

DOCUMENT B:
QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN PRINT
FEBRUARY 7, 2017 AT THE PUBLIC MEETING

PROVIDED ELECTRONICALLY
FEBRUARY 8, 2017

Questions for Parents to Ask



QUESTIONS TO ASK TO ANYONE!

Now that the portables are approved why is the Board still going through this process of considering the closure of Ministik School? (See Document B, question 50)

TRANSPORTATION

1. What is Ministik School's transportation funding from AB Education?
 - *See page 24 of the **Ministik School Report**.*
2. At the present time we have 4 buses in the AM and 3 buses in the PM. With the proposed bus routes there are 8 buses in the AM and 7 in the PM? Plus an addition bus has to be added for a cost of \$53,000.00. How is this minimizing our carbon footprint? Carbon emissions? Cost of fuel?
 - *The numbers in the question above do not reflect the actual number of buses currently serving the Fultonvale transfer site. With the proposed route, the eight buses service Ministik School students and other students at the Fultonvale transfer site.*
 - *As routing is completed on a Division-wide basis, what we would see is a re-allocation of buses to efficiently and effectively service the Ministik School attendance area. Although a new bus route would be added, there would be a reduction of kilometres driven to service the Ministik School attendance area. This creates efficiencies in the routing and saves fuel costs as we are travelling less distance overall. The reason we would be able to reduce the number of kilometres driven is because we already have buses travelling the Ministik School attendance area to pick up children for other schools in the jurisdiction. Travelling twice through this area would be eliminated as we can effectively gather all the children at the same time without having to double back to pick them up—saving time, distance, fuel and effectively reducing our carbon footprint.*
3. What guarantees parents that Transportation won't decrease buses, increase student numbers on buses, and increase ride times in future!
 - *As routing is optimized on an annual basis, bus routes may be adjusted based on capacity, ridership and ride times. The process is the same throughout the Division.*
4. We want a complete breakdown as to how busing Ministik Students to Fultonvale saves the jurisdiction \$70,430.00?
 - *Refer to Document B, question 7. The current estimated savings are \$50,263 based on the information to date.*
5. How can buses drop off kids at the proposed times in the pm when buses don't leave Fultonvale until 3:08 pm.
 - *Refer to page 26, bullet 2, of **Ministik School Report**: "Departure from Fultonvale Elementary Junior High would be 3 p.m." Based on one scenario, if Ministik School were to close and Fultonvale Elementary Junior High is the receiving school, dismissal time would be eight minutes earlier and the start time would remain the same.*
6. What do Fultonvale's current bus routes look like?
 - *See "Elk Island Public Schools Route Map: Fultonvale A.M." and "Elk Island Public Schools Route Map: Fultonvale P.M." Both documents can be found at the end of this document (Document B).*
7. Transportation proposed and current bus costs? For Ministik and Fultonvale (Board Policy 15, 3.11)
 - *As Ministik School and Fultonvale Elementary Junior High students are transported utilizing bus equipment that services all students transported through the Fultonvale transfer site, a proposed and current bus cost breakdown specifically for Fultonvale Elementary Junior High and Ministik students cannot be determined.*
 - *Currently, 1,393 students—kindergarten to Grade 12—who reside in attendance boundaries located in Strathcona County south of Wye Road are transported through the Fultonvale transfer site or enroute to their respective schools. These students attend École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary, Fultonvale*

Elementary Junior High, Wye Elementary and urban Sherwood Park schools. A total of 18 buses are currently contracted to transport these students.

- In the proposed option, a routing scenario would transport current Ministik School students to Fultonvale Elementary Junior High with all other kindergarten to Grade 12 students residing in the Ministik School attendance area, which would eliminate the need for buses to travel through the Ministik School attendance area twice. Thus, this would reduce overall transportation costs incurred. These savings will be used to add additional bus equipment to reduce ride times for students. Below is a breakdown including funding and busing costs for current and the proposed busing option.

<i>Fultonvale Transfer</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Proposed</i>	<i>Difference</i>
<i>Grant Funding</i>	<i>\$974,764</i>	<i>\$1,019,378</i>	<i>\$44,614</i>
<i>Contracted Transportation</i>	<i>\$1,184,755</i>	<i>\$1,179,106*</i>	<i>\$5,649</i>

- *As per the **Ministik School Report**, two buses are being added to the proposed busing scenario. One bus is not included in this total as it is currently in use in another area and therefore allocated for. The contracted transportation budget is based on Division-wide allocation with emphasis on route optimization. Therefore, it is not uncommon for routes to be moved to service different areas based on need.

HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS

Portables/ Lead in the Water/ Infrastructure (IMR) and Maintenance (Facility Services)

8. 382 work orders from 2012-2015: for what? Detail? How is this compared to other schools?

Summary of Work Request

- *Ministik: 382 Work Orders. There were 0.31 work orders per M²*
- *Pine Street: 496 Work Orders. There were 0.14 work orders per M²*
- *Campbelltown: 498 Work Orders. There were 0.14 work orders per M²*
- *Uncas: 367 Work Orders. There were 0.11 work orders per M²*
- *Brentwood: 398 Work Orders. There were 0.10 work orders per M²*
- *Wye: 499 Work Orders. There were 0.14 work orders per M²*

9. \$592,104 in deferred maintenance as of Apr 1, 2016: for what? Detail? Compared to other schools in the district?

Facility Condition Assessment Report: Buildings

Facility Condition Assessment Report: School Grounds

- *The Facility Condition Assessment (FCA) five-year column represents the deferred-maintenance forecast for five years based on the 2011 Audit.*

<u>School</u>	<u>FCA 5 Year</u>
<i>Ministik</i>	<i>\$592,104</i>
<i>Pine Street</i>	<i>\$1,990,384</i>
<i>Campbelltown</i>	<i>\$2,075,287</i>
<i>Uncas</i>	<i>\$1,548,061</i>
<i>Brentwood</i>	<i>\$2,664,392</i>

Wye

\$1,302,179

10. If the deferred maintenance is done and the portables are installed what rating would Ministik get in regards to the building?
 - *It is not possible to determine this information. Alberta Infrastructure would need to do a follow-up evaluation after the deferred maintenance is done and new modulars are installed.*
11. Does the school NEED to be replaced at this time and why?
 - *We are presently only aware of the need for replacement of the modulars.*
12. Why is Ministik not on the Ten-Year Facilities Plan when it was known that it needed new portables?
 - *The need for replacement modulars was not identified until the fall 2016.*
13. What would it cost to fix the lead in the water including drywall etc. Just cold water or cold water and hot water? Have all solutions been looked at?
 - *A full assessment is required. To eliminate all possibilities of lead contamination the waterlines would need to be replaced at an estimated cost of \$50,000. This includes any repairs to the facility required because of plumbing access. NOTE: Asbestos abatement, if necessary, is not included in this estimate.*
 - *A flushing protocol has been put into place since spring 2016.*
14. Will the jurisdiction allow the parent association to fix the lead in the pipes problem?
 - *Third-party groups are not permitted to exact repairs or renovations on existing EIPS school infrastructure.*
 - *Funding for the repair and maintenance of all school buildings is the responsibility of Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure.*
15. How can the school run more efficiently?
 - *Even if energy-efficiency measures were put into place—for example furnace replacement, new windows, new lighting fixtures—the energy savings would be about 10 per cent. Currently, the school consumes \$24,087.90 in utilities annually. Saving 10 per cent would only equate to \$2,409 annually and would not cover the cost of energy-efficiency upgrades.*
16. What does it cost to maintain Colchester school: heating, electricity? Fixing vandalism; sending two employees to check it every day?
 - *From September 2015 to August 2016, the cost was \$22,389.*
 - *Normally, when a school is closed, it is disposed of immediately. The Colchester school is an anomaly.*
17. Is the \$7,742 cost for maintaining the land (mowing, garbage removal etc.) included in the Operations and Maintenance for Ministik School?
 - *No, custodial, maintenance, electricity, gas and water are included in Plant Operations and Maintenance (PM&O).*
 - *Garbage disposal was \$580.85 during the 2014–2015 school year.*
18. Our plant operations and maintenance cost has been dropping each year and in 15/16 it was 7.9% of total cost. Is there any comparison done at this level to other schools?

<u>School</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>PO&M</u>	<u>%</u>
Ministik	\$1,154,627	\$91,667	7.9%
Pine Street	\$3,831,705	\$174,379	4.6%
Campbelltown	\$3,182,804	\$188,437	5.9%
Uncas	\$1,587,762	\$128,126	8.1%
Brentwood	\$3,295,713	\$202,632	6.1%
Wye	\$2,989,534	\$173,144	5.8%

Educational Impact

19. How many actual empty classrooms are there in Fultonvale?
- *The capacity of Fultonvale Elementary Junior High is 600, with a potential build-out to 700 students. There are currently 25 classrooms at the school. With an enrolment of 408, as of Sept. 30, 2016, not all classrooms are in use as full-time instructional space.*
20. If Ministik students went to Fultonvale, how many students would be in classrooms per grade?
- *The average class size in urban Sherwood Park is 22.9 students between K-6.*
 - *Fultonvale Elementary Junior High currently has an average class size of 21.5 students between K-6.*
 - *The average class size at Ministik School is 16.6 students between K-6.*
 - *If Ministik School was closed, we would determine at that time how many students would be attending Fultonvale Elementary Junior High versus other schools, and would be able to determine classroom sizes at that time.*
21. How will the coded students be provided for at Fultonvale?
- *Coded students at all EIPS schools are provided with a continuum of supports and services depending on their needs. In addition to support from educational assistants, teachers and administrators provide supports such as specialized learning materials, physical accommodations or equipment, and individualized and/or smaller group instruction. Should students transition to other schools from Ministik, Inclusive Learning will work with school staff to identify student needs and services that will support them.*
22. If Ministik closes and are moved to Fultonvale, what are the ways you are going to prepare the children for this transition?
- *The practice within EIPS is to ensure student transitions are well organized and supported. Currently, Grade 6 Ministik School students transition to Grade 7 at Fultonvale Elementary Junior High. The transition is generally a very positive experience and most students adjust quickly to their new school community and achieve to their potential. Should this transition occur, multiple opportunities will be provided to ensure students have a chance to become familiar with their new environment ahead of the transition, to meet new staff and other students attending the school, and to ensure follow-up occurs if students have concerns or are anxious about the move. Parents will play a key role along with school staff to ensure the transition is a positive one.*
23. When Wye School is closed and the new school is built in Heritage Hills, and children from their rural catchment are being routed to Fultonvale, how are they going to accommodate these children?
- *A new school for Wye Elementary has not yet been approved by the provincial government. Wye Elementary boundaries will be examined when and if the new school is approved. It is anticipated current Wye Elementary students would go to the new school.*
24. If Ministik students went to Fultonvale, how many students would be in classrooms per grade?
- *Refer to Document B, question 20.*
25. How will the coded students be provided for at Fultonvale?
- *Refer to Document B, question 21.*
26. Has the educational/instructional people done their research on the effects on students and learning if a) their community school is closed and the transition; and b) what the long term effects are?
- *Refer to Document B, question 22.*

Enrolment Projections

27. What is the proposed enrolment for Fultonvale for the next five years?
- *The projections are based on the Sept. 30, 2016 enrolment and may vary as circumstances change. The figure below does not include students from Ministik School and is based on the capacity of 600 students:*
 - *2017: 405 (71% Utilization Rate)*
 - *2018: 388 (68% Utilization Rate)*

- iii. 2019: 384 (67% Utilization Rate)
- iv. 2020: 380 (66% Utilization Rate)
- v. 2021: 394 (68% Utilization Rate)

28. How is the jurisdiction prepared to deal with increased enrolment if Fultonvale becomes full?
- *The full build-out of Fultonvale Elementary Junior High is 700, based on the current projections, Fultonvale Elementary Junior High will have capacity well into the future (see Document B, question 27).*
29. Have they talked to Strathcona County relative to the proposed land developments at Cooking Lake and how that will affect enrolment predictions?
- *EIPS has spoken to Strathcona County in regards to development in the area. According to the county, the population within South Cooking Lake is projected to remain stable. Minimal development is expected because of to the presence of the sewage lagoon and the setback requirements.*
 - *The recently released [2016 Census data](http://globalnews.ca/news/3235620/census-2016-4-edmonton-burbs-are-booming/) indicates this region is experiencing negative growth. (<http://globalnews.ca/news/3235620/census-2016-4-edmonton-burbs-are-booming/>)*
30. Young families with children are likely to not move into the area if Ministik School is closed? Has this been considered?
- *It is EIPS' focus to provide the highest quality education possible to all students in the Division. Families must determine for themselves what areas best meet their own needs.*
31. We are aware that you use a software system from Barager Systems to complete demographic dynamics and various sceneries when looking at Division planning for new/existing schools. We have asked for the Barager reports for Ministik School and would like to see the Barager System reports on Wye School and Fultonvale as well. We would also like the maps that show attendance of the children for Wye, Uncas and Fultonvale. We would also like a map of attendance for Millshaven.
- *The charts provide information regarding schools students in these attendance areas attend for the 2016–2017.*
 - *Specific maps are not provided as they release sensitive personal student-related information.*

Chart 1: Mills Haven Elementary Attendance Area

Students by School of Attendance (number)

■	A.L. Horton Elementary (2)
■	Brentwood Elementary (14)
■	Bruderheim School (1)
■	Ecole Campbelltown (71)
■	Ecole Elementaire Ardrossan (4)
■	Fort Saskatchewan Christian (3)
■	Glen Allan Elementary (18)
■	Lakeland Ridge School (25)
■	Mills Haven Elementary (357)
■	Pine Street Elementary (7)
■	Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary (51)
■	Wes Hosford Elementary (17)
■	Westboro Elementary (32)
■	Win Ferguson Community Elementary (1)
■	Woodbridge Farms Elementary (29)
	Total (632)

Chart 2: Wye Elementary Attendance Area

Students by School of Attendance (number)

■	Brentwood Elementary (2)
■	Centre for Educational Alternatives (3)
■	Ecole Campbelltown (37)
■	Ecole Elementaire Ardrossan (8)
■	Fultonvale Elementary Junior High (2)
■	Glen Allan Elementary (16)
■	Lakeland Ridge School (7)
■	Mills Haven Elementary (8)
■	Next Step Home Education (5)
■	Pine Street Elementary (7)
■	Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary (67)
■	Wes Hosford Elementary (10)
■	Westboro Elementary (14)
■	Woodbridge Farms Elementary (6)
■	Wye Elementary (382)
	Total (574)

Chart 3: Uncas Elementary Attendance Area

Students by School of Attendance (number)

■ Brentwood Elementary (2)
■ Centre for Educational Alternatives (1)
■ Ecole Campbelltown (2)
■ Ecole Elementaire Ardrossan (60)
■ Ministik Elementary (1)
■ Next Step Home Education (1)
■ Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary (15)
■ Uncas Elementary (192)
■ Wes Hosford Elementary (3)
Total (277)

Chart 4: Fultonvale Elementary Junior High Attendance Area

Students by School of Attendance (number)

■ Brentwood Elementary (7)
■ Ecole Campbelltown (13)
■ Ecole Elementaire Ardrossan (12)
■ Fultonvale Elementary Junior High (194)
■ Glen Allan Elementary (3)
■ Mills Haven Elementary (3)
■ Ministik Elementary (3)
■ Next Step Home Education (2)
■ Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary (30)
■ Westboro Elementary (6)
■ Woodbridge Farms Elementary (1)
■ Wye Elementary (4)
Total (278)

32. We would also like school enrollment and utilization rates (please refer to pgs. 9-18 in the **Ministik School Report**) and provide the same for Fultonvale, Wye School and Uncas.

- *Wye Elementary (capacity 507):*
 - i. 2017: 427 (83% Utilization Rate)
 - ii. 2018: 400 (78% Utilization Rate)
 - iii. 2019: 379 (74% Utilization Rate)
 - iv. 2020: 371 (72% Utilization Rate)
 - v. 2021: 362 (71% Utilization Rate)
- *Mills Haven Elementary (capacity 482):*
 - i. 2017: 524 (111% Utilization Rate)
 - ii. 2018: 570 (120% Utilization Rate)
 - iii. 2019: 585 (122% Utilization Rate)
 - iv. 2020: 600 (126% Utilization Rate)
 - v. 2021: 623 (130% Utilization Rate)
- *Uncas Elementary (capacity 378):*
 - i. 2017: 203 (52% Utilization Rate)
 - ii. 2018: 219 (55% Utilization Rate)
 - iii. 2019: 210 (53% Utilization Rate)
 - iv. 2020: 207 (53% Utilization Rate)
 - v. 2021: 207 (53% Utilization Rate)

33. When Wye school moves and children from the rural are being rerouted to Fultonvale, how are you going to accommodate those children, Fultonvale will be at capacity of 600?

- *Refer to Document B, question 28.*

Effects on Other Schools

34. How many teachers and EA will be hired/transferred to accommodate the move to Fultonvale?

- *The final number of staff required at Fultonvale Elementary Junior High will not be known until the student numbers and grades are confirmed.*
- *A decision relative to student accommodation at Ministik School has not yet been made.*

35. How will the cost per student at Fultonvale change with the increase of inclusive students that would come to them from Ministik School.

- *All schools within EIPS receive inclusive-education funding, which benefits all students.*

36. Have the parents of Fultonvale been consulted? Some Fultonvale parents have informed us that they do not want more upheaval for their children as they already had Colchester kids added as well as the ongoing renovations going beyond schedule.

- *Parents at other schools have not been consulted because a decision has not been made. Parents will be notified of the decision when it is made.*
- *Should Ministik School close, a plan would be put in place to would ease the transition for students from both Ministik School and Fultonvale Elementary Junior High. Transition teams would include EIPS staff, parents and guardians and, especially, the students. Staff will warmly welcome all students at Fultonvale Elementary Junior High.*
- *Historical trends, 2013–2016, have indicated on average 21 per cent of students in the elementary grades have followed their older siblings when they transition to Fultonvale Elementary Junior High for Grade 7 (see page 13, of the **Ministik School Report**).*

37. Does Fultonvale have room for us? Show us!

- *Refer to Document B, question 27.*

38. Parents are already complaining there isn't enough gym time for children at Fultonvale because they lost the old gym so how is adding more students to Fultonvale going to help this situation? They are already don't have enough gym time at the school!

- *The administration of Fultonvale Elementary Junior High have not received any news, concerns or comments surrounding gym times. The old gym immediately became off limits once the new, junior high sized, gym opened. Equipment was moved to the new gym as the old gym was decommissioned. Losing the old gym did not affect class gym times. Most of EIPS elementary and junior high schools have one gymnasium. This year at Fultonvale Elementary Junior High, classes in grades 1-3 have two assigned gym periods per week and grades 4-9 have three assigned periods per week. Next year, all classes, grades 1-9, will have three gym periods every week. These would include the three "extra classes" that could result if 100 per cent of the Ministik School student population migrated to Fultonvale Elementary Junior High. Some of the Division I classes would be paired together with two teachers in the gym. Fultonvale Elementary Junior High's new gymnasium also has an electronic curtain divider that can be rolled down to facilitate two classes at the same time, if need be. Alternatively, teachers may choose to combine the two classes and team teach the lesson.*

BUDGET/FINANCIAL

39. What reasons are there to expect an increase in savings if Ministik School is closed? As current research suggests that savings for tax payers, fiscal efficiencies and curricular improvement are unlikely.

- *Annual savings estimated:*
 - Annual Plant Operations and Maintenance costs for the Division – custodial, electricity, gas, water, maintenance, garbage and parking lot snow removal \$92,000*
 - There will be one less principal \$128,000*
 - School Fixed Rate Allocation \$300,000 would be eliminated*
 - Transportation – \$6,000 savings*
 - Insurance – \$7,000*
 - EIPS receives its funding from Alberta Education. The savings the Division needs to look at are from the Division's perspective.*

Annual ongoing savings related to the above estimated at \$533,000

40. What is the rationale for adding inclusive learning and small schools funding to the cost per student?

- *Each school has inclusive students. Supports for inclusive students are included in the cost of a school. These supports may be educational assistants who benefit all of the students at a school.*
- *Small school funding is not included in the calculation.*

41. What is the formula for the viability of a rural school? Why does the formula used by AB government say we are viable and want to invest new modular but EIPS formula is showing we aren't viable?

- *There is no viability formula for rural schools.*
- *The Alberta Government does not determine school viability; school divisions do.*
- *Alberta Education does not look at the viability of a school when it approves modular requests—it is approving modular requests based on each school jurisdiction's requests and the Alberta Education funding available.*

42. What cost per student amount would satisfy the board?

- *In the 2016–2017, the average cost for a student in the Division was \$7,350. The average cost for a student at Ministik School is \$9,785.*
- *It is the Board's responsibility to ensure every EIPS school has adequate resources. The distribution of these resources needs to be as equitable as possible.*

43. Has administration considered the value vs. cost of Ministik School?

- **Clarification requested and provided,** "As for the value question again I am not sure but normally you do a cost benefit analysis. So cost maybe a little higher but the benefits outweigh the cost. For example, having EA's would be more costly but the benefit they have to our children totally outweigh the cost. We may be higher cost

per student because of EAs but our academic achievements will be the benefit or value of that cost. At the end of the day the school and our kids are more than a bottom line number and have EIPS done a cost benefit or cost value analysis to come up with an educated informed decision.”

- *The administration annually, through the public results review process, reviews all Elk Island Public Schools.*

44. Did EIPS budget for the linking of the portables in 16/17 estimates? Or do they have to pull from the capital reserves?

- *EIPS does not budget for connecting links until modular requests are approved by Alberta Education. Alberta Education does not approve all modular requests.*
- *EIPS will request funding for the connecting links from the capital reserves.*

45. What happens to the school building and land? Will it be the same as Colchester?

- *If the Board closed the school, as per the Closure of Schools Regulation (AR 238/97), EIPS would follow Administrative Procedure 519, Surplus Land and Buildings and the School Act's Disposition of Property Regulation 181/2010.*

46. What costs charged to Ministik School are auto-generated?

- **Clarification requested and provided,** “I am thinking but not 100% sure the auto generated would be what are the costs that we are automatically charged for but maybe not true actual costs. Something that is driving our cost up. For example, are we charged a monthly fix cost for maintenance but we actually don't have the maintenance guy come out monthly. So these cost are driving our operating cost up but we don't have control of this and in turn are cost are inflated.”

- *EIPS does not auto-generate costs.*

47. How do they manage their capital assets? What is their capital assets plan? (As it seems that Ministik has not been receiving the maintenance that it required)

- *Each year, EIPS receives money from the province for Plant Operation and Maintenance (PO&M) to be used for the operations and maintenance of its schools and grounds. This covers repairs, janitorial costs, utilities, insurance, occupational health and safety, emergency planning and maintenance. EIPS also receives from the province Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) funding.*
- *Projects are determined by several factors:*
 - Facility Condition Indexing – results of annual inspections by government consultants*
 - Documented with VFA software*
 - Feedback from school administrators*
 - Feedback from operations and maintenance staff*
 - Facility Services management walk through*
- *As for prioritizing projects, the following are considered in order of highest to lowest priority:*
 - Health and safety issues, including code violations*
 - Items that may compromise the integrity of the building envelope and reduce the life of the facility*
 - Building components that have failed*
 - Educational areas to meet program requirements*
 - Facility requirements of students with special needs*
 - Building components which enhance energy conservation*

48. Is this closure being considered to justify the cost overruns at Fultonvale?

- *The total project and construction costs of the Fultonvale Elementary Junior High modernization were paid for by Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure.*
- *Alberta Infrastructure managed the modernization, therefore managed the budget. Information provided to Facility Services is that the entire project was less than five per cent over budget. The timeline has been extended because of extenuating circumstances but this has not resulted in additional costs for the Division.*

49. If Ministik was able to lower their "Cost per Student" costs would that be sufficient enough reason to keep us open? If we reduced the cost through staffing means?

- *The Board will consider its decision based on a number of factors.*
- *Refer to Document B, question 42.*

MARK LIGUORI or DENNIS DYKAU or DAVE ANTYMNIUK IN THE GYM

50. Now that the health concerns of the school are being addressed why is the Board still going through this process of considering the closure of Ministik School?

- *The Board is reviewing the viability of Ministik School based on a number of factors. Health and safety is one of the factors considered.*

51. What policy does EIPS or guidelines does EIPS have in determining whether a school should be closed or not?

- *Board Policy 15 addresses the need to modify programs or close schools based on changes in enrolment, demographic changes, or fiscal constraints.*

52. Has administration considered the value vs. cost of Ministik School?

- *Refer to Document B, question 43.*

53. What is the formula for the viability of a rural school? Why does the formula used by AB government say we are viable and want to invest new modular but EIPS formula is showing we aren't viable?

- *Refer to Document B, question 41.*

54. What happens to the school building and land? Will it be the same as Colchester?

- *Refer to Document B, question 45.*

55. Is the decision about closure being made on March 16th?

- *No date has been set for the decision, although it is anticipated a vote will take place before the end of the school year.*

56. What is the reason that Trustee Stadnick put forward the motion to examine the closure of Ministik School?

- *Any trustee can put forward a notice of motion at any Board meeting, which is to be considered at an upcoming Board meeting.*
- *The decision to examine the closure of Ministik School stems from the Board examining its year-over-year operations in regards to the current budget. The Division, in the 2016-2017 school year, is accessing approximately \$1.75 million from operating reserves to cover day-to-day expenditures.*
- *The Division's unallocated surplus has reached its lower threshold and the spending is unsustainable. The Board has, and will, continue to examine options to align its expenditures and revenues.*

57. Why is Mark the face for this motion and the Trustees are not responding? According to our information this was different than the process at Colchester as the Trustees were more responsive to emails and concerns in that situation.

- *At the Dec. 15, 2016 Board meeting a motion was passed that the Board consider the possible closure of Ministik School.*
- *As the Board's sole employee the Superintendent is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Division and this is one aspect.*
- *Board members review all data and input from key stakeholders.*
- *The process, which was used and followed for the public meeting at Colchester was a World Café process and what was used at the public meeting at Ministik School on Feb. 7, 2017.*

58. Why is there a gag order on principals of neighboring schools to not provide Ministik parents with info? The principal of Uncas specifically told their parent council group to not get involved as a parent council group. Fultonvale has not provided info to us regarding sizes, bussing, etc...

- *Requests for information should not be submitted to individual schools. Data is retained at a Division level, and requests need to be centralized so we can ensure consistent and accurate information is provided. Any and all requests for information should be co-ordinated through the Superintendent, Corporate Secretary and/or the Division Principal.*

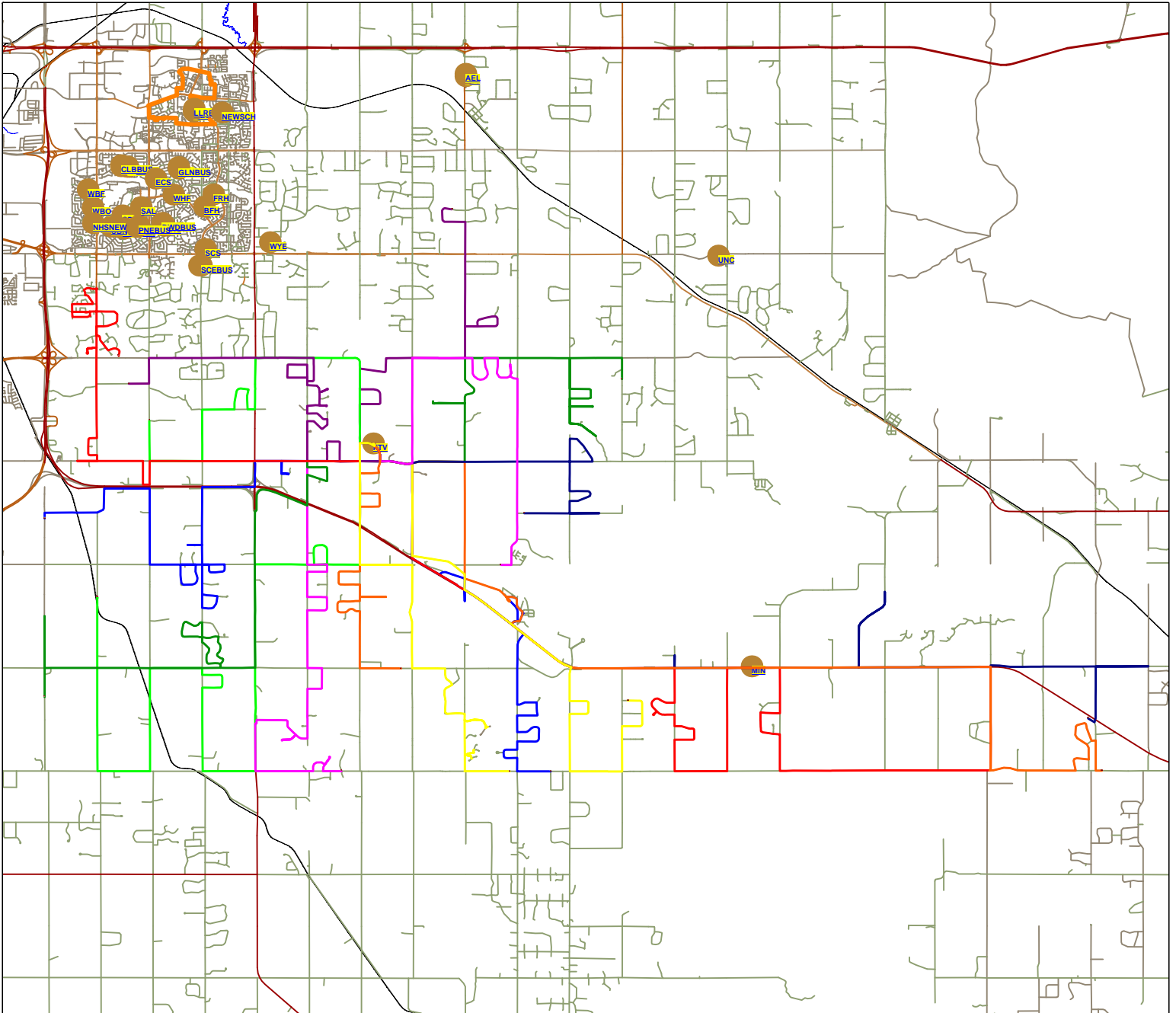
59. What happens if half of the families decide not to go to Fultonvale or any other Elk Island Public School? What happens to staff at Ministik? What happens to the savings the jurisdiction thinks they will gain from closing Ministik School?
- *Continuing contract teachers and permanent employees would follow the staffing process and would apply on positions that interest them. Human Resources would assist them in obtaining positions within the Division.*
 - *In the 2016–2017 school year, EIPS used a portion of its unallocated reserve to fund current operating costs in the Division (\$1.75 million). Any savings from closing Ministik School would go towards reducing the \$1.75 million shortfall.*

EFFECTS ON THE COMMUNITY

60. Has the board done any research on how a school closure affects the community around them? If so, would they pass this data or share the data with us.
- *As a Division, our priority is to focus on providing the highest quality education for all students in our Division.*
 - *The research in this area stems mainly from the United States and the factors that affect each community differ and vary greatly.*
61. Isn't it important for a sustainable agricultural economy to have favorable access to schooling for their children? Strathcona County's Agriculture Plan won a national 2016 Award for Planning Excellence.
- *All students have equitable access to high-quality programming in EIPS.*
 - *The Agriculture Plan is not included in EIPS mandate.*
62. It has been documented that property costs in areas where there have been school closures have dropped. Were you aware that at present there are 23 houses for sale in the Ministik area? Older people are leaving and young families are moving in.
- *EIPS focuses on providing equitable education to all students throughout our Division. Any steps taken by the Board will be in the best interests of the student body as a whole.*
 - *If documentation is available, please provide it for the Board's consideration.*
63. Ministik School provides hot lunches for our students and staff every Tuesday from October to May. This will also effect the business owners. Has this been considered?
- *Parent groups are free to maintain established business relationships at a different school.*

Elk Island Public Schools Route Map

Fultonvale A.M.



Elk Island Public Schools Route Map

Fultonvale P.M.

