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Birchwood Intermediate Parents and Guardians

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Message from Director Norbert Carpenter

On October 19, 2022, I presented my *Review of Schools Report* to the Board of Directors. This review recommended that five schools required more in-depth study due to capacity concerns and that options for change should be explored. A resolution was passed for the Director to conduct a study and prepare a report.

A Project Officer was hired in December 2022, to assist in gathering data and information on the current challenges at each of these schools. This included visits to schools and consultations with principals. The final report of this study will be presented to the Board of Trustees in April.

In the Review of Schools, Birchwood Intermediate School was identified as a school of concern. There is continued development and projections for population growth in the communities that are zoned for Birchwood and there is concern that this may put a strain on the school's ability to add additional students. Although enrolment is below the functional capacity of the school and enrolment projections see the school as remaining below capacity, the utilization rate exceeds 90%. The review recommended that further study should be done and options for change be explored.

The study found that Birchwood was below its functional capacity for the current school year. However, there is little additional space without the repurposing of some areas. Enrolment projections for the next four years see the school as having a small decline in enrolment, but enrolment should remain consistent. Although the school does not exceed its functional capacity at this time, the study recommends that with the development occurring in the Stratford area and adjacent communities, it would be proactive to explore how additional classrooms might be made available should enrolment increase beyond the projections.

As part of the School Study process, I am inviting input from the Birchwood Intermediate School community. Your input can be sent to [psb-input@edu.pe.ca](mailto:psb-input@edu.pe.ca) or by calling 902-368-6990. All input should be received by March 28, 2023.

Information on the School Review Policy can be found at the PSB website under ***Policies and Procedures***. The *Review of Schools Report* (October 19, 2022) can be found under ***Board Reports***.

<https://psb.edu.pe.ca/about-us/board-of-directors/board-reports>

Sincerely,

Norbert Carpenter  
Director  
Public Schools Branch