



Media Release

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School Board votes for closure

There will be one less school in Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools next fall, after the April 24 meeting at which members of the Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools Board of Trustees voted in favor of permanently closing the Rosebrier School effective June 29th, 2012.

The closure discussions on Rosebrier School began as a result of ongoing low enrollment in the school and the school division's growing concern that the current high quality of educational programming cannot be maintained into the future.

WRPS has been supplementing the budget of Rosebrier School for some time to ensure a basic level of service could be maintained. Based on 2010-2011 budget a funding subsidy of \$6,103 per student has been provided to Rosebrier School, which is a 43% per student subsidy. The school division cannot continue to subsidize small schools at this rate.

The Rosebrier School enrollment has continued to decline over the past ten years. WRPS has had to constantly subsidize small schools to ensure a standard level of service; however it is becoming increasingly difficult to continue this level of subsidization. The Board has researched and consulted with the public on possible alternatives to school closure however there was no other viable option than to look at school closure. The Board has developed a Ten Year Strategic Facility Direction plan that will look at the closure of several small schools in the next few years.

"This was not an easy decision, that anyone on the Board made lightly," says Board Chair. Deanna Specht "Closure of a school would never be our first choice. We recognize that the impact of decisions such as these has on the students and the community and we've looked at many alternatives over the past years to keep our smallest schools viable. But at the heart of our decision-making is our mandate to educate children. I know every Board member cast their vote based on what they believe to be in the best future educational interests of all the children we serve."

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