

Size and Enrolment

Good evening. My name is Rachael Yerlitz 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 the size and impact that the preferred option to amalgamate the 3 English Public High Schools will have on our children and our community.

PLAN: (Chippewa, Widdifield and West Ferris) into a single school located on the Chippewa SS property.

The Facts – Size of Proposed School

According to the Near North District School Board Initial Staff Report, dated December 13, 2016 and revised January 9, 2017, page 17, this super school will house 2,247 grade 7 to grade 12 students. As per public data found on the Ministry of Education website, there is no high school in the entire province of Ontario, with any of the 4 school boards that has as many students within one building. In fact, there are only 6 high schools in the province with over 2,000 students and they are all located in or around the Greater Toronto Area, an area with a population of 6,417,516 (this number taken from the 2016 census). In addition, none of these 6 schools have grades 7 and 8 students, they are secondary schools only.

QUESTION #1: Why would the Near North District School Board propose that the largest super school in the province should be located in the city of North Bay, a city with a population of 54,000?

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.