

NCDSB Boundary Review Public Meeting

October 16, 2013 in Temagami

Public Comments:

Annette – noted 26 minute calculations already provided and any calculations would be determined by Tri-Board Transportation consortium. She asked if Latchford is on St. Pats School current boundary. She noted that she did not want to be misled by time savings or minutes that students travel on busses and she believes the decision would be by the Tri-Board Transportation consortium.

Garry – has a daughter in French Immersion (FI) at ECCS and wants to know if St. Pats has this program. Glenn explained FI program only available at ECCS and that NCDSB can't afford to offer the program in both schools.

Kari – has a son attending ECCS and has concerns about students with 2 residences. She has concerns about moving her child from ECCS to St. Pats as her son has found stability after experiencing several upheavals in the past. Her son needs extra help and is receiving it at ECCS.

Glenn noted that one recommendation could be a “grandfathering” clause for all current students to remain at their respective schools.

Denise – was concerned about the psychological effect a change in schools would have on their child who is currently in grade 7 and going into grade 8 next year; then the following year into high school. All of these changes could have a negative affect. Her child has been at ECCS since Grade 4 and believes the stability of staying at ECCS is the right thing to do. She wants to lessen the anxiety on her child due to potential changes.

Annette – she wants to clarify the idea of 2 residence households – one parent in Temagami and one parent in New Liskeard. This is becoming a very important issue. Annette believes right now things work well with students going to ECCS and that the childcare options available at ECCS are also very important for her child. She is not sure what is offered in childcare services at St. Pats. The childcare component at ECCS is a good thing and logically works well for students dealing with the 2 household issue. She noted 2 issues: the daycare issue and the need for this and the 2 resident household issue.

Glenn noted that St. Pats does offer an Early Morning Program. Chris explained the Before & After School programs at St. Pats. Due to availability the after school program is not available yet at St. Pats, but the early School program is provided by same groups as in ECCS.

Patrick – noted that the “Grandfather” clause should apply for all current students attending each school. His oldest child is in FI program in Grade 6 and he has 2 other children that attend ECCS. They have a good rapport with the school and the Teachers. He noted that changes can upset the life of students.

Annette – noted that this is not logical to her regarding the bringing in piggybacking number of students. The JK numbers will not bring more students to either school. Declining enrolment felt by all schools and boards in the region. This doesn’t make sense to bring the argument of numbers to her as JK numbers may not change versus the options to send students elsewhere. Those parents that chose to send their kids to Catholic schools created issues in local community and this still tolerating but hurts the community because these students leave Temagami; potentially affecting public board decision to close schools. She doesn’t feel the Temagami Boundary Review with help St. Pats numbers. She feels the Boundary Review process pits parents “in the middle” of issues: 1 Faith Based learning, 2 Two residents issue and 3 boundary review process.

Annette noted when this is being considered by BRC, please remember that there could be more families moving into the area (including Martin River and Bear Island areas). This process is not necessary for the community.

Someone asked a question if the 2nd Public Meeting in Cobalt with be any different – answer is no.

Kari asked what extra help or special assistance is available at St. Pats? Chris provided the answer for St. Pats: 1 Resource Teacher, 3 EAs and ½ time CYW.

Glenn thanks all for their feedback and for coming and noted the ways that people could still provide public comment – use feedback form on web site, call or email or fill in comment card.