



# NEAR NORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR DELAYED JK-GRADE 12 SCHOOL OPENING

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

Due to construction delays at the new Parry Sound JK–12 facility, the Near North District School Board (NND SB) has developed and will mobilize this contingency plan to ensure uninterrupted student learning for the 2025-2026 school year. In this revised plan, key contingency measures remain the same for elementary students (grades JK-8), and an alternative contingency plan has been developed for secondary students (grades 9-12).

### **Key Contingency Measures:**

- **Elementary Students (Grades K-6):**

Students from Nobel Public School and McDougall Public School will be accommodated at McDougall Public School until the new building can accommodate them. Staffing, classroom assignments, and support services have been planned to ensure continuity and minimize disruption.

- **Elementary Intermediate Students (Grades 7-8):**

Elementary Intermediate students who are to attend the new Parry Sound school will be accommodated at Nobel Public School until the new building can accommodate them. Staffing, classroom assignments, and support services have been planned to ensure continuity and minimize disruption.

- **Secondary Students (Grades 9-12):**

Secondary school students will move to remote learning effective September 2, 2025, as the existing Parry Sound High School is not ready to accommodate staff and students. Secondary students will participate in remote learning until they can learn onsite at the existing Parry Sound High School.

### **Transportation:**

Students attending Nobel Public School for Grades 7 and 8 (all students who would have been attending the new JK-12 school) have been added to transportation routes. For students attending McDougall Public School for grades JK-6, all in-zone students are considered eligible and have been added to transportation. For students attending Parry Sound High School for Grades 9-12, there is no change with respect to eligibility. The transportation consortium has shared an updated memo with more details [here](#).

- **Mental Health & Well-being:**

Dedicated mental health professionals will be available to support students through transitions if needed.

- **Timeline:**

At this time, NND SB is unsure of the date on which the new Parry Sound JK-12 school will be ready to receive students. NND SB is waiting for confirmation of the

building completion date. We will update families, staff, and other stakeholders as soon as we have meaningful information to share.

**Next Steps:**

We are committed to ensuring a smooth and safe start to the school year. As additional information becomes available the NNDSB will continue to communicate information to students, families, and partners through regular updates of this plan. Updates will also be made to the [board webpage](#) related to the new JK to Grade 12 Parry Sound School.

## **NEAR NORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR DELAYED OPENING OF THE NEW PARRY SOUND JK-12 SCHOOL**

### **1. Purpose of the Plan**

This plan outlines the Near North District School Board's ([NNDSB's](#)) strategy to provide uninterrupted student learning and to support families, staff, and partners, considering the delayed occupancy of the Parry Sound JK–12 facility.

### **2. Background**

This contingency is designed to provide robust solutions to support students, staff, and families until the Parry Sound JK-12 School is ready to receive students. The NNDSB is exploring all means available to minimize delays in achieving that objective.

In developing this plan, NNDSB reviewed and considered 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 (NPSSTS, or the consortium).

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

All JK-6 students will be accommodated at McDougall Public School (located at #69, Hwy 124, McDougall ON). Staffing, classroom lists, and support services have been planned to minimize disruption. Teachers and E.A.'s have been assigned. Students can remain with their classmates and teachers as they transition into the new building.

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, students will stay in the same class grouping and will keep their teacher. This will ensure students will not have to adjust to a new teacher or student group mid-year.

### **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.
- Our plan endeavours to establish consistent relationships to help students feel secure and supported.
- 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**

- For students attending McDougall Public School for Grades JK-6, all in-zone students are considered eligible and have been added to transportation.

### **Fire Alarm System**

- There have been no structural changes or decommissioning of any infrastructure at McDougall. 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**

- 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 Grades 7-8 students will start the school year attending Nobel Public School (located at 146 Hammel Avenue, Nobel, ON). This includes the students in the Intermediate Special Education Class and the Intermediate CTEP (Care and Treatment Education Program formerly ECPP) class.

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

### **Protective Factors**

- When the transition to the new build occurs, students will stay in the same class grouping and will keep their teacher. This will ensure students will not have to adjust to a new teacher or student group mid-year. This option minimizes stress for students and staff by facilitating the move of the entire intermediate division into the new space at the JK-12 building.

### **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. Our plan endeavors to establish consistent relationships to help students feel secure and supported, which is especially important during periods of change.
- 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**

- Students attending Nobel Public School for Grades 7-8 (all students who would have been attending the new JK-12 build) have been added to transportation routes.

### **Health and Safety Concerns**

- Other health and safety measures remain in place and are operational, including the building-wide PA, security, and camera systems.
- There have been no structural changes or decommissioning of any infrastructure at Nobel. 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.

### **CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS (GRADES 9-12)**

All Grade 9-12 students will move to remote learning as of September 2, 2025. Every effort will be made to ensure that the existing PSHS is ready to receive staff and students as soon as possible and to limit the duration of any remote learning programs.

Grades 9–12 students will follow their regular daily schedule online with instruction delivered through virtual platforms. NNDSB will provide the necessary technology and support to ensure students can learn effectively from home, while working to minimize disruption and maintain strong connections with families and staff.

The parents/guardians of students in the two Secondary Special Education Classes and the two Secondary CTEP (Care and Treatment Education Program formerly ECPP) classes will receive communication from the appropriate Principal directly.

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.
- An alternate timetable for students beginning Sept. 2, 2025, has been prepared, while preserving the timetable developed for implementation once the new build is operational.

### **Health and Safety Considerations**

- 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.
- Health and safety measures are complete or in progress for PSHS.
- 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 and is under review by Town of Parry Sound Fire Department officials.
  - An Engineering report confirms that Parry Sound High School is structurally sound post demolition.

### **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 technology programs. Where this is not possible, alternative solutions are being explored to minimize the impact on program delivery. For example, the Hospitality Room is now located in the former foods/Home Economics Room which contains 4 stoves, 3 refrigerators, a stand-up freezer, one industrial mixer for baking, and food storage containers that have been installed (for health and safety reasons). The program will shift focus from a Hospitality to a Food and Nutrition Model until the move to the new school. =
- All machines have been reconnected in the construction technology classroom with the exception of the dust collector which will not be needed until colder weather as there are a series of large shop doors that can be opened for ventilation. This program can run as usual but may start with smaller projects.
- The vehicle hoist in the automotive technology classroom has been disassembled and will not be re-assembled until after the move to the new building. Classes can continue with small engine repair and car repair not requiring the use of the hoist etc. Welding booths are operational.
- Cosmetology can continue as usual. Sinks were never disconnected, and all equipment will be put back in place.

### **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 building.
- Weight Room

- The Universal Weight Machine has been professionally dismantled for the move to the new building, 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 building. Given the stage is used mainly for production and at intermittent times throughout the school year, this will have a minimal impact as events can be scheduled around availability.
- Library Program/Lunchroom Space
  - Room 272 has been repurposed as a student lunchroom. Long tables and chairs will be set up in that room. Large double doors between Room 272 and 270 have been opened to allow the lunchroom seating to continue into Room 270. This creates a large, bright, and airy location for students to sit and eat their lunches. The library will be set up at the end of Room 270 and will provide sign-out services for student technology. The Librarian will also set up some library shelving with appropriate non-fiction resources for student learning as well as some high interest fiction resources for students to sign out. This will be a "mini library" to ensure that students have access to resources.
- Staff and Student Parking
  - The 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 in the area of the demolished portion of the building. 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.

### **Next Steps:**

As soon as we have definitive information on when the new build will be available to staff and students, NNDSB will share that information and continue to communicate other relevant information to students, families and partners through regular updates of this plan. Updates will also be posted to [The JK-12 Parry Sound Build webpage](#).