

**From:** [Rebecca Geauvreau](#)  
**To:** [Carrie Girard](#); [Paul Addie](#)  
**Subject:** Questions for the ARC Committee - Near North Planning Area  
**Date:** March-09-17 12:28:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [Questions for Near North District School Board Staff ARC Committee from February 15 2017 Meeting.pdf](#)

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Hello Carrie & Paul,

Please find attached a list of questions from parents and citizens with respect to the ongoing ARC process in the Near North Planning Area, specifically the preferred option impacting the high schools and students in North Bay.

Many of the questions were already posed by presenters at the February 15th public meeting; additional questions and concerns are included that were raised following the meeting.

We request the ARC committee receive, review and provide answers to these questions. It is our understanding that Board staff may be needed to answer some or all of the questions given their paid employment positions, compared to a volunteer committee.

We understand the ARC committee meets again for a working meeting on March 22nd and look forward to hearing from the committee; preferably at an early April public meeting.

Thank you & regards,

Rebecca

**Questions for Near North District School Board Staff & ARC Committee – March 8, 2017  
From Parents of Students at Vincent Massey PS and Alliance French Immersion PS**

Some of the following questions were posed at the first Public Meeting held February 15<sup>th</sup>. Others have come from discussions subsequent the meeting. The questions reflect the thought and consideration of a number of concerned parents and citizens. Thank you for considering our questions. We look forward to receiving your answers.

**Issue 1 – Traffic, Transportation and Safety**

1. Does the City of North Bay's Official Plan and Zoning By-law permit this significant increase in use and associated traffic at the Chippewa site?
2. What is your plan to manage school-related transportation, traffic and safety for the proposed single English Public High School? Is it possible to do so at the Chippewa site?

**Issue 2 – Size and Enrolment**

1. Why would the Near North District School Board and the Province of Ontario propose that an experiment of this magnitude be carried out in a city of just over 50 000 people?
2. Why would the Near North District School Board proposed that one school would be both sufficient and appropriate to accommodate over half of the total intermediate and secondary student population in the City of North Bay?
3. Has the NNDSB considered current, peer-review research on school size (student numbers) and student outcomes?
4. Has the NNDSB considered the validity of it's statement that a larger school size provides more programming and opportunities for students?

**Issue 3 – Active and Safe Routes to School**

1. How will you honour the Board's commitment to an active and safe school travel plan to encourage healthy and active students?
2. Considering the Board is proposing to build the single largest Secondary School in the Province of Ontario in terms of student enrolment, can the Board commit to hiring an Active and Safe Routes to School Coordinator/planner to work in collaboration with the NBPSDHU, the City of North Bay and other community partners to ensure students and families who wish to

take active transportation to school, instead of busses be provided a safe and well organized option?

#### **Issue 4 – School Programming and Student Resources**

1. Is there a plan in place to expand the existing high-school specialty programs so that they will be available to all students?
2. Would additional resource teachers be hired to support the needs of students, including those with learning difficulties, mental illness and other specialized needs?

#### **Issue 5 – Facility Management**

1. What is the Board's plan to ensure the final option building(s) for high-school students in North Bay won't fall into the same state of disrepair as the current schools?
2. Will the Board implement and address a Preventative Maintenance schedule for mechanical systems used in the new facility?
3. Has the Board considered a contingency plan should the only high school suffer an emergency of some kind? Where would the displaced ~2250 students go?
4. Presently, does the Board have an approved utilities management policy in place?
5. What options has the Board explored in order to reduce or mitigate the costs associated with heating, cooling and electrical for a new school(s)?
6. Why does the Board continue to maintain it's office on a highly-taxed 3-acre parcel in the City? Should the Board consider selling this valuable piece of land and move its office to a more central and accessible location in the City of North Bay? Perhaps realize efficiencies by partnering with one of it's schools?

#### **Issue 6 – Curriculum and Programming**

1. Has the Board considered alternative options to one large school for offering additional programming to students? e.g. 5-period day vs 4-period day
2. Has the Board been transparent in terms of what curriculum might be lost if everything was moved to one high-school?

3. While there may be the perception of added programming opportunities should the preferred option go ahead, has the Board fully considered the ramifications of having all of their self-contained systems classes under one roof?

4. What is the NNDSB's plan for varsity athletics? Has the Board considered that intramural sports will not result in post-secondary scholarships or team opportunities for our students?

### **Logistics and Preferred Option Implementation**

1. Has the Board considered how they will implement the Preferred Option of two new builds on the Fricker and Chippewa sites while there are operating schools on both sites? Is this permitted?

### **Possible Conflict of Interest**

Firstly, we are impressed with the interest, poise and commitment of the student representatives from the three high-schools. Their willingness to participate and give their time on behalf of their peers is commendable.

It is our understanding that the student representatives from Chippewa and West Ferris Secondary Schools have an association with the NNDSB. This is in our opinion, a conflict of interest because the two members have voting rights. While we recognize there may be no real conflict, the perception of one is difficult to ignore.

Since the Board has stressed their willingness to have an open and transparent ARC process for the North Bay Planning Area, please consider either removing their status as a voting member or replace with two students who have no association with the NNDSB.