

**DATE:** December 16, 2014

**TO:** Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT:** Impact of Future Schools on Brander Gardens School Enrolment (Response to Request for Information #059)

**ORIGINATOR:** Lorne Parker, Acting Executive Director, Infrastructure

**RESOURCE STAFF:** Kim Holowatuk, Constantine Kastrinos, Roland Labbe, Shannon Mah, Jim Ray, Christopher Wright

**REFERENCE:** October 21, 2014 Board Meeting (Trustee Janz)

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**ISSUE**

The following information was requested: Provide projections on the anticipated impact the openings of future new schools in the southwest will have on Brander Gardens enrolment. What steps will be taken to ensure a sustainable school population in future?

**BACKGROUND**

The Brander Gardens School attendance area consists of the Brander Gardens, Hodgson, MacTaggart, Magrath Heights and Ramsay Heights neighbourhoods. The school currently offers regular and French Immersion programming.

A new K-9 school is scheduled to open in September 2016 in the MacTaggart neighbourhood, with a 900 student capacity. The attendance area for this school will be finalized prior to the pre-enrolment process in the spring of 2016; however, the Hodgson and Magrath Heights neighbourhoods could potentially be included in addition to the MacTaggart neighbourhood.

A K-9 school (900 student capacity) in the Ambleside neighbourhood and a K-6 starter school (initial 300 student capacity) in the Windermere North neighbourhood are scheduled for opening in 2016 and 2017, respectively. In order to relieve enrolment pressures at Brander Gardens School, the Ambleside and Windermere neighbourhoods were redesignated as a result of the 2013-2014 District Accommodation Plan. Current students from these neighbourhoods were allowed to continue at Brander Gardens School.

**CURRENT SITUATION**

The following table represents the current Brander Gardens School enrolment (December 4, 2014 data).

Neighbourhood	Regular Enrolment	French Immersion Enrolment	Total School Enrolment	K-6 Neighbourhood Resident Total
Ambleside	6	18	24	179
Brander Gardens	82	31	113	170
Hodgson	26	15	41	160

Neighbourhood	Regular Enrolment	French Immersion Enrolment	Total School Enrolment	K-6 Neighbourhood Resident Total
MacTaggart	23	8	31	172
Magrath Heights	37	8	45	168
Ramsay Heights	48	46	94	160
Windermere North	11	4	15	75
Windermere South	30	12	42	164
*Other	18	109	127	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>532</b>	-

\*Includes students from 22 neighbourhoods.

With the opening of the three new schools, it can be expected that the enrolment at Brander Gardens School will be affected. Many students may choose to attend the new schools. Typically, this impact is greatest in the lower grades as students in higher grades will continue their elementary programming at their current school.

Brander Gardens School is the nearest French Immersion program to the neighbourhoods listed in the table above. It is anticipated that the majority of the students in the French Immersion program at Brander Gardens School will choose to remain in the program. There continues to be strong demand for French Immersion programming in southwest Edmonton. Since the new schools will be needed to accommodate regular program students, there are no current plans to establish alternative programs at the new schools.

As the City of Edmonton continues to develop, there is a potential for future redesignations of neighbourhoods farther south to Brander Gardens School, should it become the nearest school with available space. The neighbourhoods of Keswick, Glenridding Heights, Glenridding Ravine and Windermere Neighbourhood 5 are currently designated to Ormsby and Lendrum schools.

#### KEY POINTS

- Two K-9 schools and one K-6 starter school are scheduled for opening in southwest Edmonton in 2016 and 2017.
- French Immersion programming is in high demand in southwest Edmonton and Brander Gardens School is the only school offering the program in the Riverbend/Terwillegar and Windermere areas.
- There are a number of newly developing neighbourhoods in the southwest that could potentially be redesignated to Brander Gardens School in the future if necessary, and if there is sufficient space available.

#### ATTACHMENTS & APPENDICES

N/A

JR:ks