



October 17, 2023

Lynne Lacroix, General Manager-Community Services  
And  
Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development, and Community  
City of Saskatoon  
222 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave North  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

To Ms. Lacroix:

As administration of Saskatoon Public Schools and Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, we are writing to urge the City of Saskatoon to expand future elementary school sites from 8 to 10 acres. New neighbourhoods are significantly larger than they have been in the past, and all future school sites must be appropriately sized for two large elementary schools. Given Government of Saskatchewan trends, it is also likely school sites will also need community space and/or childcare. Please find below several points that reinforce the need to expand school sites from 8 to 10 acres:

1. School enrolments

Elementary schools are no longer built with a capacity of 400 to 500 students. All elementary schools constructed in new neighbourhoods will be joint facilities (public and Catholic) and will have a large childcare centre attached that serves at least 90 children. The joint schools in Stonebridge and Evergreen have a current combined enrolment of 1,940 and 1,698, respectively. The enrolments in these schools are expected to continually increase for the next five years. The current joint-use schools should have been built larger as they are over the design capacity even with all relocatable classrooms added. If the schools were constructed larger, they would not fit on eight acres of land with the required onsite parking and hard surface play areas. The current sites are also too small to accommodate the required school bus parking and parent pickup/drop off.

2. Neighbourhood Density

New neighborhoods are now designed with a higher percentage of multi-family residences and three to four times the overall population compared to neighbourhoods developed in the 1980s and 90s. Stonebridge, for example, has several residential land parcels that have been rezoned to allow for multi-level apartments and condos. The school divisions are also not seeing the traditional growth curve of new neighbourhoods, where families resided in the same home for decades, which contributed to a decline in overall school-aged enrolments. For the multi-family residences, families with younger children do not typically stay for longer durations, which allows new families to continually move into these areas.

### 3. Historical School Site Size

Schools in the neighbourhoods of Lakeridge, Erindale, Silverspring and Willowgrove were built on parcels sizes of three acres per school. The population of these areas are significantly less than the new neighbourhoods as shown in the chart below.

Neighbourhood	Population	Land Area	Population Per Acre of School Parcel
Brighton	15500	8	1938
College Park	5980	6.4	934
East College Park	4799	7.6	631
Erindale	4365	8	546
Lakeridge	3858	8	482
Silverspring	5164	8	646
Silverwood	10573	7	1510
Stonebridge	15414	8	1927
Willowgrove	8050	6.6	1220

The Stonebridge parcel size is three times smaller than what would have been allocated if using the Lakeridge calculation.

The school divisions fully recognize the impact the change in the Planning and Development Act, 2007 has had on the city. We are more than willing to work with the city and will commit to designing schools that will minimize the overall building footprint, but even with these concessions, the school site must be at least 10 acres. We also respectfully request that school divisions be included earlier in the process when developing neighbourhood concept plans to ensure the roadways, parking, and the green spaces surrounding school sites will be appropriate for the estimated school enrolments.

We look forward to attending the next committee meeting on November 2nd to answer any questions that the committee members may have.

Sincerely,



Stan Laba  
Superintendent of Facilities , Saskatoon Public Schools



Joel Lloyd  
CFO, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools

copies to: Andrew Roberts, Director of Recreation and Community Development, City of Saskatoon  
François Rivard, Director of Education, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools  
Shane Skjerven, Director of Education, Saskatoon Public Schools  
Diane Boyko, Board Chair, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools  
Colleen MacPherson, Board Chair, Saskatoon Public Schools