

BOB BOAL

The times they are a changin' (Bob Dylan)

- I am under the impression that the board cannot leave the high school situation as status quo in the city. The money is not there to continue on this path.
- The sad reality is that education, in many ways, is a business. The number of students equals cash and it is also an unequal business – as the English Public board gets less funding per student than other boards. We all know that isn't changing soon enough for this decision.
- I believe that the communities of all three schools believe their school is great and do not want to see it closed, and this makes the decision more difficult. At any rate, whatever the decision, we are moving away from the status quo.

- One option: 2-1 as proposed by the ARC
- What I liked: it is time to retire the names and brands of West Ferris, Widdfield, and Chippewa. With the new configuration, we will create new traditions. No winners and no losers...change for everybody.
- The ARC recommended that CSS be closed – This is a poor business decision.
- What we know is CSS has over 1000 students pre-registered for next year. If the idea is to have two schools with about 1100-1200 students, CSS is close to that target number already. We really have no idea how many students will follow a program if it is moved to a different building. What we know is CSS has over 1000 students pre-registered for next year. Closing and dispersing the school closest to the target number does not seem to be a good choice.
- If we shrink to two schools, both are to be 'refurbished'. Is money available? How much? If both schools are going to get refurbished and fixed up – we need to take all arguments about the cosmetic issues at the schools out of the equation. The decision should be based on functional factors.
- According to the Board Report, CSS has more land and the most opportunity to grow of the north end schools. Not only that, but it is closer to our competition, SJSH. If it is decided the city will have two NNDSB high schools, closing the CSS site is not a sound decision.

- THE BEST OPTION, BAR NONE, is 3-1. And here is why....
- Kids are going to benefit tremendously if we consolidate. No longer we will be promoting 21st century learning but educating them in a 19th Century box that models a factory and was built about 50 or 60 years ago. They deserve modern spaces, state of the art equipment, and opportunity. We get to think and be OUTSIDE THE BOX.
- Building behind CSS will allow all classes in all schools continue on as they are, and then everyone will make one transition. Fewer transitions are easier

on the student and family, and I think it would also diminish the number of students who switch out of our board to get more stability.

- Right now kids may have to make sacrifices. They can only do the programs and classes offered at their school. (Or the odd one online). NO MORE SACRIFICES. Students will be able to stay in the same grade with the same friends and the same graduating class and all students get access to ALL the great PATHS and SHSM's and programs the NNDSB has to offer.
- The NNDSB students in the city should all be offered the same courses and the same opportunities. *** This is important.
- The consolidation of students means better timetable fits for everyone. More students mean MORE CLASSES will run for ALL STREAMS. This should eliminate splits and let the teacher focus on one set of expectations and give the course undivided attention. It will also provide the students with clearer pathways through high school, more accurately preparing them for the post high school adventure of their choice. We will also be able to offer more unique and more real world/ life skill opportunities for the learners. ***These reasons may be the most important reasons of all. ***
- One school will also allow us to offer more clubs and support groups and resources for the kids. I believe we can offer a wide range of opportunities for the students to feel connected to each other and the school and not feel alone or isolated. *** This is really important for student success and their wellbeing.
- The teachers are spread across the three sites. Bringing us all together will allow for stronger departments, more consistent philosophy, more collegiality, and easier mentoring possibilities. Plus, all students will get the opportunity to learn from all the teachers, not just the small amount at their current school.
- I feel like the NNDSB schools compete with each other for funding and students etc., (only one school can get a certain SHSM or funding or a program). The NNDSB needs to come together and compete with the other boards.
- We will be able to focus all of our energy/monies/initiatives on one school. This will give us a big advantage against the schools from the other three boards. The other boards have spent many millions modernizing their schools. This will help level the playing field as we create a great new facility just down the road from SJS and ESCA.
- It also helps us divert money to other regions of the board.
- Education isn't the same as it once was. The objective has changed, the pedagogy has changed, and **most importantly, students have changed**. It is time we changed to be better able to reach them and help them move forward toward their life goals.
One new school makes programming sense, equality sense, competitive sense and economic sense. It is the right choice. I wish we could start today.