



Northwest and North Central French Immersion Virtual World Café Discussion Forum, April 13-29, 2018

**Option 2: Grade Configuration Changes**

Ideas	Description	Arguments	Votes
Move Spanish out of Aberhart.	In-person session March 21, 2018	<p>+ If we had late Spanish immersion would it relive pressure on french middle schools?, C</p> <p>+ To where?, null</p> <p>+ Sept 2018 CBE will be evaluating the high school situation &amp; Can make changes to accommodate programs in new locations., null</p> <p>- I think it's rather short-sighted to remove Spanish out of Abehart. The more languages our kids know, the more employment opportunities on a global scale they will have down the road. After all, Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world., Kat</p> <p>+ How long has Spanish been at Aberhart?, null</p>	<p>43</p> <p>P24, P13, Millie Adam, P6, S, P10, P21, Ginette, P23, P12, P18, Liz, P19, paige, Barbara B, P5, P15, P9, Kb, P20, Lorrie Rosher, Susan, P11, Vicky, User#8675309, P16, P3, P17, Jason Rakochy, T, P7, P1, KT, Cat J, P4, P2, P8, Jennifer McVean, Tessa, P22, Stephanie, P14, P55,</p>
Prioritize French Immersion over ALL other language immersion programs - even shutting others down to enable French Immersion (it's Canada).	In-person session March 6, 2018	<p>- That seems rather exclusionary. While FI is important, it's not that important to shutter other valuable programs., Dave</p> <p>- If we had late Spanish and Mandarin immersion would it relive pressure on french middle schools? The world does not speech french global citizens would do better to know Spanish, Mandarin and Arabic., C</p> <p>+ All immersion programs are valuable, but I agree our country's official languages should be given priority. French should be prioritized, not treated exactly the same as a non-official language program., teacher</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Maryanna, P4, P5, P1, P10, P3, P6, Luis N., Narda Simpson, P2, T, P8, Tony, KT, David Keegan, S, teacher, Lara, Heather, P9, P7, BKC, Me, ia74,</p>

Kids that are in Grade 5 or 6 are too young to be exposed to Grade 9s. In-person session March 6, 2018

+ French is important to Canada. I don't agree with excluding other language programs altogether, yet French Immersion should be a priority over other language immersion programs., David Keegan

- Kind of goes against the whole multi cultural concept that is behind a language immersion way of thinking., Liz

- Absolutely not. In my experience, most gr 6's cannot wait to get out of an elementary school into middle school. They are past ready to not be lumped in with the kindergarden and grade 1 kids, and yearn to be treated more like responsible big kids., Liz

- No - parents are afraid of that until they try it out, but schools like Valley Creek make it work very, very well - segmentation, more opportunity for the younger kids, Stephanie

- My kids go to Valley Creek and there are generally no issues with the grade configuration (4 to 9), Heather

- Ontario elementary schools make it work with Jr. Kindergarten (as young as 4 year olds) up to Grade 8, so this should not be an issue., Mandy

- This is simply wrong. I personally went to a K-9 school; many kids in Canada go to schools with broad ranges of kids.

Challenging children to learn about diversity - gender, age, culture - is what learning to be a citizen is all about., David Keegan

+ There's a lot of physical changes starting in children's bodies and new awareness of sexuality starting to occur in grades 5/6. The quantum leap between their newfound knowledge and the realities of sexual assault/drugs/fitting in with whatever friends are doing is just a little overwhelming for the younger kids. Let them stay little until Grade 7 please? And of course it all depends on the child., Maryanna

Potential to move either Spanish or French from Aberhart to Fowler or Crescent. In-person session March 21, 2018

+ If we had late Spanish immersion would it relive pressure on french middle schools?, C

20

P1, P2, Nafiseh Sotoudeh, Maryanna, Jo, Chandra Thomas, JP Folz, C, P7, P4, Heather, P6, S, Susan, Guillermo Mejia, Alisa, P3, Tessa, ia74, P5,

16

Kerry, P5, P10, P9, P4, P6, Chandra Thomas, P3, P11, Rob, JL, P2, Alisa, P1, P8, P7,

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Doesn't make sense. Branton is the feeder for the immersion program at Aberhart. These schools are 2 blocks apart and much of their enrollment is from the immediate community., User#8675309</li> <li>- Move Spanish and keep French where it is at Aberhart. French should be a priority 'alternate program' over all other alternate language programs for children in Canada., Maryanna</li> <li>- No., null</li> <li>+ Prefer Abe as HS for Branton but at least Fowler or Crescent are central Calgary schools vs. having to go further outside of core, JL</li> <li>- No to moving French to Fowler or Crescent. There is no "late Spanish immersion", since Spanish is NOT an immersion program. It is a BILINGUAL program. There is a difference in the language programs between immersion and bilingual., Erica</li> <li>+ Longer terms there are many children in neighbourhoods close to Crescent Heights that could transition to French Immersion at the High School there., null</li> <li>- No, null</li> </ul>		
Vanier is only at 67% - consider moving kids earlier from King George to Vanier.	In-person session March 21, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Great idea if it helps the numbers. Gr 6's are yearning to be in with other kids closer to their age than kindergarden and the gr 1 / 2!, Liz</li> <li>- No to moving kids earlier. Grade 6 is too young to be with middle school kids., Erica</li> <li>- No. Vanier is dual track where KG is all FI. I prefer the exposure to the full French., Mom of 2</li> <li>+ Absolutely! Gr 6's are more than ready to explore options, athletics, increase their independence in managing their school time and taking public transportation., AMP</li> </ul>	<b>16</b>	Jessica, Celeste, P4, P5, P1, JL, Liz, P10, P3, P6, Kelly, P8, P9, P2, P7, AMP,
Youth in Grade 6 have more opportunities for inter school sports if they are at junior high than elementary.	In-person session March 21, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What does that have to do with FI?, null</li> </ul>	<b>12</b>	P7, P3, P8, P12, P2, P1, P11, P5, P4, P6, P10, P9,
If a grade configuration change were to occur, how would this affect children that are currently part of a "looping" program (i.e., 5/6 split).	In-person session March 21, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ They would learn the (new) Gr6 curriculum or re-learn the Gr6 curriculum they had in their 5/6 split but now in French, JL</li> </ul>	<b>11</b>	P8, P3, SPM, P9, P4, P5, P1, P7, P6, P10, P2,

Option of 9-12.

In-person session April 9, 2018

- Backing up the 3-year argument: Lates have anxiety about mixing in grade 9, and they have to get there and see for themselves before they realize they're going to be fine. If this is paired with a move to a new school, the anxiety will be enough for many to drop out of the program. But if the move from 8 to 9 is all in one school, it's less intimidating. It gives them the chance to build confidence and see that they can do it before changing schools., teacher

+ Opportunity: Lots of Late immersion students will continue French immersion school. Will see no drop after Grade 9., null

- As I understand it, the three years at a single school for Late French Immersion is key: two years within just a late cohort, and then the final year in the same school with people you know from English-based classes, but the late and continuing students mixed together for the French-based courses. By shifting the late students to Grade 9 at a different school, it interrupts this important 3 year period at one Jr. High., David Keegan

P7, P8, P10, P1, P5, P3, P2, P9, P11, P4, P6,

11

Consider how age groups fit together - maturity, leadership opportunities/mentoring, puberty.

In-person session March 21, 2018

9

P2, P1, P5, Chandra Thomas, P6, SF, P3, P4, Mom of 2,

Banff Trail 95% and Brandon 90% - changing Banff Trail to K-5 only adds to Branton which is near capacity.

In-person session March 21, 2018

9

P1, P2, P3, Jessica, User#8675309, P5, Susan, Maryanna, P4,

I am not opposed to this option, but K-2 and K-3 is too short a time in one building.

In-person session March 21, 2018

9

Celeste, P4, P1, Maryanna, P6, P5, P3, Rhonda, P2,

9-12 French Immersion schools are not good for Late Immersion starting at Grade 7.	In-person session April 9, 2018	+ See comments above re: "Option of 9-12." Three years in one place (7-9) is key.		P2, Jessica, P5, P3, P1, teacher, Susan, P4, Narda Simpson,
		Lates have anxiety about mixing in grade 9, and they have to get there and see for themselves before they realize they're going to be fine. If this is paired with a move to a new school, the anxiety will be enough for many to drop out of the program. But if the move from 8 to 9 is all in one school, it's less intimidating. It gives them the chance to build confidence and see that they can do it before changing schools., teacher	<b>9</b>	
Move English kids out of Aberhart.	In-person session March 6, 2018	- So english stream kids who live in the community should take the bus- that's not equitable especially when most kids going to Abe already take transit. Another high school could accommodate spanish or french immersion, Susan - Should not prioritize French over the local neighborhood English students. Where would they go? Churchill is way over capacity already., null	<b>9</b>	P1, P4, P3, P2, P8, P6, P7, P5, Kat,
In considering grade configuration, how do you ensure the kids (say Grade 5 in a K-6 school) who are going to be moved, will experience their "I am the top of the school" year?	In-person session March 21, 2018	+ Give leadership opportunities to all grades (all students can be leaders)., null  + Please make effort to make kids feel they are leaders., null	<b>8</b>	T, JL, P4, P5, P3, P2, Maryanna, P1,
Ideal/universal grade configuration: K-5, 6-8 and 9-12.	In-person session March 6, 2018	- Universal grade configuration? Who came up with this and what are the benefits of this configuration?, Erica + High school engagement., null - Where did this idea/universal grade config data come from...source?, Maryanna  - 9-12 is not a good option for late immersion students, Susan	<b>8</b>	P6, P4, P1, P5, P7, Liz, P3, P2,
Opportunity: Add K-French Immersion to some regular (English) schools (if space).	In-person session March 6, 2018		<b>6</b>	P4, P1, P3, Jessica, P5, P2,
Given junior highs and high schools are full aside from Vanier, I don't really see how changing grade configuration in isolation helps.	In-person session March 21, 2018	+ If we had the opportunity to have late Spanish or Mandarin immersion would that take pressure off French middle schools. I would love a trilingual child., C	<b>5</b>	P2, Jessica, Katy Emanuel, David Keegan, P1,
Splits young kids with kids going to different schools.	In-person session March 6, 2018		<b>5</b>	P4, P2, P5, P3, P1,

We are happier with grade level changes than boundary changes.	In-person session March 6, 2018	- I disagree., null	<b>5</b>	Celeste, sarah, Liz, P1, Kelly,
BUSSING? 50 minutes is too long. Who would be bussed?	In-person session March 6, 2018	- Busing is cheap child care for those of us who work. Would give anything for a 50 minute bus ride! Would love busing to be more educational maybe french screen time?, C + Anything over a 20 minute bus ride is too long for kids., Kaaren Murray	<b>5</b>	P2, P3, P1, P5, P4,
I like this option where there are schools in decline who can take new students through grade configuration.	In-person session March 21, 2018		<b>4</b>	P2, P1, P3, P4,
Reconfiguring agree with but what is being used as classrooms for reconfiguration, i.e., art stage is not a classroom/staff room is not a classroom!	In-person session March 6, 2018	+ We have been told we have not yet hit capacity, but I have a hard time imagining how to fit more desks into my room. My class sizes are already well over recommended limits! And in order to add a whole classroom, we would have to loose a photocopy room or student resource centre., teacher	<b>4</b>	P1, P2, Maryanna, teacher,
Opportunity: Possible re-configuration between King George (K-5) and GP Vanier (6-9) - and nudge boundary slightly more west.	In-person session April 9, 2018	- How does this fix anything over the long term? If there is higher enrollment eventually that makes its way to the junior high school., null	<b>4</b>	P1, Kelly, P2, Liz,
Move Grade 6 from Banff Trail to Branton; make space by moving some late immersion to Vanier.	In-person session March 6, 2018	- NO - Branton is packed - do not add Grade 6. Blended early and late is a good thing., null	<b>4</b>	P1, P2, P4, P3,
Challenge: It is easier to move with cohort.	In-person session March 6, 2018		<b>3</b>	P3, P1, P2,
Add kindergarten class in North, then add Grade 1 next year...to alleviate kids at King George and Banff Trail. This reduces kindergarten enrolment and creates/open space for another grade.	In-person session March 6, 2018	- Is adding portable classrooms to overcrowded French Immersion elementary schools an option? Or is the issue more about teachers than classroom size?, Maryanna	<b>3</b>	P1, Kaaren Murray, P2,
Move late immersion out of Branton. These kids are changing schools anyways and would be making new friends regardless. No need to make current and settled kids move to another school. If we can avoid disruption, we absolutely should be doing this.		+ Nothing wrong with moving late FI to Vanier where there is space. We chose to bus our kids to KG for 45 minutes in order to have FI. We did not choose our local school. Part of being in the city., Mom of 2  - No. Just because you join language late should not mean you dont get to meet friends closer to your community, Kb	<b>3</b>	Tessa, Mom of 2, KT,

		<p>- The same argument could be made for the continuing students - they have to move out of Banff Trail at some time, they can go somewhere besides Branton too. How about instead we look for solutions that are respectful of BOTH continuing and late FI students and families, rather than simply shutting the door on one group or another?, David Keegan</p> <p>- The teachers are clear that blending continuing FI students with late is what makes a place like Branton special: you have kids coming to Branton because THEY are choosing FI - it brings an added drive for learning that, when mixed with the continuing students with strong French foundations - makes the whole school better., David Keegan</p>		
Bring back middle schools.	In-person session March 21, 2018	- When did middle schools go away? They just opened 2 this past fall - Royal Oak and Tuscany., null	<b>2</b>	P2, P1,
Could move Aberhart kids to GP Vanier, make it 7-10?	In-person session March 6, 2018	<p>- High school is semestered - how would that work with grades 7-9 which is not, and Grade 10 students wanting to take Grade 11 courses 2nd semester?, null</p> <p>- No. Aberhart is by far a superior school, and kids deserve their 3 years there. It's almost the only thing that makes it worth enduring 3 years at GP!!, Liz</p>	<b>2</b>	P1, P2,
Can you draw a North/South boundary - encourage community friends and less time on bus for North kids.	In-person session March 6, 2018		<b>2</b>	Kaaren Murray, JL,
Challenge: More bussing and transportation issues.	In-person session April 9, 2018	+ Agree. Would need to consider yellow school buses if designated jr high (to become middle schools) for upper NW quadrant remain the same- grade 5/6 students are too young to be relying on public transit, especially if multiple transfers/connections., Emerc	<b>2</b>	P1, Emerc,
Opportunity: Greater opportunity for students to participate in French.	In-person session April 9, 2018		<b>2</b>	P2, P1,



Challenge: Ex. 4-9 - Ensure separation between younger and older children. Example keep 4-6 together and 7-9.	In-person session March 6, 2018	+ Potentially move Grade 9 to high school and Grade 6 to junior high., null - I disagree - broad age group schools are okay., null	<b>1</b>	P1,
Best option keeps cohort together.	In-person session March 6, 2018		<b>1</b>	P1,
Option: Vanier go 7-10 and decrease some Grade 10 at Aberhart. Similarly Hidden Valley could go K-9 and Valley Creek 5-9. Risk: Late French Immersion should/must be in the one school for Grade 7-9 (not move halfway through junior high).	In-person session March 6, 2018	- Grade 10 subjects require different level/expertise teacher than grade 7-9 making staffing difficult., null  - Hidden Valley does not have near enough room for k-9., Stephanie - Grade 9 should not move to high school. Late immersion students benefit from the consistent cohort. High school classes even in immersion have a more fluid cohort., Susan	<b>1</b>	P1,
Middle school (6-9) is better socially for kids.	In-person session April 9, 2018		<b>1</b>	P1,
Integration of a number of options	In-person session April 9, 2018		<b>1</b>	P1,
Challenge: Would bussing be available to Grades 5/6 to middle schools (currently CBE trans from our area to GP Vanier).	In-person session April 9, 2018	+ Agree. 10 year olds taking transit by themselves is too young. I don't have an issue with 12 year olds doing this., jjroot + We need to add learning how to take city transit to the curriculum. Asking a 10 year old to take city transit is way different then asking a 12 year old to do it., C	<b>1</b>	P1,
Challenge: Impact to school's sense of "community".	In-person session April 9, 2018		<b>1</b>	P1,
Challenge: Being the first grade going into a junior high format "leaders".	In-person session March 6, 2018		<b>1</b>	P1,
If there is space at William Aberhart High School (WAHS), why not shift Grade 9 from Branton School to WAHS so they would offer Grades 9-12, shift Branton School to Grade 6-8 and Banff Trail School to K-5?	In-Person Session March 21, 2018	- Aberhart is almost at capacity and in September the CBE will begin the Engagement to address the North High Schools being full with an increased population expected from the Junior High schools in next few years., null	<b>0</b>	

King George could move Grade 6 to Vanier but they might have to move back in 2-3 years as there are so few Grade 6 and so many Grades 1-3.	In-person session March 21, 2018		<b>0</b>
What is percent of Early Immersion do not continue? Do you know why they don't? Does that help with planning?	In-person session March 21, 2018	+ Would be interested in receiving this info for Late Immersion students moving on to French Immersion in high school, in addition to rates of drop out for Early immersion to Jr High and continuing on to HS as well, JL	<b>0</b>
Supporting developmental changes - moving 6s up. Good thing.	In-person session March 21, 2018		<b>0</b>
Opportunity: Mentorship.	In-person session March 6, 2018		<b>0</b>
Challenge: Sync bell times between and within school to consider siblings.	In-person session March 6, 2018		<b>0</b>
Challenge: More transitions for students.	In-person session April 9, 2018		<b>0</b>
Challenge: Less consistency.	In-person session April 9, 2018		<b>0</b>
Challenge: Reducing grades can create less leadership opportunities for older students.	In-person session April 9, 2018		<b>0</b>
Opportunity: Meets demand.	In-person session April 9, 2018		<b>0</b>
Opportunity: Meet transitions number but just different time.	In-person session April 9, 2018		<b>0</b>
Opportunity: Students are at more of a peer level.	In-person session April 9, 2018		<b>0</b>
Opportunity: By decreasing boundaries, increase grade per school, smaller class sizes.	In-person session April 9, 2018		<b>0</b>
Opportunity: Not capital intensive and reduction in need to rely on building new schools or expansion of existing facilities.	In-person session April 9, 2018	+ Are using portables an option?, C	<b>0</b>
Which school can accommodate a grade level change at the junior high / high school level?	In-person session March 6, 2018		<b>0</b>

What is best way to split grades (academics/social/research based). Maturity? Leaders?	In-person session March 6, 2018	+ For late immersion, completing 7-9 in one school is an important factor in their success., teacher	<b>0</b>
If split so no K-6: what about internal leadership - e.g., patrols, bus buddies, lunch helpers...	In-person session March 6, 2018		<b>0</b>
How would bell times flow between schools?	In-person session March 6, 2018		<b>0</b>
"Before and after care" - at school? Options? Community. A factor for some families.	In-person session March 6, 2018		<b>0</b>
Challenge / Opportunity: Building a culture with younger students and older students.	In-person session March 6, 2018		<b>0</b>
I hope all the parents who are proposing to move grade 6 to GP Vanier are not all parents of lower grade. As a parent of a current grade five student who lives close to the school, I think it's important to			<b>0</b>
Important to minimize disruption in a pivotal year like grade 6.			<b>0</b>