



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

Questions from the Brooklin French Public Meeting #3

November 25, 2020 | Public Meeting – MS Teams Live Event

54 People in Attendance

Why did you choose to recommend option 2 over the other options?

Sean Follwell, St. John Paul II

Using all the background data (historical and projected), and then incorporating the public feedback from the previous public meetings and in consultation with the Brooklin French Immersion Study Committee, it was determined and agreed that the choice of Option #2 would be the best option to bring to the Board of Trustees. Considerations included program viability and student experience in two schools; facility utilization; enrolment projections; Ministry of Education accommodation guidelines; transportation; staffing; and other variables outlined in previous presentations.

How can you justify moving students to St. Leo's when it will be over capacity?

Anonymous

At our last public meeting and the latest committee meeting it was discussed that our priority would be to make a decision about the French Immersion and then look at a long-range plan about the enrolment in the Regular Track Program.

Are you going to force Regular Track students from St. Leo's to move to St. John Paul II?

Anonymous

There will be a future review of all three Regular Track Programs in Brooklin.

Why is FI moving to St. Leo when the utilization rate for St. Leo will be over capacity and the utilization rate/capacity for St. John Paul will only be 53%?

Anonymous

Looking at the data presented in the slides, we will be looking into the year 2030 at having St. Leo at full capacity with a possibility of two portables. Review of all three regular track programs and boundaries could assist with balancing the future utilization rates.

Can this wait until the following year? With all the upheaval this year?

St. John Paul II

We will be passing this concern on to the Board of Trustees for consideration in the final report in December, given the pandemic. This was brought up in our committee meeting.

If there are 150 FI students at St. John Paul II and less than 100 at St. Leo, why would you not keep at JP2?

St. John Paul II

By moving the FI students from St. Leo, we are leaving a much smaller Regular Track program, and we need to account for the student experience and program viability that would be left at either school.

I purchased my house that backs onto St. John Paul so my kids don't use a bus. Now what ?

Rocco Zambri, St. John Paul II

We will be looking at Transportation in the future once a final decision is made by the Board of Trustees.

Will there be bussing offered to kids from St. John Paul II area to St. Leo's?

St. John Paul II

We will be looking at Transportation in the future once a final decision is made by the Board of Trustees.

What is the projected class size?

Heath Chrystall, St. Leo

Based on the combined grades operating out of St. Leo, the following totals would be expected in September 2021 in the French Immersion Program: Grade 1 = 25; Grade 2 = 27, Grade 3 = 29, Grade 4 = 22, Grade 5 = 19, Grade 6 = 33, Grade 7 = 38 and Grade 8 = 33. The total number of students in the French Immersion program would be 226. (This is assuming that all students move to the St. Leo program, and class size restrictions would be implemented potentially resulting in some splits).

There are a number of scenarios you presented in the last meeting, with factors that could have resulted in choosing any of them. Was capacity the main factor in your decision to recommend Option #2?

Jason Emery, St. Leo

We determined that in order to keep three schools in the Brooklin Community (and avoid the closure of one of the schools), Option 2 would be the best option.

Is there any possibility for siblings who will be split up to remain at St. John Paul and be grandparented until they leave?

Anonymous

We will review each individual situation. Please be in contact with your school's principal after a final decision is made by the Board of Trustees.

Option 3 appears to be the best recommendation to maximize the utilization of the buildings without the need for portables due to overcrowding. Why would this not be taken into consideration?

Sean Follwell, St. John Paul II

If Options 3 or 4 were considered, we would be looking at the closure of one of the Brooklin Schools. Our goal was to keep two viable tracks (French Immersion and Regular) in three healthy schools.

**Why did you build a new school if you never had the population to begin with?
Rocco Zambri, St. John Paul II**

Based on the projections at the time, and the enrolment in the two schools it was necessary to build a third school. We expect future growth in Brooklin.

Are you not worried that more of us parents are going to pull our children now from the Catholic board and go to public as we will probably send them to Brooklin HS anyway. I don't want my children going over to St. Leo.

Parent at St. John Paul II

It has not been the trend in past consolidation processes. Most families elect to follow the program for their children.

Once you opened St. John Paul, and transferred all the French students over from St. Leo, why wouldn't you have removed the French completely at that point? it would have certainly avoided all this. Now you have kids switching back and forth makes no sense.

Nadia Merenda, St. John Paul II

At the time, the community in Brooklin wanted both schools (St. Leo and St. John Paul II) to have a French Immersion Program and we had the enrolment numbers to support it at that time. At present, the numbers in French Immersion do not support having two schools with the French Immersion Program.

So if it's possible that some RT students may have to move from St. Leo's to St. John Paul II in the future, why wouldn't this be part of the consideration now, to move some RT from St. John Paul II to St. Leo's in order to keep it open?

Parent at St. John Paul II

The Ministry of Education has put a hold on any school closures at this time. Currently the Board of Trustees has approved us to look at only the French program and possibly in the future there will be another study to address the Regular Track students, but not at this time.

My apologies if this question was already addressed or will be addressed later. What is the process for parents to move their students from Immersion to the Regular Track should they choose to remain at their home school?

Siobhan Quinn, St. John Paul II

It is our hope that students will remain in the program. The process would be to speak to the principal of your school and a School Team Meeting would occur. After that meeting, a form would be completed. Please note that once a decision has been made, students will not be able to return to the French Immersion Program (a required number of hours is necessary).

Have you considered how many kids will leave FI if this is approved? After all these kids have been through this year. Why is this even a consideration right now?

Kim Belanger, St. John Paul II

We will be passing this concern on to the Board of Trustees for consideration in the final report in December, given the pandemic. This was brought up in our committee meeting.

As well, I understand that there are benefits for students and I am sure cost savings for the board. What will be the cost savings? As well, I keep hearing you mention the past discussions had - but most of those happened before this unprecedented time and year... I hope that your considerations have been updated to reflect the incredible burdens on students and parents this year.

Anonymous

The purpose of the study was to consolidate two inefficient French Immersion programs in Brooklin. Cost savings were not a determining factor, but expenditures in building operations, staffing and transportation will be evaluated, and there will be some cost savings anticipated.

I am wondering if parental concern and input was actually considered. It seems that you have no concern for what we want and you don't seem to care that we will pull our children. I will be pulling my 3 children for sure.

St. John Paul II

We did consider all options in conjunction with the committee. The members of the committee all had a voice in the recommendation. Parental input was considered as well as the data and historical background of Brooklin.

Did your Option#2 10-year projection factor in St. John Paul II students that would have remained in the FI program under the current circumstances, but opted for Regular Track if it means changing schools?

Chris, St. John Paul II

We are using the data from our enrolment; we do not use speculative data when making this decision.

For out of boundary students who are currently at St. John Paul II, would the process for registering with St. Leo be fairly automatic or will there be added steps? Last year I verified with the secretary that we wished to remain at St. John Paul II and I did not need to contact the home boundary school

Bethany Summers, St. John Paul II

Please have a conversation with the principal and with Jody Dale, Admissions Officer to speak about your specific situation.

If there is a chance that bussing is not offered, have you considered the increase in traffic and time to drop off and pick-up kids by vehicle? Even though it is under 1.6KM some kids cannot walk that far.

Parent at St. John Paul II

There is a process for transportation in a school boundary change. We do provide transportation for students who reside more than 1.6 km from the school. We also consider the age-appropriate conditions. We will have crossing guards at Thickson Road. Once a final decision has been made by the Board of Trustees, we will be looking closer at the data and communicating to the parents in the spring of 2021.

You are potentially breaking up siblings also, how is this even being considered. Also based on this meeting decision has already been made.

Nadia Merenda, St. John Paul II

Our process was to make a recommendation, not a final decision. The decision will be made by the Board of Trustees who will vote on the option brought forward by the Director of Education, based on the recommendation of the Committee.

Will the FI teachers from St. John Paul II be given first choice to move to St. Leo
Bethany Summers, St. John Paul II

The union would be involved as a partner regarding the transferring of teachers

Why don't you survey parents to see how many will consider pulling their kids and putting them into RT?

St. John Paul II

Pending the board's decision, a survey will be conducted at St. John Paul II asking parents about remaining in the Grade 7 and 8 FI program.

Thank you for your hard work, professionalism, and dedication to this process!

Jason Emery, St. Leo

You are welcome. The committee appreciates the positive feedback.

Where can this presentation be downloaded from?

Anonymous

The presentation is available on our board website at www.dcdsb.ca/boundaryreviews

Is there a rule about busing when there is construction in the area?

Agnes Liut, St. John Paul II

We have looked at both sites and have considered traffic and construction that will be taking place. The transportation department reviews any unsafe walking conditions and temporary transportation could be considered.

There is construction happening on the north side of Carnwith east of thickson, which would be a main walking access for most students.

Agnes Liut, St. John Paul II

We have looked at both sites and have considered traffic and construction that will be taking place.

The School starts at 8:05 at St Leo and how is it that my 10 year old daughter will walk by herself in the dark?

Sean Follwell, St. John Paul II

We will look at age-appropriate transportation options once a final decision has been made.

People have purchased homes based on school location, this is wrong on so many levels. So in five years when there will more homes, are we going to be swapping all over again?

Nadia Merenda, St. John Paul II

It is our hope that, after all changes have been made students will not have to move again.