

Presentation to Allan Johnstone Parents / Community

February 12, 2020



Agenda

- Welcome
- Provincial and School Division Landscape
- Record Your Questions
- Information Sharing / Responding to Written Questions
 - Finance
 - Buildings
 - Transportation
 - Educational Programming
 - Staffing/Classroom Configurations / Receiving Schools
 - 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 February 27



Demographics



Allan Johnstone School student population



Fiscal Realities

Spending reductions outside of classrooms:

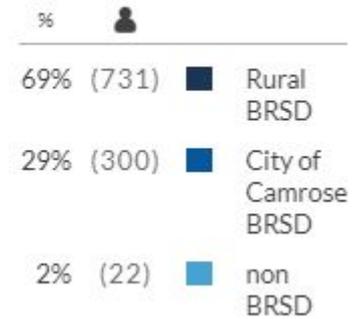
- **reduced division-wide staff; from an Assistant Superintendent role to Learning support, Finance, Technology and Facilities departments, we've got about 14 less positions.**

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

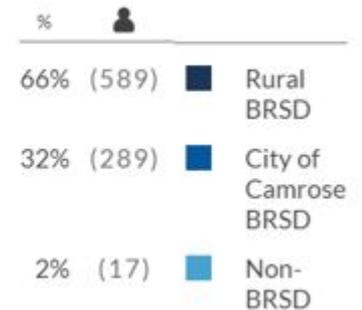
- **2016-2017 - \$1,261,313**
- **2017-2018 - \$2,844,482**
- **2018-2019 - \$678,423**
- **2019-2020 - \$4,098,804 (budgeted)**

We've been asking for input . . .

Round One



Round Two



Record Your Questions

Educational Program = **PINK**

Staffing = **PURPLE**

Funding / Finance = **GREEN**

Transportation = **YELLOW**

Facilities = **BLUE**

Other = **WHITE**



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.

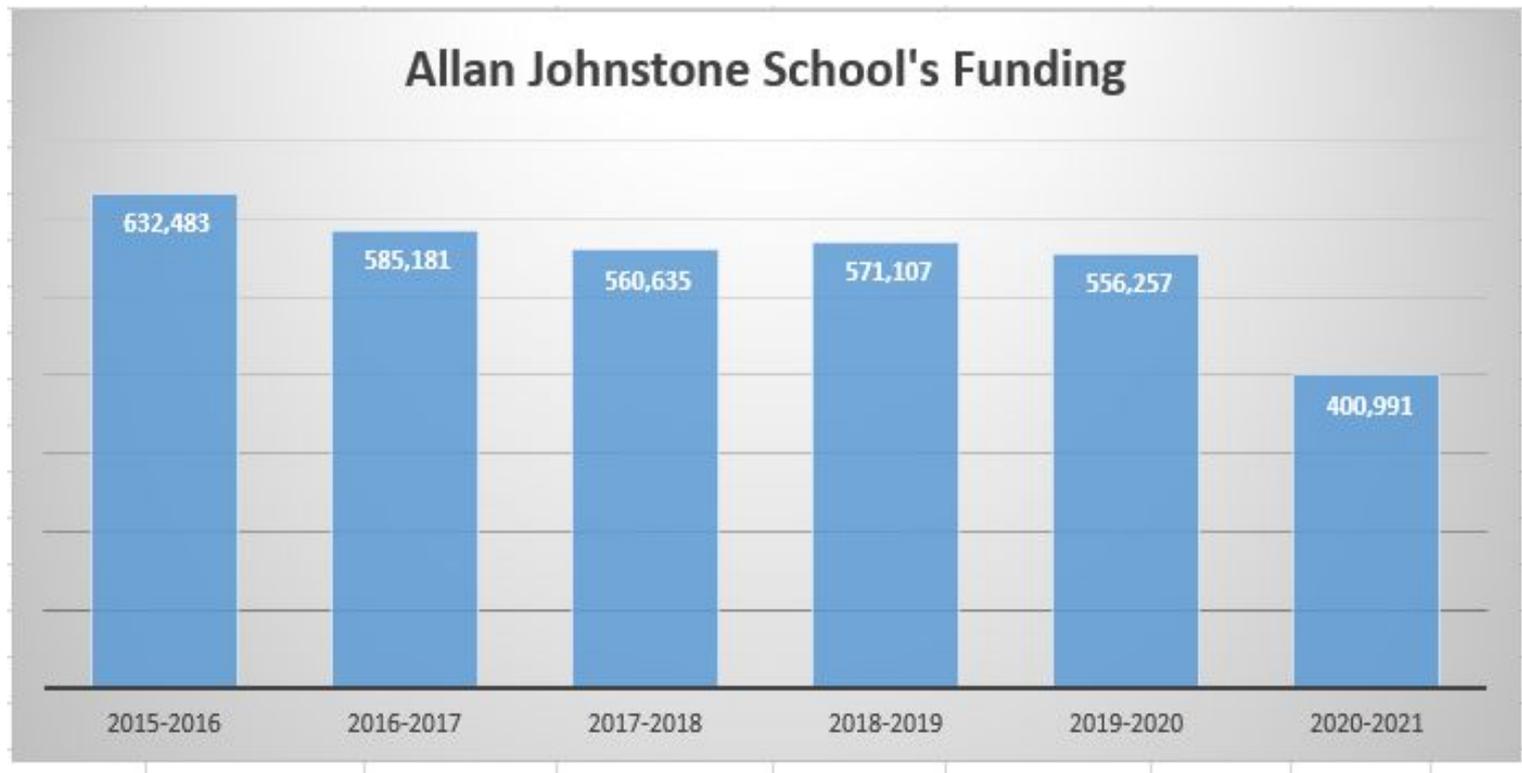


How BRSD allocates funds

- 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.



Allan Johnstone School's Funding



Instruction budget spending per school

- **School average cost per student of education program**
 - **All Schools - \$7,968.57**
 - **Allan Johnstone School - \$13,194.51**

This is based on the current year's expenses.

Annual School Maintenance Costs

- **Costs that could be eliminated - \$56,700**
 - examples - caretaking & maintenance
- **Costs that would be ongoing until building was disposed of - \$34,800**
 - examples - power & heat, insurance, grass cutting
- **Estimated using a three year average of actual costs.**

Changes in grants

- **The jurisdiction's Small School by Necessity Grant would be recalculated based on one less school.**
- **This would result in an annual loss of \$133,500 in funding at the end of five years.**

We expect to save

- **Closing Allan Johnstone School would result in a savings of \$390,700 in staffing costs.**
- **These changes would result in a net savings of \$313,900 to the School Division's budget.**

Utilization Rates

- Utilization rate formulas are determined by Alberta Infrastructure.
- Net capacity for Allan Johnstone school is 194 students.
- Present adjusted enrolment is factored at 47. (This includes a student enrolment of 47 plus a special education severe disabilities adjustment)
- Utilization Rate = Adjusted Enrolment / Net Capacity
= $47/194 = 24\%$



Utilization at CHSPS

- Receiving school is designated as CHSPS.
- Net capacity for the school is 625 students.
- Present adjusted enrolment is 457
- Utilization Rate = Adjusted Enrolment / Net Capacity = $457/625 = 73\%$
- CHSPS is capable of receiving 168 students before it would be 100% utilized.



About the Building

- **Allan Johnstone School is a two storey conventional wood frame building, originally constructed in 1955. A single storey addition in 1975 and 1986 which included a modernization to the 1955 and 1975 sections and the addition of two portables.**
- **As a two storey building without an elevator/stair lifts, Allan Johnstone School does not meet current standards for barrier free accessibility.**
- **A facility condition assessment conducted in 2017 lists the school condition as acceptable.**
- **Based on this report, the Facility Condition Index is .20.**



About the Building (cont.)

- **Replaced doors and hardware in gym - four sets.**
- **emergency lighting upgrades in washrooms/change rooms.**
- **VOIP phone system**
- **Security camera system**
- **Upgrade mechanical control system**
- **electric strikes on 5 sets of doors**

About the Building (cont.)

Going forward the building will need:

- **Roofing**
- **Barrier free accessibility**
- **Window upgrade to the 1955 section**
- **Library flooring**
- **Boilers and pump replacement**



**Five minutes - grab a water,
write a question**

Transportation

- **Route design based on current student count**
- **Proposed boundaries based on current boundaries for students in grades 10 to 12**
- **This scenario uses 1 fewer bus routes**
- **First pick up times are within 5 minutes of what they are right now.**



Transportation

- **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 information for your family.**

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, Negroptes, 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 multiple/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 adaptations for students from diverse backgrounds



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
Extracurricular	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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

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
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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

The Impact of Schools on Rural Communities (Schollie, Negropones, 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
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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



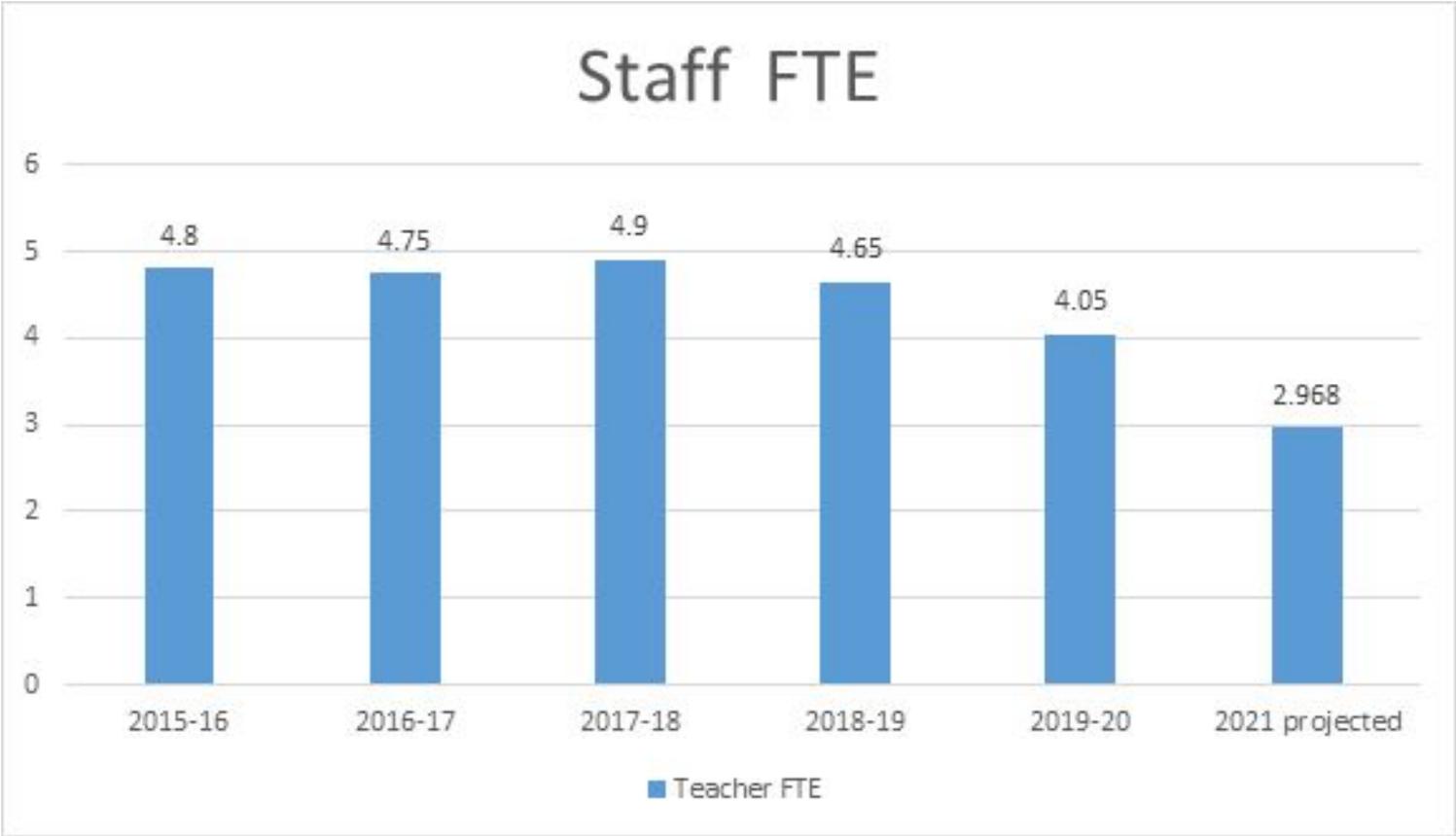
Education Programming

Programming that has been implemented/explored at Allan Johnstone School to attract and maintain students over the past 7 years are:

- Equestrian Academy
- Hockey Academy
- Baseball Academy
- Archery Program
- Robotics
- Outdoor classroom in student-maintained school garden
- Character Education: 4 - R's and K to 9 Family groups



Staffing in Allan Johnstone School



Based on current Information re: Funding and Enrollment Projections



Allan Johnstone Classroom Configuration

Based on current information re: Funding and Enrollment Projections

Allan Johnstone 2019-2020

Grade Grouping	% of the year	# of students in class
K	50%	12
1/2/3	100%	8/2/4 (14)
4/5/6	100%	6/5/0 (11)
7/8/9	100%	8/1/2 (11)

Allan Johnstone 2020-2021

Grade Grouping	% of the year	# of students in class
K/1/2	80 %	?/12/8 (20+?)
3/4/5	80%	2/4/6 (12)
6/8/9	80%	5/8/1 (14)
4-9 Options	20%	24



What if Allan Johnstone students went to CHSPS?

2020-2021 Potential Configurations (Approximate)		
<u>I</u>f Allan Johnstone to Receiving School CHSPS		
Grade	Total Students	Possible configuration
K	-	
1	32	Gr. 1 - 22 ; Gr. 1/2 -21
2	35	Gr. 2 - 24
3	29	Gr. 3 - 22 ; Gr. 3/4 - 22
4	39	Gr. 4 - 24
5	33	Gr. 5 - 24; Gr. 5/6 - 25
6	43	Gr. 6 - 21; Gr. 6/7 - 24
7	40	Gr. 7 - 22
8	37	Gr. 8 - 24; Gr. 8/9 - 23
9	33	Gr. 9 - 23



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.**



Questions?



Next Steps



Wrap Up

