



June 8, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

RE: Update on Secondary School Consolidation

With the support of the Board of Trustees and Executive Council, the NNDSB consolidation planning process is on track. At this stage, consolidation planning timeline objectives and deliverables are on or ahead of schedule. Capital projects and renovations at West Ferris Secondary School (WFSS) and Chippewa Secondary School (CSS) are proceeding ahead of schedule.

Our staff continue to collaborate with respective stakeholders, including students and parents, through virtual meeting platforms.

**Secondary Programming**

NNDSB remains committed to providing students with comprehensive secondary program pathways. Due to the consolidation and projected increase in enrollment at WFSS and CSS, we are able to offer innovative new programs that include exciting specialized, elective and compulsory course options. Please visit the school websites for further information on our specialized secondary programs, student videos and virtual tours.

The course selection process at each of the three high schools involved in the 3-2 consolidation has been completed, and student timetables for September 2020 are being finalized. An additional Guidance Teacher will be available over the summer to support students and parents with any course changes and program delivery.

Student transitions are important to NNDSB. Students who are interested in enrolling September 2020 in one of our West Ferris Secondary School (WFSS) specialized programs in Grade 9 will be permitted to attend WFSS beginning in Grade 7. In addition, the NNDSB will be providing transportation for those students.

Students at each of the schools involved in the consolidation process will be invited to participate in student-focused transition activities using a virtual template. Schools will be able to welcome new students while adhering to COVID-19 health and safety requirements.

Dedicated student success and resource support staff are available for students as they transition to CSS and WFSS. Our staff continue to meet daily to ensure that we provide effective programming and student-centred supports as students begin their learning journey in a new school.

### **Special Education Programming**

School and Board special education staff continue to meet with parents to ensure that NNDSB students with special education needs are prioritized through the “Identification, Placement and Review Committee” (IPRC) process, which includes transition planning dialogues for those students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Intermediate and senior special education programs supporting students with needs primarily in the intellectual domain (Personal Life Management Program) will be available at WFSS. CSS will offer intermediate and senior special education programs supporting students with needs primarily in the area of communication. Our special education spaces are undergoing significant improvements to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of our special education students. It is anticipated that WFSS classrooms will be ready for September 2020. Renovations to CSS are projected for completion before semester 2.

### **Indigenous Programming**

The NNDSB will continue to offer Indigenous Language (Ojibwe) and a growing number of FNMI courses at both schools. Graduation Coaches, Indigenous Youth and Family Outreach Workers are available for ongoing support. Welcoming spaces are available to all students who identify as First Nation, Metis and Inuit.

### **Administrative Teams**

For September 2020, Julie Beaudoin has been appointed the position of Principal of Chippewa Secondary School. She will be supported by Vice-Principals Scott Barons, Stephanie Collins and Amy Wood. Andy Gagne will remain as Principal at West Ferris Secondary School and will be supported by Vice-Principals Jamey Byers and Marg McDiarmid.

Chippewa Principal Karin Podlatis-Brown and Widdifield Principal Alison Herst-Jackson have been appointed new school assignments. We are appreciative of their leadership in supporting staff and students with the consolidation process.

## **Building Renovations, Inventory & Transportation**

The NNDSB Board of Trustees approved funds to begin renovations to classrooms and facilities necessary to accommodate the programming and enrollment changes for September 2020. Despite restrictions due to COVID-19, construction work is proceeding as scheduled while adhering to appropriate health guidelines. Staff are working collaboratively at each of the schools involved in the consolidation process to ensure that school inventory, including memorabilia, will be equitably distributed to support students at WFSS and CSS.

The Transportation Consortium is working towards providing students and parents with route information before the end of this school year to assist students as they plan to attend their new schools in September.

Keeping students, staff, parents, and school communities informed is of the utmost importance as we approach the final phase of the consolidation process. NNDSB is dedicated to smooth transitions for all as we approach the 2020/21 school year.

Thank you for your continued support.

Craig Myles  
Director of Education