

ATTENDANCE AREA REVIEW SUMMARY – RECOMMENDATION J:**Move Senior High French Immersion Program to Memorial Composite High School**

APRIL 2022

Our Students Possess the confidence, resilience, insight and skills required to thrive in, and positively impact, the world.

BACKGROUND

The [French Immersion Program](#) in PSD is designed for students whose first language is not French. This bilingual education program is open to all students who live in Parkland School Division. École Broxton Park School and École Meridian Heights School provide programming for students from Kindergarten to Grade 9. Graduates of the program can participate easily in French conversations, move on to take French Immersion courses in high school at Spruce Grove Composite High School, take post-secondary courses with French as the language of instruction, and accept employment with French as the language of work. The program at SGCHS is a part-time FI program with students receiving instruction in French in two (2) core subjects.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AREA STUDY

On January 12, 2021, the Board of Trustees directed administration to conduct an attendance area review of all schools in Parkland School Division (PSD) in order to facilitate long-term planning and the effective use of our school facilities. Population demographics continue to shift with the communities of Spruce Grove, Stony Pain and Parkland County. Board Policy 2, Role of the Board requires the Board to review and approve the attendance areas for PSD schools (Policy 2(52)).

On January 18, 2022, the Board of Trustees received the *Student Attendance Area Study* conducted by Edmonton Public Schools, Infrastructure Planning. This [study](#) outlined a number of potential options for the Board to consider. Subsequently, the Board of Trustees directed administration to further explore a number for the recommendations for review of the Board of Trustees. A summary of the recommendations including which ones were being explored further can be found [here](#).

It is important that the attendance area review takes into consideration several factors including impact on students and families, facility utilization, transportation, resource stewardship and future growth.

Facility Considerations**Memorial Composite**

- Physical building condition:

The core of MCHS was previously an older NAIT facility until PSD purchased and renovated the building. A new addition was built including the gymnasiums and the science wing. Beyond the modern building components, many spaces throughout the school, such as the washrooms, art room, drama room, music room, mechanics shop, industrial arts room, cafeteria, cosmetology lab, and computer lab are adequately sized, bright, and well-equipped. There is also a large gymnasium and home economics space that has stainless steel countertops and updated millwork.

Spruce Grove Composite

- Physical building condition:

SGCHS is a well-used facility that requires a replacement school as addressing its spatial and mechanical issues through a modernization is not recommended. At least one-third of the roof and many of the rooftop units (RTUs) need to be replaced. The mechanical room contains old boilers that are nearing their end-of-life. Many spaces are too small to accommodate the growing school population, including the narrow corridors, design rooms, home economics lab, and parking lot.

Utilization Rates

Memorial Composite current utilization:

| | September 30 Enrolment | | | | | 1 Year | 5 Year | 10 Year |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Year | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2028/29 | 2033/34 |
| Enrolment | 1083 | 1073 | 1000 | 1118 | 1184 | 1143 | 1080 | 1058 |
| Adjusted Enrolment | 1155 | 1147 | 1090 | 1218 | 1286 | 1229 | 1175 | 1165 |
| Capacity | 1457 | 1457 | 1457 | 1457 | 1457 | 1457 | 1457 | 1457 |

Should the 140 students identified in the area in question be redirected from Spruce Grove Comp to Memorial Comp as recommended; the utilization of Memorial Comp would increase:

| | September 30 Enrolment | | | | | 1 Year | 5 Year | 10 Year |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Year | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2028/29 | 2033/34 |
| Enrolment | 1083 | 1073 | 1000 | 1118 | 1283 | 1258 | 1198 | 1189 |
| Adjusted Enrolment | 1155 | 1147 | 1090 | 1218 | 1369 | 1352 | 1297 | 1300 |
| Capacity | 1457 | 1457 | 1457 | 1457 | 1457 | 1457 | 1457 | 1457 |

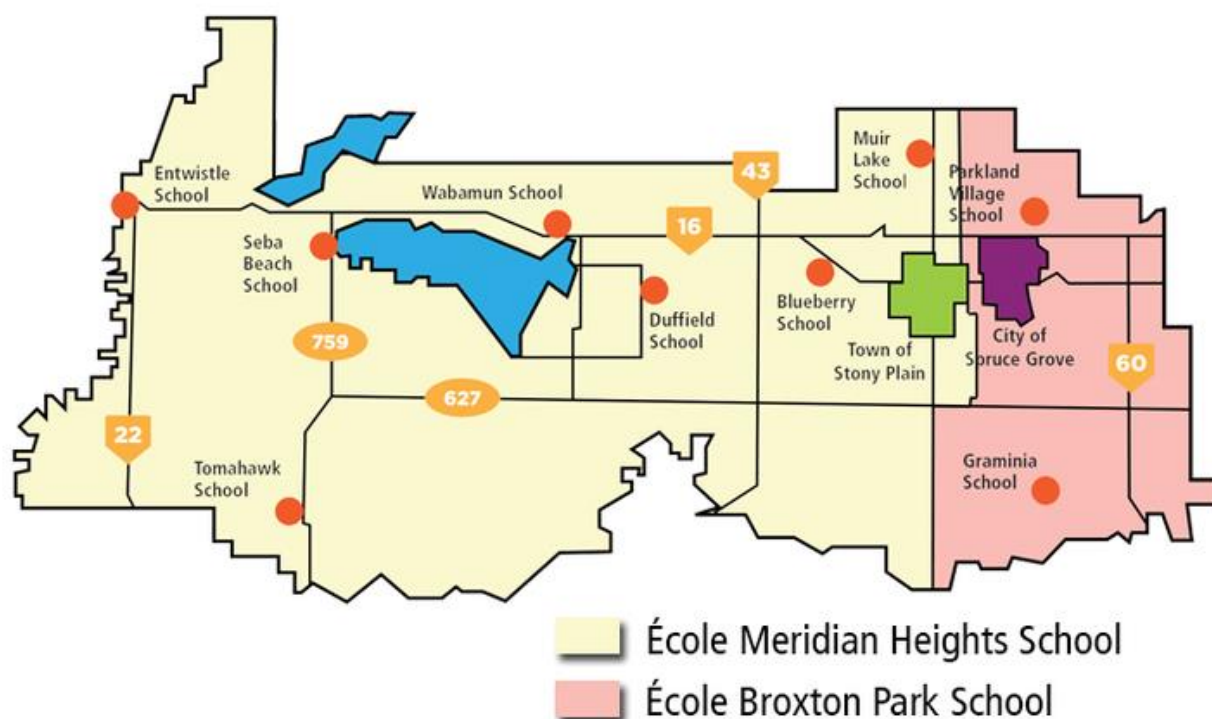
Spruce Grove Composite current utilization:

| | September 30 Enrolment | | | | | 1 Year | 5 Year | 10 Year |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Year | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2028/29 | 2033/34 |
| Enrolment | 1029 | 1032 | 1070 | 1132 | 1179 | 1245 | 1259 | 1283 |
| Adjusted Enrolment | 1119 | 1104 | 1126 | 1204 | 1249 | 1319 | 1332 | 1356 |
| Capacity | 1277 | 1277 | 1277 | 1277 | 1277 | 1277 | 1277 | 1277 |

Should the 140 students identified in the area in question be redirected from Spruce Grove Comp to Memorial Comp as recommended; the utilization rate of Spruce Grove Comp would decrease:

| | September 30 Enrolment | | | | | 1 Year | 5 Year | 10 Year |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Year | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2028/29 | 2033/34 |
| Enrolment | 1029 | 1032 | 1070 | 1132 | 1105 | 1106 | 1129 | 1151 |
| Adjusted Enrolment | 1119 | 1104 | 1126 | 1204 | 1179 | 1172 | 1202 | 1224 |
| Capacity | 1277 | 1277 | 1277 | 1277 | 1277 | 1277 | 1277 | 1277 |

Current Attendance Area

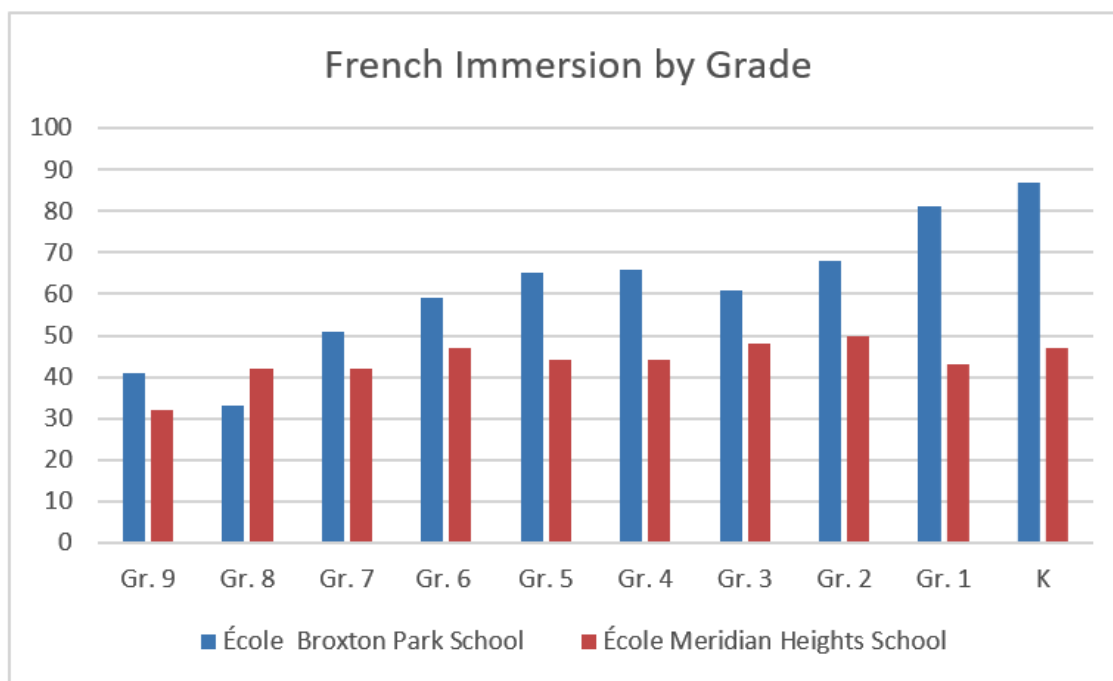


Enrolment in French Immersion

2021-2022 French Immersion Enrolment Report

| School Name | ECS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | Total |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| École Broxton Park School | 87 | 81 | 68 | 61 | 66 | 65 | 59 | 51 | 33 | 41 | | | | 612 |
| École Meridian Heights School | 47 | 43 | 50 | 48 | 44 | 44 | 47 | 42 | 42 | 32 | | | | 439 |
| Spruce Grove Composite High School | | | | | | | | | | | 59 | 36 | 44 | 139 |
| | 134 | 124 | 118 | 109 | 110 | 109 | 106 | 93 | 75 | 73 | 59 | 36 | 44 | 1190 |

*Enrolment count as of April 1, 2022



Historic French Immersion Enrolment

| School | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| École Broxton Park School | 575 | 581 | 608 | 612 |
| École Meridian Heights School | 496 | 500 | 475 | 439 |
| Spruce Grove Composite High School | 148 | 139 | 132 | 139 |
| Totals | 1219 | 1220 | 1215 | 1190 |

Percentage of Students Who Transition to High School

| Year | Ecole Broxton Park | Ecole Median Heights |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 2018/19 | 92% | 76% |
| 2019/20 | 92% | 91% |
| 2020/21 | 90% | 66% |
| Average | 91% | 78% |

Where French Immersion Students Reside

| Location | Number of Students | Percentage |
|--|--------------------|------------|
| Urban (Spruce Grove) | 578 | 48% |
| Urban (Stony Plain) | 311 | 26% |
| Urban Total | 889 | 75% |
| Rural | 303 | 25% |
| Total French Immersion Students | 1192 | |

Rural French Immersion Students by Designated School

| | Blueberry | Duffield | Entwistle | Muir Lake | Tomahawk | Wabamun |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| K – 9 | 38 | 34 | 2 | 42 | 0 | 4 |
| SGCHS | 5 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 1 |
| Totals | 43 | 35 | 3 | 46 | 0 | 5 |

Projected French Immersion Enrolment in Parkland School Division

| | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | 2028/29 | 2029/30 | 2030/31 | 2031/32 |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Grade 10 | 62 | 63 | 79 | 91 | 93 | 94 | 93 | 101 | 108 | 116 |
| Grade 11 | 59 | 62 | 63 | 79 | 91 | 93 | 94 | 93 | 101 | 108 |
| Grade 12 | 36 | 59 | 62 | 63 | 79 | 91 | 93 | 94 | 93 | 101 |
| Total | 157 | 184 | 204 | 233 | 263 | 278 | 280 | 288 | 302 | 325 |

**This projected enrollment assumes the attrition rate from grade 9 to high school remains the same as the current average and does not take into account any year-to-year attrition from K-9.*

Financial Considerations

The overall financial impact of this option is minimal to the Division as a whole. Base Instruction, Service & Supports, Community and Jurisdiction revenues would remain unchanged as they are based on WMA calculations which would not change regardless of where the students are designated.

Building Utilization Maintenance funding would benefit from increasing enrolments at Memorial Composite High School as the school is currently at 77% utilization which is under the 85% utilization required to receive full maintenance funding. There is a \$20/m² difference in funding between utilized space and non-utilized space. Spruce Grove Composite High School is at 91% utilization so the transfer of students would not impact the maintenance funding for the school.

The allocation for the students designated to Memorial Composite School would follow the students and support staffing and other expenditures related to educating the students.

There would be a \$60,000 increase in Transportation costs to support an additional bus route to transport students from Spruce Grove to Memorial Composite High School. These students would be eligible students so it is assumed that they would be funded under the new Transportation funding model that is expected to be released next year.

Transportation Considerations

Current Situation:

- At present a combination of rural and urban bus routes transport FI students to SGCHS. Students living in the Spruce Grove attendance area(s) are either bussed directly to SGCHS or through the Greystone transfer site.
- Students who live in Stony Plain attendance area(s) are bussed to MCHS and then transfer to SGCHS. Students residing in the Stony Plain area go to the Memorial transfer site and leave at 8:05 AM, in order to arrive before the first bell at SGCHS.
- Students living West of Stony Plain transfer at the Duffield, Blueberry or Wabamun transfer sites to SGCHS. Students arrive at the rural transfer site sites at approximately 7:35 AM.

If the high school FI program is relocated to MCHS:

- The rural transfer for FI students would shift five (5) minutes later resulting in slightly later pickup times for rural students and a possible shift in rural school start times.
- The students located in the Spruce Grove area would be picked up by two buses, with Spruce Grove split into an East and West bus.
- One current bus route that will be redesigned to accommodate student pickup for one of the two areas and a second bus route would be created for the other.
- These routes would go directly to Memorial from student's residences/congregated sites to MCHS eliminating the need for a transfer site.
- A new route costs approximately \$60,000 and would be funded by the grant revenue of the eligible students.
- With the change from the more populated Spruce Grove to the less populated Stony Plain, roughly 30% of students ineligible for transportation funding would become eligible. This would eliminate additional fees for some Spruce Grove students although some Stony Plain families within 2.4 km would become ineligible.

**The assumptions above regarding the possible funding implications are purely based on the current funding formula and the cost of the bus and the number of students transported. Should the funding formula change this could increase projected costs etc.*

Legacy Opportunities for Students

Moving the French Immersion program from SGCHS to MCHS would not feasibly permit a partial move over time of either program or students. Thus, there is no opportunity for students to stay at SGCHS should they wish to stay in the French Immersion program.

It is important to note that students who are in Grades 10, 11, and 12 during the 2023/24 school year, and who wish to stay in French Immersion, would need to transfer to MCHS, potentially affecting a total of 184 students, across the three grades as illustrated below:

| | Grade 10 | Grade 11 | Grade 12 |
|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 2023-2024 Enrolment | 63 | 62 | 59 |

This projected enrollment assumes the attrition rate from Grade 9 to high school remains the same as the current average and does not take into account any year-to-year attrition from Grade 10-12.

Human Resources Considerations

Because there is no opportunity to move portions of the program to MCHS from SGCHS, there would be an impact on each of the staff members who work with the French Immersion program. There are currently two teachers supporting the French Immersion program at SGCHS, with a 1.714 FTE in the FI program.

Some French Immersion staff members at the high school level also have English-track assignments. Therefore, a change in location of the high school French Immersion program would have additional implications to English-track assignments at Spruce Grove Composite High School. For example, if a teacher teaches part time French Immersion and part time English Language Arts, moving the teacher to Memorial Composite in Stony Plain would leave lacking coverage at Spruce Grove Composite High School in the English program. Both schools would therefore need to adjust other staff assignments, or move staff to create an appropriate staffing complement.

Engagement:

Parkland School Division: French Immersion Family Survey

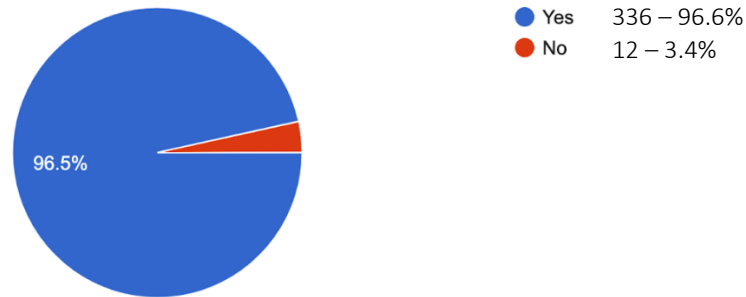
A survey was sent to all current French Immersion families in Parkland School Division.

| Total | | Geographic Request: Which of the following choices most closely identifies the LOCATION of your home? |
|-------|-------|---|
| N | % | |
| 166 | 47.8% | I live within Spruce Grove |
| 91 | 26.2% | I live within Stony Plain |
| 34 | 9.8% | I live west of Stony Plain (i.e., Blueberry through to Duffield, Wabamun, Entwistle, Tomahawk, or rural west area) |
| 37 | 10.7 | I live North (or Northeast) of Spruce Grove and/or Stony Plain (i.e. Parkland Village / Muir Lake or rural North areas) |
| 19 | 5.5% | I live South of Spruce Grove and/or Stony Plain (i.e. Graminia or rural South areas) |

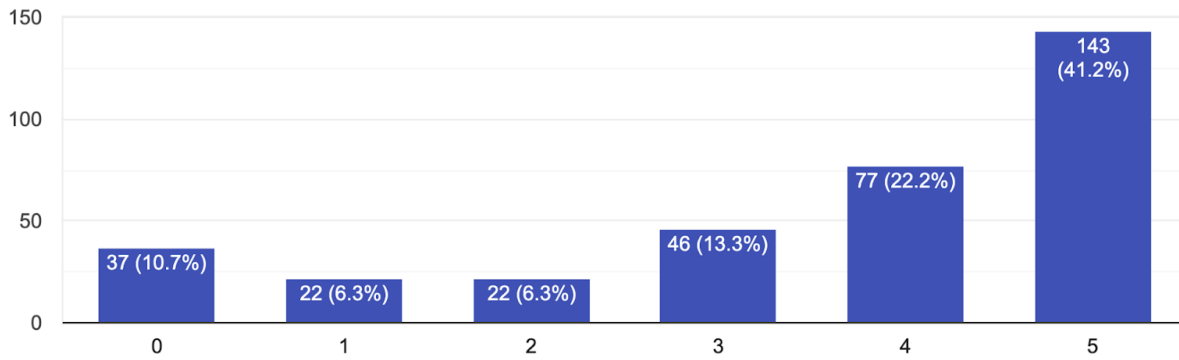
| Total | | Geographic Request: In which school does (or did) your child or children attend French Immersion? |
|-------|-------|--|
| N | % | |
| 196 | 56.5% | École Broxton Park School |
| 142 | 40.9% | École Meridian Heights School |
| 9 | 2.6% | Spruce Grove Composite High School |

Do you currently intend to have your child/children graduate with full completion of the French Immersion program?

(347 responses)

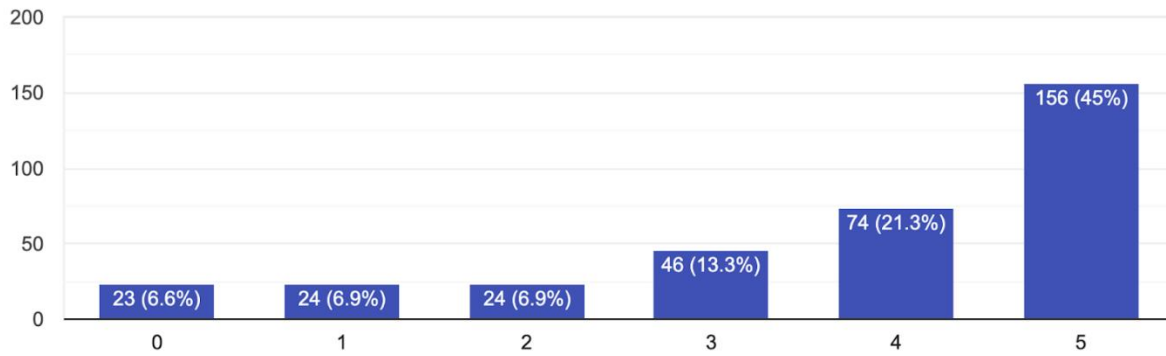


To what degree does TRANSPORTATION, related to travel to and from French Immersion, contribute to the decision to remain in the program, would you say? (347 responses)



Scale: 0 – 5 from No Contribution (0) to Significantly Contributed (5).

To what degree would the LOCATION OF THE HIGH SCHOOL for French Immersion contribute to the decision to remain in French Immersion, would you say? (eg., whether it's at MCHS, SGCHS or CFL)? (347 responses)



Scale: 0 – 5 from No Contribution (0) to Significantly Contributed (5).

| Total | | Geographic Request: 13. How would moving the high school French Immersion program to Memorial Composite High School influence your decision to stay in the program? Which of the following best applies to your student(s)? |
|-------|-------|---|
| N | % | |
| 118 | 34.7% | I am more likely to enrol my child(ren) in French Immersion for High School if the program remains in Spruce Grove. |
| 106 | 31.2% | I am more likely to enrol my child(ren) in French Immersion for High School if the program location changes to Memorial Composite High School |
| 83 | 24.4% | I will only enrol my child(ren) in French Immersion for High School if it remains in Spruce Grove. |
| 20 | 5.9% | I will only enrol my child(ren) in French Immersion for High School if it switches to Memorial Composite High School. |
| 9 | 2.6% | I will enrol my child in the high school French Immersion program regardless of program location. |
| 4 | 1.2% | I don't plan on enrolling my child(ren) French Immersion in High School regardless of the program location. |

- Given that 47.8% of respondents reside in the city of Spruce Grove, Location and Transportation considerations are significant when families consider influences on enrolling their child in French Immersion. For location, 66.3% indicated a 4 or 5 on the scale of factors that would contribute to their decision to stay in the program. For transportation, 63.4% indicated a 4 or 5 on the scale of factors that would contribute to their decision to stay in the program.
- The percentage of respondents who are “more likely” to enrol in either high school is relatively close. However, there is a significant difference when we consider those who “will only” enrol if the program either moves to MCHS or remains at SGCHS.
 - 59.1% are either more likely to, or will only enrol in high school French Immersion if the program remains at SGCHS
 - 37.1% are either more likely to, or will only enrol in high school French Immersion if the program moves to MCHS
- Given that 47.8% of respondents reside in Spruce Grove, the indication of location, transportation, and location of the program is significant.

Parkland School Division: French Immersion Completion Survey

An additional survey was sent to all students who were previously enrolled in French Immersion but are no longer in the program.

Respondents: Memorial (20) (9F/11M) | SGCHS (8) (3F/5M)

| MCHS | | SGCHS | | Total | | Geographic Request: Which of the following choices most closely identifies the LOCATION of your home? |
|------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|
| N | % | N | % | N | % | |
| 4 | 20% | 6 | 75% | 10 | 35.7% | I live within Spruce Grove |
| 14 | 70% | 1 | 12.5% | 15 | 53.6% | I live within Stony Plain |
| 2 | 10% | 0 | 0% | 2 | 7.1% | I live west of Stony Plain (i.e., Blueberry through to Duffield, Wabamun, Entwistle, Tomahawk, or rural west area) |
| 0 | 0% | 1 | 12.5% | 1 | 3.6% | I live North (or Northeast) of Spruce Grove and/or Stony Plain (i.e. Parkland Village / Muir Lake or rural North areas) |
| 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0.0% | I live South of Spruce Grove and/or Stony Plain (i.e. Graminia or rural South areas) |

Analysis: Approximately 64% of the students who do not continue on to French Immersion live in Stony Plain and areas to the west.

| To what degree did TRANSPORTATION CONSIDERATIONS , related to travel to and from French Immersion, contribute to the decision to withdraw from FI, would you say? Scale: 0 – 5 from No Contribution (0) to Significantly Contributed (5). | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------|------|----------------------------|------|-------|
| | No contribution > | | | < Significant Contribution | | |
| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| MCHS: N | 10 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| MCHS: % | 50.0% | 15.0% | 5.0% | 15.0% | 5.0% | 10.0% |
| SGCHS: N | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SGCHS: % | 100.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Total: N | 18 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Total: % | 64.3% | 10.7% | 3.6% | 10.7% | 3.6% | 7.1% |

Analysis: Transportation considerations were far less significant for those designated to SGCHS (0.0%) than to Memorial (30%). Generally, Transportation Considerations is not significant (21.4%).

| To what degree did LOCATION OF THE HIGH SCHOOL , related to travel to and from French Immersion, contribute to the decision to withdraw from FI, would you say? Scale: 0 – 5 from No Contribution (0) to Significantly Contributed (5). | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------|-------|----------------------------|------|-------|
| | No contribution > | | | < Significant Contribution | | |
| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| MCHS: N | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| MCHS: % | 25.0% | 25.0% | 15.0% | 15.0% | 5.0% | 15.0% |
| SGCHS: N | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| SGCHS: % | 62.5% | 0.0% | 12.5% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 25.0% |
| Total: N | 10 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| Total: % | 35.7% | 17.9% | 14.3% | 10.7% | 3.6% | 17.9% |

Analysis: Location of the school is somewhat less significant for those designated to SGCHS (25%) than to Memorial (35%). Generally, location of the school is somewhat significant (32.2%).

Other Opportunities to Share Feedback

In addition to the surveys sent to parents and students, stakeholders also had an opportunity to reach out directly to Board@psd.ca to seek clarification or provide further information. To date, we have received four (4) emails regarding French Immersion enrollment. The topics expressed in these emails are as follows:

- Would changing location of the program increase class options for high school French Immersion students?
 - Response: The number of courses offered in French depends on the number of students in the program. As the program grows, despite which school it is in, the courses offered in French should also increase. Current projections indicate that the program will grow over time.
- What about other options for students outside Parkland School Division?
 - Response: Parkland School Division is not able to comment on options offered in other school divisions.
- Can we add an option for ‘Will enroll my child regardless of the program’s location’?
 - The survey was amended shortly after this email was received
- Would there be considerations for legacy students who may wish to finish their Grade 12 in Spruce Grove if the program were to move to Memorial Composite High School in Stony Plain.
 - Response: There is no feasible opportunity to legacy students who wish to complete French Immersion at SGCHS.

Key Findings

- Moving French Immersion students from SGCHS to MCHS would decrease the utilization rate of SGCHS but it would still be considered over-capacity as the rate would remain over 85%.
- Enrolments in the FI program are projected to increase in next decade, with high school enrollment projected to double over that time.
- Spruce Grove has experienced a faster rate of growth than Stony Plain when it comes to the French Immersion enrollment
- Currently, 48.5% of students in K-9 French Immersion reside within the city of Spruce Grove
- The greatest potential for growth of the High School French Immersion Program is in Spruce Grove
- There is no feasible opportunity to legacy students who wish to stay in SGCHS and continue in French Immersion.
- The percentage of respondents who are “more likely” to enroll in either high school is relatively close (SGCHS: 34.7%); MCHS: 31.2%). However, there is a significant difference when we consider those who “will only” enroll if the program either moves to MCHS or remains at SGCHS.
 - 59.1% are either more likely to, or will only enroll in high school French Immersion if the program remains at SGCHS
 - 37.1% are either more likely to, or will only enroll in high school French Immersion if the program moves to MCHS

- Given that 47.8% of respondents reside in Spruce Grove, the location of the program may have a significant impact on enrollment