

February 11, 2017

To The Near North District School Board ARC Committee,

Firstly, thank you for the opportunity to express my views regarding the upcoming potential amalgamation of schools and changes within the NNDSB. As a parent, tax-payer, supporter of public education and a business owner and professional within our community I have a few questions that I hope will be addressed at the public meeting on February 15th. I look forward to sharing my thoughts at the public meeting.

My concerns relate to:

1. Transportation logistics - more bussing of students, more absenteeism if students miss buses and do not have transportation from parents, greater distances for students to travel and more difficulty in afterschool transportation home from clubs, sporting events etc.
2. Student well-being and engagement – less connection with teachers and administration, greater risk factors for drug & alcohol use, truancy etc.
3. Changes to Athletics programming - impact on other high schools competing against our large school, greater disengagement for students who do not have opportunities to play varsity sports (which also lead to a greater academic accountability for students), more travel for out-of-town sports games and tournaments.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at the February 15th meeting.

Sincerely,

Dr. Glenn Paleczny