

For Immediate Release  
September 19, 2007

### **Schools to be Considered for Possible Closure**

At its regular Board of Education meeting held September 18, 2007, Mission trustees voted to enter into a public consultation process that will give consideration to closing six of its sixteen elementary schools. Senior staff presented the Board a report entitled "Sustaining and Enhancing Quality Education" which provided an analysis of schools that could be considered for possible closure. The analysis was based on board policy which lists seven criteria to be considered in the evaluation of schools. Of these criteria, capacity/utilization and enrolment decline were considered most crucial to the Board. The report lists seven schools at less than 60% capacity, of which six were selected to be considered for closure. Deroche school, although at 51% of capacity, was not given further consideration as all trustees expressed their commitment to continue improving opportunities for aboriginal students. This commitment was articulated in 2007-08 budget. Five of the six schools have also experienced enrolment declines greater than 15% over the last 5 years. The schools to be considered for possible closure at the end of the current school year include, alphabetically, Edwin S. Richards Elementary, Ferndale Elementary, Fraserview Elementary, Silverdale Elementary, Stave Falls Elementary, and West Heights Elementary.

The report, *Sustaining and Enhancing Quality Education* is available online at [www.mpsd.ca](http://www.mpsd.ca).

Further information regarding the upcoming consultation phase, including public information meetings will be released shortly.

For further information please contact:

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