

Good Evening,

My name is Christine Brown and I have two children enrolled with the NNDSB. I'd like to start by thanking the ARC for their efforts over the last few months. This task holds tremendous consequences and I know you are vested in this process. The proposals that have been put forward speak to your efforts and commitment to the ARC.

I was asked by David Thompson via social media to "present sustainable ideas that will address where the students will come from to support two schools, how are the taxpayers going to pay for it and what high school programming will be offered to support students!"

Tonight I'd like to publicly support Proposal #4 put forward by West Ferris Secondary School ARC parent Representatives. This proposal outlines the renovation of 2 high schools; one each in the North and South ends of the city respectively.

To refer back to David's request -

1 – Where will the students come from? Perhaps we need to look at eliminating boundaries and take a look at programming. By eliminating boundaries and offering magnet programs at particular locations, enrollment would be spread between the two refurbished schools. Total projected enrollment with this Board for the target year of 2020-2021 is 2247. By implementing proposal number 4, the two refurbished schools house grades 7-12, it would be easy to equalize enrollment by continuing to operate 2 high schools.

2 – How are the taxpayers going to pay for it? It is quite evident renewal costs are grossly inaccurate. As mentioned in my first presentation, and echoed by ARC parent representatives "when looking at the 5 year cumulative renewal needs, many of the renewal needs based on price, suggest a complete upgrade, indicating the renewal needs when complete, would be equivalent to a new build product using the "bones" of West Ferris to complete" Based on this information, it is more economical to renew a school than it is to build a new school. The guiding document used by this Board is 2016:B19 from the Ministry of Education titled Request for School Consolidation Capital Funding Submissions. The SCCP is allocating 750million dollars that allow school boards to reduce their excess capacity. The memo clearly states Business Case Considerations will include the following:

- Consolidating two (or more) schools into one new facility.
- Building an addition and/or undertaking a major renovation to an existing school to accommodate enrolment from other schools that a school board has made a decision to close.

- Right-sizing existing schools by renovating existing excess space for other uses including child care and child and family program rooms and community hubs.

Why then is this Board citing the Ministry will only fund new builds?

3 – What high school programming will be offered to support students? Although I appreciate David's request for my input, I believe our elected Trustees and well compensated Board should be equipped to assist teachers and front line staff to determine what programming will be available at each school. I also appreciate that some would like to divide parents with the contentious issue of the physical location of their program choices. Rest assured after a brief and informal survey of many parents, most are concerned about the programs available to their children rather than the physical location of said programs.

I would like to address the ARC, Board and Trustees regarding the efforts of some to divide the parent community of Alliance. Aside from my participation in this parent group, I am also the co-chair of Alliance SAC. In this capacity I have communicated with parents regarding the physical location of the FI program. The vast majority of parents are in agreement regarding their PROGRAM choice for their children, French Immersion. It happens to be physically located in the north end of city, but should that change, most would continue to send their children to the FI program irrelevant of location. Travel time is not a concern as many of the current bus routes are 30-50 minutes in length. It may be a small inconvenience for those families in the north end of the city, but perhaps a nice break for those families in the south end.

In conclusion my answer to the proposal of a super school is simply NO. This community clearly does not support the Board's preferred option of one super school. The Board has requested public input and overwhelmingly the public has said no! We have offered a multitude of reasons to not support this Board's preferred option.

Thank you for your time tonight.