

# Councillor Request Inquiry

## #139

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2017

Planning and Development Services engaged all three School Boards on the MDP update. We requested meetings with all three school boards to go over any of their concerns on the draft MDP update. EICS and Centre-Nord agreed to meet with PDS administration. Attached is a copy of the Memorandum dated March 14, 2017 to the EICS outlining their concerns and recommendations and how we will implement those comments into MDP Update. Also attached is the Memorandum dated March 14, 2017 to administration representatives from Centre-Nord, also outlining their concerns and recommendations and how we would implement those comments into the MDP Update.

We received an email from EIPS on January 23, 2017 requesting clarification on the Draft #1 of the MDP (email attached). Subsequent to this, on February 3, 2017 PDS received a letter (attached) from the office of the Board Chair expressing their concerns on the draft #1 of the MDP. PDS was not able to find a time that worked for EIPS to meet, however a meeting was ultimately arranged by EIPS with the Superintendent of EICS, the County Commissioner, the Associate Commissioner of Infrastructure, and the Director PDS on March 22, 2017. There was no formal agenda but a general discussion primarily on school site sizes, location of school sites and the challenges for both the school boards and the County with respect to new school facilities.

Based on the comments we received from the February 3, 2017 letter from the Board Chair, PDS addressed the comments and concerns where appropriate and recirculated the 2<sup>rd</sup> draft of the MDP update for their review. Attached is the letter dated **April 20, 2017** from the EIPS Superintendent stating that EIPS is pleased to see changes incorporated. They did express their ongoing concern regarding identification and availability of school sites in the County, however as this is not an MDP issue but an existing situation dealt with through the Site Allocation Committee, PDS moved forward with the MDP Update for Council's consideration.

We have committed to consult all three school boards at future planning stages when identifying future school sites. If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience.

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**MEMORANDUM**
**DATE:** March 14, 2017

**TO:** Ryan Stierman, Ed Paras, Michael Hauptman

**FROM:** Deanna Cambridge

**CC:** Ryan Hall, Janna Widmer

**RE:** Municipal Development Plan Comments

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Thank you for your feedback on Strathcona County's Municipal Development Plan. The following is a summary of the comments received from Ryan Stierman and Ed Paras of Elk Island Catholic Schools at the meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 held at Strathcona County Community Centre with Ryan Hall, Janna Widmer and Deanna Cambridge of Strathcona County. Strathcona County has reviewed these comments and provided responses.

#	Elk Island Catholic School	Strathcona County
1	EICS recommends additional general policy direction be added regarding collaboration with school boards.	<p>The following has been added to the draft MDP under Section 6 implementation:</p> <p>Strathcona County will collaborate with school boards on the amount of, and allocation of, land for school sites and the identification of school requirements.</p>
2	EICS recommends that additional consideration regarding the location of school sites and the phasing of new developments. School sites should be located in a phase of development that is supported by the proposed residential development within the same plan.	<p>The following has been added to the relevant sections of the draft MDP:</p> <p>Strathcona County will consider the proposed location of school sites within neighbourhoods when establishing development phasing.</p>
3	EICS does not support the construction of joint schools. Joint schools sites may be supported but should have access to at least three roads to ensure separate traffic lanes.	As the MDP is a high level policy document it does not speak specifically to joint schools or joint schools sites.

4	The most prominent concerns for EICS when planning a new school site are room to play and transportation. Generally schools within Strathcona County are getting larger.	<p>The size and location of new school sites will be determined in lower level, site specific plans through collaboration with school boards.</p> <p>The MDP speaks generally to some location considerations that provide general guidance for school sites within new Area Structure Plans and Redevelopment Plans.</p>
5	EICS supports the joint use and location of municipal facilities and schools.	The MDP policies encourage the joint use and location of municipal facilities and schools.

Strathcona County values your involvement in this process. Should you have any additional comments or concerns please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Deanna Cambridge, Planner II

Planning & Development Services  
[deanna.cambridge@strathcona.ca](mailto:deanna.cambridge@strathcona.ca)

**MEMORANDUM**
**DATE:** March 14, 2017

**TO:** Robert Lessard, Marc Labonte

**FROM:** Deanna Cambridge

**CC:** Ryan Hall, Janna Widmer

**RE:** Municipal Development Plan Comments

Thank you for your feedback on Strathcona County's Municipal Development Plan. The following is a summary of the comments received from Robert Lessard and Marc Labonte of Centre-Nord at the meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 held at Strathcona County Community Centre with Ryan Hall, Janna Widmer and Deanna Cambridge of Strathcona County. Strathcona County has reviewed these comments and provided responses.

#	Centre-Nord	Strathcona County
1	Centre-Nord has a high demand in Sherwood Park and will be looking for a k-9 school within the area in the near future.	Strathcona County will ensure communication with Centre-Nord regarding available school sites.
2	Centre-Nord's student population comes from a large area including parts of Edmonton. Due to this widespread student base, school sites that do not function well for other school boards may function well for Centre-Nord.	This information is useful to the County's future Planning.
3	The vast majority of Centre-Nord students will be bussed; therefore transportation is a primary concern.	The MDP speaks generally to some location considerations that provide general guidance for school sites within new Area Structure Plans and Redevelopment Plans. Transportation needs have been included within these considerations.

<b>4</b>	Centre-Nord is interested in collaboration with the County on the MDP implementation items regarding school sites and any other relevant future County projects.	Strathcona County values Centre-Nord's input regarding school sites and has added Centre-Nord to the County's general planning referral list.
<b>5</b>	Centre-Nord supports the joint use of municipal facilities and schools. The use of innovative mixed use school sites is exciting and interesting.	The MDP policies encourage the joint use of municipal facilities and schools as well as mixed use school sites.

Strathcona County values your involvement in this process. Should you have any additional comments or concerns please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Deanna Cambridge, Planner II  
Planning & Development Services  
[deanna.cambridge@strathcona.ca](mailto:deanna.cambridge@strathcona.ca)

February 3, 2017

Strathcona County  
Land Development Planning  
2001 Sherwood Drive  
Sherwood Park, AB T8A 3W7

Attention: Deanna Cambridge

Dear Deanna:

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**Subject: Strathcona County Municipal Development Plan  
(File No. 4430-2017MDP001)**

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Elk Island Public Schools has appreciated the opportunity to review the draft Strathcona County Municipal Development Plan (File No. 4430-2017MDP001) and provide feedback.

We applaud the County for taking a proactive approach to planning, but at this time we wish to express significant concerns relative to some of the proposed recommendations.

First and foremost, duly elected school boards are given certain rights and responsibilities unto them as outlined in the *School Act*. There are several statements contained within the proposed MDP that appear to encroach on a Board's autonomy to make decisions that it is legally entitled to.

The following areas are of greatest concern:

1. The planning objectives as stated are very defined when it comes to school development. In many cases, the ideal conditions as set out may have significant cost implications for a Division and these costs may not be allowed by Alberta Education or Alberta Infrastructure.
2. Item 4.1.3.16 states: "*Ensure the provision of services and open spaces for residents by requiring existing sites that have been identified as potential school sites under existing statutory plans be reviewed to determine their necessity and viability.*" This raises the question: Who will determine the necessity and viability of the school sites?

Deanna Cambridge - Strathcona County  
Re: Municipal Development Plan  
Page 2  
February 3, 2017

3. That adequate school reserve (SR) lands be dedicated, not mixed or multipurpose lands. This especially applies to high schools where large plots of SR are required.
4. The specific mention of high schools as a separate entity from schools and further defining where possible development may occur. The determination of a school configuration and its location relative to SR is the sole purview of a Board.
5. Requiring any future school development in certain areas to be located in the Urban Service Area or areas specified by the County.

If the intent of the MDP is to ensure that there is true collaboration amongst stakeholders as well as ensure that legislated autonomy be respected, we believe that there needs to be open and significant dialogue between School Boards and the County. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with the County as there are more questions raised than answers provided in the draft MDP.

Regards,



Trina Boymook,  
Board Chair

:clp

cc: Her Worship, Roxanne Carr, Mayor, Strathcona County  
Mark Liguori, Superintendent, Elk Island Public Schools

April 20, 2017

Strathcona County  
Land User Policy Planning  
2001 Sherwood Drive  
Sherwood Park, AB T8A 3W7

Attention: Deanna Cambridge

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**Subject: Strathcona County Municipal Development Plan  
(File No. 4430-2017MDP001)**

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Dear Deanna,

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) has appreciated the second opportunity to review and provide comments and/or recommendations on the Strathcona County Municipal Development Plan (File No. 4430-2017MDP001).

We are pleased to see changes incorporated into the Municipal Development Plan based on EIPS' comments dated February 3, 2017.

However, we do wish to express our ongoing concern regarding the identification and availability of school sites in Strathcona County. Schools build strong communities and act as a major draw for families to move into a community. As such, it is important that Boards are involved as meaningful partners at the outset of planning conversations and initiatives to ensure our voice is being heard along with those of other stakeholders.

EIPS is committed to continue working collaboratively with Strathcona County and looks forward to a strengthened relationship as we move forward.

Regards,

Mark Liguori,  
Superintendent

cc: Trina Boymook, Board Chair – Elk Island Public Schools

:clp