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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools: A Rural Setting

Wetaskiwin is approximately 70 kilometers south of Edmonton in an area uniquely suited to appeal to the outdoor enthusiast and the urbanite. The boundaries for the area served by Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools (WRPS) are coterminous with those of the County of Wetaskiwin, and include the City of Wetaskiwin, the Town of Millet and numerous summer villages and hamlets. The Division is composed of 24 instructional sites located in a 150-kilometer corridor running east to west along Highway 13.

Geographic Implications

The geographic configuration of the Division means significant distances to travel in serving our schools. As noted, it is approximately 150 kilometers between the two schools at opposite ends of the jurisdiction and approximately 115 kilometers from our maintenance facility to the furthest school.

Jurisdictional Anomalies

WRPS has a long-standing issue of an inordinately high proportion of special needs students. Our proximity to the Maskwacis First Nations Reserve constitutes the need for a high quality and responsive First Nations, Métis and Inuit Program. We also offer French Immersion, Outreach and Year-Round Schooling. These program offerings put an additional strain on and add complexity to our maintenance program.
OUR FACILITIES

Our inventory of 24 instructional sites and service-related facilities totals approximately 67,500 square meters and 130 acres of land. The replacement value of these facilities totals approximately $226,156,658 with contents of $45,752,436.

Our schools range in age from Griffiths-Scott Middle School opened in 2012 to Millet School which was originally constructed in 1930. The largest school, Wetaskiwin Composite High School is 14,016 square meters, while the smallest, Wetaskiwin Early Education and Family Wellness Centre is 1,118 square meters.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND PRIORITIES

The prioritized capital projects for Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools are as follows:

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<th>Priority</th>
<th>Preservations or Modernization</th>
<th>Demolition</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>Buck Mountain Central School</td>
<td>Rosebrier School</td>
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<td>3.</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Norwood School</td>
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Please see the following commentary for a brief description and estimated cost of each of the above capital projects.
BUCK MOUNTAIN CENTRAL SCHOOL

Buck Mountain Central School is located in the Hamlet of Buck Lake. The school operates a grade 7 - 12 program, special education offerings and Career and Technology Studies. Located centrally between Alder Flats School and Winfield School, it serves as a the receiving school from these elementary schools as student’s progress through their junior and senior high school years.

The school was originally constructed in 1940, with additions completed in 1960, 1976 and a complete modernization in 1990-1991.

Buck Mountain Central School has a gross area of 3,538.92 square meters with a net capacity for 294 students. With a 2015-2016 enrolment of 173 students, adjusted to 166 for Area Capacity and Utilization purposes, the utilization is 57%.

There have been significant problems with the 1990-1991 metal roof system. Some areas have been addressed through Emergent Capital Funding.

There is foundation movement around the perimeter which is affecting interior finishes, door operation and sidewalks which appears to be associated with localized excess ground water and poor surface drainage.

Project Category: Preservation – Facility Modernization

5 Year Facility Condition Index: 11.54%

Scheduled Start Date: September 1, 2017

Scheduled Completion Date: August 31, 2018

Total Project Cost: $8,460,000

**Key Driver:** Student Health & Safety, Utilization Rates and Jurisdictional Enrolment Projections

**Backlog:** Yes, Health & Safety component
ROSEBRIER SCHOOL

Rosebrier School is located 35 kilometers southeast of our Divisional Office in Wetaskiwin. The school offered an ECS – Grade 9 program.

Rosebrier School has a gross area of 1,772.90 square meters.

During the 2011-2012 school year the Board of Trustees approved the closure of Rosebrier School.

Project Category: Demolition

Total Project Cost: $500,000

Scheduled Start Date: January 1, 2017

Scheduled Completion Date: March 31, 2017

Key Driver: School Closed and sitting empty

Backlog: No
EARLY EDUCATION & FAMILY WELLNESS CENTRE

The Early Education & Family Wellness Centre is located in the City of Wetaskiwin and offers programming to students between the ages of 2 years and 6 months to less than 6 years of age on September 1st, who have a severe disability or delay.

The Early Education & Family Wellness Centre has a gross area of 1,118 square meters.

1970 & 1977 mechanical systems consist of a hot water heating system with perimeter radiation. Ventilation units circulate room air mixed with outdoor air. These ventilation units do not have a heating section and outdoor air is introduced manually into the ventilation systems. Building system controls are a combination of low voltage thermostats with some pneumatic operators on the ventilation systems. Boilers require lifecycle replacement in concert with all boiler accessories, ventilation and hot water distribution systems.

Project Category: Preservation

5 Year Facility Condition Index: 29.89%

Total Project Cost: $225,000

Scheduled Start Date: September 1, 2017

Scheduled Completion Date: August 31, 2018

**Key Driver:** Student Health and Safety

Backlog: No
PARKDALE SCHOOL

Parkdale School is located in the City of Wetaskiwin and offers an ECS – Grade 6 program.

Parkdale School has a gross area of 2,982 square meters with a net capacity of 399 students. With a 2015-2016 enrolment of 238 students, adjusted to 245 for Area Capacity and Utilization purposes, the utilization is 61%.

Currently the administration office suite is located at a significant distance from the front doors of the school. The front doors are locked at all times and traffic in and out of the school is monitored via a video camera and controlled using a buzz-in system. Student safety is an issue.

The Board of Trustees has developed a Proposed Strategic Direction document which is currently being vetted for community feedback. It is proposed that Parkdale School be reconfigured to offer an ECS – Grade 8 program. This will increase the enrolment and utilization. The school will require washroom upgrades to accommodate grades 7 and 8 students and will require additional staff parking areas.

Project Category: Facility Modernization

5 Year Facility Condition Index: 13.48%

Total Project Cost: $195,000

Scheduled Start Date: September 1, 2017

Scheduled Completion Date: August 31, 2018

Key Driver: Student Health and Safety and Utilization Rates

Backlog: No
**Norwood School**

Norwood School is located in the City of Wetaskiwin and offers an ECS – Grade 6 program.

Norwood School has a gross area of 3,095 square meters with a net capacity of 408 students. With a 2015-2016 enrolment of 223 students, adjusted to 249 for Area Capacity and Utilization purposes, the utilization is 61%.

The Board of Trustees has developed a Proposed Strategic Direction document which is currently being vetted for community feedback. It is proposed that Norwood School be reconfigured to offer an ECS – Grade 8 program. This will increase the enrolment and utilization. The school will require washroom upgrades to accommodate grades 7 and 8 students and will require additional staff parking areas.

Based on projected enrolment it is anticipated, that if Norwood School is reconfigured, the school will require two additional 'stick-built' classrooms attached to the existing portable complex and an upgrade of the heating and ventilation systems which serve the complex.

**Project Category:** Modernization and Facility Additions

5 Year Facility Condition Index: 11.72%

**Total Project Cost:** $410,000

**Scheduled Start Date:** July 1, 2017

**Scheduled Completion Date:** August 31, 2018

**Key Driver:** Student Health and Safety and Utilization Rates

Backlog: No