

Crestwood Family of Schools Accommodation Planning – Engagement Results

Overview of ThoughtExchange Results

Between November 30 and December 17, the Board gathered input from families through an online ThoughtExchange. The following prompt was asked:

Please share your questions and feedback about the proposal to move students from Westmount PS and Kawartha Heights PS to James Strath PS for Grade 7&8, as a result of significant and immediate accommodation pressures.

63	59	957
Participants	Thoughts	Ratings

Summary of Top Thoughts:

The responses to the proposal of moving students from Westmount PS and Kawartha Heights PS to James Strath PS for Grade 7&8 reveal a mix of opinions. Many respondents express concerns about making decisions about short term planning without information about the long-term plan. There are concerns about disruption to students' lives, and the impact on families with children in different schools. Some suggest keeping students in their community schools, possibly with the addition of portables, while others propose stricter enforcement of catchment areas. A few respondents see the move to James Strath PS as a reasonable solution, given the current overcrowding issues. However, there is a general call for more information and consultation in the decision-making process.

Specific Actions Identified and Questions Asked

- Can students stay at Westmount PS with another portable?
- Will students be moving to Crestwood SS for Grade 9 from James Strath PS?
- Can we learn more about long-term planning before making this short-term change?

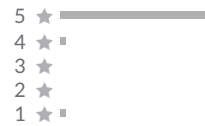
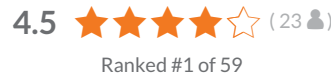
The thoughts are included as an appendix.

CRESTWOOD FOS ACCOMMODATION THOUGHTS

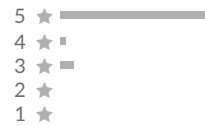
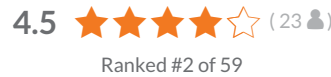
Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board

Q1 Please share your questions and feedback about the proposal to move students from Westmount and Kawartha Heights Public Schools to James Strath PS for Grade 7&8, as a result of significant and immediate accommodation pressures.

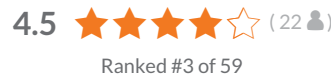
Seems like a bandaid solution Tough on kids being shuffled around every couple of years



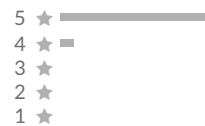
The board is not communicating a long term plan to manage, but instead making short term plans that cause a significant amount of distress to kids What's the long term plan here?



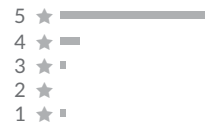
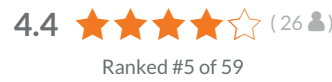
This proposal does not describe proposals for secondary school, it only describes grade 7 & 8. Will the plan be Crestwood? We're unable to make well-informed decisions without more complete information- not just where they attend grade 7 and 8



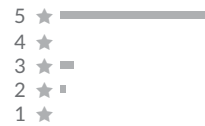
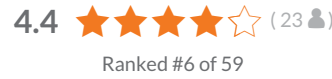
This is not a long term solution. This is just pushing the problem down the road - like when they moved Gr. 7&8 in the first place. Children need stability. Families need stability. I have no sense of what is happening one year to the next.



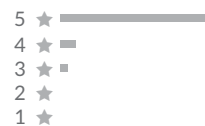
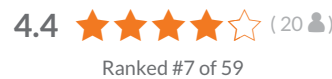
I feel like this is a short term solution and the board really needs to look at a real solution. The changes to the students is what we need to consider



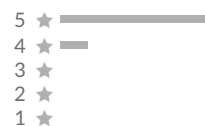
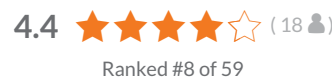
A huge plan was discussed 3 years ago, the prospect of building a needed intermediate school was proposed in addition to the changes to grades 7/8 It's far too soon to be making significant disruptions and a more planful long term solution should have been the priority.



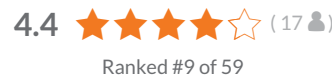
What happens come highschool? If there isn't room in the school now for these kids it stands to reason the same thing will happen come that time. We need a long term solution so we aren't constantly uprooting these kids and shoving them wherever



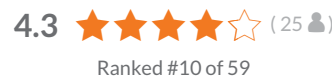
We need long-term solutions Westmount has been subject to fairly significant changes in the past and the root cause of overcrowding has still not been addressed.



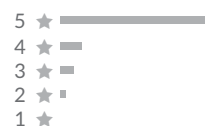
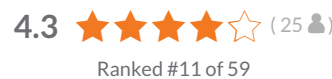
Its ridiculous that this wasnt planned for seeing that not many years ago Crestwood Intermediate was created for this same reason. Looks terrible. I want my children to go to the closet school to wear we live and where we pay our taxes.





1. Very poor planning by the board. 2. Intro leaves out the part about the 7 and 8's eventually attending Kenner. 3. Siblings all over the city is bad Having multiple kids attending different school all over the city is very disruptive to families. I pay high tax to have my kids attend these schools.

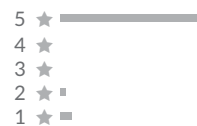


These pressure's are not new. 3 years ago significant changes were made to school systems to 'accommodate' these pressures. It is disrupting and changing lives of students and families again.




Can we keep all 7/8s at Westmount (French and English) for kids in the community. Portables or boundary lines redrawn? We moved to this neighbourhood for a community feel and to have school within walking distance.

4.3  (24 
Ranked #12 of 59



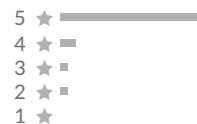
Children at Westmount will be moving into already established friends groups during the two years that tend to be the most challenging “friend” years. Transitioning to intermediate school is challenging enough, without adding the drama of placing these kids in already established friend groups.

4.3  (23 
Ranked #13 of 59



What is being done to plan for the booming pop. in Millbrook? There is zoning for another big housing development and even a Sobeys but no school? It seems like a big piece if the overflow puzzle. Just wondering if there is any long-term plan there to ease the stress on Crestwood in the future.

4.3  (21 
Ranked #14 of 59



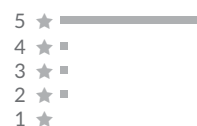
I’m very disappointed and concerned about the obvious lack of foresight that put us here If we can’t rely on planning or arrangements made just a couple of years ago, how do we trust anything that we are told now?

4.3  (19 
Ranked #15 of 59



Explore the possibility of adding grade 7 and 8 back to Westmount Decrease the disruption of moving children to multiple schools, maintain consistency

4.3  (18 
Ranked #16 of 59



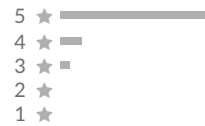
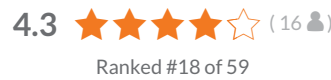
Siblings who started crestwood last year will now be at a different school than siblings.

4.3  (17 
Ranked #17 of 59

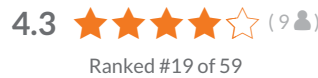


Folks who are reviewing these comments and grading them - reach out directly to those accountable in addition to using this platform.

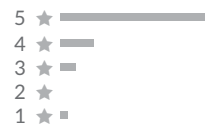
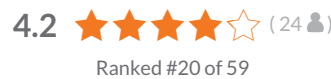
The more people who reach out directly the stronger the message will be that more fulsome discussion on the entire plan is needed.



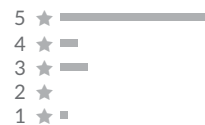
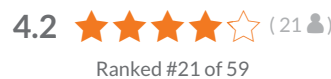
We can't make short term decisions without transparent long term plans. Many students who this affects have siblings in grades below or above them. Keep families together, keep kids in the community.



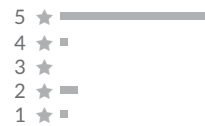
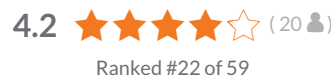
Why not have the children stay at their home school for grades 7 and 8 this will give crestwood time to sort out numbers and come up with a long term plan



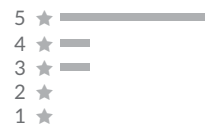
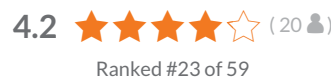
Why can't the one English grade 6 class at Westmount be accommodated at Westmount. Surely there is room for one grade 7 class. They should not be uprooted from there school to get shifted into an already established friend group for one small class



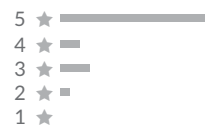
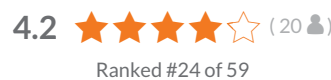
Accommodate the Westmount English stream at Westmount (instead of strath) with an added portable or two beside the parking lot. Rather Westmount be a bit overcrowded with this accommodation if the trade off is stability for the kids vs being moved around like chess pieces.



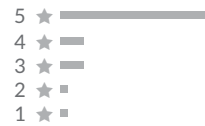
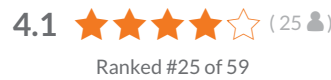
Please do not move our kids to Kenner The Strath plan is a short-term, band-aid solution. We need to know what is planned beyond next year.



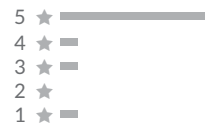
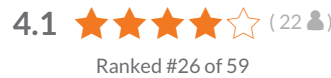
What is the plan for the intermediate school students when they go to high school? Will they now have to go to a school further from home?



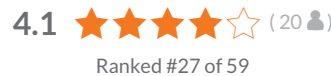
Keep the grade 6 English kids at Westmount for grade 7 and 8. Open up another portable and keep them there. We only have 1 class of English kids Not having students move from school to school to school doesn't give them much time to settle into a new environment. It's 1 class of English kids



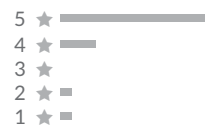
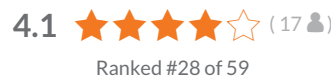
Westmount has space for 1 portable. They had it before. Keep them this 1 class at Westmount for the time being. Routine, being familiar with their surroundings and not having to start a school for 2 years then move onto another



We removed grade 7-8 from Westmount. To now shift our kids to a different public school? I think this will create a divide between different schools coming in to another group of kids home school



Based on mapping, James Strath appears to be a 7/8 bridge towards WM and KH students attending Kenner, making it easier to rationalize long-term. This 'short term' consultation leads towards the long-term plan; which is not consultation in good faith. Transparency of the entire process is needed



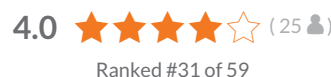
Terrible idea. Westmount should not have removed grades 7 and 8. This shows very little foresight, or concern for how various transition will impact the children.



Moving into a new school at older grade is difficult Kids will be moving into 7th grade at an already established school and groups of friends, etc. Its like being the new kid on the first day again





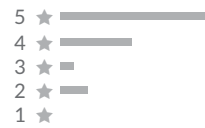
New to Peterborough: I would end up having one child move on to a k-8 school , and one staying at k-6 Makes no sense to have one sibling at a k-6 school and one at k-8 when they could be at k-8 together for longer.



Thank specialized programming! Out of catchment families use programming to strategically choose schools; changing population dynamic on both ends



Opportunities like French Imm are great but overcrowding at WPS from out of catchment students pushed 7/8's out, leading to further capacity issues

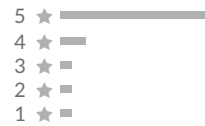
4.0  (18 )
Ranked #32 of 59





Will there be another meeting to present options provided by parents and reviewed by the board again before the Feb 27 decision.

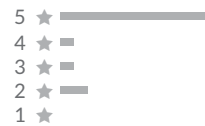
Presenting 1 option on November 30th for discussion, and this platform, is not fulsome consultation on options. Transparency is required.

4.0  (16 )
Ranked #33 of 59





Bring back grades 7 & 8 at Westmount, add portables. It's in the BEST INTERESTS of the students and that's all that matters. A plan can be made and executed, there is no reason this can't happen. Parents and students both want this anyways. Give them their own recess times.

4.0  (14 )
Ranked #34 of 59




If the 2024/45 option is only for a single cohort effort should be made to ensure students stay in their community until a longer term plan is made. Based on the information we HAVE (NOT the info we do not have), this will reduce disturbance to the single cohort that will be orphaned otherwise .

4.0  (14 )
Ranked #35 of 59

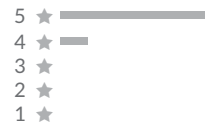
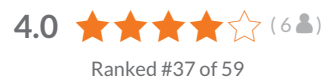


Looking for more information in terms of the cost analysis that was completed for this? Has FI been looked at in catchment areas? Cost of "consult." What is the cost of busing? What is the cost of adding portables? What is the impact on families with 2 elementary students at 2 different schools?

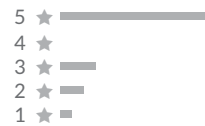
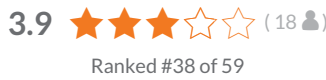
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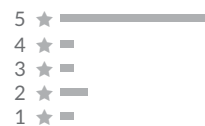
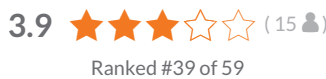
James Strath is a good school but parents are concerned that this constant change is stressful for kids and detrimental to our close "community". Kids at Strath have been together since Kindergarten - tough to be the new kids. Too much change for this generation already behind because of COVID.



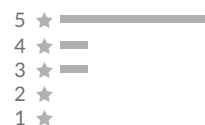
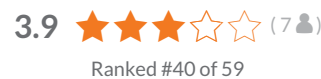
The fact that this is limited to 150 characters is ridiculous. This is NOT fulsome consultation.



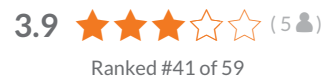
Students should not have so many transitions It's disruptive to be moving schools so frequently. Furthermore, I'm concerned with students from Westmount and K. H being ostracized by the J.S kids



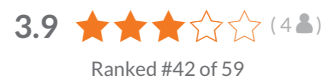
It's a Crestwood problem this year...but apparently an Adam Scott problem next year. The Board is going to do the same thing to the FI kids next yr. Be honest and transparent. Parents losing faith in the competency of the trustees. Trustees to be voted out next election!



This is incredibly poor planning and will result in droves of families exiting the public school system Parents should know board is talking of moving 7&8 kids to Kenner in future years, while kids from 30m away go to crestwood. Make it make sense?!





We do not agree with the idea of moving students. 4 years ago the board told us that removing 7&8 from Westmount was the final change needed. The board needs to put long term planning in place, not move kids around every couple of years.

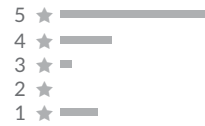


Not ideal but IF students continue to Crestwood then possibly tolerable Intermediate school is important but high school is more so.





I would prefer students from Westmount to go to Crestwood as it's only one class that graduates and Crestwood offers rotary. Well being of kids

3.8  (19 
Ranked #44 of 59





I'm concerned that the Board is making a decision that doesn't acutely reflect the number of students moving to English in Grade 7. No poll taken Many students in French Immersion (including my child and 5 of their close friends in FI) will be moving to the English stream.

3.8  (16 
Ranked #45 of 59





WM continues to be lax on entrance eligibility. We all know kids who shouldn't be at WM (some lying about address, others using relatives address). Be strict on admission so that local kids who should be at WM don't have to be bused across town! Makes no sense!

3.8  (7 
Ranked #46 of 59





While I would have preferred that Westmount retain 7& 8 classes, I much prefer the idea of Strath for 7 & 8 over a high school. I am disappointed by the lack of foresight that was employed 3 years ago when the decision was made for Crestwood in the 1st place.

3.7  (13 
Ranked #47 of 59





James Strath is an excellent school and is a good alternative for the English stream assuming the students can still attend Crestwood for high school.

3.6  (14 
Ranked #48 of 59

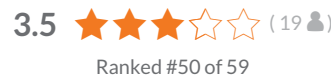


I think it is important to have tue students in an equitable learning environment. The level of engagement and opportunities for learning /access to resources are more readily available when schools aren't over capacity.

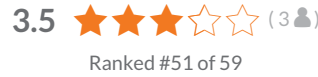
3.6  (2 
Ranked #49 of 59



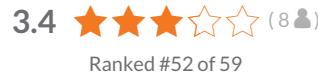
Keep our kids local. Why let millbrook kids continue to go to crestwood intermediate, who are 30 mins away but then bus our kids out of area. Convenient that the boundaries would change. Thats pretty slimey to cover poor planning. Add portables, theres lots of space on crestwood property



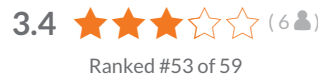
The move to Strath would keep Westmount and Kawartha Heights students within close range to their homes. Parents managing students in more than one school benefit from close access from one school to another regardless of if bussing is offered.



Use one of the schools that closed for Kaawaatee public school an intermediate school? Would alleviate crowding at Crestwood HS and not have 2 classes join an already established K-8 school. Could change boundaries so larger catchment.



Kick out students who don't live in boundaries and bring back 7/8 for local kids! Wouldn't this solve the overcrowding issues?



No preplanning per usual was NOT done- The kids are punished bc of bureaucratic b.s.pencil pushing mentality, no vision. We say mental health is important? Ok. Well this whole moving kids around like this and then Kenner lol.



It is unclear why the board has been unable to come up with a longer term plan. It appears irresponsible in the face of predictable growth patterns Families do not get a chance to adequately inform planning processes because the board is continually reacting to (rather than preventing) problems



We purchased our house specifically to be in a specific school and pay high taxes for it. If kids are continued to be shipped around we will be Pulling our kids from public and moving our tax dollars to the Catholic system. These decisions negatively impact our kids and we're not paying for it

3.2 ★★☆☆☆ (4 👤)
Ranked #56 of 59



Grade7's to go to Strath For sports and extra curricular activities

2.6 ★★☆☆☆ (21 👤)
Ranked #57 of 59



Not ok to ask for grades 7&8 to stay/return to Westmount at the expense of reducing FI capacity for starting generations or reduce FI school boundary Grades 7&8 will move with their peers so they won't be as lonely as some might think. Just keep recess separate and continue teaching them to be kind.

2.3 ★★☆☆☆ (14 👤)
Ranked #58 of 59



The solution seems really reasonable to me. Any schools that are too full don't lead to happy students or staff. Making things balanced just makes sense.

2.2 ★★☆☆☆ (24 👤)
Ranked #59 of 59

