

Questions from the Brooklin French Study

November 4, 2020 | Public Meeting #2 | Virtual Event
41 People in Attendance

Can you confirm that the school utilization figures are actually inflated due to the fact that rooms of the school have been leased outside entities? Bill McClenny, St. John Paul II

The utilization calculation is based on the actual available classroom space. The leased childcare space has been removed from the loadable classroom space for the purposes of calculating the utilization rate.

When are the leases over should we need that additional space back? - Bill McClenny, St. John Paul II

The childcare space at St. Leo is purpose built and designated as childcare space only. St. John Paul II has a purpose built EarlyOn childcare centre. Should the school require the space back, we would need to review the lease, and repurpose it back to classroom space.

Why is there no option to move FI to St. Leo and Regular track students to St. John Paul II to avoid any need for portables and also maintain utilization at levels that would be more sustainable? Mike Orsag, St. Leo

Ministry mandates that we cannot move over 50% of the school population, so this will have to be done in phases.

Has there been any polling done to collect data on what percentage of parents would opt to have their children remain at their home schools in the English program versus transfer further from home potentially? Your modelling assumes 100% of the projected students will transfer. Alex, St. Leo

No, polling has not been done, but input from the community is being used to inform the process. We do model for 100%, as our past studies and data have not shown a significant exodus from moving a program.

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What would the cost of busing be for option number five? If busing is required it would seem an option five is not really a viable option. Bill McClenny, St. John Paul II

We will be investigating and addressing transportation costs once a decision has been made.

Is there a plan being considered for increased "regular track" enrolment for any option? Anonymous

Our enrolment projections in both the French and Regular Track programs have considered the development growth for Brooklin. Any future accommodation review of the Catholic schools in Brooklin would give consideration to increasing the regular track enrolment.

What are the Actual and Projected Utilization numbers for St. Bridget for Options 1 to 4? Sean Follwell, St. John Paul II

St. Bridget's utilization rate is not impacted in options 1-4. We will post the utilization rate of St. Bridget to the website for information.

Have you considered that some parents that have FI students may move their kids to regular track if they are forced to move them in order to keep them in FI? Amy Ferreira, St. John Paul II

In past Accommodation Reviews, the majority of the students remain in the French Immersion programs.

Once this is done - is there any plan to move the English students? Can you close St. Leo's by moving the French Immersion program this year and the English program next year? Anonymous, St. Leo

The Ministry of Education has put a hold on any school closures at this time. Currently the Board of Trustees has asked us to look only at the French Program and possibly in the future there will be another study to address the Regular track students, but not right now.

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Projecting out to 2030 and 11 portables at St. Bridget doesn't make sense. Why is this an option? Anonymous

As part of the committee mandate, we had to investigate all options that were proposed to the committee. Option 5 was brought up at the last public meeting, so we investigated that option.

I had trouble finding the actual link, and just joined. Can you provide a recap of the options be shared? Natalie Gadsen, St. Leo

A brief summary was recounted and the presentation has been posted on the Boundary Review website for all to see.

There is an after school (YMCA) program at St. Leo's. Is this being considered? Anonymous

Yes, everything is being considered and there are after school programs at the other schools as well

Will you be making the decision based upon feedback from parents or simply analysis of the data? Amy Ferreira, St. John Paul II

The committee will be reviewing all feedback and options and will return to the Board of Trustees with a recommendation. The final decision will be made by the Director once all options have been reviewed and a recommendation has been made by the Committee.

Is there any discussion of closing one of the three schools permanently? Anonymous

The Ministry of Education has put a hold on any school closures at this time.

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If the current accommodation review doesn't encompass the regular track, why doesn't the board wait until it has a broader, more comprehensive mandate before making these changes? Anonymous

The Board of Trustees has asked us to review the French Immersion Program. We don't have the Ministry approval to conduct a combined review, and the French program is more pressing. This is a step by step process.

Is it possible to enable the questions to appear for everyone in the Public Meeting? Currently it's blank. Anonymous

All questions and answers will be posted on the Boundary Review website.

Is there a minimum 'utilization' percentage required for a school to remain viable? Jason Emery, St. Leo Virtual

There is no minimum utilization rate for a school to remain viable. However, as part of an accommodation review the utilization rates are used to inform decisions on the viability of schools, boundaries and programs.

How does this process affect staffing and teachers? Michelle Courville, St. John Paul II

We will be addressing staffing once a decision has been made by the committee.

I have a child who I need to register shortly for FI. Do I register him at St Leo's (home school) and then he would be moved accordingly to which option was selected? What are the logistics surrounding new registrations for the 2021 school year? Tracy Forde, St. Leo Virtual

Registration for French Immersion will open from December 7-January 15. Choose the school that is currently your home school and if the program location changes for your child, you will be notified of the change.

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If my child is already cross boundary to attend FI at St. Leo, will that cross boundary be honoured so she can continue at St. Leo as a regular track student. Would transportation to St. Leo be offered to keep her in her school community? Mike Orsag, St. Leo

Considerations will be made on a case by case basis for students who are wanting to remain at their home school, if enough students are in the transportation area we may consider transportation as an option.

Is there a plan to have a Catholic High school in Brooklin? Anonymous, St. John Paul II

We do have a designated site planned for a future Brooklin Secondary School, but at this time the enrolment in Brooklin would not sustain a Secondary School.

Is there is a YMCA after school daycare at Pope John Paul as well? Anonymous, St. Leo

There is an EarlyOn childcare space at St. John Paul II.

I'm from St. Leo and love it very much. It would be so sad to have to uproot my children. Natalie Gadsden, St. Leo

Thank you for your feedback about St. Leo. We recognize that this study will have an impact on families.

What about younger siblings in Kindergarten? Would they be moved from St. Leo also? Natalie Gadsden, St. Leo

We do allow younger siblings to be in the same school as the older children in the same household.

Essentially will there be no more French at St. Leo? When? Natalie Gadsden, St. Leo

We do not know at this time if there will be French at St. Leo as a final recommendation has not been made. The implementation date is scheduled for September 2021.

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My kids attend the YMCA at St. Leo's. Is there an equivalent at St. JP? If not will you be busing our kids to the St. Leo program? Cindy Boyd, St. Leo

There is a before and after school childcare program at St. John Paul II (EarlyOn)

If the option opens in a few years to move students again, is it possible the French students would move again? Jason Emery, St. Leo (Virtual)

The intent of the study is not to have the French Immersion students move again in the future. We are hoping that this study and the recommendation that comes from it will allow for 3 Brooklin Schools with sustainable programs.

To clarify, we are at St Leo's, but is there a YMCA program or equivalent at the other schools? Siobhan Quin – St. Leo

St. Leo currently has a full service childcare and a before and after school program.

St. John Paul II currently has a before and after school program, and an EarlyOn childcare centre.

When can we expect your final decision? Tracee King, St. Leo

We will bring the final recommendation from the committee to the Board of Trustees at the December 2020 Board Meeting.

Is there consideration for allowing students who may have dropped FI, coming back in future enrolment? Heath Chrystall, St. Leo

Unfortunately, if a student is removed from the FI Program, they cannot return as they require a minimum amount of instructional hours.

Would younger siblings in kindergarten also be moved? Natalie Gadsden, St. Leo

We do allow younger siblings to be in the same school as the older children in the same household.

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What are you basing your projection percentages for 2025 and 2030? Anonymous

They are based on past enrolment trends and future development.

What type of information from parents is helpful? Natalie Gadsden, St. Leo

Any and all comments will be reviewed and are helpful in making the decision. The list of questions provided here, and the past list of questions that have been posted to the website give a broad range of the types of questions that are helpful.

The total FI capacity for 2022 for Option 2 does not equal Options 1 and 3 (Option 1-209, Option 3-209, Option 2-185, Option 4-202) Are there reasons for the differences? Sean Follwell, St. John Paul II

The reason for the differences is that Options 2 and 4 are reflective of the phasing out of the Grade 7 and 8 students from the respective schools.

For emailing is there a keyword for subject line? Heath Chrystall, St. Leo

Please use the keyword Brooklin French Immersion Study in the Subject Line for emails

Will one of these options be implemented or is there still a possibility that there will be no changes? Mike German, St. Leo

The purpose of the study approved by the Board of Trustees is to review various options because the program was no longer sustainable in its current format. Therefore, the committee must make a recommendation(s) to the Board of Trustees for a final decision.