborhoods around the school change from elderly to young families then we will be right back into another schooling crisis of not having enough schools for the children in this area. This will cause undue stress to those children who are in their last year's of elementary school of having to change schools to an environment they are not comfortable in with people they do not know which will hinder their mental health and development at this stage of their age and then have to do it again in another year or two when they transition to junior high school.
- We will also very seriously be looking at moving our children into the Catholic school system. We bought our house in the immediate neighbourhood of webster so our children could walk to and from school and Be that close neighborhood community feel at school. If webster closes I will not be sending them to Ken sauer or Vincent Massey schools.
- I understand that the government's unfair actions have put the school board in a difficult position, however I hope that a solution can be found that allows the wonderful community at Webster Niblock to continue to grow and thrive.  
I also have big concerns about splitting up children and cramming them into other schools that have already have packed classrooms.
- We have been with Webster Niblock for over 7 years now with 2 children currently enrolled. Webster has always been filled with great teachers and a small community like atmosphere that my children excel and thrive in. We understand more funding is needed to keep these smaller schools open and that is not an easy ask. Closing these 2 schools proposed will only increase class sizes and cause unnecessary movement and transitions to a different school further away from home. Additionally it will have a negative impact on children with special needs transitioning to a new school.
- Continually having Webster Niblock on the chopping block is unacceptable. This is the school that holds our community together. There are kids coming from every area in CH, shouldn't that tell you something? This is the school some parents CHOOSE to want to have their kids attend and we always welcome EVERYONE with open arms. Irregardless the struggles that come from the underfunding from the government, it's time to push back. If you're all about

COMMUNITY, why would you want to close down any of the small, wholesome schools. Not every child wants to attend an academy or be in fine arts. Let alone not every family is able to afford it. With rising costs of inflation, you will be making this next to impossible for our lower income families. Webster Niblock is a school of inclusivity, NO MATTER WHAT YOUR STATUS. The staff go to the ends of this earth to make this school feel like a safe and loving environment. While ALWAYS bringing their A game to the table when it comes to the students learning. The Parent Council ALWAYS make it so every kid is able to attend field trips and hold extra fun activities through the year.

YOU ARE MAKING A HUGE MISTAKE EVEN CONSIDERING WEBSTER NIBLOCK!

- It's heartbreaking to hear this is even being considered, especially after initially feeling thrilled that our voices were heard in not splitting the schools (Vincent and Webster). I truly hope that this discussion ends and we can go back to feeling secure in the school choice we made for our children.
- When they closed the only school in Riverside they did it b/c of the old building and the cost associated with that-why not are they saying they must keep Elm to keep the school in the flats even though it is very old and expensive to run? I suggest they keep Webster open and close Elm now, and then in a few years see enrolment numbers and decide if they should build a new school in the flats and close one of the north schools.
- Bussing kids from Elm street to Webster as Webster is more equipped to grow and expand. Webster is already set up for portables if needed. Vincent Massey and Elm Street are not. This would save more money in the future.
- Close elm Street and bus those kids their building is very old not wheelchair accessible no air conditioning. Closing elm would be no different then when riverside was closed. Those students were bussed to crescent heights schools.
- Again, let Ken Saur kids that are close to Webster come to us. Lighten them up and fill us up.
- Keeping it open and perhaps bussing Elm Street students to our school.
- I do not have any.
- Has the board explored potential boundary adjustments or rezoning strategies to help balance enrollment across schools—such as redirecting students from higher-density areas to Webster Niblock—to optimize facility utilization and ensure high-quality learning conditions for all students?

Additionally, has there been consideration of encouraging students to attend the school within their designated attendance boundary? At present, Webster experiences ongoing enrollment loss due to families selecting other schools through the “school of choice” model. While this approach supports programs such as STEM, Fine Arts, or Academy pathways in other schools, it can inadvertently disadvantage schools like Webster that do not currently offer specialized programming. This pattern contributes to declining enrollment and affects long-term viability. Given these dynamics, how might the board ensure a more equitable distribution of students and programs across the division so that all neighborhood schools remain viable and competitive?

- Riverside was closed even though it was the only school in that community and they were a low income and vulnerable population similar to Elm. If it was ok to bus those students to VM then why not close Elm and bus those students to WN? It costs way more to run Elm than it



does to run WN. You could even run a couple of buses a day if you're worried about kids not making the bus and it would still be more cost efficient.

- I am not sure what the alternatives could be. Ken Sauer is a Fine arts school and Crestwood is a STEM school, neither of which will take students that are out of their area if they make a class too big or from a parent perspective they have needs. Both of these schools have limited space. Considerations to have a K-3 and a 4-6 school on the NE Hill were shutdown before the process was complete and discussions happened with school communities, in the planned way, the current proposal is.
  - After Covid, our MHPSD continued with The Hub, discovering that some students' needs are met and they thrive with online learning.
  - I believe we also have some students who thrive in smaller school communities.
  - We can meet these students' needs by providing opportunities for students to develop leadership skills without feeling intimidated by larger groups of students in larger schools. Some students are more likely to exercise courage and 'rise to the occasion' rather than step back and let those more popular, confident, or with stronger leadership skills take the lead.
  - Also, last year, the investment was made to install a new air conditioning system at Webster, which feels like wasted money if we close our doors.
  - Instead of closing our doors, could we not transfer some students from Vincent Massey or Dr. Ken Sauer School to Webster Niblock to spread students out more, thus increasing enrolment and protecting smaller class sizes?
  - We are going to lose many kids to the Catholic board as they are represented in the community and we will not be.
  - Our school is wonderful and very much part of the community
  - Please reconsider. The kids have been through enough with Covid and strike. There were several tears from them, and staff, because it's just another stress.
  - I am wondering why we weren't informed about this proposal prior to the election less than one month ago. Also, to learn of this the week following the end of the teacher's strike feels insensitive.
  - I previously completed a survey. I would recommend making surveys available after engagement sessions. Understandably, people are full of emotion upon getting the initial news and will fill out the survey from that place of emotion. We can think more objectively after we have all the information. Thank you for the staff engagement session.
  - There should be another school engagement meeting held after staff have had a chance to process the last one.
  - I am curious to know if the Catholic School Division's plan to build a brand new, large school across the street from Webster Niblock has any bearing on the decision made to choose closing our school.
- I appreciate the opportunity to share thoughts and feedback, yet respectfully, I feel this decision has already been made.
- Financial reasons provided in the fact sheet make sense, but I still feel there are some students that will shrink back in larger schools, and miss the opportunities that only smaller school communities can bring.
- Bigger isn't always better. Less can most definitely be more.

## What information or support would help you feel informed during this process? (staff)

- Exactly where these students would go and who would be choosing where they go?
- A break down of costs for running Elm street vs running Webster Niblock.
- The meetings help.
- Being able to see the feedback from families about this proposal. Seeing more information from what led to this proposal including comparisons to school that are not proposed to close.
- The engagement session was informative. Thank you, please give staff grace and patience for processing this. Thank you.
- There is significant concern about how students—particularly those who have thrived at Webster—will adjust socially, emotionally, and academically to larger school environments. While research highlights the benefits of smaller community schools, it is also acknowledged that larger settings can offer advantages from a staffing and resource perspective. With this in mind, has the board explored engagement sessions with staff and families at the receiving schools? Webster is not the only school affected by this proposal; increased enrollment, accommodating new students and staff, and supporting transitioning families may introduce additional pressures for those communities as well. Families are seeking reassurance that class sizes, classroom configurations, and access to resources will not be pushed beyond optimal levels.

Additionally, a clear outline of the transition process—including timelines, key dates, and what families and staff can expect should a closure be approved—would be extremely helpful in supporting understanding and reducing anxiety.

- More information regarding student boundaries and where they will be changed to if the school closes.
- Although questions were submitted, "what ifs" were not addressed which adds stress and anxiety to the process. Where this leads is important to both staff and families and the thoughts of not knowing make the process worse. While i understand the reasoning for this response, staff took a lot of time to write thoughtful questions that would help to address their concerns and overall uncertainty at this difficult time. This situation or decision was not new but it feels like it was sprung on staff.
- I would like our staff to know as soon as possible what the plan is for future employment, which school's you will transfer us to, will staff have input in these decisions, and I am concerned some will lose their positions completely and be unemployed.

## What does the school mean to you? (community members)

- It's a place where kids were sent to fail.
- My siblings and I attended elementary school here. It was within walking distance from home and neighbourhood friends all attended.
- Both of our children attended Webster Niblock school and received exemplary education from the teaching staff. This school has deep roots in the community as my husband also

attended Webster when he was a child and made life long friends which he is close to, to this very day. Their children also attended Webster. It's a bit of a legacy, I'd say.

- Both my kids were brought up through that school .
- My kids are zoned for this school but we decided to go to catholic.
- My daughter attends Dr. Ken Sauer School
- I attended this school through the 80s
- educated children
- This is my son's previous school, this school has been a big part in many of the adults that are in our community's lives as well as the current generation that is attending it. It has always been a thriving school, it's supportive and recommended environment for our children. The staff at this school has created an environment that children love and succeed in as well as an environment that parents love to interact with and be a part of.
- It has given my mom a job and the kids at school love her and find comfort in her, lots of these kids don't have that from their family and only receive this at school
- This school has been a community school since it was built. I have witnessed multiple generations of students pass through those doors!
- For some children It's a place to Shine, for some It's meeting life long friends , for some It's a safe place where they can learn to trust and come out of their shell where in a larger more crowded classroom they would be over looked .
- This is the school my siblings and I went to as kids and looking forward to having my children go here.

#### If the schools do close how can we honour the legacy (community members)

- tear it down
- You will lose students. This is a really dumb idea. I thought you would want more students, not less. Catholic board will grow again.
- The grounds could be returned to the city for redevelopment of a community park and community centre.
- There isn't any way to honor it, truly. Once it's closed, our voices will be forgotten.
- Don't shut it down!
- Plaque at the location, and use the school for something else - for example the Elizabeth Street School / Kiwanis Centre building on 11 ST SE.
- That shouldn't even be a question on here if you guys are legitimately considering feedback
- if they are good enough to have a legacy, then why aren't they good enough to thinkr creative for?
- Appreciation for all staff and help to place them with another job
- I think you just have to look at Riverside School and see what a shame it is when schools are closed. They are usually left in such disrepair the only option is for them to be bull dozed. Maybe if some of those other programs could be offered in some of the existing buildings instead of paying rent somewhere else and when the population in the neighbourhood builds up again the specialized programs could be moved to an under-used school. I don't think there is anyway to honour the legacy of those schools once they are closed.
- That I have no ideas for you

## GENERAL - NO SCHOOL NAMED (Community members and staff)

### What are your overall thoughts about this proposal?

- With the current political climate and talks around education, now more than ever it shows how important schools are. Closing these schools would force larger class room sizes at other schools, make it harder for parents that live near these schools to get their kids to class, and overall weaken the system. It will also most likely leave large areas of land unused. These buildings will cost thousands to remove/renovate into useable spaces.
- 1. That demolition of a school building is probably not a good use of Alberta funding budgets.  
2. I believe that a small number of students in a school might actually build better learning!! and even maybe relationship skills than a larger number in a newly proposed arrangement.
- While I completely understand the proposal — and I'm in favour of it — I am appalled at how the communication went regarding this. The lack of internal communication before this went public is embarrassing.

### What ideas or alternatives do you suggest the Board considers?

- Please consider the impact that smaller class sizes has on both students and teachers. Students will be getting a better education, more one on one time, and teachers will suffer from less burn out. We need to push the govt to give more funding, and properly staff these schools. If private schools can get funding, then public can too... we just need to fight for it.
- Keeping Southview running.

### What role has this school played in your community? (Community members)

- It has served many families in that community, making a community.  
2. It was effectively used as an elections site and a place where families in the area could talk on such occasions.  
3. I taught ESL there part time for about six months in 1993.  
4. I have observed good learning taking place from people, as they learned patience from clients in that community.

### What information or support would help you feel informed during this process? (staff)

- As a staff member, it would've helped that I had more time to be informed with the ability to ask questions and be prepared before throwing it to the public.

### General comments, questions or feedback

- If these closures go through- and I hope they don't- please use the building/space for something good that will benefit children in the city. Community center/rec hub/youth shelter....
- I read the FACT sheet quite well, and I wonder: 1. I don't think that keeping Phys Ed or SOME subject specialists is as difficult as that sheet suggests. 2. What does "more resources" into classrooms mean in actuality?

- The lack of communication in this system is frustrating. It's only gotten worse in the last year or so. Everything is "secretive" and siloed. Nothing feels cohesive. Nothing feels supportive. It feels like information is being used as power.

In addition to online survey responses, and feedback from the community consultation sessions, the Board and Trustees received 5 formal letters that were not share due to protection of privacy.