

## Fort Vermilion School Division Ward Review

Fort Vermilion School Division Board of Trustees is conducting an electoral boundary ward review and contracted a third party, Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA), to facilitate the review and public consultation.

### **What is a ward?**

Electoral division or ward is a geographic area determined by a school division for election purposes, based on population. A school division may have one or more trustees for every ward.

### **Why does a school board conduct a ward review?**

To adhere to board policy and ensure that wards fairly represent the population demographic of the school division.

### **What is the Fort Vermilion School Division board policy and ward guidelines?**

The FVSD policy states that electoral ward structure will be determined with representation by population and geographical location. The board will hold community consultations prior to passing a bylaw amending the current ward structure. The guidelines are:

- Wards shall be decided by representation by population with no one sector of the population having majority.
- Wards have the best interest of all children without distinction as to who they are or what their background is.
- Wards consider the future welfare of all division communities, the province, the country, and the quality of education provided.
- Wards operate in a spirit of harmony and cooperation despite differences of opinion that may arise.
- Wards represent multiple groups of people living within the boundary.
- Trustees make decisions in the best interest of the entire school division.

### **Fort Vermilion School Division current ward configuration and population demographic:**

<u>Ward # / Area</u>	<u>#trustees</u>	<u>Prov Enrolment</u>	<u>First Nations on Reserve</u>	<u>Total Enrollment</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1 Rainbow Lake/Zama City	1	116	37	153	4.1
2 High Level	2	1077	217	1294	34.5
3 Rocky Lane	1	45	114	159	4.2
4 Fort Vermilion	1	197	38	235	6.3
5 Blumenort	1	201	0	201	5.4
6 La Crete	1	1353	0	1353	36.1
7 Buffalo Head Prairie / Tompkins	1	355	0	355	9.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3344</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>3750</b>	

### **The Board is considering alternate ward structures:**

**OPTION 1:** Combine Rocky Lane and Fort Vermilion into one ward with one trustee (7-member board, cost savings)

**OPTION 2:** Combine Rocky Lane and Fort Vermilion into one ward with one trustee, add one trustee to La Crete (8-member board, cost neutral)

**OPTION 3:** Maintain the current ward structure, add one trustee to La Crete (9-member board, cost increase)

***\*The Board may also decide not to make changes to the wards and trustee allocation (maintain status quo).***

### **What does the board need from you?**

The board of trustees is asking each family to provide feedback and choose the option that best meets their expectations for ward structure. Consultation sessions, that adhere to AHS safety guidelines on social gatherings, will occur in the following locations:

<b>October 13</b>	7:00-9:00 pm	La Crete	La Crete Public School
<b>October 14</b>	7:00-9:00 pm	Fort Vermilion	Fort Vermilion Public School
<b>October 15</b>	7:00-9:00 pm	High Level	High Level Public School

You are encouraged to provide input online by completing a ward survey. The survey is active from October 1–15, 2020. Thank you for your participation. Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D9D9GSY>