

ONLINE FEEDBACK RECEIVED CLARKE ELEMENTARY FAMILY OF SCHOOLS ACCOMMODATION PLANNING

OPTION A is to remain status quo and make no changes. What are the pros/benefits of this option?

- Daycare onsite NPS
- Status quo will not work. There is extreme overcrowding at NPS, basically no students at Clarke and an odd imbalance at the Pines.
- The way it remains, students will always be shipped to Bowmanville High School, because the lack of programming and funding in Clarke is appalling.
- No more transitions for grade 6 students who already transitioned this year.
- Bussing is already an issue so you are not adding walkers you might walk to Newcastle onto a bus.
- Force all high school kids to attend Clarke. If you increase enrollment at Clarke, it will have ability to offer more programming and force provincial government to build a new elementary school
- Staying the same is the most ideal, changes like these are very confusing for some children. Where most looked forward to being at NPS until grade 6.
- There are no benefits.
- Pros younger students are separated and in a location which does not require busing for local students, and they are not in close proximity to older high school students
- The benefit of this option is that my young children are still able to WALK to school and stay in the before and after care which we need in a household of two working parents. These are HUGE concerns for me.
- Band-Aid solution which saves the board and government money
- That kids have consistency and don't have to be anxious about whether they are switching schools or not.
- Kids are in a school they SHOULD be at (elementary)
- Less stress for the students just adapted to a new format just last year.
- Kids will not be jostled around multiple schools to complete their education journey.
- Less possible psychological and/or anxiety with these changes in school facilities
- Teachers in the school community have the opportunity to build rapport with the students and can more easily identify needs of students and be more successful in meeting those needs, hopefully less students fall through the cracks.
- IEPs will remain consistent and those with any needs won't risk getting lost with all the changing environments and in teachers. Often routine and consistency are imperative in the success of those with different abilities.
- This is a bandaid approach, unless a new school is built with the continuously expanding
- This is not a realistic option.
- You should stop providing bussing to Bowmanville High School in order to utilize Clarke High School to its potential.

- Every parent I talk to would much prefer this but you are saying this is not an option? What about more portables lined up behind those already there, is there room for more facing the soccer field?
- Less change for the children.
- This is my vote. I do not feel comfortable sending my children to Pines or Clarke any earlier than they are already sent there. My eldest son just started JK this year and these proposed changes are making me feel very uncomfortable.
- I feel that none of these options respond to the incredible amount of growth our community has had. We are already past capacity. Why are there no plans to build additional elementary schools for Newcastle?
- I think that children should be able to stay in a community school as long as possible. Changing them over to a school on the highway cut off from the community is not ideal for kids this young and alternatives or new schools should be looked at instead of funneling them into an underfunded old school.
- We love this school and see so much potential for Clarke to grow and integration may seem like it. However, I know some of the grade 9's and 10's you already have are threatening to leave if integration happens this will drop the percentage or keep the percentage the same as is. I love the school and what it stands for. It is a smaller school and I love that my child is not just a number but making changes means also that my child will lose friends and if classes decrease then the opportunities offered to them will be impacted as well! Pls think it through - every school matters and I do not want to be forced to put my child to BHS because of the impact of these changes because that's what will happen to similar families like ours.
- Pines just like their sibling did in the previous year for grade 6.
- It would mean that my older disabled child would be able to continue along in the Pines with their similar biological age group and feel comfortable in a smaller school they are just starting to get used to.
- Pros are that it won't impact childcare as much for families and children will stay at elementary school longer.
- We cannot keep option A because Newcastle P.S cannot accommodate that many students.
- I attended this meeting in person and participated in each of these round table discussions. I would like to bring it to your attention that the next meeting scheduled for Jan 17 occurs on the same day and time as the Parent Info Night for BHS. Please consider changing the second Clarke Family Schools meeting to accommodate those families who need to attend both meetings for their children.
- the safety of younger children is more protected. This includes bussing, children being around the same developmental age and having older peers to display behaviour to younger children, children being in classrooms that are not set up for rotary schooling.
- You should be building another elementary school in north Newcastle to accommodate the current population and the copious amounts of kids that are going to be moving into the new developments that are currently being built. The strategy of annually bumping a grade to the Pines isn't going to be a long-term solution to your problem of over-population. The location of the Pines is also awful for any school, let alone an elementary school. No one wants to bus their young children to an out-of-neighborhood school beside the highway and behind a gas station. The better solution at the moment is to maintain stability and to keep the kids at NPS, even if it means you have to add more portables.
- We are walking distance to NPS and feel like the unique, close-knit neighbourhood feel of our community would be compromised if kids as young as 8/9 are bussed away from a school that we moved in proximity to deliberately to give our kids the experience of walking to school and

seeing their classmates in the neighbourhood. In other neighbourhoods like Gracefields, Kendal, Newtonville and the Port, people purchased their home with the expectation of their kids being bussed. There should be an obligation to the people who live close enough to walk to preserve the community as it is.

- not a big change for the kids
- keep things consistent
- kids don't have to move schools before high school
- don't have to attend school off of Hwy 115 at such a young age
- students will be able to stay at the same school as their younger siblings making before and after school care easier for families

What are the cons/negatives of OPTION A?

- NPS is overcrowded. Kids often complain of having to wait in line just to use the washroom.
- Overcrowding in all schools with the exception of Clarke.
- Overcrowding
- NPS is far too overcrowded
- The school remains overloaded and there are no resources available for students who are struggling. Part of this burden is making the school dual track and allowing out of area students to attend a school that was already over capacity.
- The school boards desire to make the school dual track has hindered students who require extra help, as it has forced the school to be even more over capacity than it already was and has reduced the number of resources available to students.
- I am concerned that my kids are not getting the library/gym/music time that they should be getting because there are not enough time/resources to provide it for the numerous classes at NPS. These are not great concerns to me as we are an active family and we have the means to put our kids into extracurricular activities, but I know that not all families feel the same.
- Does not address the physical locational issues of Clark HS & The Pines. Schools need to be accessible by other means than bus or car drop off.
- The location of this school has been the main reason why enrollment is at quarter capacity.
- All three options presented have my family strongly looking at switching to the catholic education system. This had never been considered in my family until learning about the issues of The Pines and Clark HS.
- Newcastle public school has been a welcoming place where my kids love to go each day.
- I want my kids to have a normal education experience full of extra-curricular and curricular opportunities that these options cannot provide.
- We're already overpopulated
- Not enough washrooms
- Teams against other schools are not equitable.
- Students don't get to graduate the same way most others in the province do.
- Sounds like a change is inevitable, I guess why wait?
- Overcrowding at nps and zero students at clarke
- The school is jam packed.
- NPS becoming too overcrowded. Obviously, this is an issue with all of the new homes being built in the community. However, I feel that we need a new elementary school in that area. Rather than send young kids to an old school on the side of a highway, build a new school to house all the new families!!!

- The above stated reason are my pros and cons together
- This year has been rocky with staffing issues (missing a grade 6 teacher, no vice principal to back up the principal when away so the SERT was doing that) and lack of resources for the grade 6s such as library books at their level, sports equipment, yard duty teacher to student ratio not the same as NPS was, etc. Also awkward for sports teams as only the grade 6s for selection making the teams small with very few subs.
- No childcare available on site for the kids under the age of 12.
- Cons are the school is at max capacity and therefore families can't enjoy attending awards assemblies, concerts, any school events.
- I as a parent did not make arrangements as per daycare for this to happen. With displacing so many students far away from their siblings and without care I would like the school board to have a plan before they proceed. As the people deciding the change you should look at all perspectives but most of all the safety and wellbeing of the children being moved.
- There is not enough space to accommodate all ages
- Clarke high school will continue to experience low enrolment as there are not as many opportunities in courses and little ability to provide physical accommodations.
- You will need to order more portables and perhaps stagger recesses to accommodate more students.
- Adding portables and port-a-packs isn't an ideal long-term solution but would be fine in the interim if another elementary school was being built to accommodate the influx of kids. Alternatively, they could keep NPS as an English school and move the FI program to The Pines or elsewhere.
- high attendance numbers
- not enough room
- overflowing class sizes
- fewer resources for students
- fewer students will be able to access professional services such as psychological and speech-language assessments, mental health supports
- Number of portables and access to toilets
- Managing multiple schools (bell times)
- Before and after care at the Pines (not on site)
- More portables required at NPS and The Pines
- Access to gym and library (NPS) becomes more limited
- We'll never get a new school because of Clark's capacity???? Spaces for staff - lunch room, parking (NPS)
- Flex spaces for students (NPS)
- Band aid salutation - not sustainable Busing concerns (overcrowding) 3 to a seat
- Bus doesn't come No space on bus
- Don't like the grade 4s in school beside high school
- Possibly more portables
- Status quo will not help increase utilization
- Location off 115
- No before and after school programs.

Do you have any questions or wonderings about OPTION A?

- Kids sports will be affected. Province wide sports are 4-6 and 7/8. This plan will not allow grade 4s to utilize sports. Grade 7/8 shouldn't be at same school as high school. They are too young.
- Grade 7/8 at high school will further drive more high school kids into Bowmanville. Effectively making 3 elementary schools and forcing closure of high school.
- Bussing is already a fiasco. At least currently those kids forced to mandatory bussing are old enough to stay home alone. Putting younger kids on a forced bus school creates more problems for childcare and bus shortages as more kids would require bussing.
- Junior students deserve playgrounds.
- No playgrounds at the Pines.
- French program at elementary school would become inadequate as there would be not enough kids requiring French to sustain
- permanent French teachers

OPTION B - Newcastle PS becomes JK-Grade 4 dual track (English & French Immersion). The Pines Senior PS becomes a dual track Grade 5-6 school. A dual track Grade 7-8 Intermediate is established at Clarke HS. What are the pros/benefits of this option?

- I think at this point if the pines can fit 5-8 that would be beneficial. However if not then this idea works. The potential of bringing more funds to Clarke is a bonus as well.
- This still causes all 9-12 to leave the area.
- With only the grade 5's going to the Pines less a concern for safety with the 115
- No benefits only cons. Kids sports will be affected. Province wide sports are 4-6 and 7/8. This plan will not allow grade 4s to utilize sports. Grade 7/8 shouldn't be at the same school as high school. They are too young.
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- Bussing is already a fiasco. At least currently those kids forced to mandatory bussing are old enough to stay home alone. Putting younger kids on a forced bus school creates more problems for childcare and bus shortages as more kids would require bussing.
- Junior students deserve playgrounds.
- No playgrounds at the Pines.
- French program at elementary school would become inadequate as there would be not enough kids requiring French to sustain permanent french teachers
- I do not like this option.
- This seems to be the most viable. All schools using space appropriately.
- None. I don't believe students as young as grade 5 should be moved to a school designed specifically for intermediate students, and that is in such close proximity to the high school.
- This option seemed to keep all three buildings at a manageable capacity...to me seems like the best choice.

- My grade 4 student will stay in a school within walking distance to home and have before and after care as they are not old enough to stay home by themselves! HUGE concern for two working parents.
- Band-Aid solution which saves the board and government money
- There are not any. It's a really bad idea.
- I don't personally see benefits to this one. It's my least favourite option.
- None- I do not think grade 7-8 kids should be placed in a school with high school aged children.
- This is the only option that makes sense. You will just need to figure out a before and after program option for these students.
- Grade 5 and 6 are still "junior level" and not mixed with Clarke at all. The kids are a little older going to the pines in grade 5.. again I don't like this option with the location of the pines and proximity to the high school and 115.
- 11/12 year olds with 17/18 year olds.
- I'm not sure that 11- and 12-year-olds have the emotional and social maturity to handle what they will be exposed to in high school.
- Where are the studies that show that this is a good idea in any way for these kids? I have been looking, and I cannot find any research to indicate that this is beneficial to our children. I have found studies (from 1987 through to 2012, some of which I will refer to in this comment), that say this is in fact, not beneficial to our children.
For boys, the study found "similar negative effects in extracurricular participation and grades." The authors of this study concluded "that the relatively protected elementary school setting made the entry into adolescence less stressful for both boys and girls."
- In some schools where the 7 – 12 configuration has been implemented there are 2 VP's, one for the younger grades and one for the older grades?
- Works for a couple years
- Less crowded.
- We love this school and see so much potential for Clarke to grow and integration may seem like it. However I know some of the grade 9's and 10's you already have are threatening to leave if integration happens this will drop the percentage or keep the percentage the same as is ... I love the school and what it stands for. It is a smaller school and I love that my child is not just a number but making changes means also that my child will Lose friends and if classes decrease then the opportunities offered to them will be impacted as well ! Pls think it through - every school matters and I do not want to be forced to put my child to BHS because of the impact of these changes because that's what will happen to similar families like ours
- More room at NPS
- It's a quick fix.
- The developmental ages of children are taken into account
- There is option to continue dual track to 7-8
- I don't see a benefit at all with this option

What are the cons/negatives of OPTION B?

- Busing issues. If you are going to ship more children out to 100% bussed schools, we need to figure out a more stable busing solution.
- The students are shipped out of area still, and lack of funding remains. Bowmanville, Newcastle and Orono will only continue to grow.

- Schools are across divisions. (4's remain at Newcastle for sport teams) grade 5 should be moved to a school designed specifically for intermediate students, and that is in such close proximity to the high school.
- This is also forcing local parents to rely on busing to and from school for a greater period of time when busing is already an issue. Buses are canceled regularly and on short notice as it is. Adding the need for more busing for more families puts added stress on families trying to get their children to school.
- While Clarke is underutilized now, at some point this mass amount of children we are trying to accommodate (rather than just building a new school in the newer subdivision) will need to attend high school and the high school in Bowmanville is already overloaded and will eventually stop enrollment for out of area students. This will mean there will be a future issue in
- I do not want my 12 year old in a high school.
- You will lose high school students if you don't keep the high school a high school.
- Does not address the physical locational issues of Clark HS. & The Pines. Schools need to be accessible by other means than bus or car drop off.
- The location of this school has been the main reason why enrollment is at quarter capacity.
- All three options presented have my family strongly looking at switching to the catholic education system. This had never been considered in my family until learning about the issues of The Pines and Clark HS.
- Newcastle public school has been a welcoming place where my kids love to go each day.
- I want my kids to have a normal education experience full of extracurricular and curricular opportunities that these options cannot provide.
- Transportation is so inconsistent. Will the youngest students take priority when it comes to transportation?
- There is a huge difference between grade 7s and 12s and Grade 7s should not be exposed to Grade 12 issues and conflicts.
- Pines does not have the resources, equipment and security to host 5-6s. How much will it cost to retrofit Clark and Pines to accommodate a new age group?
- -Three dual track schools, doesn't make sense.
- Not a fan of having elementary kids in a high school I would prefer it to be more of a middle school structure with as many grades as necessary to avoid contact with the high school until they are of high school age.
- Again kids will be juggled between three separate schools during their education.
- Leaves more room for kids with needs to be lost or missed in the system
- No consistency in school/teachers that help kids feel secure and succeed
- The maturity level between grade 7- 8 and high school students is substantial and it is harmful to expect a 12/13 child to adjust to a high school atmosphere with high school aged kids.
- Before and after care options.
- 11/12 year olds with 17/18 year olds.
- I'm not sure that 11 and 12 year-olds have the emotional and social maturity to handle what they will be exposed to in high school.
- Where are the studies that show that this is a good idea in any way for these kids? I have been looking, and I cannot find any research to indicate that this is beneficial to our children. I have found studies (from 1987 through to 2012, some of which I will refer to in this comment), that say this is in fact, not beneficial to our children. For boys, the study found "similar negative effects in extracurricular participation and grades." The authors of this study concluded "that the relatively protected elementary school setting made the entry into adolescence less stressful for both boys and girls."

- In some schools where the 7 – 12 configuration has been implemented there are 2 VP's, one for the younger grades and one for the older grades?
- Elementary school is divided into primary and juniors and this is splitting up the juniors
- The kids moving up to grade six will have to change schools twice in two years.
- Children being sent to a high school where they will be exposed to things much too old for them (drinking, drugs, sex, etc.) AND that school being on the side of a busy highway.
- Above are the pros and cons for the above. I would rather schools stay as they are !
- My children would both have to change schools frequently. Only spending 1 year in the Pines.
- My disabled child who suffers from anxiety would have to transition again. This year was very difficult for them transitioning to the Pines and now you want to immediately transition them to Clarke.
- I would have to spend a lot of time with the new school Clarke SERT to ensure the programs were in place to ensure success for my child and the school working through their requirements for the disability accommodations. I just went through this with the Pines this year.
- I would have a child who is biologically 11, but emotionally and socially only 5 attending a high school.
- No childcare available on site for the children under the age of 12.
- This greatly impacts families with childcare being available for before and after school care, families who work and can't get kids to bus stop. Families with multiple children in both schools yet close in age and all require before and after care.
- It is not developmentally appropriate for high school students to be in the same school as elementary. This is why students from Newcastle choose to go to Bowmanville for high school and the number of students choosing to do so will grow. Why not just make Clarke an elementary school and bus all high school to Bowmanville. Issues exist with bussing being shared with elementary and high school students at Clarke and Pines. Our children in elementary school are exposed to language, actions and bullying from the high school students on the bus. I cannot imagine how this will impact the children in the same school.
- It doesn't solve the long-term problem. Let's face it, the older the students are the less displaced they will feel. I am uncomfortable with my child being exposed to senior students, let alone on the bus. As per the meeting you did not have a plan even for bussing.
- If you want to make this move all things need to be figured out.
- Safety - as a student who attended both Clarke and Pines I would never allow my child at that age to attend that school. The bussing lines up to the road, there are not enough enclosed spaces, it is surrounded by active farming fields (kids do sneak away in harvesting season even with teachers on duty, I know, I've seen it) - these concerns are shared by other parents and there may be further drop in enrolment.
- The schools are not set up for an elementary learning setting. Both schools are built for a rotary system and children are just a little too young for this.
- You will have grade sevens and eights mingling with high schoolers before they are mature enough to do so. If you have a drug dealer in high school, you will be giving them access to younger customers.
- bus to school for grade 5/6 as I would still have to get my other younger kid to NPS; families thought they had until after grade 6 but that decision was taken from us. Already shifting the sixth grade students is not ideal and not what I expected when we moved here - again, within walking distance by intention - knowing our individual kids and what's best for them. I figured if things changed in the community with new housing going in, the kids in the new neighbourhoods would be impacted but that the fact that we lived in such close proximity would ensure our kids could attend NPS as originally planned decades ago.

- The idea of kids in just 5/6 going to a separate school instead of being with other younger grades also takes away valuable chances for increased responsibility in activities such as lunchroom monitor, helping with school clubs and teams, and other
- way to much moving around for the kids
- any kid that struggles with change or anxiety or anything is going to majorly struggle with all of the moves
- families with multiple children are going to struggle with having their kids in so many different schools
- 7/8s should not be in the high school
- bussing situations of having grade 4's on the same bus as grade 12s
- I've heard from someone in the neighbourhood that her daughter is just at Pines this year and refuses to ride the bus because the grade 12s are so loud and are vaping on the bus and she feels uncomfortable with that (not to mention the language of the high school students being around the young kids)
- too many transitions for students which are difficult for all students and especially students with special needs
- Grade 7 and 8 students are too close in proximity to high school students
- Students going to The Pines will be separated from their younger siblings attending Newcastle P.S. making before and after school care complicated and difficult for families

Do you have any questions or wonderings about OPTION B?

- Aside from busing- no
- how many teaching spaces would that leave at The Pines?
- Why is a new elementary school not being built to accommodate the growing families in the new subdivisions?
- I am wondering if The Pines will be offering a daycare option? As well, what safety protocols will be put in place because the school is so close to a busy highway?
- Will there be before and after care at the middle school?
- Why not make the Pines the French immersion school and keep Newcastle at least k-6
- Stop building homes and build a school in town!
- How much will each option cost? We need to factor in equipment, permanent teachers, new resources, bussing, etc.
- Safety concerns for the young ones starting to go into a high school building.
- I don't believe enough has been considered in terms of the effects on kids and families and is coming more so from a financially easier fix place rather than the best options.
- the board must really have a screw loose to believe moving 7s to a high school is a good idea.
- I really hope you are not actually teaching my child.
- Bussing an option for going to Pines and Clarke?
- It's a no go in my opinion.
- How would we even have enough buses to bus the kids when we don't have enough already?
- Why can't high school students just go to Bowmanville as it is where they all want to go anyway.
- What is the plan for bussing? What is the plan to fence in the area?
- What are they planning to do with the gym change rooms- 5/6 age is too young to be changing in front of each other
- What are the plans to incorporate specified rooms?

- What improvements are they making to the computer area?
- Will the children be eating all in one lunch room together?
- Who will take children from class to class if they are going to be on rotary?
- Will Clarke high school still be using the wood shop in the school? What additional resources and resource rooms will be provided?
- What accommodations are being made for students who have physical accessibility needs?

OPTION C - Newcastle PS becomes JK-Grade-3 dual track (English & French Immersion). The Pines Senior PS becomes a dual track Grade 4-6 school. A dual track Grade 7-8 Intermediate is established at Clarke HS. What are the pros/benefits of this option?

- Clear divisional splits (for sports)
- Solves some of the pressures of space at Newcastle.
- Allows for some students who are attending grade 7/8 to hopefully remain at Clarke for high school.
- Only that sports and French would be at same score
- This option is the worst out of all of them
- NONE. We are taking an extra cohort from NPS pre-emptively to a school that is not set up for them (busing, daycare)
- Band-Aid solution which saves the board and government money
- There are not any. This is also a really bad plan.
- None equally as bad of an option. Again grades 4-6 require childcare, there are no care centres within walking distance and they would require bussing to and from locations which we are already struggling with.
- Kids are also at a very delicate age during that time and I worry about the implications this would have on mental health/anxiety and quality of education.
- Better use of school space
- We love this school and see so much potential for Clarke to grow and integration may seem like it. However I know some of the grade 9's and 10's you already have are threatening to leave if integration happens this will drop the percentage or keep the percentage the same as is ... I love the school and what it stands for. It is a smaller school and I love that my child is not just a number but making changes means also that my child will Lose friends and if classes decrease then the opportunities offered to them will be impacted as well! Pls think it through - every school matters and I do not want to be forced to put my child to BHS because of the impact of these changes because that's what will happen to similar families like ours.
- More room at NPS
- Again, our children are being forced to mature at a quicker rate by having high school and elementary together. The exposure to the older children creates issues with bullying, inappropriate actions and language. Can children not just be children?
- Bus the high school students to Bowmanville or make the pines French Immersion and keep nps elementary and Clarke a high school
- I don't feel this is a good idea for all of the reasons listed above.

What are the cons/negatives of OPTION C?

- See above regarding busing
- High school remains an issue.
- Funding isn't there to sustain new programming at Clarke making it comparable to schools in Bowmanville. Bowmanville schools will still be overloaded with other Clarington students. What will be done about this so families keep their youth in town? New schools with new technology that isn't on a highway should be the plan
- Grade 4's have access to the 115. (needs to be a safety barrier) Considerations for play equipment More students mean more pressures in terms of drop off and pick up (additional busses). 115 is already busy and congested.
- Bussing situation cannot sustain this option.
- Kids this age need playgrounds
- Will force more high school kids into Bowmanville. Kids as young as gr 4 shouldn't be on bus with high school kids.
- No before and after school care at pines/clarke. Not walkable.
- grade 4 should be moved to a school designed specifically for intermediate students, and that is in such close proximity to the high school. This is far too young to be moved to an intermediate school in which the property can be accessed by high school students. Supervision on recess is minimal at best as it is.
- This is also forcing local parents to rely on busing to and from school for a greater period of time when busing is already an issue. Buses are canceled regularly and on short notice as it is. Adding the need for more busing for more families puts added stress on families trying to get their children to school.
- While Clarke is underutilized now, at some point this mass amount of children we are trying to accommodate (rather than just building a new school in the newer subdivision) will need to attend high school and the high school in
- A grade 4 to 6 school means that 9 year olds will get bused home. I DO NOT like this option. I don't want my grade 4 child going to a school where there is no option to walk to and from school and there is no before and after care. They are not old enough to stay at home by themselves after being dropped off by a bus, NOR are they old enough to wait for a bus (that very likely WILL NOT ARRIVE!) and then go home to an empty house because both parents work???? My 9 year old does not have a cell phone and I don't want this overcrowding and poor planning problem to force my family to make decisions about social media and technology before we had originally planned to.
- Does not address the physical locational issues of Clark HS. & The Pines. Schools need to be accessible by other means than bus or car drop off.
- The location of this school has been the main reason why enrollment is at quarter capacity.
- All three options presented have my family strongly looking at switching to the catholic education system. This had never been considered in my family until learning about the issues of The Pines and Clark HS.
- Newcastle public school has been a welcoming place where my kids love to go each day.
- I want my kids to have a normal education experience full of extra curricular and curricular opportunities that these options cannot provide.
- Transportation is so inconsistent. Will the youngest students take priority when it comes to transportation?

- There is a huge difference between grade 7s and 12s and Grade 7s should not be exposed to Grade 12 issues and conflicts.
- Pines does not have the resources, equipment and security to host 4-6s. How much will it cost to retrofit Clark and Pines to accommodate a new age group?
- Three dual track schools doesn't make sense.
- Still doesn't address the lack of programming at Clark.
- The kids are too young to be going up there. The pines is not suited for young children, no playground. the 115 is dangerous and if any kids have behaviours and run out that would be catastrophic.
- Completely inappropriate to have 11/12 year olds with 17/18 year olds. I'm not sure that 11 and 12 year-olds have the emotional and social maturity to handle what they will be exposed to in the high school.
- Where are the studies that show that this is a good idea in any way for these kids? I have been looking, and I cannot find any research to indicate that this is beneficial to our children. I have found studies (from 1987 through to 2012, some of which I will refer to in this comment), that say this is in fact, not beneficial to our children. For boys, the study found "similar negative effects in extracurricular participation and grades." The authors of this study concluded "that the relatively protected elementary school setting made the entry into adolescence less stressful for both boys and girls."
- In some schools where the 7 – 12 configuration has been implemented there are 2 VP's, one for the younger
- I'm concerned about high school students hanging around vulnerable younger students. I am also concerned about not enough busses available and overcrowding on the buses
- Same as above.
- Exactly the same cons as option B. high school should be for high school aged children.
- Grouping teens aged 16/17/18 with
- kids 10/11 years old seems inappropriate and they will be exposed to mature themes earlier on leading to non educational issues
- The above are my pros and cons.
- This greatly impacts families with childcare being available for before and after school care, families who work and can't get kids to bus stop. Families with multiple children in both schools yet close in age and all require before and after care.
- The same comments as option B
- See the response to Option B
- bus to school for grade 4/5/6 as I would still have to get my other younger kid to NPS; families thought they had until after grade 6 but that decision was taken from us. Already shifting the sixth grade students is not ideal and not what I expected when we moved here - again, within walking distance by intention - knowing our individual kids and what's best for them. I figured if things changed in the community with new housing going in, the kids in the new neighbourhoods would be impacted but that the fact that we lived in such close proximity would ensure our kids could attend NPS as originally planned decades ago.
- The idea of kids in just 4/5/6 going to a separate school instead of being with other younger grades also takes away valuable chances for increased responsibility in activities such as lunchroom monitor, helping with school clubs and teams, and other
- Bussing the young Pines students with the highschool students. This should not be allowed. But I know they won't bus separately for each school, so I see this as a major red flag/issue.
- too many transitions for students, especially students with special needs
- the geographical location of The Pines on the Hwy 115 is not ideal for elementary age students

- more students will require busing
- students attending the Pines will be separated from their younger siblings at Newcastle P.S., making drop offs and pick ups, and before and after school care difficult and complicated for parents

Do you have any questions or wonderings about OPTION C?

- Will the board give release time to teachers to facilitate these moves? It is excessive considering the movement last year.
- Will there be a fenced yard during recess?
- Will supplies be in place for a smooth September transition (desk, chairs, access to appropriate library books)?
- How much learning space is left in all the buildings?
- Will the grade 7s and 8s be segregated from the HS students for obvious safety reasons? The HS isn't designed to accommodate a segregated area.
- Will there be before and after care? Will there be enough reliable transportation?
- I understand that NPS is overpopulated, and something has to be done. My concerns are: younger and younger children and being put into The Pines which is right on a busy highway- I feel that this poses a significant safety concern. The next, and I feel the most prominent issue, is bussing. Children HAVE to be bussed to the Pines as there is no safe walking option. We already have numerous bussing issues. I have seen students walking along the highway to the pines/Clarke as their busses are not running. How will this be solved with more students needing bussing ?
- Are Board staff thinking about their own children or grandchildren when considering making our kids jump from school to school? There is no consistency.
- No. Not sure why this is even a tabled consideration.
- Concerns about older high school students bothering the younger students and if there is safe and adequate bussing available
- Who would be bussing the kids?
- How would Families find before and after school care available when most is only available with walking to school as an option.
- This is the worst idea of them all.

OPTION D - 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. What are the pros/benefits of this option?

- If they can do this without portables this isn't a bad option either.
- This would allow more students and funding to stay in the area. Hopefully this would allow and encourage more students to remain here and not leave Clarke for Bowmanville.
- Potentially the balance of students would be more appropriate.
- Keeping high school kids separate from elementary students.
- If any changes were to happen I would choose this one.

- Keep non high school students out of the high school grade 5,6,7,8 together in one school would be the most ideal, if change is a must.
- I like that my kids would still be in an elementary school until grade 8. I am not comfortable with my children going to high school at 12 years old. I have heard that there will be separate areas for the intermediates and high school students but once there are outside and before and after school, they will still be exposed to language, behaviour and content earlier than I would like.
- My children who are two cohorts apart may potentially be on the same bus, and therefore they can get on their buses to school and home together safely.
- I think this is the best option. I think you need to keep the high school a high school. I'd like to also suggest that kids in this boundary stay and go to Clarke high school. With more kids comes more funding, more programs/courses to attract kids to stay. BHS is overrun. Clark is a fantastic high school. Keep it that way.
- Band-Aid solution which saves the board and government money
- At least Grade 7s won't be with Grade 12s.
- This one is by far my favorite, this would make it a true middle school grade 5 is a reasonable age to move up to middle school, and it keeps the grade 7 and eights away from the high school.
- Less movement than the other options
- Kids can remain within the same school from Grade 5-8
- More consistency in teaching and rapport between student and teacher(S)
- This would be ok but it doesn't solve the capacity issues at pines.
- 100% appropriate
- I think this is the best idea for the kids as they will have less change and ability to get comfortable with the school.
- This option is better than B or C but still not what I would want for my children.
- This is a great option and will not hinder the high school kids
- At least this option keeps elementary with elementary. But why do we need dual track? Why can't Pines become French Immersion?
- This option is best. My son is at his first year at the Pines (Grade 6) to force his year and the current Grade 7s to go to Clarke next year isn't fair. They are just getting accustomed to and settled into their new school.
- Also, this is the most fair situation for the incoming Grade 6s (my middle daughter). It's not fair to send the kids to the Pines for one year and force them into the high school. This keeps some separation from the high school students. I understand that they say it will be completely separate but we are promised a lot and nothing ever is done
- This is the next most reasonable option behind leaving things as-is or moving FI. At least we can let our kids settle into a school for more than two years, and it allows the kids currently at NPS to not find out halfway through the school year that it's their last year at NPS. My oldest is in grade 3 and the idea that this could be his last year at NPS - with his little sister downstairs and knowing he is just a few blocks away from home - has ALREADY caused him anxiety and stress. Fielding questions about it with so many unknowns is difficult, especially when one option has him leaving THIS school year, is stress inducing for me and other parents in the same boat I've spoken to.
- It would still allow opportunities for positive mentorship and increased comfort in their school environment since they wouldn't be changing schools for several more years than options B and C have planned.
- fewer transitions over the course of students' elementary school career so better for students overall

- grade 7 and 8 students would not be in close proximity to high school age students
- more likelihood that siblings would attend the same school at the same time making things easier for families

What are the cons/negatives of OPTION D?

- The Pines is overcrowded.
- Overcrowding at the Pines Bussing cannot support this.
- Kids deserve playgrounds in grade 4
- Clarke is still under utilized
- grade 5 should be moved to a school designed specifically for intermediate students, and that is in such close proximity to the high school.
- This is also forcing local parents to rely on busing to and from school for a greater period of time when busing is already an issue. Buses are canceled regularly and on short notice as it is. Adding the need for more busing for more families puts added stress on families trying to get their children to school.
- While Clarke is underutilized now, at some point this mass amount of children we are trying to accommodate (rather than just building a new school in the newer subdivision) will need to attend high school and the high school in Bowmanville is already overloaded and will eventually stop enrollment for out of area students. This will mean there will be a future issue in
- Given the options available I like this one the best.
- Does not address the physical locational issues of Clark HS & The Pines. Schools need to be accessible by other means than bus or car drop off.
- The location of this school has been the main reason why enrollment is at quarter capacity.
- All three options presented have my family strongly looking at switching to the catholic education system. This had never been considered in my family until learning about the issues of The Pines and Clark HS.
- Newcastle public school has been a welcoming place where my kids love to go each day.
- I want my kids to have a normal education experience full of extracurricular and curricular opportunities that these options cannot provide.
- Similar to option B and C responses.
- There is still movement
- Parents have no other options for education but to send to the pines which is an old school and already requires upgrading
- Again, care and transportation will be concerns for families.
- Still overcrowding
- It will be crowded, but I understand it doesn't have portables now so there would be room to grow.
- school is already too small for the classes they have not sure where you would add the other grade. They are already using the cafeteria for french classes.
- At least the high schoolers won't be mingling with younger kids, but almost all the kids will have to take a long bus ride to get to school, and there have been many bus delays and cancellations this year already.
- Two schools on the 115. Only one way in and out, hard to believe this is allowed. If an accident closes down the 115, kids are stuck there. Ridiculous.

- Busing situation is horrible already. Very inconsistent. Shared busing with the high school students isn't right, so much bullying and inappropriate language that the younger students are exposed to.
- Communication out of the Pines is severely lacking.

Do you have any questions or wonderings about OPTION D?

- Again, will there be before and after daycare and will there be enough reliable busing.
- Why is the board so stuck on making it work at The Pines and Clark HS
- How much will it cost to make all these changes instead of building a school. Won't materials and everything be cheaper now? It's already way too late.

Do you have any other options or suggestions that you feel should be considered?

- Swap the two schools. Grade 4-8 Clarke. The Pines becomes a specialist high school. If all the options have an underutilization of Clarke, then why not give the school and facilities to the largest group of students. What amazing programs and opportunities that you could provide this group of students. You could run an elective program during part of the day like rotary focusing on acquiring additional skills (coding lab, cooking, woodworking, Science lab, STEM lab).
- Think of many different programs that could be housed in Clarke. You could add a daycare centre (lacking in Newcastle) and encourage teen moms to attend (I'm not sure of the teen mom stats but Lindsay, Ontario has a program that is run out of I.E.Weldon.)
- Adult education high school. Science/math high school offering specialized courses where you could bring students from other schools. Arts school that requires auditions
- Force Clarke high school catchment area students to attend Clarke. This increases program availability at Clarke and uses space therefore the provincial government will be forced to release more money for new school. New elementary school is the ONLY option that benefits the kids education socializing and is stable for projected growth. FORCE HIGH SCHOOL KIDS TO GO TO CLARKE THEREFORE FORCE BUILDING OF NEW ELEMENTARY
- Build a new elementary school that is K-8 French immersion only.
- The power point presentation mentions the possibility of one school becoming a single track French Immersion school. Why is this option not being explored at this time?
- A new elementary school should be built to accommodate the newer homes being built. The solutions proposed are bandaids not a solution.
- As the large amount of younger students grow they will need an intermediate school and a high school to accommodate those numbers. If we utilize these schools for younger grades now they will in turn be overloaded and those schools will not be able to accommodate as they are being utilized for younger grades.
- The community is continuing to grow at a steady pace, and the board needs to accommodate accordingly, not cut corners but taking away spaces in other places. Those spaces will be needed within the next few years anyway and will not be available when needed causing the same issues to occur.

- Obviously there is a general consensus among students and parents who know these schools that there is not enough funding to provide stimulating and a variety of courses for our elementary and high school students. How are you going to make sure that our students are provided with an interesting and current and challenging curriculum and extra-curricular activities? When applying for universities I want my children to have had the same opportunities as other kids who have come from all over Durham or Ontario.
- The dual track never should have been started without proper infrastructure. Now the main solution you have is to make the high school not a high school anymore. Add primary grades to it. BHS is overcrowded and shouldn't be accommodating out of boundary kids. CLARK has an excellent coop program. Kids can access auto mechanics through that stream if they wish. More kids=more funding=more classes to offer= kids stay. Make pines 4-8 until you have more infrastructure. Afterall, primary grades should stay with primary grades.
- OPTION E - Build a new k-8 public elementary school already... enough is enough. There should be more than enough tax dollars with all the new houses built as no new infrastructure has really been put in place in Newcastle so there should be more than enough funds. Let's finally fix the problem instead of stop gap solutions

Do you have any further questions that you would like answered?

- Given the teacher shortage how are you going to recruit qualified teachers?
- Why was this not addressed 10 years ago?
- I understand that NPS is over populated and something has to be done. My concerns are: younger and younger children and being put into The Pines which is right on a busy highway- I feel that this poses a significant safety concern. The next, and I feel most prominent issue, is bussing. Children HAVE to be bussed to the Pines as there is no safe walking option. We already have numerous bussing issues. I have seen students walking along the highway to the pines/Clarke as their busses are not running. How will this be solved with more students needing bussing ?
- I'm just really disappointed in KPRDSB. This has been an ongoing issue.
- Could the Pines become a K-12 French Immersion school, and NPS and Clark stay English? What do those numbers look like?
- Is there a possibility of the Boundary accommodations being ended?
- How is the mental health of students being considered? What will the transition plan look like?
- With any of the options, being concerned, as a parent I need to ask what is the plan if there is an emergency at The Pines or Clarke HS? - there is a one way in and a one way out; and you are entering onto a highway....this is a serious safety issue that someone really needs to think about.
- In addition, our child was moved from Newcastle PS into the Pines for grade 6 and her bus is constantly cancelled - these kids are entitled to their education....what are the plans to get these kids to and from school. The bussing is a huge issue and I am sure it is only going to get worse - it would be a disaster in this parking lot for all of the parents to drop off and pick up their kids - seriously needs to be thought out.
- What are the plans for another access road - something needs to change at the Pines and Clarke schools, the current setup does not work.
- How are the smaller kids (grade 4 and grade 5) going to be supervised that close to the highway?

- Also, someone should really look at the truck cover business located beside the Pines - the signage for the schools is totally blocked and cannot be seen - again, this is a serious safety issue should emergency services be called out to the schools, how are they are going to be able to confirm that they are entering the correct driveway. The really need to be forced to move the truck covers to ensure that the school signage can be seen.
- I don't like the idea that middle school and high school kids are bused together, not sure if anything is possible with looking into that.
- How will any of these changes impact extracurricular activities such as sports programs? Typically they are primary, junior, intermediate. It seems that the junior cohort would be affected with most of these options
- Who were the "smart ones" who decided moving 7s to high school was a viable idea?
- I want to know how the school board plans to bus an extra two grades up to the pines/Clarke when the busing that we have is already not reliable for the amount of kids attending there now. My son's bus has been cancelled 14 times so far this year and that makes it very difficult for parents having to arrange a drive for their child. Can the school board and the bus company ensure this won't be a problem? I know a lot of buses are constantly cancelled leaving kids stranded. I'm sorry, but the bus company won a tender and they are not fulfilling their end of the deal and they need to be held accountable.
- The students who will be slated to attend the holding school were not included in the projected numbers because they will not be attending these schools however, what about if they wish to attend the French Immersion program? Where would they attend? Assuming it's going to be this family of schools, unless there is a plan to start making Waverly PS dual track, why are they not being included in the projected numbers?
- So many extra busses will be needed. Also worried about the board actually offering classes at clarke to keep the students there
- Why are we not considering additional school developments both elementary and post secondary IN TOWN. The town is growing quickly and the infrastructure is not catching up.
- What are the other options? What are the requirements to move to the Catholic school board? If our children are forced into Clarke for Grade 7 and 8, we want a guarantee that we will be able to go to a Bowmanville high school. We are not getting stuck at a sub-par school with nothing to offer them for courses and sports and clubs.
- I would obviously like the issue to bussing to be answered as this continues to be an issue. There is not enough drivers or busses and this is causing things to be unsafe as there are children in aisles due to overcrowding. You are now creating a situation where children who would not be busses are now having to be bussed and no options of busses are cancelled or don't show up. This again greatly impacts education for this children as if they are not attending school they can fall behind etc as there is no option other than car to get children to these schools. We cannot look at more enrollment at either school until bussing issues are addressed.
Also need to look into daycare if you are moving younger children to the Pines and what options there are for BEFORE and AFTER care.
Lastly need to look at upgrades for the play area the Pines again if you are looking to have younger children attend.
- All I ask is please let the 2011 born grade have another year of stability staying where they are at the Pines and please do not move them again so soon. They were the ones just moved from NPS at grade 5 which caused a lot of anxiety for students and moving them to clarke again so soon will only add to their stress and lack of belonging to a school. These kids are just finding home at the Pines and another year of stability there would do a lot for their well being in my

opinion. My daughter is in this grade and all of her friends really do not want to be moved again so quickly. Also, if you are ever thinking of enforcing boundaries to Clarke High School please do it now and do not wait. That is the root cause of many issues here with not being able to get another elementary school built so please do not wait. The 2011 born class needs to be taken into consideration that they already received the brunt of a large change right after COVID (which also heavily affected our kids). They already missed out on many Grade 6 activities at NPS that they waited to get to do for years. Please do anything possible to not make them receive another large change so soon. Thank you.

- Why did the land not get approved for the new school? It is clear that Newcastle is bursting at the seams and all of the new development hasn't even started yet.
- 1. Would another road access be created for The Pines/Clarke? from Concession Road 3 to the back of the school. (If the hwy is closed how will the kids get to/from school-it has happened before)
2. Would portables be an option at The Pines if there is an increase in student numbers there?
3. What would busing look like?