

## Traffic, Transportation & Safety

Good evening. My name is Rebecca Geauvreau and I'm a parent of two children who attend Alliance French Immersion Public School. If they continue in the French immersion program, both will attend Chippewa SS in 2021 and 2024 respectively. I'm speaking on behalf of myself and a group of concerned parents whose children currently attend school at either Alliance or Vincent Massey.

### Issue

We have concerns related to traffic, transportation and safety for the preferred option to amalgamate the 3 English Public High Schools (Chippewa, Widdifield and West Ferris) into a single school located on the Chippewa SS property.

### The Facts – Traffic Congestion

Presently, 2769 students utilize the High Street corridor to get to and from school, whether by bus or private vehicle. Compounding traffic includes employees of these schools as well as staff and parents accessing Garderie Soliel, Conseil Scolaire Catholique Franco-Nord Board office, and the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board office. Further still, clientele and staff accessing the Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) and North Bay Regional Health Centre on Devonshire Street contribute to additional traffic congestion in the High Street corridor.

2016 Enrollment Data for nearby schools:<sup>1</sup>

- Chippewa S.S. – 890 students
- Alliance French Immersion P.S. – 565 students
- St. Anges – 269 students
- St. Joseph Scollard Hall S.S. – 845 students
- St. Hubert – 200 students

The projected enrollment of a single English public high school in 2020-2021 is 2247 students. According to the respective School Information Profiles<sup>2</sup> and the Board's Initial Staff report<sup>3</sup>, Chippewa is projected to see increased enrollment, while the other two secondary schools are projected to decline. Overall, **1357 new intermediate and secondary students** are projected to attend school at the new single school if the Board moves forward with the preferred option.

There are no collector roads or similar infrastructure to accommodate the expected near doubling of traffic in an area that already experiences significant traffic congestion and safety issues. Congestion breeds impatience which in turn discourages parents from allowing their kids to walk or bike to school because of the perceived and real safety issues. We foresee this problem increasing with a single secondary school.

**QUESTION #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?**

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<sup>1</sup> North Bay Nugget, December 10, 2016, page A3.

<sup>2</sup> School Information Profile: Chippewa Secondary School, 16pp; School Information Profile: Widdifield Secondary School, 17pp; School Information Profile: West Ferris Secondary School, 18pp.

<sup>3</sup> Student Accommodation Review – Near North District School Board. Initial Staff Report. Dec. 13, 2016; revised Jan. 9, 2016. 26pp.

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### The Facts – Bussing

#### Chippewa Intermediate and Secondary School

- 890 students enrolled 2016-2017, 299 are within walking distance (this doesn't mean they walk)
- 523 students bussed (not sure how the other 68 kids get to school)<sup>4</sup>

#### New Single School at Chippewa site

- Consider students from West Ferris SS, Widdifield SS and Fricker PS attending single school at Chippewa site; still only 299 within walking distance, the remaining **1357** would be bussed/eligible for bussing or would ride or drive to school.
- In a perfect world, 48 kids fit on a school bus –  $1357/48 = 29$  more busses.
- Reality, (at the elementary level) **26% of parents/caregivers drive their bus eligible kids**<sup>5</sup>
- ~352 students riding or driving to school; assume 2 kids per car – **176 more cars** at peak traffic times to get kids to and from school
- Suspect **significantly longer bussing times for many more students**, especially for those students who aren't accustomed to long rides resulting in driving or being driven to school = **more traffic at peak times**

QUESTION #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?

### Proposed Alternative

The following is a proposed alternative to the preferred option presented in the Initial Staff Report.

A single new JK- Grade 6 school and **two (2) Grade 7 – 12 schools**, (one new build, one existing), which would **share** the **2247** intermediate and secondary **students**.

Benefits of two secondary schools:

- Allows parents and students an **English public choice** within their community since **57%** of all secondary school **students are enrolled in the Near North District School Board** schools, while the **other 43%** of secondary students are **spread between the three other school boards** (NPSCDSB – St. Joseph Scollard Hall; CSCFN – Ecole secondaire catholique Algonquin; CSPNE – Odyssee)
- **West Ferris** Secondary School will **remain open**, a critical resource for families in the Ferris area of North Bay
  - The recent **significant investment** in an **elevator** which **meets accessibility needs** of students and staff

It is our hope that the committee and Trustees will consider the issues raised this evening. Further, we look forward to the members giving serious attention to the alternative suggested above.

Thank you.

<sup>4</sup> School Information Profile: Chippewa Secondary School. 16pp.

<sup>5</sup> Alliance Safe School Travel Planning Committee report to City of North Bay Planning Services, Feb 2015, despite the fact that 95% are 'bus eligible', 26% of parents/guardians drive kids to school.