

Presentation to Rainbow District School Board

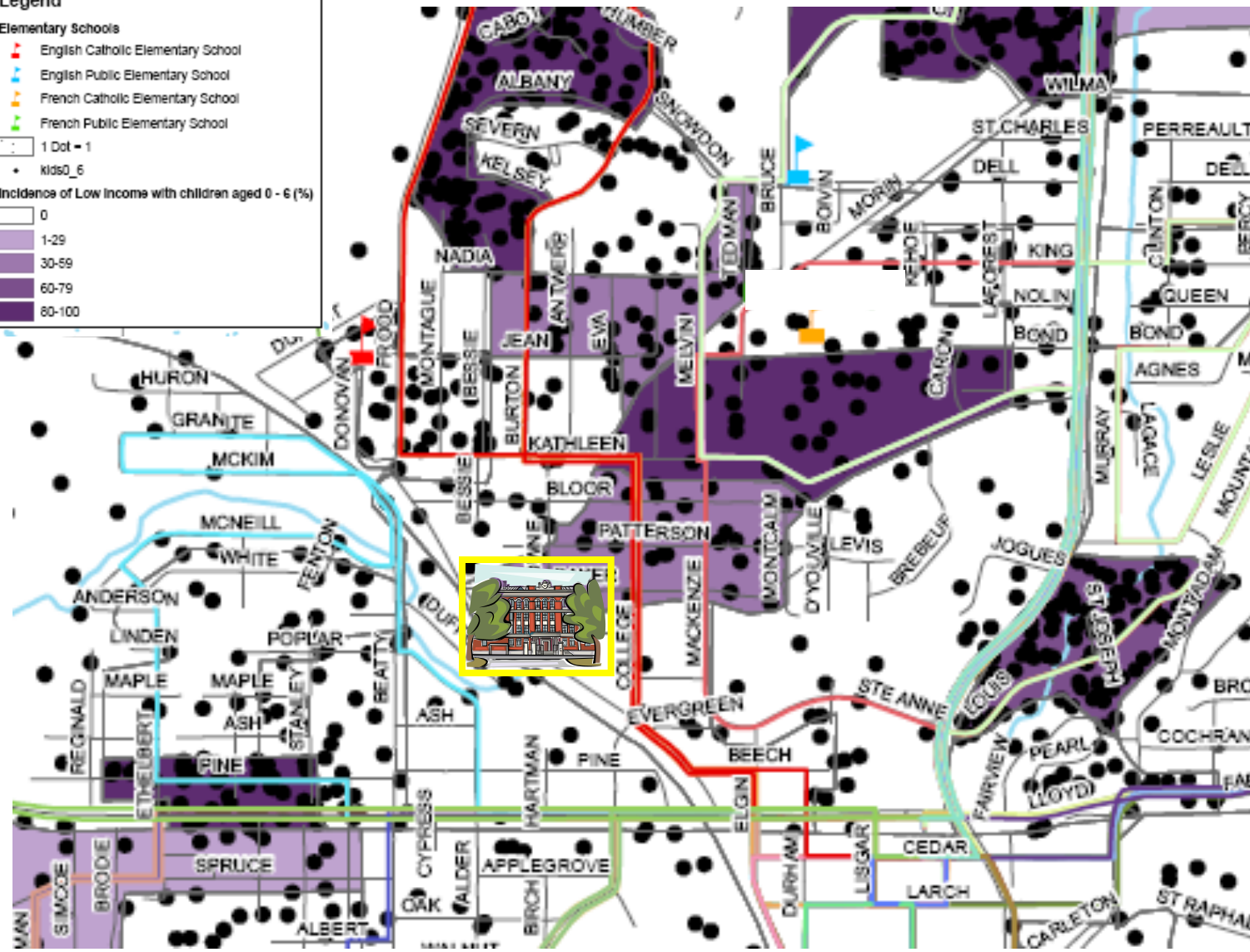
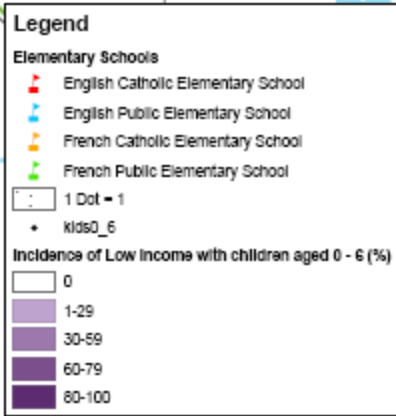
*Maintaining opportunities for children and
families in Downtown/Flour Mill/Donovan*

Lansdowne Public School Council

October 25th, 2011

Our Neighbourhood

- **A diverse neighbourhood:** 40% of residents speak English and French; 12% report Aboriginal identity (6% in CGS).
- **A challenged neighbourhood:** 31% lone parent families (17% in CGS); 20%-52% children under LICO (12% in CGS); 14% unemployment (8% in CGS)
- **A transitional neighbourhood:** 52% changed addresses in the last 5 years (36% in CGS)
- **A changing neighbourhood:** New Downtown Plan, School of Architecture and apartment developments will mean more people will be living downtown.



Our School

- **A school culture that supports students and families:**
Transportation, child care and food offered for school events, low/no field trip costs/activity fees, snack program, School Council family nights, limited fundraising campaigns, an inclusive culture that recognizes families' realities and "fills in the gaps"
- **A community that supports students and families :**
Licensed Child Care, Best Start Hub, Breakfast Club, BBBF Afterschool and Summer, Frontier College, Family Dinners, Library, Police Initiatives, NOAH, Priority School for Health Unit, Child and Family Centre and Ministry of Ed.
- **The only school in Sudbury that offers both French Immersion and Ojibwe.**
- **Committed, skilled staff:**
Teachers stay for a long time, are skilled at differentiated teaching- this is vital for split grade classes, as well as supporting kids with special needs

Enrollment at Lansdowne

- Enrollment in FI is on the rise:

2009-10	10 children enrolled
2010-11	17 children enrolled
2011-12	24 children enrolled
- Excluding the grade 7/8 cohort (QE students) the market share of FI is 36.5% (compared to 35% at Northeastern)
- School data shows that loss of FI students is due to moving , not transferring to Regular program.

Parent Survey Results

- % who Agree or Strongly Agree
 - French Immersion will provide better opportunities for my child- 89%
 - I/we are committed to sticking with FI- 94%
 - It would be difficult for me/us to continue to be involved- 88%
 - The supports at Lansdowne make it easier for us as a family- 88%
 - It is important to have the opportunity for my children to learn both French and Ojibwe- 59%
- One or both parents grew up speaking French in 41% of families
- Families feel their kids do just as well academically, socially and have more opportunities in a triple grade class.

Why keep FI at Lansdowne?

1. If children have to go outside the community, they will lose the high quality supports that are provided at Lansdowne.
2. Many parents will not be able to maintain their connection with school if their children's school is outside the community.
3. Children from First Nation backgrounds need to have equal opportunity to choose FI without losing Ojibwe language and culture.
4. Enrollment at lower grades has been steady. Lower enrollments in higher grades is due to the transitional nature of the community as families move away for better opportunities- it is not a lack of interest in FI.
5. Lansdowne needs to remain a viable, vibrant school to meet future community needs as downtown Sudbury evolves over the next several years.
6. Lansdowne School is a model of how a school can meet the needs of its students, families and the community. They have a lot to share with other schools both in our community and in other communities.

What our parents say...

- “The school also has programs for the students that are free which helps us parents out that don't have the money for it, since in this area not too many parents do!”
- “Students at Lansdowne have the opportunity to learn or at the very least, be exposed on a regular basis to the languages and cultures of French, Ojibwe and English and our family nights promote awareness and understanding of other cultures representative of this multicultural neighbourhood and community.”
- “I have no vehicle so going to another school for the French program would have been much harder for me to play an active role (going to open houses, interviews etc.) because of transportation and being on a fixed income.”

What our parents say....

- “Now that the Hub is on site I have the opportunity to bring my youngest child there, stop in and visit my son's class and/or volunteer my time and get my daughter exposed to and used to positive experiences at the school. It is a 15 minute walk and that has allowed us to participate in Hub activities, field trips, family nights without worries of transportation, etc”
- “I also do not see a problem with the split grade classes, my son is in a 2/3 split and his teacher does a wonderful job as far as I’m concerned.. our wonderful teachers at Lansdowne and they deserve much more credit...”
- “As a family we moved out of housing, however due to the experiences we had at Lansdowne we decided to move within the school boundaries so that my children could still attend Lansdowne & receive the great support from the amazing teachers & programs that Lansdowne offers us.”

Our Proposal

Lansdowne School Council and our community partners propose that Rainbow School Board work to find a creative solution which will allow a high quality French Immersion Program to remain in the Downtown/Flour Mill/Donovan neighbourhood.

We are committed to working with the School Board to come up with a solution which will continue to provide the best opportunities for our children, our families and our community.