Presentation to Round Hill Parents / Community

February 6, 2020

Battle River School Division

Growing to Greatness

Agenda

- Welcome
- Provincial and School Division Landscape
- Record Your Questions
- Information Sharing / Responding to Written Questions
  - Educational Programming
  - Staffing
  - Classroom Configurations / Receiving Schools
  - Transportation
  - Finance
  - Buildings
- A Final Question and Answer Session
- Next Steps
- Wrap Up

Welcome

- Introductions
- Board's Role
- Purpose of this evening
- What next?

Process

Provincial Landscape

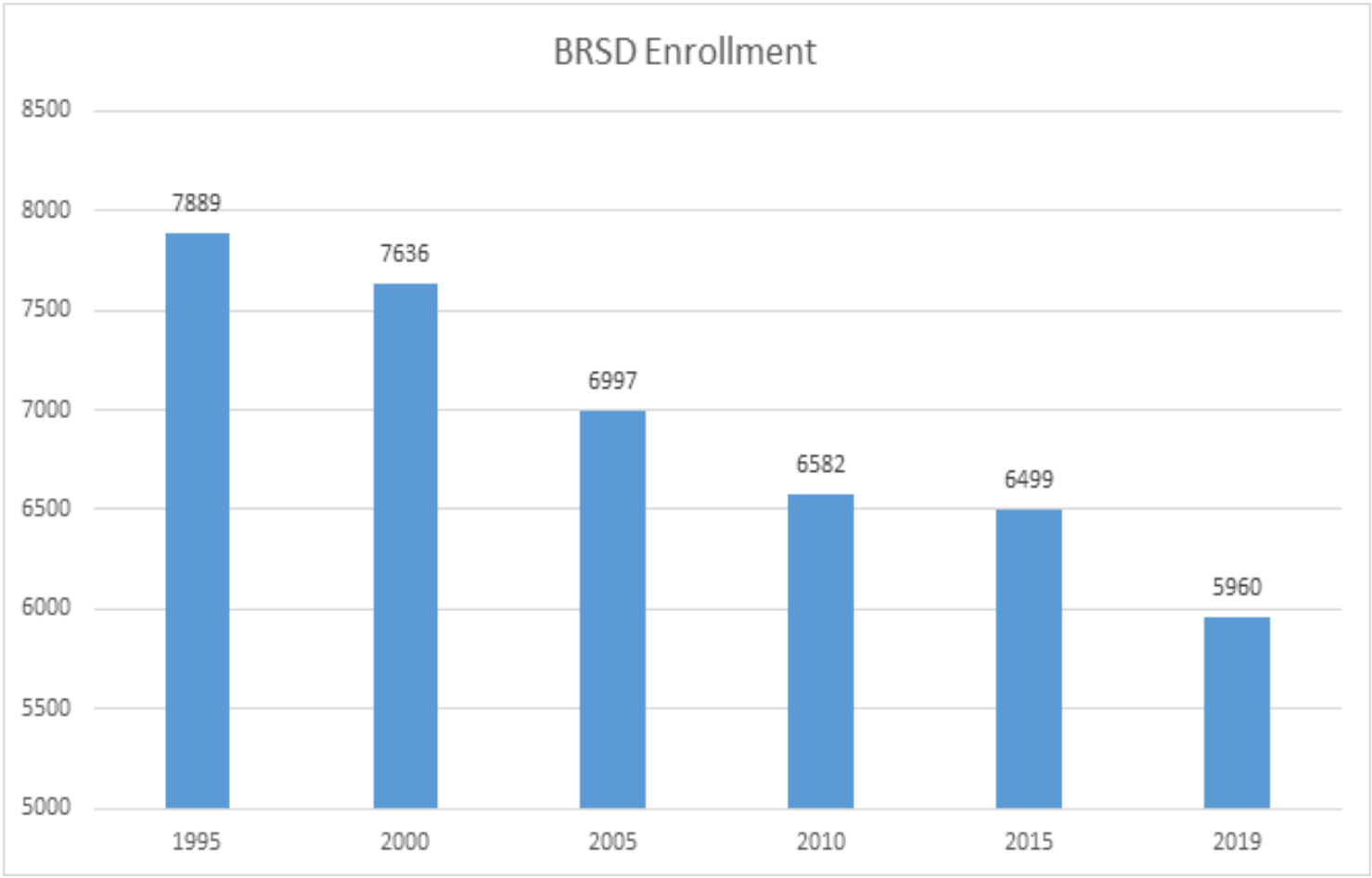
Rural populations are declining

Province speaks of “tight times” to come

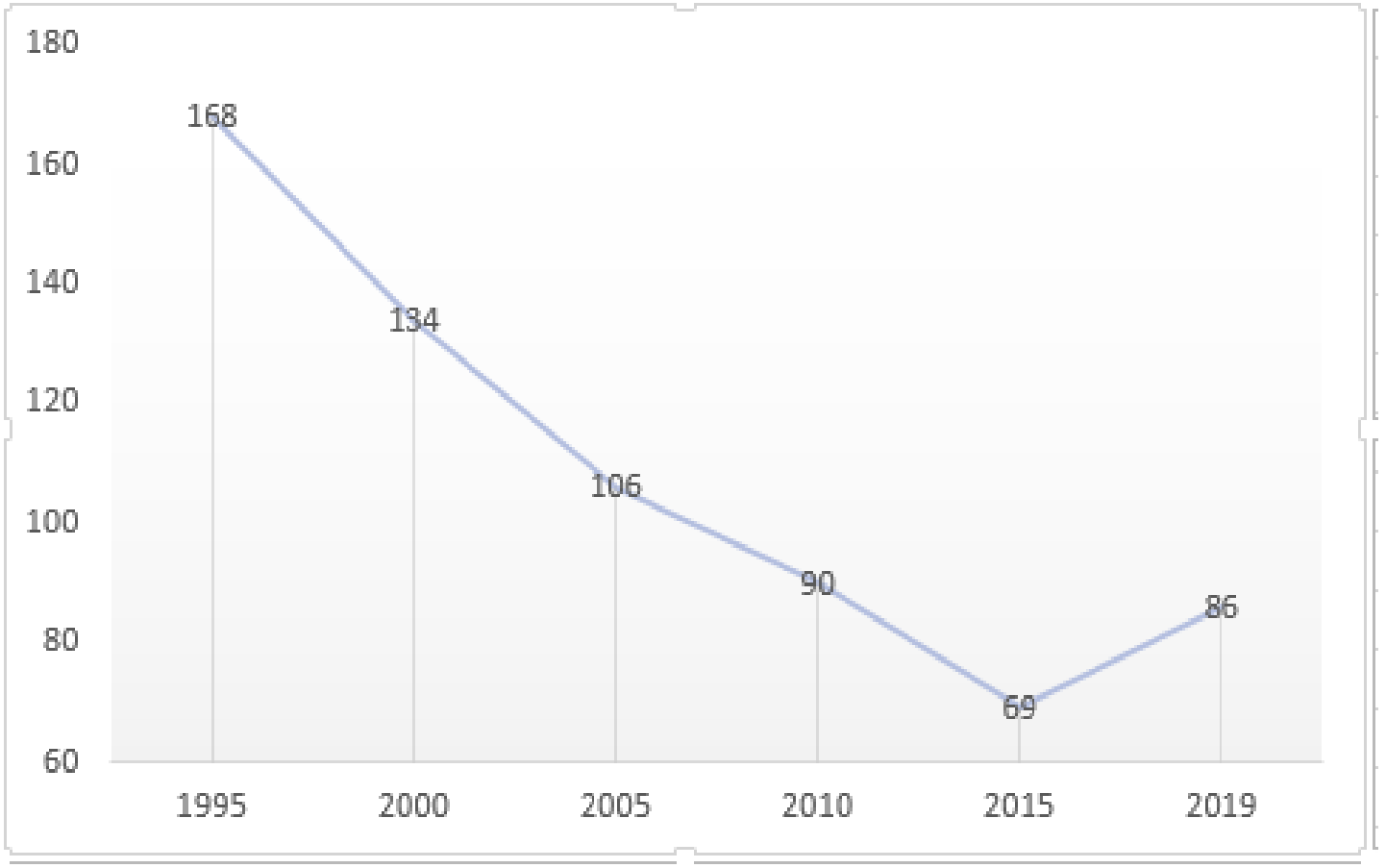
Education funding formula is being reviewed

Budget being announced in March

Demographics



Round Hill School student population



We've been asking for input . . .

Round One

1122 Participants

1296 Thoughts

37477 Ratings



%		
69%	(731)	Rural BRSD
29%	(300)	City of Camrose BRSD
2%	(22)	non BRSD

Round Two

940 Participants

751 Thoughts

34208 Ratings



%		
66%	(589)	Rural BRSD
32%	(289)	City of Camrose BRSD
2%	(17)	Non-BRSD

Record Your Questions

Educational Program = PINK

Staffing = ORANGE

Funding / Finance = GREEN

Transportation = YELLOW

Facilities = BLUE

Other = WHITE

Education Programming

Considerations for all of us:

- Can students acquire the skills they need with current or fewer resources?
- Can teachers provide appropriate learning experiences with current or fewer resources?
- Can we provide the essential learning environments (classrooms) necessary for today's students with current or fewer resources?
- When do we put sound programming at risk?

Education Programming

One thing to consider:

- A majority of studies consider a “small” school at elementary to consist of 200-400 students; a “small” middle school to consist of 400-600 students; and a “small high school to consist of 600-1000. That said the distinction of “small” as it refers to student population or facility size is not always made in the research. Leithwood and Jantzie (2009) note that “smaller does not usually mean really small” – it is a relative term.

Education Programming

The Impact of Schools on Rural Communities (Schollie, Negropontes, Buan and Litun) is a 2017 study commissioned by Alberta Education, Alberta Municipal Affairs, and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. The authors of this study captured the following comments and themes regarding the quality of education:

Area	Small Schools Advantage	Small Schools Challenge
Teaching & Learning	• Smaller class sizes easier to manage for teachers and allows more teacher time/attention for each student • Closer relationships between students, parents, and teachers • Curriculum flexibility and professional autonomy • Closer connection to the community/fostering intergenerational relationships particularly if teachers live in the community • More opportunities to engage with the broader community and perform service work in the community • More opportunities for teacher advancement into school administration	• Multi-grade or multi –level teaching more challenging/time consuming for teachers • Fewer support staff add to higher teacher expectations • Generally higher workload with smaller staff to share extracurricular duties, supervision, and other tasks • Less opportunity to specialize/teach in one subject area, more expectation to teach mue/various subjects • Less professional/peer support from a smaller staff _ "your practice grows when you can learn from more people on a bigger staff." • Less choice in programs and options for students with varying interests/aptitudes • Challenges from curriculum adaptions for students from diverse backgrounds

Education Programming

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Area	Small Schools Advantage	Small Schools Challenge
Extracurricular	• Flexibility to use local resources for extracurricular activities • More opportunity for students to participate in extracurricular sports because everyone is needed to make a team	• Challenging to build a competitive team without "tryouts" and being able to select best players • Can be challenging to fundraise in a small community especially if less economically vibrant • Challenging to find skilled coaches for teams

Education Programming

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Area	Small Schools Advantage	Small Schools Challenge
Social	• Leadership opportunities for older students by mentoring younger students • More multi-generational interaction through school/community events • Less likely to have cliques or groups forming- more socially inclusive • Inclusive communities build bridges between diverse communities	• Limited pool of friends so do not necessarily choose friends based on similar interests • May not have any same aged, same gender students in your grade • Students with inclusive learning needs are more visible

Education Programming

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Area	Small Schools Advantage	Small Schools Challenge
Other	• Feelings of safety because school is close by/right in the community • Safe and caring atmosphere because everyone knows and "watches out" for each other	• Allocation of resources challenging in schools with small enrolment and spread of programming i.e. K to 12 • Enrolment instability from year to year makes planning more difficult • Transition into a larger high school can be easier if coming from a larger school rather than from a small group

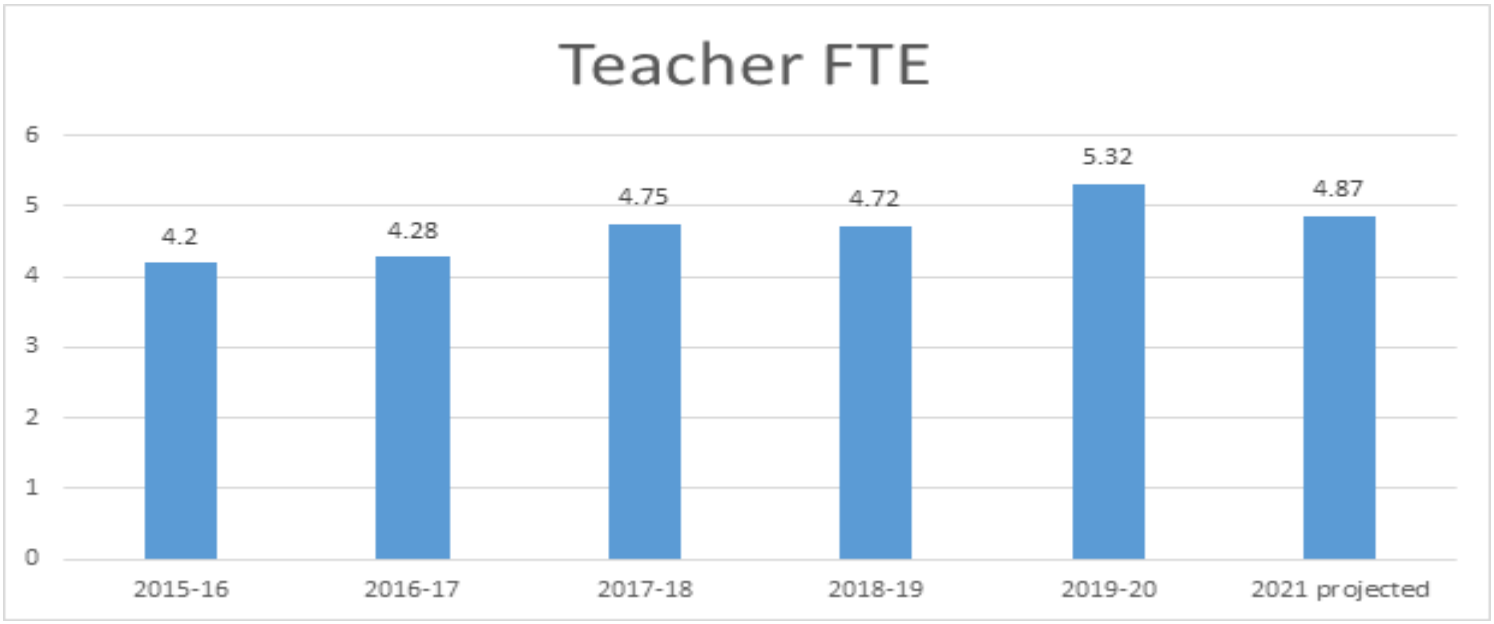
Education Programming

- *Particularly at the junior high level, consideration will be given to ensuring students continue to have access to Band and CTS classes.*
- *The addition of students to other schools may increase the number of students at each grade level to the point where there will be more than one classroom of that grade level offered.*
- *All of our students currently transitioning to new buildings are supported in a variety of ways. However if decisions are made to close schools a formal plan will be put in place for additional opportunities for students to visit, be oriented and learn about their new school prior to attending.*
- *The Board believes that all the schools in Battle River, whatever their size, are focused on providing a high quality education. The Board wishes to acknowledge the current Round Hill School Staff – this discussion is in no way a reflection on their skills or efforts.*
- *All schools in Battle River have been focusing on the Everyday 4, which has created increased consistency between schools. Students' learning needs would be served in their new schools. They would continue to have access to high quality teachers and support staff. It is possible that students would have access to a greater of programming opportunities if they were part of a larger student body.*

Final Thoughts about Educational Programming...

As resources diminish, the number of people carrying the educational responsibility shrinks. However, the workload isn't shrinking. In fact, in many ways it's swelling. As a result, we risk compromising what we know is right for student learning.

Staffing in Round Hill School



Based on current Information re: Funding and Enrollment Projections

Round Hill Classroom Configuration

Based on current Information re: Funding and Enrollment Projections

Round Hill 2019-2020

Grade Grouping	% of the year	# of students in class
ECS	50%	7
1/2	100%	25
3/4	100%	13
5/6	100%	16
7/8	100%	20
9(Core)	80%	5
7,8,9 (Music/PE)	20%	25

Round Hill 2020-2021

Grade Grouping	% of the year	# of students in class
ECS	50%	?
1/2	100%	21
3/4	100%	18
5/6/7	100%	22
8/9	80%	20
7,8,9 Options	20%	29

What if Round Hill students went to Hay Lakes School?

2020-2021 Potential Configurations (Approximate)		
If Hay Lakes School was to receive Round Hill students:		
Grade	**Total Students**	**Possible configuration**
ECS	-	-
1	20	Gr. 1 - 20
2	29	Gr. 2 - 24
3	20	Gr. 2/3 - 25
4	21	Gr. 4 - 21
5	19	Gr. 5 - 19
6	20	Gr. 6 - 20
7	23	Single Core; Combined for options
8	24	Single Core; Combined for options
9	19	Single Core; Combined for options

What if Round Hill students went to Bawlf School?

2020-2021 Potential Configurations (Approximate)		
If Bawlf School was to receive Round Hill students:		
Grade	**Total Students**	**Possible configuration**
ECS	-	-
1	39	Gr. 1 - 20 Gr. 1 - 19
2	31	Gr. 2 - 21
3	33	Gr. 2/3 - 23 Gr. 3 - 20
4	28	Gr. 4 - 20 Gr. 4/5 - 24
5	36	Gr. 5/6 - 24
6	29	Gr. 6 - 25
7	24	Single Core; Combined for options
8	30	Single Core; Combined for options
9	29	Single Core; Combined for options

What if Round Hill students went to Ecole Sifton School?

2020-2021 Potential Configurations (Approximate)		
If Ecole Sifton School was to receive Round Hill students:		
Grade	**Total Students**	**Possible configuration**
ECS	?	
1	66	Gr. 1 - 22 Gr. 1 - 22 Gr 1 - 22
2	61	Gr. 2 - 20 Gr. 2 - 21 Gr. 2 - 20
3	46	Gr. 3 - 23 Gr. 3 - 23
4	53	Gr. 4 - 27 Gr. 4 - 26
5	47	Gr. 5 - 23 Gr. 5 - 24

What if Round Hill students went to Ecole Charlie Killam School?

2020-2021 Potential Configurations (Approximate)		
If Ecole Charlie Killam School was to receive Rounds Hill students:		
Grade	**Total Students**	**Possible configuration**
6	178	6 Gr. 6 - 25 1 Gr. 6 - 28
7	167	5 Gr. 7 - 28 1 Gr. 7 - 27
8	191	5 Gr. 8 - 27 2 Gr. 8- 28

Staffing - Final Thoughts

- **Regardless of what decision is made, staffing in Battle River School Division will look different next year.**
- **Battle River values all of our employees, and we will support all of our employees through this process.**
- **Meetings have already occurred with staff since the motions were passed on January 23, 2020.**
- **Should the school be closed, we would work closely with current staff to try to find them positions at other sites within Battle River School Division.**

Transportation

- Route design based on current student count
- Proposed boundaries based on current boundaries for students in grades 10 to 12
- This scenario uses same number of buses
- First pick up time within 5-15 minutes of what it is currently.
- This is a proposal. The Board ultimately has the responsibility to review boundaries and make changes if they think it's appropriate, based on your feedback.
- Come later and see the route board for your specifics

Five minutes - grab a water, write a question

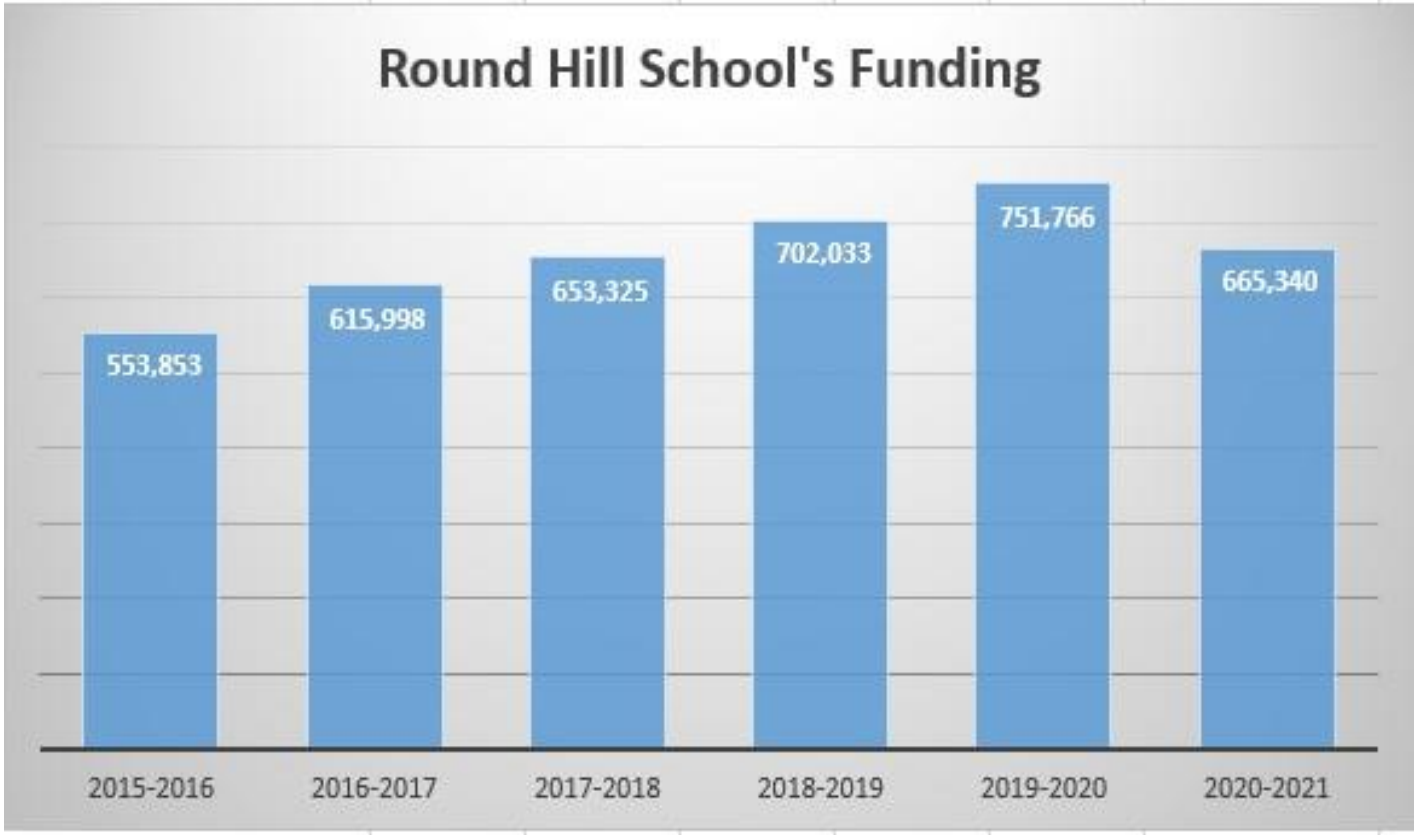
Funding for School Divisions

Funding is provided by Alberta Education to school authorities with the expectation that the school authority will offer the necessary programs or services to meet the needs of all funded children/students.

How BRSD allocates funds

- Alberta Education's Funding Framework is an allocation method only.
- School divisions have the flexibility to use these funds to best meet the needs of their jurisdiction.
- Battle River School Division allocates funds for classroom resources and administrative operational costs based on a per student formula.
- Both teacher and support staffing levels are determined based on the program needs of the students that are registered at the school.

Round Hill School's Funding



BRSD's Fiscal Realities

Over the past four years, the following reserve amounts have been used to balance the budget and support the Division's operations.

- **2016-2017 - $1,261,313**
- **2017-2018 - $2,844,482**
- **2018-2019 - $678,423**
- **2019-2020 - $4,098,804 (budgeted)**

About the Building

- **Round Hill School is a two storey conventional wood frame building, originally constructed in 1956 with an addition in 1962. Modest modification in 1988.**
- **The building is 64 years old.**
- **As a two-storey split entry building without an elevator, Round Hill School does not meet current standards for barrier free accessibility.**

About the Building (cont.)

- New boilers and pumps were installed in 2017.
- The gym was re-roofed in 2010 as a result of wind damage.
- A major roof project was done on the rest of the building in 2016/2017.
- Recently a new security camera system was installed.
- The Round Hill School facility is in fair condition.

Utilization Rates

- Utilization rate formulas are determined by Alberta Infrastructure.
- Net capacity for Round Hill school is 208 students.
- 2018/19 adjusted enrolment is factored at 66 FTE (ECS calculated as .5)
- Utilization Rate = Adjusted Enrolment / Net Capacity = 66/208 = 32%

Utilization at Sifton

- One of the receiving schools is designated as Sifton.
- Net capacity for the school is 417 students.
- 2018/19 adjusted enrolment is 324.
- Sifton is currently 78% utilized.

Utilization at Bawlf

- One of the receiving schools is designated as Bawlf.
- Net capacity for the school is 392 students.
- 2018/19 adjusted enrolment is 307.
- Bawlf is currently 78% utilized.

Utilization at Hay Lakes

- One of the receiving schools is designated as Hay Lakes.
- Net capacity for the school is 381 students.
- 2018/19 adjusted enrolment is 220.
- Hay Lakes is currently 58% utilized.

Utilization at Charlie Killam

- One of the receiving schools is designated as Charlie Killam.
- Net capacity for the school is 609 students.
- 2018/19 adjusted enrolment is 551.
- Charlie Killam is currently 90% utilized.

Questions?

Next Steps

Wrap Up