



MEMORANDUM

May 24, 2022
Regular Board Meeting

TO	Board of Trustees
FROM	Shauna Boyce, Superintendent
ORIGINATOR	Mark Francis, Deputy Superintendent
RESOURCE	Jordi Weidman, Director, Strategic Communications
GOVERNANCE POLICY	Board Policy 2: Role of the Board Board Policy 12: Role of the Superintendent
ADDITIONAL REFERENCE	BP 2: Resource Stewardship BP 2: Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Administrative Procedure 304: Attendance Area Administrative Procedure 850: Transportation Services <i>Education Act</i>
SUBJECT	ATTENDANCE AREA REVIEW RECOMMENDATION J: MOVE SENIOR HIGH FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM TO MEMORIAL COMPOSITE HIGH SCHOOL

PURPOSE

For approval. Recommendation required.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Trustees continue to offer Senior High French Immersion Programming at Spruce Grove Composite High School, as recommended by Administration and presented at the Regular Meeting of May 24, 2022.

BACKGROUND

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 Plain 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 of the recommendations for review by the Board of Trustees. A summary of the recommendations including which ones were being explored further can be found [here](#).

The attendance area review conducted by Administration took into consideration several factors including impact on students and families, impact on programming, facility utilization, transportation, resource stewardship and future growth.

REPORT SUMMARY

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 (FI) courses in high school at Spruce Grove Composite High School (SGCHS), 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.

Although moving the FI program to MCHS from SGCHS would decrease slightly the utilization rate of SGCHS and increase slightly the utilization rate at MCHS, the majority of students enrolled in FI reside within the city of Spruce Grove and have indicated that moving the program to Stony Plain would impact their decision to continue on to high school FI programming. Moving the program to MCHS would significantly impact the viability of the High School French Immersion program.

Administration recommends that the high school French Immersion Program remain at Spruce Grove Composite High School.

Administration would be pleased to respond to any questions.

SB:kz

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

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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.

While some attendance areas within PSD remain stable or slightly decline over time, a number of areas are experiencing significant and rapid growth. In particular, the communities of Stony Plain and Spruce Grove continue to grow. From the time of the last Attendance Area Review in 2014 in preparation of opening up both Prescott Learning Centre (2016) and Copperhaven School (2018), Spruce Grove's first new schools since 2005, enrolment in Spruce Grove alone has increased from approximately 4,500 students to just over 5,300 students in 2022. Overall, PSD increased from around 10,400 to 11,900 in that same 8-year span. In fact, Spruce Grove is one of the fastest growing communities in the Province of Alberta, with a population growth of 10% from 2016 to 2021 (34,108 in 2016 to 37,645 in 2021 - Statistics Canada).

The Student Attendance Area Study prepared by consultants had many references to the City of Spruce Grove and Town of Stony Plain's Area Structure Plans (ASP). These are geographical areas municipal planners and engineers use for planning and development. For the purposes of PSD's Attendance Area report, city and town neighbourhood names are referred to which are more commonly used by residents.

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.

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 be redirected from Spruce Grove Comp to Memorial Comp as recommended for consideration, the utilization of Memorial Comp would increase:

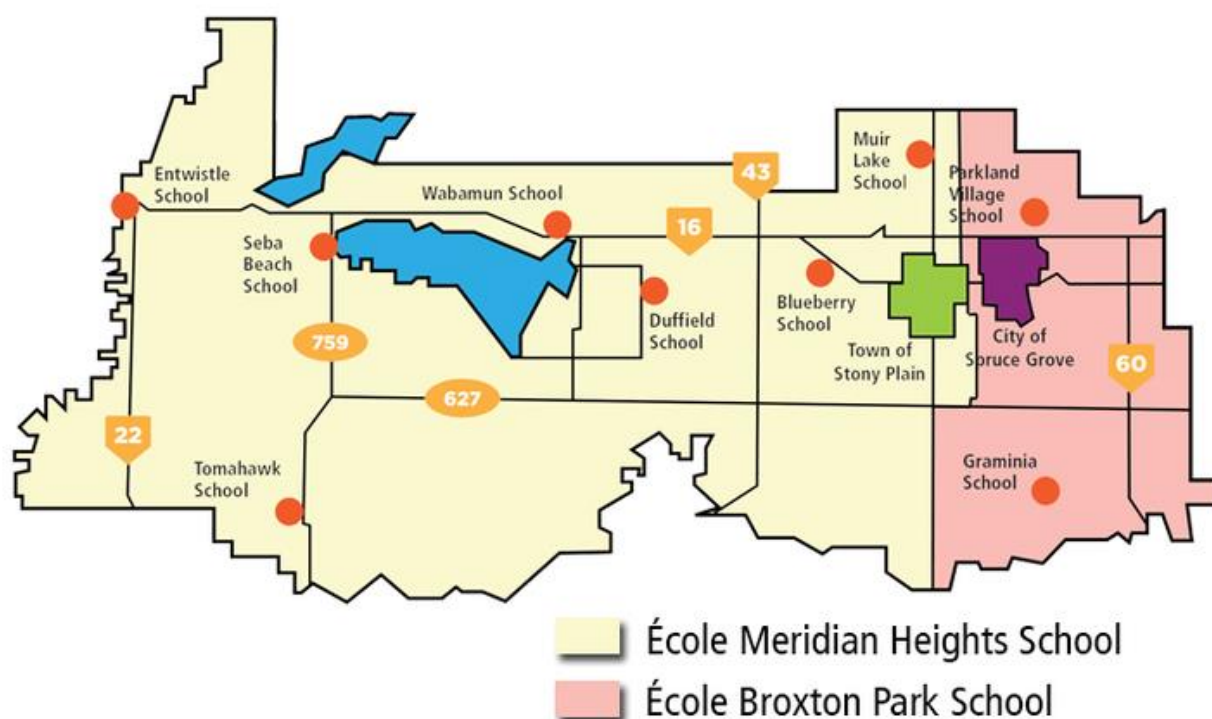
	September 30 Enrolment					1 Year	5 Year	10 Year
Year	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2028/29	2033/34
Enrolment	1083	1073	1000	1118	1283	1258	1198	1189
Adjusted Enrolment	1155	1147	1090	1218	1369	1352	1297	1300
Capacity	1457	1457	1457	1457	1457	1457	1457	1457

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 in question be redirected from Spruce Grove Comp to Memorial Comp as recommended for consideration, 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

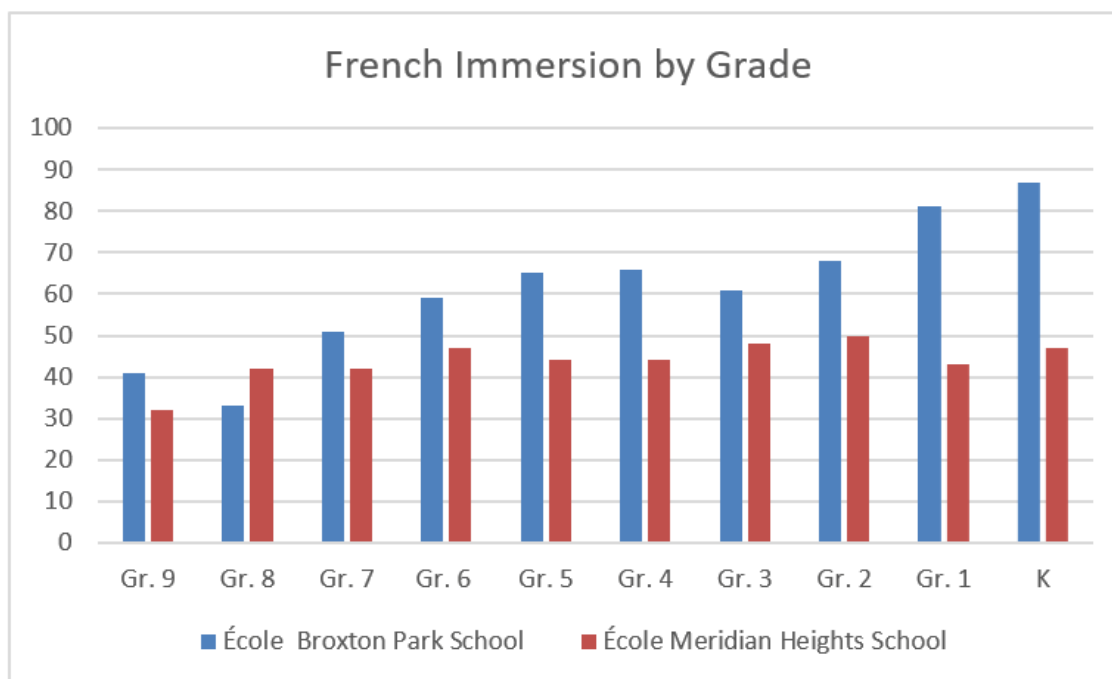
Current Attendance Area

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

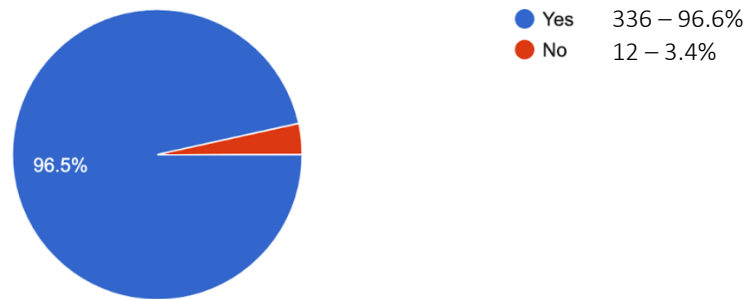
A survey was sent to all current French Immersion families in Parkland School Division.

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)

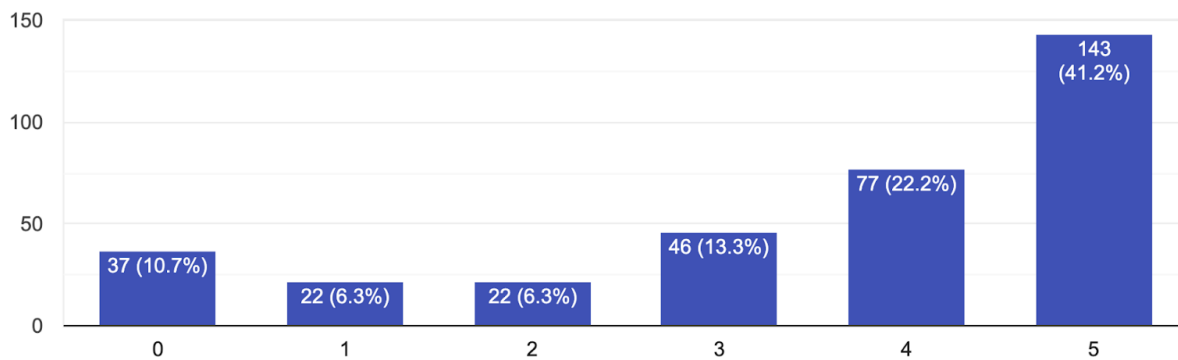
Total		Geographic Request: In which school does (or did) your child or children attend French Immersion?
N	%	
196	56.5%	École Broxton Park School
142	40.9%	École Meridian Heights School
9	2.6%	Spruce Grove Composite High School

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

(347 responses)

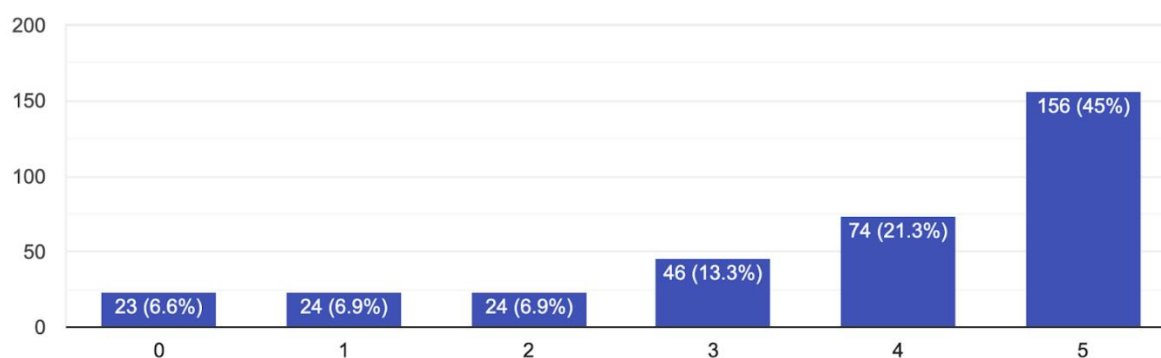


To what degree does TRANSPORTATION, related to travel to and from French Immersion, contribute to the decision to remain in the program, would you say? (347 responses)



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