



October 27, 2022

Dear Families – Clarke High School Elementary Family of Schools

We continue to experience increased enrolment pressures within the family of elementary schools that connect to Clarke High School. Specifically, we have significant challenges in having enough space for all our current students at Newcastle Public School (PS) and The Pines Senior PS.

As you know, one step in addressing these enrolment pressures began this September with Newcastle PS becoming a JK- Grade 5 dual track (English and French Immersion) school while The Pines Senior PS expanded to become a dual track Grade 6-8 Intermediate School.

As we worked through this transition this past spring with the impacted school communities, we shared that we would begin a broader public consultation this year to help find a longer-term solution to these accommodation pressures.

To that end, we are inviting interested parents to join us at the following public meetings to learn more about the enrolment challenges we are experiencing in the community, and to share feedback on the possible solutions we are considering.

Specifically, we are considering the potential of a number of possible options, including:

- Newcastle PS becoming a JK - Grade 4 dual track (English and French Immersion) school. The Pines Senior PS becomes a dual track Grade 5 – Grade 6 school. A dual track Grade 7-8 Intermediate School would be established at Clarke High School.
- Newcastle PS becoming a JK - Grade 3 dual track (English and French Immersion) school. The Pines Senior PS becomes a dual track Grade 4 – Grade 6 school. A dual track Grade 7-8 Intermediate School would be established at Clarke High School.
- Newcastle PS becoming a JK - Grade 4 dual track (English and French Immersion) school. The Pines Senior PS becomes a dual track Grade 5 – Grade 8 school.

We will be reviewing this information for parents and seeking input on possible solutions at the following meetings:

- December 6, 2022, 6:30 p.m., Clarke High School
- January 17, 2023, 6:30 p.m., Clarke High School

Trustees:

*Diane Lloyd
(Chairperson)*

*Angela Lloyd
(Vice-chairperson)*

*Cathy Abraham
Terry Brown
Cyndi Dickson
Kailee Dupuis
Rose Kitney
Jaime Klassen Jeninga
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*Rita Russo
Director of Education*

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Further information on the consultation process and related information are also captured in the attached Question and Answer document. The Background Study with information on enrolment projections and possible options is available on the dedicated Student Accommodation Review: Elementary Family of Schools – Clarke High School web page, accessible from the home page of www.kprschoools.ca.

We shared this information with members of the Board last evening, with a final decision tentatively scheduled, after consultation and feedback, for February 2023.

We appreciate your interest in helping us make the best possible choices for the students we serve and appreciate your continued support of our school communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sonal Gohil". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized 'S' at the beginning.

Sonal Gohil
Superintendent of Education