

George Vanier Public School Council

After careful consideration of the recommendations that the Rainbow District School Board Administrative Council made to the trustees, our parent council has the following concerns:

-The recommendation to move Grade 7 and 8 students to Lively High School does not support a positive bilingual learning environment for the French Immersion students. The fact that the high school is unable to offer a French Immersion program for these students to advance to means they will be isolated in their program and not have the opportunity to fully develop their French language skills. **There is a real fear that without a more vibrant French cultural environment these students will lose interest in the program and not continue at the secondary level.** By grade 7, these students have invested 8 years in this program and it would be irresponsible of the Board to put their efforts at risk. We would refer you to the leading quote on the Board's "Say Oui" pamphlet and ask if this move supports the Government's national objective to double the proportion of secondary school graduates with a functional knowledge of their second official language by 2013?

-The recommendation to build a new school has our support however if a new school is being constructed it needs to house all elementary school council students, including Grades 7 and 8.

-It appears that the efforts to save the high school are being implemented at the expense of the elementary school children's needs, i.e. moving Grades 7 and 8 to the high school.

-The parent council of George Vanier Public School strongly recommends status quo until a new school is built which means all students JK-Grade 8 remain at the current site.

-School bussing is of grave concern to this council and our position is that no ride should exceed 30 minutes for an elementary school child.

-If the high school is to remain in our community a strategy needs to be developed to increase enrollment to ensure its long term sustainability.

We appreciate your time and attention to our concerns. **It is our expectation that each will be adequately addressed in your future deliberations.**

Kelly Wilson