



NEAR NORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR DELAYED SCHOOL OPENING

Version date: August 14, 2025

Executive Summary: Near North District School Board – Contingency Plan for Delayed Opening of Parry Sound JK–12 School

Date: Aug. 14, 2025

Due to construction delays at the new Parry Sound JK–12 facility, the Near North District School Board (NNDSB) has developed and will mobilize a contingency plan to ensure uninterrupted student learning for the 2025-2026 school year.

Key Contingency Measures:

- **Elementary Students (Grades K-6):**
As previously announced, all students will be temporarily accommodated at McDougall Public School and will be transitioned to the new building at an appropriate time. Staffing, classroom assignments, and support services have been planned to ensure continuity and minimize disruption.
- **Elementary Intermediate Students (Grades 7-8):**
All students will be accommodated at Nobel Public School and will be transitioned to the new building at an appropriate time. Staffing, classroom assignments, and support services have been planned to ensure continuity and minimize disruption.
- **Secondary Students (Grades 9-12):**
Programming will continue at the existing Parry Sound High School (PSHS) facility until the new building is ready to accommodate students, and a transition can be completed. Despite partial demolition and power loss to several classrooms, all viable spaces will be prepared or repurposed to support full secondary programming.
- **Virtual/Remote Learning:** This is NOT being considered at this time, however, if there are unforeseen circumstances and there are no other viable options, it would need to be considered.
- **Transportation:**
Nipissing Parry Sound Student Transportation Services (NPSSTS) is working on route updates and changes, and student assignment to routes. We expect route information to be available the week of Aug. 25. When the information is available, the consortium and NNDSB will notify families, staff, and other stakeholders.
- **Mental Health & Well-being:**
Dedicated mental health professionals will support students through transitions, with a number of approaches including embedded classroom strategies to foster resilience and emotional stability.
- **Timeline:**
McDougall, Nobel and the PSHS will remain open in the 2025-2026 school year and as the new JK-12 school is ready for occupancy, we will transition students to the new location when occupancy is approved, and the set-up is complete.

Next Steps:

We are committed to ensuring a smooth and safe start to the school year. At this time, a timeline for completion of the new build and subsequent transition of the staff and students to the new JK-12 school has not been identified. As this information becomes available, and further details can be shared, NNDSB will continue to communicate information to students, families and partners through regular updates of this plan. Updates will also be made to the Frequently Asked Questions section on the board website.

NEAR NORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR DELAYED SCHOOL OPENING

School: Parry Sound JK-12

Date: Aug. 14, 2025

1. Purpose of the Plan

This contingency plan outlines the Near North District School Board's (NND SB) strategy to ensure uninterrupted student learning in September and to support families, staff, and partners, in light of the delayed occupancy of the new Parry Sound JK-12 facility.

2. Background

This plan reflects the current understanding of construction timelines and the necessity for temporary accommodation. Given the uncertainties surrounding the project completion, the contingency plan is designed to provide a stable solution capable of supporting students, staff, and families through any additional unforeseen delays.

3. Temporary Accommodation Plan

NND SB conducted a comprehensive review of available space within board-owned facilities in the region. This review included an assessment of the challenges resulting from the partial demolition of the existing Parry Sound High School (PSHS) building, as well as an evaluation of transportation logistics in collaboration with the Nipissing Parry Sound Student Transportation Services Consortium (NPSSTS). The following plan, announced to the public on Aug. 13, 2025, will provide the most comprehensive protective factors to support students during this transition period.

CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR PRIMARY/JUNIOR STUDENTS - Grades JK-6 Students attend McDougall Public School

As previously announced, all JK-6 students will be temporarily accommodated at McDougall Public School . Staffing, classroom assignments, and support services have been planned to ensure continuity and minimize disruption.

As this mirrors the classroom organization that will be in place once students are in the new build, teachers and E.A.'s have been assigned. Students can maintain their cohorts as they transition into the new build.

Brigid Wright has been assigned as Principal of McDougall Public School.

Protective Factors

- In May, the Minister of Education committed to keeping McDougall Public School open for the JK-6 students to provide certainty for the students and families for the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

- When the transition to the new build occurs, class routines and relationships will remain in place and will not be disturbed by the move into the JK-12 new build.
- Teachers will have the opportunity to get to know their students, complete formative assessments and provide student centered, responsive lessons that recognize a variety of learning styles.
- Ensures continuity of learning – if JK-6 students were to learn at multiple sites they would come together at the new build at different points in the curriculum.
- Class lists and teaching assignments remain the same throughout multiple transitions.
- This option minimizes stress for students and staff by facilitating a move of the primary and junior divisions into the new space at the JK-12 build.
- This option also supports the board's ability to implement potential reorganization if required in September as a result of board-wide elementary class size calculations.

Mental Health Considerations

- Transitions to new school environments can present challenges for students, including adapting to unfamiliar teachers, peers, routines, and academic expectations. These changes may be emotionally and socially demanding for some students, particularly during early adolescence.
- Establishing consistent environments and relationships helps students feel secure and supported, which is especially important during periods of change.
- Consolidating all JK-6 students within a single school setting will enhance student well-being by fostering a strong sense of belonging, continuity, and predictability. This approach supports the development of a cohesive school community, one that will transition together into the new building, maintaining social stability, connection, and routine.
- Dedicated mental health staff assigned to the schools will collaborate with educators to monitor student well-being and identify and support those who may be experiencing mental health challenges

Transportation

- Nipissing Parry Sound Student Transportation Services (NPSSTS) has completed a detailed simulation to support planning for student transportation. Transportation will be made available to all students who are eligible based on the eligibility distances, and other factors as determined by the consortium.
- NPSSTS is currently working on these updates and changes. We expect route information to be available the week of Aug. 25, although concerted efforts will be made to release this information as soon as possible. If it is available earlier, the consortium and NNDSB will notify families, staff, and other stakeholders.

Fire Alarm System

- There have been no structural changes or decommissioning of any infrastructure at McDougall since June. As a result, the building is fully operational and ready to receive students. McDougall's fire alarm and security systems are fully operational and inspected.

Health and Safety Concerns

- Other health and safety measures remain in place and are operational, including the building-wide PA, security, and camera systems.

CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS - Grade 7-8 Students attend Nobel Public School

All Grade 7-8 students will attend Nobel Public School in September. This includes the students in the Intermediate Special Education Class and the Intermediate CTEP (Care and Treatment Education Program formerly ECPP) class.

As this mirrors the classroom organization that will be in place once students are in the new build, teachers and E.A.'s have been assigned. Students can maintain their cohorts as they transition into the new build.

Laurie Payne has been assigned as Principal of Nobel Public School.

Protective Factors

- All intermediate students will be together at one location at Nobel Public School. When the transition occurs, class routines and relationships will remain in place and will not be disturbed by the move into the JK-12 new build.
- Teachers will have the opportunity to get to know their students, complete diagnostic assessments and provide student centered, responsive lessons that recognize a variety of learning styles.
- Ensures continuity of learning – if intermediate students were to learn at multiple sites they would come together at the new build at different points in the curriculum.
- Class lists and teaching assignments remain the same throughout multiple transitions.
- This option minimizes stress for students and staff by facilitating a move of the entire intermediate division into the new space at the JK-12 build.
- This option also supports the board's ability to implement potential reorganization if required in September as a result of board-wide elementary class size calculations.

Mental Health Considerations

- Transitions to new school environments can present challenges for students, including adapting to unfamiliar teachers, peers, routines, and academic expectations. These changes may be emotionally and socially demanding for some students, particularly during early adolescence.
- Establishing consistent environments and relationships helps students feel secure and supported, which is especially important during periods of change.
- Consolidating all Grade 7 and 8 students within a single school setting will enhance student well-being by fostering a strong sense of belonging, continuity, and predictability. This approach supports the development of a cohesive school community, one that will transition together into the new building, maintaining social stability, connection, and routine.
- Dedicated mental health staff assigned to the schools will collaborate with educators to monitor student well-being and identify and support those who may be experiencing mental health challenges

Transportation

- Nipissing-Parry Sound Student Transportation Services (NPSSTS) has completed a detailed simulation to support planning for student transportation. Transportation will be made available to all students who are eligible based on the eligibility distances, and other factors as determined by the consortium.
- NPSSTS is working on these updates and changes. We expect route information to be available the week of Aug. 25, although concerted efforts will be made to release this information as soon as possible. If it is available earlier, the consortium and NNDSB will notify families, staff, and other stakeholders.

Fire Alarm System

- There have been no structural changes or decommissioning of any infrastructure at Nobel since June. As a result, the building is fully operational and ready to receive students. Nobel's fire alarm and security systems are fully operational and inspected.

Health and Safety Concerns

- Other health and safety measures remain in place and are operational, including the building-wide PA, security, and camera systems.

CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS (GRADES 9-12)

All Grade 9-12 students will attend Parry Sound High School in September. This includes the students in the two Secondary Special Education Classes and the two Secondary CTEP (Care and Treatment Education Program formerly ECPP) class.

- Approximately 20 per cent of PSHS was demolished in 2021 to allow for the eventual construction of the JK-12 new build on the same site. During the summer of 2025, a second portion of the school was demolished to accommodate the new building under construction on site. With another 20 per cent of the school demolished, approximately 60 per cent of the original school remains and is available to accommodate students.
- Where possible, administrators will attempt to maintain similar room allocations for secondary programming as they were for the 2024-2025 school year, except for the spaces that were lost due to the partial demolition of the school building.
- School administration continues to review available spaces and ensure that all programs are appropriately located.

Heather Howald has been assigned as Principal of Parry Sound High School.

Protective Factors

- Students and staff will be familiar with the building.
- Dedicated mental health staff assigned to the schools will collaborate with educators to monitor student well-being and identify and support those who are having difficulty with transitions or adapting to change.

Health and Safety Considerations

- P.A. System
 - This system is fully operational.
- Water Flushing
 - Continues as per usual requirements at the school.
- Security System
 - This system is fully operational.
 - Cameras/monitors are fully functional.
- Fire Alarm System and Fire Safety Plan
 - This system is fully operational.
 - The Fire Safety Plan has been revised to account for the changes in the building.
- Student class schedules
 - An alternate timetable for students beginning Sept. 2, 2025 will be prepared, while preserving the timetable developed for implementation once the new build is operational.

Temporary Program Limitations – Technology Programs

- The board acknowledges that during the temporary accommodation period, due to the demolition of a portion of the school as well as the decommissioning of some equipment to prepare for the move to the new build, specialized programs may not have all equipment previously available at PSHS.
- Where possible, equipment will be reconnected for use in the technology programs. Where this is not possible, alternative solutions are being explored to minimize the impacts on program delivery.

Other Temporary Program Limitations

- Gymnasium spaces
 - The large gym will be available for use, but the small gym will not be accessible as it is currently used as storage for equipment and resources packed and ready to be moved to the new build.
- Weight Room
 - The Universal Weight Machine has been professionally dismantled for the move to the new build, but the remaining equipment will be available for use.
- Drama
 - The program will not have access to the majority of its equipment, including risers, purpose-built lighting arrays, sets, props, and large rehearsal space.
 - The stage will not be accessible, as it is acting as storage for equipment to be moved to the new build.
- Library Program
 - Library resources will be limited by space, and regular library programming may not be available.

- Staff and Student Parking
 - The previous staff parking lot was demolished along with a portion of the building this summer. A temporary staff parking area will be developed prior to the start of the school year.
 - The student parking lot remains available.
- Community Use of the School
 - Community Use will not be available at the school during this temporary transition period.
 - As communicated at the start of July to existing PSHS community use permit holders, there will be a delay in opening requests for permits for Community Use in the new building.
 - Once the new build is complete, students and staff will need time to settle into the new building, custodians to become accustomed to the new areas and any outstanding construction related items will need to be completed or resolved.
 - User groups were encouraged to find a temporary alternate community location for their club/group while the build is completed and the transition to the new location is completed.

Next Steps:

We are committed to ensuring a smooth and safe start to the school year. At this time, a timeline for completion of the new build and subsequent transition of the staff and students to the new JK-12 school has not been identified. As this information becomes available, and further details can be shared, NNDSB will continue to communicate information to students, families and partners through regular updates of this plan. Updates will also be made to the Frequently Asked Questions section on the board website.