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

Scenario C

Add three new locations (two in 2019, one in 2021), several grade configuration changes, 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

- Not enough grade continuity @ King George & Vanier to create a good culture. WORST SCENARIO
 - X7
 - If this means because K.G. would only be K-4 or K-5 – agreed. K-6 is preferred
- Don't like Gr 5 in Jr. High
 - X5
- I do not like the differing grade ranges in Tuscany School. If you want the children to be one community they should 'graduate' from school at the same grade. French Immersion K-6 and Regular Program K-5. Also the projected number of kids is too close to the maximum instructional space to be comfortable.
 - X3
- GP Vanier very full ☹️
 - X3
- Too many kids @ GPVanier in this scenario (and lots of room @ TMC)
 - X3
- The flip-flop of grades @ KG and Vanier means my kids barely ever go to the same school.
 - X2
- Too much bussing to Tuscany. Streets are already congested.
 - X2



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- Prefer K-5 at King George vs. K-4. Preference for staying K-6 if possible!
 - X1
- Concerned about grade 6 kids taking city buses. Would prefer yellow buses for grade 6
 - X1
 - agreed
- Too close to max instructional spaces @ Tuscany School.
 - X1
- Why not cap King George 2 yrs until Coventry Hills opens to avoid Gr 5 switches for families.
 - X1
- This one seems really chaotic for King George & very uncertain for a large population with the mystery school.
 - X1
- Concerns about Grade 5's at Vanier when most students much older.
 - X1
- Our 3 kids would not be able to attend Banff Trail at the same time due to change to K-5 ☹
- From a system-wide view, this is a solid scenario as it preserves access to FI both Early & Late. Now I think B is better.
- Good geographic sensibility!
- YAY!! NO CAPS!!

June 11, 2018

- This scenario seems like the biggest gong show of all four. There still seem to be a lot of capacity issues with this plan especially @ Eric Harvie, Tuscany FE Osborne & Vanier.
 - X21
- I think too many mixes of program types makes the system too difficult to use and could create too much damage for certain kids. Eg. K-4,5,6 then 5,6,6-9... depending on schools and needs, kids could have to change schools too many times.
 - X9



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- I'm concerned that my daughter (lives in Rocky Ridge) would be forced to attend gr. 6 at Tuscany for 1 year & then transfer to F.E. Osbourne for 7-9, when all her friends would transfer to Branton for 6-9. That's where she should go. I think this is the worst scenario of the 4!
 - X7
- With this scenario Branton has space. Why do Mount Pleasant / Capital Hill kids that can walk to Branton have to bus to Vanier & pay?
 - X6
- The fact that this plan requires a second engagement later seems like a real liability.
 - X6
- (1) Please identify the density of walking students for each school (vs. buses) – biggest concern is some walking students are now forced to take city buses instead of walking / biking. (2) Has the CBE looked at providing portables for any of these schools? (3) If there is an easier / less complicated way to roll out scenario C? ie) shift kindergarten to community centre temporarily?
 - X4
- This option appears to be most sustainable in longer term for inner NW communities where densities of families is increased (& being heavily promoted by city council). Adding more schools is beneficial to support this increased density.
 - X4
- Out of the 4 given scenarios this one is the most disrupting for all students involved. It takes the worst of all other scenarios & combines them into one.
 - X4
- For Banff Trail – Edgemont, to move grade 6's to Varsity, they would leave their cohort & make new friends then return to the catchment school of Branton – causing double disruption?? OR: would Edgemont then go to the FE Osbourne catchment?
 - X3
- Don't like the idea of kids in Tuscany going / being bussed to FEO for junior high where there are options within community. It's important to try and maintain consistency and keep kids close to home!
 - X3
- This scenario disrupts a large amount of kids. Is it worth it?
 - X2



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- Making Gr 5 English students move on to Jr High while the Gr 6 French stay back in Elementary seems like pointedly making French & English different in the Tuscany School & Twelve Mile.
 - X2
- This scenario is preferable to scenario A because it treats middle grades at Branton & GP Vanier similarly (besides 2019-2020) further it opens up Branton for those w/n walking distance to come to Branton. (Also recommend re-assessing GPV & Branton boundaries to ensure walking zones can indeed walk!) ie those living on boundary of Branton & GP Vanier
 - X2
- This has best benefit for Banff Trail capacity. No other option (aside from some improvement in option A) addresses our capacity issues. Why do Banff Trail students have to share learning commons with a classroom? Why is there no music room? Why are there some classes being taught in the staff room? No music room? Lunch in classrooms sitting on the floor?! These issues are not okay that's not how I want my children's learning environment.
 - X2
- All other options provide both pros and cons for the communities whose kids will be moved. This option doesn't: there are no "pros" for the Tuscany kids entering junior high: They'll still have a commute to F.E. Osborne but will lose out on staying with their peers who go to Branton.
 - X2
- Late French Immersion Program (projected 80-100) F.E. Osborne – this would allow for only 1 jr high class/grade for the late immersion class/program. Personally this is a sad learning community from 3-4 classes/grade nav @ Branton. This is not a great option. Too much mov't, uncertainty.
 - X1
- Least favorite scenario "C" as this causes too many changes in school location for us (we are from royal oak) we don't like the Tuscany location for school. (community location/accessibility in/out) is difficult, lack of before/after school care, road system & change with teachers. Also – before /after school programs are lacking.
 - X1



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- CT Bus 836 takes students from Scenic Acres / Silver Springs direct to FO Osborne but they are still going to Branton. Why not send these communities to FE Osborne and Tuscany to Branton which is a much simpler journey on CT, ie only one bus & one train, not 2 buses and a train.
 - X1
- It's best to grow the French immersion program – but scenario A or B are the best options.
 - X1
- What are the chances that boundaries will change again? I don't want to come back in the next engagement to see that my area is affected.
 - X1
- A better option than a straight cap but not ideal
 - X1
- Best change "C"
 - X1
- Can't build the house without knowing cost/impacts – need more depth, maps & movement – don't like CBE surprises
- I want to be sure FI stays FI, and does not turn into a bilingual program. Bothered that this standard will be the norm, or "okay". Intuitively, I want more... better?!
- Keep the jr high (late Im) boundary as shown!
- Does CBE have reliable teaching staff to fill all scenario requirements
- For Tuscany students this is by far the worst option for junior high. I'm concerned that F E Osbourne is over capacity under this scenario
- Moving kids multiple times seems like a lot of work and adjustment for the kids. This makes no sense to me. But I like the closer to home objective. Consider capping King George for 2 years to spare the kids the extra move.

June 13, 2018

- "C" keeping students with their cohort seems to be a priority concern to manage the transition for students. What do we know about dual track vs single track programs. What about info on success of middle school configuration 4-9 5-9 6-9 7-9 which are better.
 - X9



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- Can Branton be the designated school for Tuscany rather than FEO in Scenario C? creating boundaries with the availability of public transportation / C-trains in mind.
 - X9
- Ensure, for the new immersion schools/streams quality education in experienced and qualified teachers.
 - X7
- It is not okay to ask a child to move 2x in 2 years. i.e. go to Brampton for only grade 7.
 - X4
- Transportation from Rocky Ridge to FE Osborne is actually worse and longer than to Branton. 57 minutes to FE Osborne vs 45 to Branton (as per Calgary transit). Assuming that “closer to home is better is not in fact accurate. This will cause many working parents to need more child care and therefore more costs. (Based on school start times)
 - X4
- Can any scenario focus on a Late Immersion jr high school - those students leaving their program anyways and leave Branton as an early immersion jr high.
 - X4
- FE Osborne is not on CT zone.
 - X4
- This is the worse / least preferable option due to changing schools 2x in 2 years and bussing is way longer transportation.
 - No public transit. Busing??
 - X3
- Consider travel times by public transportation when selecting communities to re-designate to FEO. Moving from Branton to FEO will actually increase my student's travel time from Tuscany. There are many students commuting to Branton from communities not on LRT line that would benefit more from FI (early & late) being moved “closer to home”. Consider communities with long bus commutes to Branton (>1hr) to redesignate to FEO.
 - X3
- So blended scenario!
 - X3
- Most disruptive for most kids due to grade configuration and change 2x in two years.
 - X2



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- Have a “simulator” online to have a clear view of how each scenario will work for a particular case. The user then will be able to “vote” or give feedback for a scenario)
 - Input:
 - Scenario X
 - My kids is in grade X
 - My kids goes to school X
 - We live in X
 - Output:
 - Schools attended for each grade in the future
 - Hours of each school
 - X2
- Worst case scenario for Banff Trail students. Both a grade change & a school change. Shame to make these changes to a school that is working well. Too many grade configuration & increased costs associated with these changes. i.e adding playgrounds.
 - This is the best scenario for us keeping our kids together at a school closer to our house.
 - X2
- Grade 5 too young to be immersed with grade 9 students. Grade 6 students lose the opportunity to be oldest kids in school and valuable leadership opportunities.
 - X2
- Grandfather until grade 3,6,9
 - X1
- I prefer the ratio in Tuscany school to be even between French and English.
 - X1
- But then to have a good community in Jr High – Tuscany has to bus out of community – I think that’s a con.
 - X1
- Tuscany seems to be sacrificed for other schools over capacity - we haven’t been given enough historical data and we haven’t been given options that offer even nominal disruption to children who will be really impacted.
 - X1
- Scenario A is most favorable for late French immersion for students living in Hawkwood. Compared to all the other scenarios
 - X1



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- Scenario C appears to be the worst scenario for the kids (current students) most disruption for least benefit. (for kids)
- This program is better than A
- I support scenario C. I think more schools should open to the Fr. Imm program to prevent caps and allow children to be closer to their school. There is clearly a need for more schools in the N.W. and I support dual track to allow for choice.
- Seems that the scenario D is the one more stable, to better understand the trend. Is this a bubble? Cap King George until 2021 better understand the trend
- This solution is terribly disruptive to families with more than one child – kids will be affected on both sides of the move by shifting grade 5 for only 2 years. This is a horrible solution.
- Scenario C (and) D would both make me consider another school board (Franco/Catholic). I want my child to go to school w/ children from our community and enjoy a French education.
- *For the record: I want to be closer to home. There needs to be big picture mindset – a proper survey to ensure everyone's voice is heard not just the loudest.
- This scenario highlights the crux of the issue. 3 schools have capacity issues so you are moving students at 12 schools. I think this shows that this is a 'sky is falling' problem.
- I like the addition of a school in Coventry Hills area but don't like that Sage Hill & area isn't included. If adding a school make it so that all northern schools go to it. Sage Hill would pass a number of closer schools on the way to King George. I prefer K-6 over K-4 or K-5.
- Have yellow buses transport Tuscany kids to F.E.O.
- Would it be considered to offer yellow school bus service for FE Osborne School if Tuscany/Royal Oak/RR were to go there? On public transit, the commute from these communities would be much longer than to Branton, where C-Train is easily accessible. I prefer this option to scenario B – moving some late immersion kids to FE Osborne makes more sense than moving only early immersion kids from Varsity Acres.