



KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Newcastle Public School
Accommodation Planning**

Despite adding 11 portables to the property, Newcastle PS will no longer be able to accommodate the expected enrollment in its current JK-6 configuration. Additionally, the current enrollment has begun to have an impact on the availability of other facilities within the school (e.g., gymnasium, library).

As a result of these enrolment pressures, senior administration is proposing that effective September 2022 Newcastle PS will become a JK-5 dual track (English and French Immersion) school while The Pines Senior Public School will expand to become a dual track Grade 6-8 Intermediate School. This proposal will be brought to Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board Trustees at the February 22, 2022 Regular Board meeting.

If approved, a transition committee involving students, families and staff will be established at Newcastle PS to support transition planning and a variety of transition activities as part of this change, including tours of the new school and meeting with teachers and staff. We will also be seeking input from all students/families next year regarding our long-term accommodation plan for Newcastle PS.

Please find below some common questions that have been shared by school community parents, and our answers in response. We will continue to update this document as needed.

Question	Answer
<p>Is the Ministry of Education aware of the overcrowding?</p>	<p>Yes, the Ministry is always aware of school board enrolment and capacity on a school-by-school basis. The Ministry of Education maintains a database (School Facility Information System SFIS) that includes information on all school buildings including how many students can be accommodated in a school building and how many students are actually attending. To accommodate changing demographics and the associated enrolment growth or shrinkage, school boards proactively forecast enrolment for the immediate year as well as 5 and 10 year windows to facilitate long-term planning. Annually, Planning and Facility management staff review appropriate space utilization in buildings with school administration and consider the use of portable buildings or boundary reviews as required. In areas of active growth and development where the home school is over capacity, the board can designate 'holding areas'. In these</p>

	<p>cases, students who move into a designated holding area are redirected to a school that has room as opposed to the home school until such time as a new school is funded. New schools and additions are funded by the Ministry when capital is made available and a business case from the school board demonstrates sufficient need. There are always far more requests than there is capital available and the Ministry applies a very rigid framework of criteria to consider these requests.</p>
<p>Was a proposal submitted for a new school?</p>	<p>Since 2014, we have had regular annual meetings with Ministry of Education staff to discuss funding for new pupil places along the Highway 115 corridor.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education position has been that there remains greater student capacity in the four area schools (Newcastle PS, The Pines Senior PS, Clarke High School and Orono PS) than current students. Specifically, 1,753 available student seats with approximately 1,395 students.</p> <p>At the same time, since 2017, there have been only two opportunities for capital funding towards a new school. Our initial request for funding for a new school in Bowmanville was unsuccessful.</p> <p>In the most recent round of submissions, we have presented a business case that schools on the Highway 115 corridor do not possess sufficient excess capacity to manage students from Bowmanville in addition to accommodating Newcastle students, over the coming 5-year period.</p> <p>NOTE: As of February 4, 2022 the Ministry of Education has invited school boards to apply for capital funding, and we will be submitting a proposal for a new school in the Newcastle PS catchment area.</p>
<p>I am concerned that after the new school is decided upon the board will be moving the same kids around again.</p>	<p>We currently have ownership of 19 acres of land in north Newcastle designated for expected future growth.</p> <p>In the event that the school board receives funding for a new school, the timeframe to design and build can be 18-24 months from the date funding is awarded.</p> <p>We currently have no indication that funding is forthcoming to build a new school in the Newcastle</p>

	<p>area. Our current estimate is that the earliest any new school or alternative solution could potentially be available is September 2025.</p>								
<p>Does the Board have current stats on how many students currently travel from Newcastle to BHS?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Our current data indicates the following number of students are attending Bowmanville Highschool:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newcastle PS Catchment - 100 students, 33 of which are FI • Orono PS Catchment - 44 students, 12 of which are FI 								
<p>With the Board no longer allowing new students to cross boundaries into Bowmanville, will students currently enrolled in high school be able to finish their time at BHS.</p>	<p>This is incorrect. We do allow students in the Clarke HS catchment area to attend BHS.</p> <p>Our policy allows that, once allowed admission to their desired school, out-of-boundary students are considered part of that school enrolment on a go-forward basis and allowed to complete their studies at the school.</p>								
<p>Have there been discussions on keeping NPS as an all-English school and go back to sending people who need their kids to be in French Immersion to Bowmanville, or perhaps The Pines, thus freeing up room to keep the Grade 6's at the school for the extra year of maturing before sending them in with older peers?</p>	<p>The Duke of Cambridge is already overcapacity with SK-5 (as of Sept 2022) students at Newcastle PS.</p>								
<p>Why can we not make The Pines a K-8 French Immersion school and have Newcastle Public School a K-8 English school?</p>	<p>According to preliminary 2021-22 enrolment data, there are 810 students at Newcastle, of which 170 students are enrolled in FI. We looked at a scenario wherein Newcastle would become an English only school and The Pine's would become a K-8 FI school. We would anticipate the following enrolment:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="719 1766 1240 1877"> <thead> <tr> <th>School</th> <th>OTG</th> <th>2022-23</th> <th>2026-27</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	School	OTG	2022-23	2026-27				
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<p>Construction has begun on two new subdivisions with over 2100 homes and three condominium apartments with 200+ units. Has this been taken into account with the numbers?</p>	<p>Yes, growth forecasts are updated annually to reflect all growth and development and our planning department is very connected to the municipality and region with respect to development plans.</p> <p>There remains sufficient space available to accommodate the number of students for the near term.</p>								
<p>I am worried about my child riding the bus with high school students as well as driving them out on highway 115.</p>	<p>Our transportation consortium transports over 20,000 students and 600 routes daily through highways and rural routes and has an exceptional safety record. As well, many of our routes include students from both the elementary and secondary stream. Transition plans would include an opportunity for students to experience the bus ride and participate in orientation as a new rider.</p>								
<p>What environmental scans have been done at NPS to ensure there are no other accommodations that can be made at the school that would allow the Grade 6 program to stay?</p>	<p>As noted above, our planning staff reviews current and future enrolment projections on an ongoing basis. With a limited footprint at Newcastle PS, we believe that managing accommodation pressure in this manner is the best available option for our students and each of the school communities impacted by this change.</p>								
<p>What happens to parents who have before and after school care needs?</p>	<p>We will be working with the before and after care program at NPS to see if Gr. 6 students can remain in the program next year.</p>								
<p>One of my main issues is the location of The Pines Senior Public School (and for that matter the only high school serving Newcastle - Clarke High School). This is not a suitable location for young children of a grade 6 age and right off the highway. Without being able to walk and buses being cancelled this does not seem to be a good option.</p>	<p>We appreciate this concern, and school staff are and will remain very diligent in reviewing safety practices with students at The Pines Senior Public School on a regular basis.</p> <p>We will also be implementing an extended orientation program in the coming months to support a successful transition of new students to The Pines Senior Public School.</p>								

<p>Boundaries need to be reviewed and enforced and course offerings need to be offered at Clarke. Families struggle with deciding on sending their children to Clarke or BHS where there is access to programs. This is not equitable for families in Newcastle to have to get their children to Bowmanville to get the programs they want.</p> <p>Some families are not able to do this. Please look at these inequities among the local high schools.</p>	<p>To address this issue, we have implemented the provision of transportation to any student from the Clarke catchment area wishing to attend Bowmanville HS or Clarington Central SS.</p> <p>We instituted this measure a number of years ago to provide access to a broader range of programs for students in this community.</p>
<p>How many students travel from Newcastle to Bowmanville HS and St. Stephen's? This is crucial information. Both schools have portables.</p>	<p>Our 2020-21 data set shows the following number of students are attending Bowmanville Highschool:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newcastle PS Catchment - 100 students, 33 of which are FI• Orono PS Catchment - 44 students, 12 of which are FI
<p>Newcastle really needs another elementary and secondary high school as we believe Clarington is the largest development charge contributor to KPRDSB funds at this time.</p>	<p>As noted, the board owns a 19 acre property in Newcastle to accommodate future growth. The Ministry of Education will not fund a new build or addition based on future growth prospects but rather looks at actual enrolment vs available space within a school grouping. The Clarke family of schools has 1,753 spaces for 1,395 students. Until we can demonstrate that available space has been utilized or consider reducing available space through an accommodation review process, we will not receive funds to add capacity.</p>
<p>I am concerned that my Gr. 6 child will be in a school with Gr. 7&8 students.</p>	<p>The majority of the elementary schools in our board have Kindergarten to Grade 8 school structures, with students in Grade 6,7, and 8 sharing hall space, common rooms (e.g., library) and yard space in a positive and collaborative manner.</p>

<p>Will the students at NPS be offered the same opportunities for sports that they would have had to play or compete against other schools?</p>	<p>KPRDSB elementary schools offer junior and intermediate level sports. As with all K-8 schools, sports/teams will be dependent on student interest, gym space and the availability of staff to volunteer their time to organize/coach.</p>
<p>Is there adequate and appropriate play space for Grade 6's at The Pines?</p>	<p>Yes, there is adequate play space for Grade 6 students. Facility staff will meet with school administrators, the Newcastle PS transition committee, and parent council to discuss further options.</p>