

# SUPPORT COMMUNITY EDUCATION



## BEAVERLODGE GRADES 7 TO 9 PUBLIC EDUCATION

### ATTENTION CONCERNED CITIZENS

Beaverlodge Elementary School/Peace Wapiti School Division is losing its student population and faculty within the community of Beaverlodge. In 2016, the Grande Prairie and District Catholic School Division built a new Kindergarten to Grade 9 facility. Subsequently, there has been a significant decline in Beaverlodge Elementary's existing Kindergarten to Grade 6 student base and enrollment. This, in turn, has resulted in a cutback of funds and consequently, a reduction in teachers and programming. Families of school-age children within the community of Beaverlodge are increasingly choosing the Catholic School system over Beaverlodge Elementary School for their children. One of the main reasons for this is that the Catholic School offers the only Grade 7 to 9 JUNIOR HIGH option within the community of Beaverlodge. This trend is increasing yearly, crippling our local public school.

### CURRENT ARRANGEMENT

Beaverlodge and area public school students attend Beaverlodge Elementary School for Kindergarten to Grade 6. They are then bused to Hythe for Grades 7 to 9 and then attend Beaverlodge High School for Grades 10 to 12.

### PROPOSAL FOR BEAVERLODGE AND AREA (SURVEY SCENARIO #2)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N3X6KR9>

We are proposing that Peace Wapiti School Division allow Beaverlodge Elementary School the opportunity to maintain our Grade 7 and 8 students within the existing infrastructure. The Beaverlodge High School would provide Grade 9 education. This would enable Peace Wapiti School Division to be competitive in attracting and retaining our student population by providing Grades 7 to 9 to our students within the community in which they reside.

*-Beaverlodge Elementary School Council*



# RESOUNDING KEY REASONS

## REDUCTION IN BEAVERLODGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

- Since 2016, Beaverlodge Elementary has lost over 100 students
- 1 Kindergarten Class, 1 Grade One Class, and 1 Grade Two Class have already been eliminated
- 2015-2016 Beaverlodge Elementary had 395 students enrolled
- 2022-2023 there are currently 294 students enrolled
- The Catholic School in Beaverlodge has added 4 portables since it was built in 2016 to accommodate increased enrollment
- The standard of the Catholic School in Beaverlodge is that if one family member enrolls, all siblings must also enroll. This removes students directly from classrooms of the Beaverlodge Elementary School (Kindergarten to Grade 6)

## REDUCTION IN BEAVERLODGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FACULTY

- A reduction in student registration results in a reduction in funds; therefore, a reduction in teachers, support staff and vital school programming
- In the 2021-2022 school year, 34 Grade 2 students had to be combined into one Classroom half of the day due to no funding for a second full-time Grade 2 teacher
- Currently, in 2022-2023, one Grade 5 class is being taught by 5 separate teachers due to a lack of funding for a second full-time Grade 5 teacher

# RESOUNDING KEY REASONS

## SPACE IS AVAILABLE

- The current Beaverlodge Public School infrastructure is underutilized
- Beaverlodge Elementary School is operating at 59% capacity
- Beaverlodge High School is operating at 61% capacity
- As Proposed, both Beaverlodge Elementary Grades K to 8 and Beaverlodge High Grades 9 to 12 would still only be at approximately 80% utilization
- In 2002, a third-party study was conducted and recommendations were made that the Beaverlodge Area maintain their JUNIOR HIGH aged students, stating:

*"thus, the cost, safety concern, and time required to bus the Junior High students from Beaverlodge to Hythe would be eliminated."*

*-Workun.Garrick Architects & Associates INC.*

## STUDENT SAFETY

- 3 bus loads of our JUNIOR HIGH children travel a single-lane major core highway twice daily
- This stretch of highway is much busier with oversized commercial vehicles and is a corridor for interprovincial travel and the Alaska highway
- This critical route has seen a significant increase in traffic since the student transferring process began over 50 years ago
- Due to the time it takes to bus our Beaverlodge JUNIOR HIGH students, they only receive 20 minutes of a break daily. This is a significant reduction from the 50 minutes per day they are used to and recommended

*-Beaverlodge Elementary School Council*



# RESOUNDING KEY REASONS

## TRAVEL TIME

- JUNIOR HIGH students who reside in the rural areas around Beaverlodge can spend between 2.5 to 3 hours on a bus daily
- Specifically, the time it takes to transfer buses between schools from Beaverlodge to the current JUNIOR HIGH in Hythe is 50 min daily

## COMMUNITY DISPLACEMENT

- During the Grade 7 to 9 years, our students are absent from numerous local community events
- The annual Art Walk, Christmas Craze, Street Performers, and an Olympian Parade were not attended by our JUNIOR HIGH students
- Our JUNIOR HIGH students have not had the opportunity to utilize the Beaverlodge Recreational Facilities as part of their curriculum. These include the Swimming Pool, Fitness Center, Cultural Center etc.
- Unfortunately, our Grade 7 to 9 students miss out on these opportunities and are lacking a sense of community at a very influential age

## EDUCATIONAL CONTINUITY

- The ability to maintain relationships between our students, educators and families play a vital role in the confidence and success of our students. Losing this connection could adversely affect mental health and overall emotional well-being
- Currently, our Beaverlodge JUNIOR HIGH age students not only move to a new school and a new community but also experience broken connections and are placed in unfamiliar surroundings

*-Beaverlodge Elementary School Council*

# RESOUNDING KEY REASONS

## LOGISTICS

- Busing the majority of a student population (Beaverlodge) to combine with a smaller student population (Hythe) doesn't make sense

## BUSING CONCERNS

- Busing cost is an ongoing issue for Peace Wapiti School Division
- Currently, there is a lack of bus drivers in the Peace Wapiti School Division

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Having JUNIOR HIGH students attend school in a different community from where they reside reduces many students' ability to participate in extracurricular activities. It is challenging for parents to retrieve their children after school for activities, games, practices etc. while increasing the risk of unnecessary travel for families

## BEAVERLODGE IS A THRIVING COMMUNITY

- Beaverlodge is the only community of their size within the Peace Wapiti School Division that does not offer Kindergarten to Grade 9 Education
- Hythe Regional is the only REGIONAL Junior High School in the entire Peace Wapiti School Division

*-Beaverlodge Elementary School Council*



# RELEVANT INFORMATION

PEACE WAPITI SCHOOL DIVISION SURVEY: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/N3X6KR9](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N3X6KR9)

**OUR  
PROPOSAL**



**BEAVERLODGE  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL  
COUNCIL**

## SCENARIO #2

SCENARIO 1	SCENARIO 2	SCENARIO 3	SCENARIO 4
Realignment: BES K-7 & BRHS 8-12	Realignment: BES K-8 & BRHS 9-12	Leave school configuration as it is	Open to alternatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add Beaverlodge Grade 7 students to BES</li> <li>Add Beaverlodge Grade 8 &amp; 9 students to BRHS</li> <li>HRS remains K-9</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add Beaverlodge Grade 7 &amp; 8 students to BES</li> <li>Add Beaverlodge Grade 9 students to BRHS</li> <li>HRS remains K-9</li> </ul>	No change to the current school configurations and/or possible teaching assignments.	Is there another way to think about the future? Are there ideas we haven't mentioned? Tell us what the future might look like to you by participating in any of the engagement opportunities listed below.
More information to come	More information to come	More information to come	



## HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

### Online:

- Participate in our online survey between January 24 and February 24, 2023.
- Brainstorm ideas with us online on All Our Ideas between January 24 and February 24, 2023.

### In-Person:

- Attend an in-person Community Conversation in:
  - Beaverlodge Elementary School on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, @ 6:30 pm
  - Hythe Regional School on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, @ 6:30 pm
  - Horse Lake First Nation Arena on Thursday, February 16, 2023, @ 1:00 pm
- Email us at [pwpsdengagement@pwpsd.ca](mailto:pwpsdengagement@pwpsd.ca)
- Send us a letter at 8611A - 108 Street, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4C5

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## How do I participate?

### Online:

- Participate in our [online survey](#) between January 24 and February 24, 2023.
- Brainstorm ideas with us online on [All Our Ideas](#) between January 24 and February 24, 2023. As you head into this online conversation about junior high programming in Beaverlodge and Hythe, we invite you to practice care, kindness, and respect so that everyone has a safe and productive conversation.

### In-Person:

- Attend an in-person Community Conversation at:
  - **Beaverlodge Elementary School** on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Register [here](#).
  - **Hythe Regional School** on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Register [here](#).
  - **Horse Lake First Nation Arena** on Thursday, February 16, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
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