

# GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT



## BOUNDARY UPDATE

INFORMATION UPDATE

January 2016

Thank you to our parents and community members who attended our community engagement meetings over the last three months. Your contributions to these meetings and your ongoing feedback to our [boundaries@gppsd.ab.ca](mailto:boundaries@gppsd.ab.ca) email address has been very helpful in informing our Board of Trustees through the deliberation process.

### Foundational Principles

Throughout the process, our work has been guided by our foundational principles. These helped to establish a filter through which each scenario would be considered. These are:

- Create attendance boundaries to support neighbourhood schools
- Maintain neighbourhood/school cohorts
- Maintain safety of students and limit bussing
- Reduce the number of students in modular
- Consider space for programs of choice and special programming for students

### Utilization

One critical factor to take into account is our 'District Utilization rates'. A school is considered to be approaching 'full' when the enrollment reaches 85% of the official capacity. We need to ensure that we have a balanced enrollment across our District in order to be able to advocate for capital projects, including new schools, modernizations and the addition of modulars. If we have a school that is 'over-capacity' and a neighbouring school that is 'under-capacity' new projects may not be considered by the Government. It is our responsibility to make sure we use our facilities as effectively as possible.

### Transportation

The District is committed to exploring adjustments to our current bussing practices where neighbourhoods have been impacted. The review will factor in elements of safety, efficiency, opportunity, and distance.

### What's to come?

We will be communicating with school communities and impacted families around district expectations for the new boundaries, transportation implications, and other processes.

All schools will provide opportunities for parents and students to become familiar with the new school, staff and programming, prior to the school year beginning

Please be sure to read your child's school newsletters as well as your school's webpage and Facebook pages to ensure you have the most up to date information.

## Grandfathering of Students

A grandfather procedure is “a provision in which an old rule continues to apply to some existing situations while a new rule will apply to all future cases”. In our context, we would be using the term to define a practice that would allow students to remain in a specific school after the boundary change process has designated a new boundary area.

Grandfathering of students will be limited to students at key transition times. In the context of a K-8 school, grade 8 is considered to be the transitional year. In a 9-12 school, grade 12 is considered to be the transitional year. This means that students entering their grade 8 or grade 12 year in the fall of 2016 would be permitted to remain at their original school site for that year. Transportation to the site would be the responsibility of the family.

### Grades K-8

- Students starting grade 8 in the fall of 2016 will have the option to be grandfathered to stay in their current school.
- Students opting to be grandfathered will be responsible for their own transportation to the site.
- Grandfathering does not apply to siblings of grandfathered student. Siblings of students opting to be grandfathered will not be considered for boundary exemptions and must attend the boundary school designated for their area.

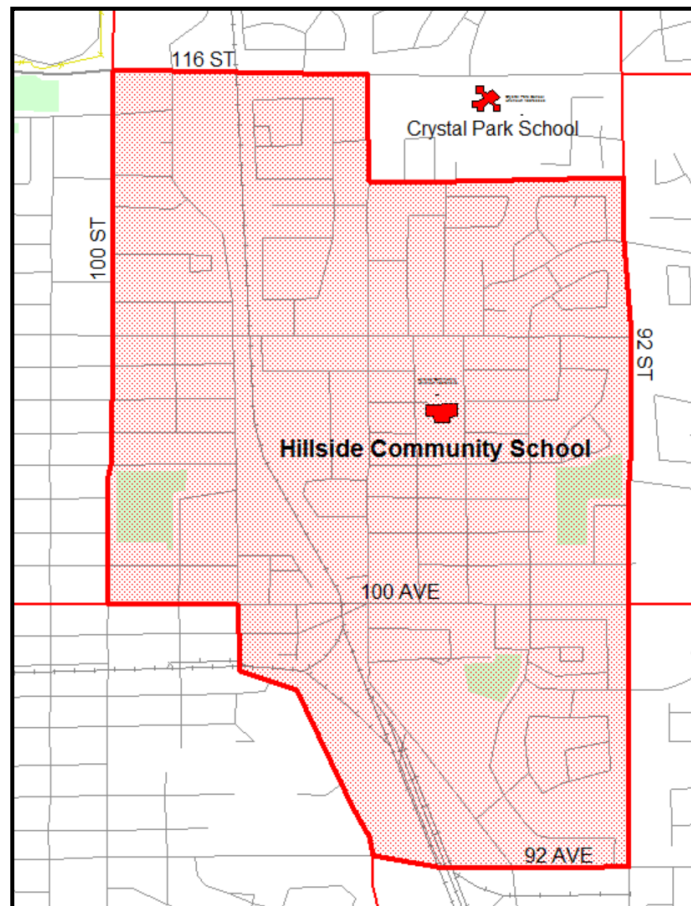
### Grades 9-12

- Students **currently** attending Charles Spencer High School (2015-2016) and living in the neighbourhoods of: Riverstone, Summerside, Countryside North & South, Signature Falls, Cobblestone and Creekside will have the option to be grandfathered to stay at Charles Spencer High School.
- Students choosing to be grandfathered will be responsible for their own transportation to the site.
- **Grandfathering does not apply to siblings** of a grandfathered student. Siblings of students opting to be grandfathered will not be considered for boundary exemptions and must attend the boundary school designated for their area.
- All **current grade 8** students living in the neighbourhoods of Riverstone, Summerside, Countryside North & South, Signature Falls, Cobblestone and Creekside who are transitioning to high school will be required to enroll at the Grande Prairie Composite High School.

## Hillside Community School

K-6

### K-6 Boundary



#### Approved Boundary:

##### Hillside Community School

K-6 boundary remains unchanged.

Grade 7-8 students living in the Hillside K-6 boundary areas will attend Crystal Park School.

#### Transportation:

Hillside Community School students will be provided bussing if they live outside the 2.4 km walking distance from the school they are designated to attend.