

Good evening.

I would like to thank the ARC committee for holding this additional public meeting in order to discuss the future education of our children.

I am a parent of 2 children at Alliance French Immersion Public School. And I am here to advocate for their future.

I attended a presentation on April 12, 2017 with Dr. Jean Clinton. This was provided by the Nipissing Parry Sound Catholic District School Board. She spoke to how relationships effects children's overall wellbeing and success. While the most important relationships for our children begin at home, the ones our children have at school are also extremely important. As per Dr. Clinton, "relationships that are warm, responsive and predictable help out children thrive. Relationships that generate intense stress can harm the developing brain". We know that the brain continues to develop well past the adolescent years. Teenage brains go through an enormous change during their high school years and the relationships they form with their peers and teachers is of utmost importance. A school of the proposed size will make it impossible for all children to feel included and heard. The children that will succeed are those who will be front and centre on the stage or sports field. Unfortunately, at a school of the proposed size, there will be limited room on that stage and sports field. Many students will fall through the cracks, especially those with difficult home lives. Children need to have meaning to their day, a sense of belonging, hope and purpose. The more students present, the less inclusive the environment will be. Why does the board think that numbers and funds are more important than our children's overall success?

In closing, I would like the board to address my question as well as the previously asked questions, presented at earlier meetings.

I will not support the original proposed option of one Super School for my children and for the city of North Bay.

Thank you.