



NORTHLAND SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 61

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NO. 17 – 06

AGENDA

Time: 6:30 p.m. – May 15, 2017
Location: Hillview School, East Prairie, AB

Page No.

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 1. Waiver 2
- 2. Hillview School – Instructional Program Continuance 3

C. ADJOURNMENT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TO: LOIS BYERS
TRUSTEE OF THE BOARD

DATE: MAY 15, 2017

FROM: GORD ATKINSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

SUBJECT: WAIVER

ORIGINATOR: ADMINISTRATION

RECOMMENDATION
That the Board of Trustees waive Section 67 (4) of the School Act.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**TO: LOIS BYERS
TRUSTEE OF THE BOARD**

DATE: MAY 15, 2017

PRESENTED BY: GORD ATKINSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

SUBJECT: HILLVIEW SCHOOL – INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM CONTINUANCE

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Trustees approve the continuation of the instructional program at Hillview School with the following recommendations:

1. That Hillview School remain an ECS – grade 6 school for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years;
2. That Hillview School be re-evaluated in the fall of 2019 for operational viability;
3. That administration work with the community to develop partnerships to further enhance education opportunities in East Prairie Metis Settlement; and
4. If the student population drops to below 10, it will automatically trigger the school closure process.

BACKGROUND

At the November 24, 2016 – Corporate Board Meeting, Superintendent Atkinson discussed enrollment at Hillview School, Lois Byers, Official Trustee directed that a viability study be done and brought to the January 26, 2017 Board meeting.

At the January 26, 2017 – Corporate Board Meeting, Lois Byers, Official Trustee received the Hillview School Viability Study as information and made an additional motion as follows: Lois Byers, Official Trustee moved that the Board of Trustees move a Notice of Motion regarding the possible closing of Hillview School, grades K-6, or portions thereof, with the date upon which the Board will vote on the motion being no later than the Corporate Board meeting, May 25, 2017; and working with the community, this process is to include an investigation into the reasons parents are choosing to transport their children to other schools; possible alternative programs and the preferred future of Hillview School; and directs administration to include in the process an opportunity for one on one meetings for community

members to meet with the Official Trustee and/or the Superintendent of Schools to discuss their concerns confidentially.

A public meeting was held at Hillview School on March 15, 2017, which provided parents, staff and community members an opportunity to share their concerns.

Hillview School Viability Followup Report May 15, 2017

The Superintendent of Schools prepared a viability study regarding Hillview school. ([Viability Study found here](#)) The study was presented at the January 26, 2017 Board Meeting.

At the Board Meeting the following motion was passed:

NOTICE OF MOTION - POSSIBLE CLOSING OF HILLVIEW SCHOOL 24260/17

Lois Byers, Official Trustee moved that the Board of Trustees move a Notice of Motion regarding the possible closing of Hillview School, grades K-6, or portions thereof, with the date upon which the Board will vote on the motion being no later than the Corporate Board meeting, May 25, 2017; and working with the community, this process is to include an investigation into the reasons parents are choosing to transport their children to other schools; possible alternative programs and the preferred future of Hillview School; and directs administration to include in the process an opportunity for one on one meetings for community members to meet with the Official Trustee and/or the Superintendent of Schools to discuss their concerns confidentially.

A community meeting was held on March 15, 2017. A survey of the community was concluded on April 12, 2017. The results of the survey were tabulated and are available below. The Official Trustee and the Superintendent of Schools met with the East Prairie Metis Settlement Council on April 21, 2017.

The Board requested three primary actions to take place and a report prior to the May 25 decision.

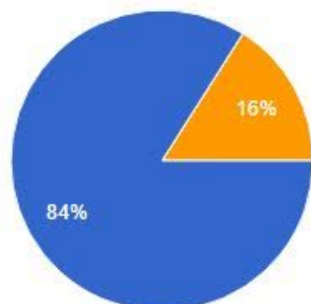
1. Investigation into the reasons parents are choosing to transport their children to other schools.
2. Possible alternative programs and the preferred future of Hillview School.
3. An opportunity for one on one meetings with community members to meet with the Official Trustee and/or the Superintendent of Schools.

1. The overall reasons given by families to not attend Hillview School were:
 - a. lack of confidence in a small school being able to meet the educational needs of children.
 - b. Respondents report that their families do business and work in High Prairie and it is easier for them to be close their children and access after school activities in High Prairie.
 - c. 45% of respondents said they wouldn't send their children regardless of program improvements.
2. Possible Alternatives
 - a. The school division will be conducting a program review of all the NSD schools served in the High Prairie region. A community engagement process will be undertaken by the Area Associate Superintendent and the Director of First Nation, Metis, and Inuit Learner Success. The review is targeted to be completed

by January 31, 2018. Hillview School will be a part of this review and conclusions will be reported to the Board in February 2018. The will review will focus on improvements to the overall education services offered in the region. Potential partnerships and new or revised facility usage as well as co-operative education delivery models will be explored.

- b. NSD and East Prairie Metis Settlement have a Memorandum of Understanding to co-operate and create success coaching and counselling for EPMS students and to establish an Early Years Education program. [\(The MOU can be found here\)](#)
3. Community members one on one meetings
 - a. Community members were invited to submit personal and confidential responses. Two families chose to speak with the Superintendent and one person emailed a personal response. One on one meetings mirrored the results of the survey.

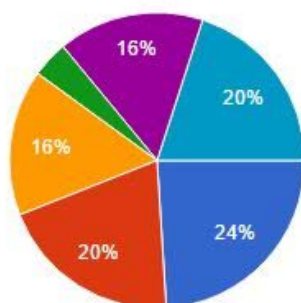
I am: (25 responses)



- Over 18 years old and live in East Prairie Metis Settlement
- Under 18 years old and live in East Prairie Metis Settlement
- Over 18 years and live outside East Prairie Metis Settlement
- Under 18 years and live outside East Prairie Metis Settlement
- Other

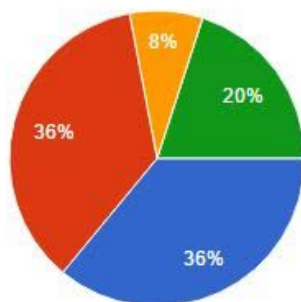
School Information questions

Which school is your child or children attending? (25 responses)



- Hillview School
- St. Andrews School Elementary (High Prairie)
- High Prairie Elementary School
- Child or children attended Hillview School and later transferred to an elementary school in High Prairie
- I don't have a child or children attending school
- Other

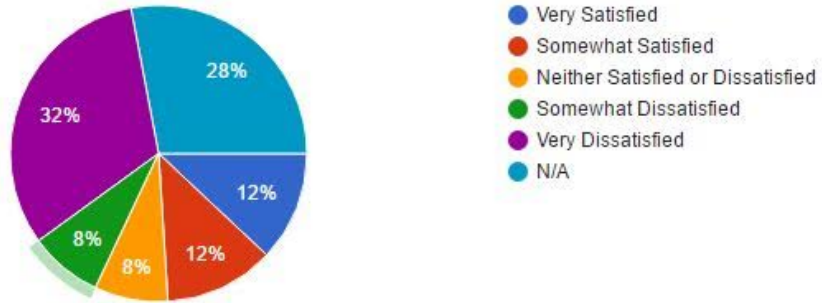
How many children do you have enrolled in school? (25 responses)



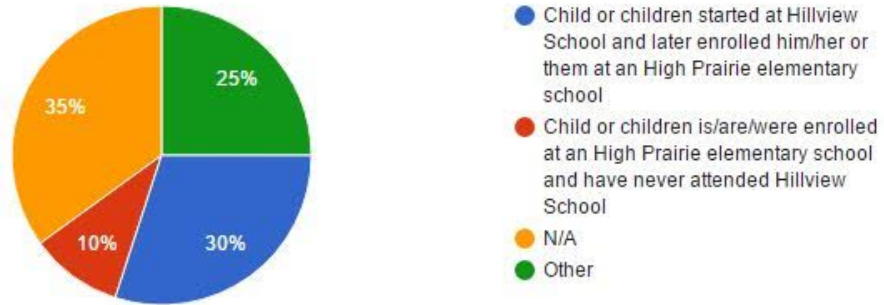
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- Other

Please rate your satisfaction level with the education quality your child or children is receiving or had received?

(25 responses)



Please select from one of the following options (20 responses)



According to the Hillview School Viability Report, student enrollment would need to increase over 45 students in order for the school to be financially viable. The current student enrollment at Hillview School is 21. If the school is/was able to make satisfactory changes would you return/have returned your child or children to Hillview School?

(22 responses)

