

RIDGEWAY ANNEX - Kindergarten to Gr. 2 with RIDGEWAY Kindergarten to Gr. 7

| FACTORS for Consideration from Policy 610 | Pertinent data and information | Reference |
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| The number of students who would be affected, at both the closed school and surrounding schools | The Preliminary Projection for 2009/10 indicates that there would be 96 students attending Ridgeway Annex (58 continuing students and 38 projected Kindergarten students). Ridgeway Elementary is projected to have 365 students. The combined population of Ridgeway and Ridgeway Annex for 2009/2010 would be 461 students; 58K, 403 Gr. 1 - 7). | <u>Appendix 1</u> : Enrolment graphs by school, MATRIX long Range Facilities Plan Update 2007. |
| Enrolment trends and utilization for the school and surrounding area | The MATRIX Update report of 2007 indicates that the Sutherland elementary feeder schools are consistently underutilized with more than 300 surplus spaces available. Some of this space is currently leased to support child care and out of school care. Ridgeway Annex is currently operating at 65% capacity, using all available rooms for the divisions. There is limited space available at neighbouring schools - Brooksbank and Queensbury. Projections prepared by MATRIX indicate that the Sutherland feeder schools are projected to stabilize over the next few years with space remaining available to accommodate more students. | <u>Appendix 1</u> : MATRIX long Range Facilities Plan Update 2007. |
| Availability of space at receiving schools | The Ridgeway Elementary HERITAGE replacement school has the ability to accommodate the student population of both Ridgeway and Ridgeway Annex with approval from the Ministry to provide three additional classrooms upon the closure of Ridgeway Annex. This approval will allow for an increase in the capacity of the project from 3 K classes and 350 students to 3 K classes and 425 students. There is space available at Brooksbank Elementary that is presently used for a lease. Queensbury will also be able to accommodate a limited number of students. | <u>Appendix 1</u> : MATRIX long Range Facilities Plan Update 2007 (pg. 67) |
| Proximity to possible receiving schools and the routes to schools | Ridgeway Elementary school is less than 1 km from Ridgeway Annex. While the majority of students currently attending Ridgeway Annex live closer to the Annex, there are a small number who live closer to Ridgeway. As an Annex to Ridgeway, students attending the Annex go to Ridgeway for Grade 3 to Grade 7. There are crossing guards situated on Keith Road (at Ridgeway Ave. and at Hendry Ave.) to assist students with safe crossing. | <u>Appendix 2</u> : Catchment Area maps by school |
| Socio-economic conditions in the affected community | The community served by Ridgeway Annex is diverse in terms of the socio-economic conditions. | <u>Appendix 3</u> : Community Vulnerability |
| Educational program/course implications for the affected students | Ridgeway School has been able to provide additional programs (and more specialist staff) as a result of its larger school size in comparison to Ridgeway Annex. With additional students and divisions there could be less frequent access to general facilities (gymnasium, library, computer lab, music room). The new school will have a much larger gymnasium and additional multi-purpose space. | <u>Appendix 4</u> : Optimum School Size paper |

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| Financial considerations including anticipated cost savings | As a school with low capacity, Ridgeway Annex has high operating 'overhead' costs. The Direct Operating Overhead costs for Ridgeway Annex for 2007/08 were \$208,127. Annual savings in operating costs are estimated at \$200,000 to \$210,000. | Appendix 5 : Direct Operating Overhead costs by school. |
| Facility age and condition | Ridgeway Annex was opened in 1953 and is now over 55 years old. The Ministry of Education Facility Audit score of 25% indicates that the school facility is in poor condition. | Appendix 6 : Facility Audit Summary |
| Potential for revenue generation through lease and/or sale of the school building and/or site | There is limited potential for revenue generation through lease as a result of the small size of the facility. Although the lease and/or sale of the site could yield a reasonable return, this property should be retained to address potential future demand that may occur through the redevelopment of the lower Lonsdale and waterfront area. The facility may be suitable for lease over the shorter term to address existing and future community demands for pre-school and out of school care programs. | |
| Impact on the Ministry of Education's five-year capital plan submitted by the Board. | The 2008/2009 Five-Year Capital Plan includes the #19 priority request for the replacement of Ridgeway Annex at an estimated cost of \$4 million. The closure of Ridgeway Annex would relieve the School District's total capital requirements of \$201 million by the requested amount of \$4 million. | Appendix 7 : Capital Plan Summary |
| Other: Ridgeway Annex is a 'feeder school' to Ridgeway. | Upon the completion of Grade 2 at Ridgeway Annex, the majority of students proceed to Ridgeway for Grades 3 through 7. The closure of Ridgeway Annex would result in students attending Ridgeway earlier than previously. | |
| Other: Out of Catchment attendance. | Of the 78 students currently in Kindergarten and Grade 2 at Ridgeway Annex 22 (or 28%) are from out of the catchment area of the school. | Appendix 8 : Out of Catchment by school. |
| Other: Future Community Growth | The developments that have been built and are planned for the waterfront and lower Lonsdale are expected to generate limited school age population. These developments have been factored into the projections developed by MATRIX consultants. Due to the location of these developments, additional student population would likely be added to Queen Mary and Westview schools. However, the size of the area undergoing redevelopment suggests the need to retain the site. Over the longer period, growth could possibly result in the need for a school with a larger capacity than the Annex currently provides. | |