



November 19, 2019

Dear Families:

RE: Update on Secondary School Consolidation

We are writing to provide you with an update on the North Bay Secondary School Consolidation process. As you may be aware, on September 24, 2019 the NNDSB Board of Trustees decided that effective September 2020 West Ferris Intermediate and Secondary School and Chippewa Secondary School will be designated the two operating North Bay Secondary Schools and that Widdifield Secondary School will be closed. At this time the Board instructed the Director of Education to prepare and bring forward an implementation plan including projected timelines, transitional plans and costing as soon as practicable.

We are pleased to advise that the senior administrative team of the board has been working diligently at developing the required implementation plan. In order to ensure that this initiative remains a priority and maintains a student-based focus, a North Bay Secondary School Programming Committee has been established and is comprised of a principal representative from each of the North Bay Secondary Schools. In addition, the Board has contracted a former North Bay Principal, Mr. Lucio Pavone, as an Executive Officer to chair this committee and lead the consolidation process.

The Programming Committee is responsible for developing and providing recommendations to the Board with respect to the implementation plan and programming decisions. A key component of this work is seeking input from our various stakeholders and community partners including Student Council representatives from each of the North Bay Schools, Student Senate, Parent School Council representatives from each of the North Bay Schools, Community representatives such as Nipissing First Nations and the City of North Bay along with other important persons such as our valued staff from each of our secondary schools.

We are committed to ensuring you are kept apprised of decisions impacting your children and young adults attending in one of our North Bay Secondary Schools. There will be clear and comprehensive pathways established that support student need and provide for enhanced opportunities for collaboration and flexibility within the 3-2 consolidation model. Attached to this correspondence is an overview of the

programming options and course available at our North Bay Secondary Schools for 2020/2021. We have also provided information on our upcoming student and parent information sessions for programming and course selection.

The staff in our Secondary Schools will continue to work alongside our central and special education staff to minimize the impact of changes and transitions for students. All of our quality educators are looking forward to collaborating around transition activities that will best support our students and families.

We look forward to the many opportunities and possibilities for students in our Secondary programs in the years ahead. We will provide further information as we move through this transition period.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoff Botting". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "B".

Geoff Botting

Director of Education

NORTH BAY SECONDARY SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

The programming information provided below is intended to help ease any possible concerns that you might be having at this time and assist you and your children in making informed decisions regarding their academic future.

Magnet Programs

- If your child is enrolled or would like to enroll in these programs, transportation will be provided for out of zone addresses as per NNDSB transportation guideline.
- STEAM (an engaging pathway for those interested in hands-on training in science, technology, engineering, arts and math), French Immersion (Early and Late Immersion), Arts Nipissing (an excellent pathway for those who enjoy a dominant arts focus with ability to focus on a specific area of artistic interest), Sports Nipissing (New-an excellent opportunity for busy young athletes) will be located at West Ferris Secondary School.
- International Baccalaureate (IB-a well-rounded (arts, business, dance, language, math, behavioural and physical sciences) and academically rigorous opportunity that welcomes those who love learning), French Immersion (Early) will be located at Chippewa Secondary School.

Special Education Programs

- Intermediate and Senior Special Education programs supporting students with needs primarily in the intellectual domain, will be located at West Ferris.
- Intermediate and Senior Special Education programs supporting students with needs primarily in the area of communication, will be located at Chippewa.

Indigenous Programming

- Indigenous programming Language based courses (West Ferris/Chippewa).
- Arts – Expressions of First Nations, Metis and Inuit Cultures, Grade 9, Open, Integrated Arts (West Ferris & Chippewa); Grade 11 English – Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Metis and Inuit Voices (West Ferris & Chippewa).

Further to the above it is our intention to offer an expanded number of compulsory courses to support the above noted program pathways at both Chippewa and West Ferris contingent on student enrolment.



UPCOMING INFORMATION SESSIONS

Student Information Sessions

- Monday November 25, 2019 (morning): Widdifield Secondary School Grade 9,10,11s (focus on Magnet programs)
- Monday November 25, 2019 (afternoon): Chippewa Secondary School Grades 9-11(focus on Magnet programs)
- Tuesday November 26, 2019 (morning): West Ferris Secondary Schools Grade 9-11 (focus on Magnet programs)
- Thursday November 28, 2019: Fricker/MT Davidson/Phelps, Chippewa Secondary School, West Ferris Intermediate (grade 8 with a focus on Magnet programs)

Open Houses and Parent Information Nights

- Tuesday December 3, 2019: Chippewa Secondary School Open House and School Tours 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday December 5, 2019: West Ferris Secondary School Open House and School Tours 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Career Cruising and Course Selection

Monday December 9, 2019: Career Cruising Opens Up For Course Selection With a Tentative Close Date Of Friday, January 10, 2019 For Gr. 9-12 And Friday, January 17, 2019 For Gr. 8's.