

Staff Report to the Board of Education School District 64 Gulf Islands

Subject: Phoenix Elementary School Enrollment
Date: September 13, 2023
From: D'Arcy Deacon- Deputy Superintendent

Issue:
Declining Enrollment at Phoenix Elementary School

Background:

Over the past few years Phoenix Elementary School has experienced declining enrolment with registrations counted as follows:

2018-19 – 64 students
2019-20 – 54 students
2020-21 – 41 students
2021-22 – 39 students
2022-23 – 34 students
2023-24 – 0 students

During the 2022-23 school year, Phoenix Elementary operated at an estimated \$90,000 deficit with 34 students registered. During the spring staffing process of 2023, projected enrollment indicated a continued decline in registrations. This prompted school and district administration to meet with parents in consideration of the impacts on the school environment and learning experience for students due to a cohort size of less than 6 students. All remaining parents chose to enroll their students in neighborhood schools to access full educational services. School based administration did not receive any new registration requests throughout the spring and summer months. There are currently no students enrolled in Phoenix Elementary School.

Recommendation:

Staff recommend that the Board of Education begin its 60-day consultation for school closure by presenting a Notice of Motion to close Phoenix Elementary School as per Policy and Procedure 635 – Permanent School Closure and in accordance with the *School Act*.

References:

Ministerial Order – School Opening and Closure

[Authority: School Act, section 73 and 168 \(2\)\(p\) \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/school-act/section-73-and-168-2-p/)

Policy 635 – Permanent School Closure

<https://media.sd64.bc.ca/media/Default/medialib/635-permanent-school-closure-policy.eba7001801.pdf>

Procedure 635 – Permanent School Closure

<https://media.sd64.bc.ca/media/Default/medialib/635-permanent-school-closure-procedure.a879511800.pdf>