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Northwest and North Central French Immersion Programs Engagement – In-Person Session Notes – June 7, 11 and 13, 2018

Scenario A

Add two new locations, grade configuration change, small amount of boundary changes

Below you will find all comments as they were written. Comments have not been edited for spelling, grammar, sentence structure or otherwise. Comments have been edited to ensure anonymity. We also edited or omitted abusive, discriminatory and otherwise inappropriate comments.

June 7, 2018

- I do not like the differing grade ranges in Tuscany school (French Immersion K-6; regular program K-5). If you want the children to be one community they should 'graduate' from school at the same time/grade. Also the projected number of kids is too close to the maximum instructional space to be comfortable.
 - X3
- Concern with this scenario is the projections being fairly high (close to max instructional spaces for Tuscany School and GP Vanier and TMC. Prefer Scenario B ☺
 - X3
- Least desirable scenario as it would reduce the amount of time siblings would be together at King George.
 - X3
- For someone with kids not yet in school, and wanting them to go to Banff Trail – this option makes sense to open up capacity @ Banff Trail so there's no immediate risk of caps.
 - X2
- Desirable option for Tuscany families – except for bussing
 - X1
 - No. They will lose their very important French-only environment & be moved away from current friend networks
 - X1
- G,P, Vanier too close to capacity right away.
 - X1



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- Grade 5's overwhelmed? Most of rest of school so much older...
 - X1
 - I went to a Gr. 1-9 school. (600 students). It was awesome.
 - X1
- Would rather keep King George K-6 so that my kid can have the local, community school experience longer. It's why we moved to the neighbourhood!
 - X1
 - Me too!
- This scenario means 2 extra years of paying for transportation for King George students (in the neighbourhood) who need to move to Vanier.
 - X1
 - Would second this!
- Concerned about G P. Vanier capacity.
 - X1
- From a whole system/city view, this appears to be a good solution as it preserves access for both early & late entry.
 - X1
- Would be nice for existing Tuscany kids to finish at their current schools
 - X1
- Scenario A / B - is it possible to send some but not all RRRO ->> Tuscany?
- (A) Do you think that with this projected plans (A, B, & C) for increased demand for Fr. Immersion, that more Spanish language students will move into the Fr. Immers? (B) I can foresee that many families in Tuscany will be very concerned with grade 5s moving back to elementary.
- Yay!! No panned caps! This preserves access to FI for all kids!
- Too much bussing in Tuscany. Roads are already congested.
- My son will be in grade 5 in 2019/20 and he wants to stay in Tuscany school for another year.

June 11, 2018

- Concerns: (1) students that can walk to Branton will be designated to GPV for all middle school – defeats the purpose of reducing buses/costs – same with King George. (2) students in Gr. 5&6 may have trouble due to the large # of older kids. (3) students in Gr. 5&6 will lose leadership opportunities (especially in early transition). The real L/T solution is another FI school (inner city is doubling housing which is hard to predict)
 - X15



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- This option results in children that are walk zone to both KG and Branton being bussed to GP Vanier for 5 yrs with no option to request Branton for 2 yrs as Branton remains 7-9 only. It also results in 5-6 early immersion being outnumbered by 7-9 triple track program i.e. a few younger students and many older children. This is the worst alternative for children in near vicinity to KG.
 - X10
- I would like to see French immersion expanded rather than capped.
 - X9
- Glad to have French Immersion move to Tuscany. This will help ensure Tuscany School space is utilized. Would not want the school to be in danger of closing.
 - X8
- Please analyze and report on the # of students no longer able to walk or bike & now required to bus under this scenario (particularly Gr 5&6 to GPV). Student's physical & mental health greatly benefit from promoting active transport *(so does our environment!)
 - X6
- This is the least preferred of all 4 scenarios for impact it has on Gr 5&6 students @ King George.
 - X6
- Please make sure there are enough spaces for Tuscany French Immersion students who can walk to Tuscany School. 😊 We are very excited there will be French Immersion close to home!!! 😊
 - X5
- I'm concerned about having a relatively small number of grade 5-6 compared to three tracks of 7-9. Would like to know the relative numbers and experiences of this situation in other schools.
 - X4
- This option is the most impactful for current King George students seeking to remain with Phas' very popular & well-regarded after school program for kids' aged 9-12. This pulls kids from this program prematurely.
 - X4
- We need new programs in the NW (Tuscany, Eric Harvie & Twelve Mile Coulee)
 - X4



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- I'm worried that a small cohort of grades 5/6 at Vanier will feel overwhelmed by the many older students surrounding them. This could be a very isolating experience for younger students.
 - X4
- This scenario "A" will not work for my children. I live in Edgemont and have a child in grade 4. He does not respond well to change and going to a different school for 2 years, with no friends and a whole new routine would be detrimental for him.
 - X4
- This option is undesirable because after-school care is unlikely to be provided at GP Vanier as currently exists at KG for gr. 5-6 children. Families are at risk of losing in school after care with this option.
 - X4
- I am concerned about making my child's last year @ King George as special as other kids' last years. Assuming Scenario A is chosen: -- If decision is made Dec 2018, how does the 2nd term look for kids who will "graduate" earlier than they had envisioned. Please make it special.
 - X3
- This scenario is great for reaching out to other communities. Being able to walk to school in Tuscany would be amazing.
 - X3
- Why do kids that can walk to Branton have to bus & pay to go to Vanier?
 - X2
- I'm concerned that my daughter would have to transfer to a school for gr. 7 (Banff Trail – 12 Mile), while all her friends go on to Branton. She wouldn't know anyone. I'd rather pay for transit, than have her go to gr. 7 without friends.
 - X2
- I see this as my #2 favorite option for Banff Trail capacity relief. #1 choice for option C
 - X2
- Grades 4-5-6 (2018-2019) move together as a cohort to GP Vanier from King George.
 - X1
- Would before-and after school care be available @ Vanier for Gr. 5/6, which is currently available @ King George?
 - X1



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- Can we please see projections for all impacted communities within the Banff trail catchment to better understand why Edgemont, Tuscany & Rocky Ridge are targeted?
 - X1
- This scenario makes the most sense. Seems to have less impact.
 - X1
- Biggest concern again is for a before & after school program for K-6, currently our out of school program would not accommodate this location change (from pick up @ Banff Trail) *least favorite
- Macro-scale, K-4,5,6; 5,6,7-9: pick a compatible scheme city wide as much as possible. Too many = system is hard to use, circumstances could result in some kids changing schools more than necessary: tough transitions. K-5,6 in one school seems goofy.
- This is one of my least favorite scenarios because GP Vanier will be too close to maximum capacity. So if the numbers are off, the school could be packed. I also don't like the idea of grade 5s in with older students.
- This makes Tuscany at near capacity & separates the Grade 5&6 English & French students. It should be one community regardless of language. English K-5 & French K-5. 6-9 – TMC.
- If we are going to use Scenario A, then it should be done so that it is sustainable for at least 12 years AND is in the best interest of the kids.
- Don't want to see new boundary changes from the ones proposed.
- I like reading directly the other parents thoughts & suggestions.

June 13, 2018

- Ensure quality education in the form of experienced qualified French teachers in the 'new' French streams.
 - X11
- Disadvantage to grade 5 & 6 students who lose the opportunity to be leaders in their environment until grade 9. Grade 5 students do not have an appropriate level of social development to truly flourish in a setting with much older students. The small 10 year old cohort will "grow up before their time" in an environment where they are surrounded by 500 older students. The needs of young children will get lost in a place that is primarily teenagers.
 - X4



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- No child should have to move from their peer group in Jr High only to have to revisit this again for high school. That is unacceptable + unreasonable. Current Grade 5-7 Early Immersion should have this consideration.
 - X4
- I like A – keeps Tuscany / R.R / Royal Oak in same geographical area. Less bus pollution. – good geographical decision.
 - X4
- Late immersion TMC
 - X4
- Unsure if all these changes in scenario A are required for approx. 60 students affected in Edgemont Community. Suggest keeping Edgemont – status quo. Seems scenario A would incur additional costs – adding playgrounds to Jr. High.
 - X3
- Thank you for putting together these scenarios. I trust you will do what is best for students and their families. As a francophone, I'm considering Franco-Sud for my preschooler but would have to see a strong option to stay in my community (Tuscany) in French.
 - X2
- Can we cap the numbers at the Jr High late immersion for a few years and keep the current early immersion students together?
 - X2
- Suggestion: Tuscany is on end of c-train line. Why not have (pull) late immersion kids to TMC. And then that would open up space so that varsity kids do not have to attend French in TMC etc. *Reverse Scenario
 - X2
- Leadership of gr 5 & 6 is lost if those students are transferred to a jr. high program. gr 5's & gr 9's – developmentally is this appropriate? Not ideal solution.
 - X2
- I worry about a them vs us scenario with dual track school. – different activities – different languages. Would like consideration to amalgamate Tuscany school + Eric Harvie (again). Dedicate Eric Harvie as K-6 – K9? As French school
 - X2
- I love that in scenarios A & B Tuscany kids get to 'stay' within their communities for both elementary & junior high (and neighboring communities have a shorter commute).
 - X2



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- * Start with LATE immersion at TMC and pull from more communities. There are families with elementary-aged students in Tuscany that were interested in FI but chose not to bus to Varsity. Those students in Tuscany / Eric Harvey elementary now would appreciate being able to “catch up” if FI were to enter their community at TMC by joining Late immersion in their community in grade 7. Introduce late immersion first (perhaps instead of early) and draw in late students first until early students naturally also transition from Tuscany / Eric Harvey.
 - X2
- Have a “simulator” online to have a clear view of how each scenario will work for a particular case. The users then will be able to “vote” or give feedback
 - Input:
 - Scenario X
 - My kids goes to school x
 - My kid is in grade x
 - We live in x
 - Output:
 - List of schools attended in the future
 - Hours of each school
 - X1
- This scenario subjects early French Immersion students from Tuscany, Rocky Ridge & Royal Oak to a ‘fledgling’ immersion program within a markedly larger English program. This will not be an equitable arrangement for these students and this scenario places their success at risk. All of the excellence in a variety of areas that exist at Branton will not have critical mass at Twelve Mile Coulee.
 - X1
- I think Scenario A is a reasonable trade off. Though Tuscany (etc.) kids are moved at least they get the benefit of a school close to home. And, no caps. But if Tuscany folks don’t think this is a reasonable trade off, then caps (D) seems reasonable too. I think disruption of moving is more negative for more kids than caps would. Kids affected by caps still get quality English education (or other program). Stability is more important and I think it remains to be seen if caps will affect many kids at all.
 - X1
- Other than “D” seems least disruptive to the most amount of kids. Best option after “D”.
 - X1



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- And optional French instruction in Music & Gym.
 - X1
- Is it possible to ensure kids aren't moved 2 times in jr. high AND 2 times in high school?
 - X1
- Pops are actually equal?
- If there was a good before and after school option in each community, that would be great. A lot of attention is paid to bussing, but none to before and after school care for full-time working parents.
- I would prefer King George to remain K-6, however Sage Hill to King George is a long way.
- Why not wait until 2021 to implement the scenarios? With the new school in the King George catchment, then there is a possibility to take a more stable long-term solution.
- I prefer scenario A for close to home access to French Immersion in Tuscany in Jr. High rather than going to FE. Osborne (Scenario C).