



Northwest and North Central French Immersion Online Discussion Forum, June 1 - 17, 2018

Scenario C

Ideas	Description	Arguments	Votes
<p>This scenario seems unnecessarily complicated. Moving kids in Grade 5 for one year to Vanier and then back to King George? Just keep current configuration of schools with a North Central elementary added to take pressure off Banff Trail and King George.</p>		<p>- This scenario unfairly impacts the grade 5 students who will be moved for 2 years. We would be fools to believe that anything more than the most basic of resources will be allotted for students who will only be in the building for such a short time. There is no incentive for the Board or GP Vanier to invest anything more than stop gap measures to get the school over the hump of housing grade 5 for two short years. This option is an absolute disservice to children., null</p> <p>+ I agree with the thought that this is unnecessarily complicated and disagree with this scenario. As in all scenarios A-D, it does little to mitigate the long-haul jaw dropping commutes faced by our little ones due to the forced North-South school designations, rather than a more balanced approach that would see children stay closer to home. Instead, the commutes continue but with an added dose of turmoil (not sure what they are trying to do to the poor King George kids with this one...). Having some level of certainty and continuity for children as well as their families and their communities is a laudable goal that is not reflected here. I would argue it is premature to make these drastic changes without a better long term vision - none of the scenarios presented are compelling. If there was a "redo" button I would press it., Concerned</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Danielle, Tracy, Daphne, Vivian, Kim, PB, James Seigel, Kathy, Concerned, Karen, Luis N., Christina S., Erin, Andrea, rob, Andrea, Emerc, Jessie, Sean, Erin, Robert, Rebecca, Meaghan, Adena, Diana, Dave, Me,</p>
<p>I don't agree with Tuscany Students going to F.E Osborne School. One of the goals of this process is to make the distance to schools shorter. Yes, F.E Osborne is closer to Tuscany than Branton, but it is more difficult to get there by Transit. F.E Osborne is not currently a Calgary Transit School, but I am sure the long term plan is to change all Jr High Schools to transit. It does not make sense to choose a school that makes the commute more difficult for students.</p>		<p>+ I agree. Tuscany students can get to Branton quicker and more directly than they could to FEO., Shelley J</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Adena, laura, FT, Shelley J, Jennifer, Rebecca, TD, Erin, Kb, Jon, Andrea,</p>

If boundary changes have to occur to continue allowing new students to access French education, this would be my preferred option. We live in Tuscany and this is the least socially isolating option for children already attending Varsity Acres and Branton as it keeps them together with kids from Rocky Ridge and Varsity. If other scenarios were to be chosen, I hope that there would be flexibility with regards to letting students finish at the schools they started in so that they wouldn't be separated from the rest of their cohort.

rjh1975

Of the more than 30 northwest communities currently in Branton's attendance area, students in the communities adjacent to LRT stations have the shortest and relatively easiest commutes to Branton. Many students in other communities not serviced by the LRT have one hour and longer bus commutes each way with multiple transfers to get to Branton. Communities where students have the most inefficient commutes should be considered when identifying schools for French Immersion expansion. Reassigning students in Tuscany, Rocky Ridge and Varsity insignificantly impacts the commutes of those who already have some of the shortest travel times. I would recommend greater consideration for students further removed when considering new opportunities for both Early Immersion and Late Immersion school expansion.

+ Consider different communities for redesignation at the jr high level (Montgomery, Bowness Valley Ridge and Crestmont perhaps, or Silver Springs...?) when looking for communities to redesignate to FEO for jr high. Many communities are either closer to FEO than Tuscany/Rocky Ridge or have much longer, more complicated transit routes to get to Branton and might benefit from a "closer to home" jr high option. Tuscany/Rocky Ridge do not seem like the right choices to redesignate from Branton to FEO at the JR high level in this scenario., Shelley J

+ I support the cohort completion portion of this argument. So important at the jr. high stage., James

+ I also support this option since it will keep more of the classmates together., Sonic
+ I agree, students that will have spent two years at Branton should be allowed to finish grade 9 at Branton even if they change school. In Junior High, the social aspect of school is so important, separating kids from their social peers could be detrimental to their development., null
+ I agree. Would like my kids to continue along with their current school community. We chose Early immersion and would hate to lose 1/2 of our classmates should scenario A or B be implemented., null

+ I agree...as someone who lives in Tuscany, I would much rather have my kids go to junior high at Branton rather than F.E. Osborne because of the ease of public transportation. If Scenario C changed in this way, I would support it., Erin

Sonic, Kelly, anne, Shelley J, bk, Tracy, Vivian, Teresa Winn, sjenkins@shaw.ca, Kb,

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Shelley J

+ We live in Tuscany and I would prefer the children to go to Branton as it is a very easy journey, FEO would require an extra bus ride, but if Branton isn't an option this is the second best option as it provides the school with a sufficiently large proportion of the students in FL, Jon

+ I agree, the commute from Tuscany to Branton is good, why not consider changing the kids in Valley Ridge or Crestmont who have a more difficult commute, null

I don't love this scenario, mostly because (as Tuscany residents) my kids would not go to Twelve Mile Coulee for junior high, but F.E. Osborne. I'm sure that it's a lovely JH, but I'd much prefer my kids stay within our own community and get to experience a French Immersion education.

Erin

- Do the QUALITY of schools matter? Or just spreading French Immersion matter?
"High interests" for everyone in every program is qualified school with qualified teacher, NOT just QUANTITY!, FT

6

AR, Laura, Anne, Heather, Danielle, Andrea,

- How can a couple of classrooms ie. 1 per grade be considered a French Immersion program? The bus ride is a small price to pay to be able to have a fully immersive experience with assembly's, hallway signs, posters, all information in French surrounded with an entire school population experiencing the same things. 6 classes in a dual track school right inside the community does not make a French Immersion program. hide, null

I do not like this option. Moving Banff Trail to K-5 does not make sense when there are so many under-utilized schools that can accommodate more kids.

rob

North Central and North east are currently underserved areas for the early french immersion programs. would new schools distribute access to the program more evenly? I'd be happy to see a french immersion school in the Beddington/Huntington/Thornclyff areas, even if sharing a location with regular programs. IT seems to me that those older communities have fewer students to fill the current schools and so there may be capacity available in those areas.

+ I agree. At the session I went to there is another school planned for english, which is currently in architectural design (which was declined by the community, so they are still designing it). Once that school is built they stated this would impact the french programs as they would then move a french program into that area (east/north east of Nose Hill). Why not wait and have this conversation once that school to the east/north east of Nose Hill is built as that will have an impact on current enrollment numbers. They also have indicated that once this school is built they will be looking at a french program within that area which then will cause additional school shuffles and movement. Why put the cart before the horse? Can we not wait a couple of years? They indicated that school is to be built in that time frame., null

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Peter, Emerc, Tara, Shelley J, Kb,

jo

+ Maybe a new location in the northern hills area should take priority over other proposed locations. Since there is continued development north of Stoney Trail, there are more communities to draw from., Emerc

Parents living in Tuscany/Royal Oak with children already in school have likely already made childcare arrangements that may not be applicable with a switch to Tuscany school. In addition to separating kids from their classmates, this option may also force a change to childcare arrangements, causing further disruption to the child.
Andrea

+ Is the CBE considering how they will deal with after-school care? If an option moving students around is chosen, they better include an affordable after-school program with priority for those students., Carol

Dave, anne, Carol, David,

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+ I agree! finding childcare is difficult at the best of times. This would cause some big challenges to a lot of families., Dave
+ I agree!!!! It is so hard to find legal, quality before and after care. How will the CBE assist with this? We will have not choice but to change care programs again as we had to when he entered kindie., null

One of the planning principles is to allow kids to go to schools closer to home. While FEO is physically closer to Rocky Ridge, Royal Oak and Tuscany, unless there will be school buses, it will take just as long, if not longer, for the kids to get there on public transit. One more reason why I think this is a terrible scenario. I think having French Immersion in FEO is a great idea, just not for kids coming from those communities.

Shelley J, Kb, laura, Erin,

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TD

I don't agree with Edgemont community students move to Varsity Acres School. Because children from a familiar learning environment move to a strange school, leaving their favorite teachers and best friends, that is a great harm to children. It will affect their healthy growth and study smoothly. I agree with Scenario B, which cap the number of student in Kindergarten and Grade 1. Please do not have any impact on the existing students. Thank you.
June

+ I agree. There is a lot of shifting of kids for the North/North East area shortage. Why not truly address the school shortages in that area?, null

Sandy, Diana, Bill,

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- This is true for someone no matter which scenario is chosen. Some neighborhoods will have to change schools no matter what happens. You are only thinking of your own family, instead of the future of French Immersion for all students, null

I donot like this idea, it adds to many children possibly to the FEO junior high school. When it is important to offer valued education, it runs best at not necessarily max capacity. Great school as is.

Jon, FT, Teresa,

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When decided which school to use for this process please take into account what the influx of students to the school. Just because the CBE think a school could handle X number of student the reality is this may not work for a school. Due to overcrowding of students and loss of valuable Libraries and classrooms is inaccessible. CBE needs to first think of the learning environment for all students first. I have been part of this process once and lost the English program in our school, this is a loss to our community. We now have to be bussed to other community to get the English program which is inaccessible. I feel the French program will take over the English program at FEO. This will be a great loss to all future family wanting their children to attend junior high in their community.

Jean

+ I could argue the same for Tuscany School. I moved to my house 8 years ago so I could walk my children to school for 9 years. The CBE seems to want to switch Tuscany School to full French immersion in a few years so I, and the parents living by our local school will have to drive to Eric Harvie. This isn't fair to our community or our children. Alternatives within the community exist without disrupting so many families and our community., AW

+ I totally agree Jean, Varsity is an older community which younger families are replacing the older families. so FEO will over crowd with students. French Immersion has to be a single program at a school not mixed with an already existing program., FT

+ Jean I am so sorry for your circumstances. I agree with you and AW above. I don't think English stream parents are aware of the potential impact on their children. So few English stream parents have not been involved in this discussion because of the way this dialogue has been described. CBE should be ashamed of themselves. Parents of FI chose an alternate program and therefore chose to send their kids outside of their community. We made an active choice to stay in our community and walk our kids to school. No one should ever be forced out of their community school, Ed.U. Cate

Roxanne, Ed.U. Cate,
Andrea,

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Need more information re plans for new location in 2021 in order to provide feedback on this scenario.

Love the idea of adding late immersion to F.E.O! Our Daughter goes to Marion Carson (she loves the small amount of French she is leaning) and we thought we may not have a place to try late immersion now that their designated school is at capacity. We would very much welcome this addition to our community!

AB

I quite like Option C. This option allows for more kids to enroll in the French immersion program. For those concerned about transit from Tuscany, perhaps speak to city transit to see if there can be an express route to bring down transit time.

Bea

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jo, Kat,

Bea, ADB,

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Barbara, Teresa,

This doesn't make any sense for Tuscany students. Why bus other communities in to Tuscany school for K-6 only to make them bus out again for 7-9. If the point is to keep FI kids in their community then this scenario is horrible because they would only be here for 6 years and then have to leave again for junior high. Scenario B makes more sense to me

LMN,

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AC

I do not support this option as it seems unnecessarily complicated. While technically FE Osborne is "closer" to Rocky Ridge/Royal Oak and Tuscany the commute for the students is longer and more complicated (based on a quick search on the Transit website). This option also assumes that a student's social circle is defined by community, which again is not correct. While I agree that the CBE needs to find a way to grow the immersion availability in the North they also need to balance the needs of the current students enrolled in the program. Perhaps a gradual start in schools with capacity for new students enrolling and grandfathering in existing students to their current schools.

Andrea,

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LB

Banff Trail school is currently above capacity. Specifically, it has classrooms in the learning commons, and music room. Reading support is done in the hallways and math instruction is in the staffroom. The children often eat lunch on floor of their classroom. This is one of the only scenarios that reduces the overpopulation at Banff Trail.

JB,

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How come the catchment area for King George hasn't been looked at? Perhaps too large of an area is being pulled there, rather than changing to a K-4 school, look at where the students are being bussed from. My kg kiddo was on the bus for an hour!

Christina S.,

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Mom of 2

Look at the catchment area South of Vanier. With this scenario there is room at Branton. However, if you live East of 14th street you have to pay to bus to Vanier, when you can walk to Branton in 20 minutes.

Christina S.,

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Mom of 2

Question about Tuscany Elementary School exceeding projected numbers.

If both programs exceed projected numbers, which program would be sent to an overflow school?
As a Tuscany parent I would be very upset if my child had to go to a different elementary school when we are within walking distance to Tuscany Elementary.

Can Tuscany elementary families have a guarantee that the community program will stay at Tuscany School?

- Highly unlikely that they would exceed capacity with the projected numbers. The three Tuscany schools currently have a total excess capacity of 500 unused spaces. Tuscany Elementary is only operating at approx. half of capacity. Based on the numbers, it appears they should have dropped a few portables/modulars rather than wasting funds to build Eric Harvie. Now they are dealing with major excess capacity when the demographic numbers in Tuscany are on the decline. They either need to fill that excess space (hence the proposed for french immersion), or you'll see them leasing it off to a charter or private school instead., Linda

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+ I agree. I bought my house so I could walk my kids to school for 9 years. I don't want to start having to drive them to Eric Harvie if French becomes as popular as they claim. FI should be limited to the community only to prevent overcapacity and the likelihood of Tuscany School becoming all French and Eric Harvie only having the regular program., AW

+ I had the same question regarding caps in dual track. We would love the chance for our kids to choose French in Tuscany (we ended up in the separate system because Varsity childcare would not work for kinder); but we would not want to switch to French/Tuscany, only to be capped out later on. Also, would be interesting to know if projections included kids in our situation., KF

+ The development of Rowan Park is projected to have 3,000 homes and begin development in Spring of 2019. Those students I believe are slated to attend Tuscany School - so if Tuscany School becomes a dual track school and the addition of the Rowan Park community increases the student population back up, which program would get capped?, KB

Looking at the maps, the school boundaries seem to make the most sense in Scenarios A and C. Given scenarios A and C exist, Scenario B doesn't seem make any sense. Although it doesn't really make sense to have the King George Area split by another new area. Why not just take the north edge communities to the new 2021 location?

J

Bussing is a large cost. If we are separating by grade instead of geography are we not creating greater costs? One family to many different schools is a huge carbon footprint. Would it not make more sense to find room for K-6 that is geographically close to these new spaces rather than disrupting just older grades from each school? I don't understand why this would not be the most cost effective option? I would think all parents would be happy to move schools if it meant to a K-6 or K-9 that was closer to your home.

Christie

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Okay for Valley Creek

I understand the concerns other people have listed for other schools. For Valley Creek this doesn't present concerns because our grades don't change and it adds more students to the French Immersion program. More students allows for greater programming.

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Heather

Tuscany School is fine with this idea as well

- Hi! Me again... Would really love to know who is commenting on behalf of Tuscany: Admin, Teachers, Support Staff, Council, etc.? That clarity would be helpful, as I have found you are not fine with all the options, only the ones where enrollment increases. Although a factor, not the only one at play. That, to me, is disheartening. x0, diana

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I like scenario C the best!

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I love Scenario C the best!

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Barb

Instead of moving grades back and forth between schools, wouldn't it make more sense to cap enrolment temporarily until the new program can be implemented in 2021?

Emerc

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Additional comments

Tricider

From the lists of pros and cons, the reading, and the sessions, this scenario is the worst choice for the children. The criteria of breaking cohorts groups and diluting the French Immersion experience. I did not sign up for a bilingual program, so my expectation from the CBE is to continue with the closer to 70% experience. That includes beyond the walls of a classroom.

16-Jun-18

Diana

I am focused on the learning of those involved, to ensure success. x0

Tricider

Breaking a K to 6 path is not desirable. But I bet if someone said hey we are adding a K-6 Early French Immersion closer to you there are not many parents that would be upset.

16-Jun-18

Christie

Why does scenario D not have Tuscany still plan on adding a K-6 French Immersion program? There is room at that school and there is no down side. If this happened it would relive pressure off of the whole NW maybe not enough but to not have it as part of scenario D means the numbers against scenario D will always win.

Are there other opportunities to add a K to 9 Early French Immersion?
FEO is right next to Marion Carson that already has a playground.
Valley Creek School is already 4-9 could they handle K-9?
Could Eric Harvie take on a K-6 early french immersion stream?

Would love if someone from the CBE could answer these questions.

Tricider

07-Jun-18

Carol

Overall, I think that one of Scenario A-C is the best choice for the long term, to ensure that there is room for more Early Immersion students to enter the program - caps seem like an unnecessary denial of the opportunity to learn our other official language.

However, is there more room to be flexible about catchment boundaries over the short term? I think, for the current Early Immersion families, there are different situations that require consideration. After-school care can be a challenge to arrange, so it may be unfair to force older elementary students to change schools. But if those students have younger siblings entering Kindergarten, they may prefer to have all the kids in a school closer to home.

Just to say that flexibility during the transition would help a lot. I was told this year that if there wasn't room in my catchment school, too bad, the other nearby Immersion school is not an option at all. That kind of rigidity makes it much harder to swallow changes like this.