

Title:	Parry Sound Jk-12 Build Contingency Planning Update
Contact:	Director of Education Craig Myles
Date Submitted:	September 9, 2025
Background	The purpose of this report is to provide the Trustees with an overview of the contingency plans Administration developed and to otherwise report on the implementation thereof.
Report	<p>On August 13, Administration informed students, their families and the broader community that the new Parry Sound JK-12 school would be delayed, and identified the contingency plan for student accommodation. On August 15, Administration published the contingency plan attached as Appendix A on the Board's website to provide more information, specifically that for the students who would otherwise be attending the new Parry Sound JK-12 school, they would be accommodated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) JK to Grade 6 students would be accommodated at McDougall Public School; (b) Grade 7 and 8 students would be accommodated at Nobel Public School; and (c) Students in Grades 9 to 12 would be accommodated at the "existing" Parry Sound High School. <p>The contingency plans were the result of concerted efforts by Administration to identify those matters that needed to be addressed in connection with the change of plan, including transportation, student well-being and education, and related staffing and communication issues.</p> <p>On August 26, input from the community indicating a need for greater clarity Administration released: updated contingency plan; and, a document entitled "Additional Information for Families" (see Appendixes B and C to this Report respectively). The intent of the updated contingency plans and the Additional Information for Families was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) attempt to provide greater clarity regarding the contingency plans; (b) provide greater comfort to the school community of the efforts and rigor undertaken by Administration in connection with the contingency plans; and (c) advise of the need to move to "remote learning" for Grade 9 to 12 students.

On September 4, the Administration released an addendum to the *Information for Families*, attached as appendix D, outlining progress on key items necessary for the return of students and staff to Parry Sound High School, and providing additional information to support families engaged in remote learning.

Steps taken to support school year startup at PSHS

On August 28, Parry Sound High School staff were graciously provided space to meet in-person at the Wasauksing Gathering Place on Wasauksing First Nation. They were ceremoniously welcomed by Chief Shane Tabobondung as they began their day engaged in professional development, and ending the day by sharing resources with the school on Wasauksing First Nation. NNDSB program leaders extended invitations for their teachers to join future NNDSB PA Days to engage in numeracy and literacy learning.

Parry Sound High School (PSHS) students in Grades 9–12 have commenced their school year with remote learning, effective September 2. To prepare for this transition, a technology needs survey was sent to families on August 27. Based on responses, 266 device requests were received, and as of September 3, 248 devices have been distributed, including 69 Special Equipment Amount (SEA) devices configured to meet individual learning needs. A second survey was issued on September 2 to capture any additional needs. MiFi (mobile personal hotspot) devices are also being deployed to 29 families with limited or no internet access, with distribution expected to be completed by September 5.

Through an intensive outreach program and by leveraging community connections and relationships Administration has secured the following partnerships to support student learning. Student Success staff and Indigenous Education Team members are being deployed to multiple locations throughout the community over the next few days. Locations were secured in:

MacTier Public library
Seguin township - invited to all of their libraries
Parry Sound Public Library
Whitestone Public Library
Britt Public Library
Carling Township Community Centre
Nobel Community Centre/Hall
Parry Sound Friendship Centre

All of the Board's First Nations teams have already been to Wasauksing First Nation, are scheduled to visit Shawanaga First Nation on September 5, and Magnetawan First Nation on September 8.

Teams have already been out to several locations to support students with accessing remote learning, accessing course content, and providing much needed emotional wellbeing support. These staff have volunteered to travel in support of students and families. Administration are coordinating these visits, and information is being posted on social media of where staff will be available to promote access to families.

To support the mental health and well-being of students engaged in remote learning,

staff have been instructed to spend the first three weeks focusing on making sure all students are supported in accessing remote learning, building relationships, doing formative assessments etc. They have been told to go very slowly in covering curriculum during this time in recognition of the stress many students are feeling, the connection issues many of families are experiencing, and in recognition that some students may be slow to start the school year due to the ongoing uncertainty. This direction has been communicated to families to help remove stress and promote a safe and healthy return to learning.

All staff have been provided with information on available mental health support for students and how to refer students who may be struggling. The BRISC worker is working alongside some of the traveling Student Support teams to provide information and a friendly face at various locations.

Beginning on September 9, the Student Nutrition Program is pleased to support PSHS families during the period of remote learning. To help ensure students start their day ready to learn, the Student Nutrition Program is offering "Breakfast Bags" containing a variety of nutritious breakfast items. Families have been asked to email PSHS@nearnorthschools.ca if they would like to pick up a "Breakfast Bag" at one of the following locations.

Parry Sound Public School (PSPS): Tuesdays - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

MacTier Public School: Wednesdays - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

McDougall Public School: Thursdays - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

PSHS administrators are surveying staff to help capture what student attendance has looked like during the first week of remote learning and to help identify any students who have not connected so that teachers and support staff can reach out to those families to identify barriers to attendance and engagement and provide support.

Steps taken to support school year startup at McDougall Public School

Educators at McDougall School welcomed students safely back to school on September 2 with all classrooms and resources ready. During the first week of school a welcome assembly was held to introduce the staff and classes at McDougall. This was followed by a school-wide outdoor smudge led by Indigenous language teacher Lila Rice. The staff has been working hard with the consortium, bus companies and First Nations to make the bus routine run as smoothly as possible. Staff and students look forward to enjoying opportunities for outdoor education programming throughout the Fall season.

McDougall School is presently hosting the administration team, guidance counsellors, and office staff from Parry Sound High School, which has created an opportunity for collaboration and teamwork between and among the staff members of both schools.

Steps taken to support school year startup at Nobel Public School

Administration is pleased to share that Nobel Public School has had a successful start to the school year. The custodial, administration and educator teams worked swiftly

	<p>and collaboratively to ensure Nobel Public School was ready to welcome Grade 7 and 8 students.</p> <p>The custodial and plant staff demonstrated exceptional dedication, preparing the learning environment with care and attention. Floors were waxed, classrooms refreshed, and the entire school was made to look and feel welcoming for the students.</p> <p>Already within the first week, the staff have seen students from four different schools come together forming new friendships and building community. Whether in classrooms or out in the yard playing basketball, soccer, Gaga Ball, or exploring the forest, students are engaging with one another in meaningful ways.</p> <p>Teachers greeted students with enthusiasm and quickly set up their learning spaces. The school team jumped right into getting to know the learners' strengths, needs, and interests so they can support them in the best ways possible.</p> <p>The Nobel Public School staff are committed to fostering collaboration and unity among students. They are excited about upcoming school-building activities, including a fun t-shirt tie-dye project featuring the colours of the feeder schools as a celebration of where they have come from and where they are going together.</p>
Conclusion	<p>At present, Administration is working with the Town of Parry Sound and other relevant authorities, as well as applicable unions to ensure that the existing Parry Sound High School is available to receive students as soon as possible.</p> <p>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. Administration will continue to monitor progress closely and provide regular updates as more information becomes available.</p>