

DATE: May 19, 2015

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Standardized School Designs within the Context of Approved Provincial Designs (Response to Request for Information #089)

ORIGINATOR: Lorne Parker, Acting Executive Director, Infrastructure

RESOURCE STAFF: Josephine Duquette, Terri Gosine, Roland Labbe, Christopher Wright

REFERENCE: March 3, 2015 Board Meeting (Trustee Gibson)

ISSUE

The following information was requested: Provide information regarding whether standardized school designs that incorporate flexible, multi-purpose space are available within the context of approved Provincial designs.

BACKGROUND

The Government of Alberta requires all new school projects to conform to the space guidelines articulated in the [Alberta School Capital Manual - Appendix C: Education Design Standards](#). Multi-purpose space is space that can typically be used for more than one instructional focus or program. All school types listed in the *Education Design Standards* include an allocation for classroom(s) categorized as ancillary space which is described as “*instructional areas used for drama, music, arts and other multi-purposes.*”

CURRENT SITUATION

All school designs, whether commissioned by school jurisdictions or by the Government of Alberta on behalf of jurisdictions, allocate space in accordance with the *Education Design Standards*, which includes provision for ancillary classrooms that can serve or be described as multi-purpose. There are classrooms categorized as ancillary provided in standard-core school designs, which are template school designs developed by the Government of Alberta as part of the recent public-private partnership (P3) programs such as Alberta Schools Alternative Procurement (ASAP) and Building Alberta Schools Construction Program (BASCP). Standard-core school designs will be utilized to deliver recently announced school projects to reduce design timelines and deliver school facilities as quickly as possible. Variations to the designs may be considered where achievable within design budgets and project delivery timelines.

A number of standard-core design school projects in Alberta have been altered to accommodate a school partnership (Attachment I). The Government of Alberta does not fund design alterations or construction within the school project budget. Each project requires agreements and financial security to be in place for project scope outside of approved school project budgets, prior to provincial approval to proceed to construction.

KEY POINTS

- All school designs, whether commissioned by school jurisdictions or by the Government of Alberta on behalf of a jurisdiction, allocate space in accordance with the [Alberta School Capital Manual - Appendix C: Education Design Standards](#).
- All school types listed in the *Education Design Standards* include an allocation for classroom(s) categorized as ancillary space, which is described as “*instructional areas used for drama, music, arts and other multi-purposes.*”
- There are classrooms categorized as ancillary provided in standard-core school designs.
- Partner space requires additional design considerations, while floor plans for the balance of the school can still reflect standard core design.
- The District would require that additional agreements and funds be in place with partner entities prior to proceeding with either the design or construction of partner space.

ATTACHMENTS & APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I Standard-Core Design Schools Altered for Partner Facilitation

RL:gm

Standard-Core Design Schools Altered for Partner Facilitation

Isabel Campbell School K-8 (Grande Prairie Public School District)

The City of Grande Prairie Partnership Space

The Grande Prairie Public School District (GPPSD) has developed a partnership with the City of Grande Prairie to include a space within the school of approximately 80m². This space will be designed to the City of Grande Prairie requirements and will include a separate entrance from the front of the school that will be accessed through a vestibule. There will be four separate office spaces that will be used by different user groups throughout the week.

Riverstone K-8 (Grande Prairie Public School District)

YMCA

The GPPSD has developed a partnership with the YMCA to include a daycare space within the school of approximately 100m². This space will be designed to the YMCA requirements and will include a separate entrance from the front of the school and will be accessed through a vestibule with boot racks for the children.

St. Mary School - Beaverlodge K-9 (Grande Prairie Catholic Separate School District)

Grande Prairie Catholic Separate School District has approved to increase the 430m² gymnasium size by 165m² to 595m² and has a partnership with the Town of Beaverlodge to provide a Community Kitchen at a total size of 60m² which will be funded separately. It has been located adjacent to the Home Economics Classroom for efficiencies to help with food preparation and serving. A separate exterior entrance was provided to avoid public use during school hours. The location of the kitchen also offers access to the gymnasium and the main gathering space providing flexibility to serve both spaces. The kitchen will be a future development and will be built as a shell that will make allowances for architectural, mechanical and electrical requirements.

Royal Oaks K-9 (Grande Prairie Catholic Separate School District)

The City of Grande Prairie Partnership Space

The City of Grande Prairie requested that the school design accommodate a future 300 square meter Field House. The construction budget of \$19.7 million does not include the construction of the proposed Field House. The school has been designed to accommodate the Field House with an additional 32 square meters of circulation space for Field House access from the central gathering space, and structural foundations and gymnasium walls are designed to handle the future Field House addition. The City of Grande Prairie will need to provide funding for the additional circulation space and structure.

École Barrie Wilson School K-9 (Red Deer Public School District)

Red Deer Public Library

The community contributed 150m² to the school's programmed library area of 240m², creating a library of 390m² that is shared by the school and the community.