



Halifax

Regional Centre for Education

Thank you for attending our information and school community engagement session on May 7th @ JL Ilsey High School. Below are each groups contributions to our discussion. Thank you for sharing your thoughts, ideas and suggestions on how to best gather your input and voice as we move forward to opening the new high school and ensure a positive, successful transition for our students.

Opportunities for engagement

- Where are the opportunities for input to decision making in the future changes in the FOS? In those cases, how do we best engage SACs/community?

Please note your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions below:

- What does the outlook look like for all schools?
- Engage SACs and admin during every step of the process? How will we be consulted?
- Constant communication needs to be sent to SAC chairs and admin of schools
- Complete transparency is required - more information is better
- Have the negative issues been addressed based on schools that currently have 9-12? How can we improve it?
- Overall the timing and seeking of input is critical, and should not be undervalued
- Not surprisingly our community tells us that they would always prefer engagement before a decision is made without engagement providing HRCE's rationale will go a long way to nurturing the relationship
- Specifically our SAC expects to be engaged on any major decisions that will impact the status quo: environment, programming, additions / changes, policy development, etc.
- Engagement that is transparent is highly valued. With these expectations, SAC should be able to share / discuss with SACs
- Face to face meetings (like the one tonight) where SACs have the opportunity to ask questions and share feedback
- Info on the HRCE website with updates on meetings
- Parents and students who are currently at JL Ilsey would like to have the opportunity to provide feedback / influence on student experience while it is happening. For example how do we make sure their education will not be disrupted during the new school construction
- Online Surveys to gather feedback
- Updates in the media
- SAC FOS meetings to update and return info to the school to continue this sharing process
- Emails to school admin and SAC chair(s)
- Sharing info at curriculum night

- Info to put on school's web page (or link to access info)
- Are my kids ready for a high school environment? Will be they safe?
- Closing elementary schools in the area as a result of a new school is a new worry
- What happens to the existing Junior / Elementary schools?
- Keep the consultation opportunities coming
- Have combined SAC meetings during the process (3)
- Respond to the input. SACs are asked to give feedback frequently but rarely hear back the result of the feedback (i.e. Review of policy, but we don't hear the changes to the policy)
- Community meetings
- School SAC level meetings to share building parameters and design
- What do communities want? Many diverse areas.



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Opportunities for engagement

- What else do you need the HRCE to know about how to best transition students and families to the new 9 - 12 high school moving forward?

Please note your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions below:

- How are all feeder schools impacted?
- How are grade six students impacted?
- How is bussing impacted?
- How is education impacted? Have we looked at the data for 9 - 12 school to show that 9 -12s are more beneficial than a 10 - 12 model?
- How will our student's education and high school experience be maintained during the transition? (Those graduating in 2020?)
- The meeting tonight, sharing the benefits of having a 9 - 12 school should be for all parents with students entering new 9 -12 school. Include this info in parent communications. Also have in addition to principals, parents and students share their experiences at a 9 - 12 school as well.
- Important not to segregate grade nines in new school
- Ensure orientation and a welcoming environment
- Testimonials from admin, staff, students, parents who have experienced 9 -12 high school setting (presentations, videos) to promote benefits and options
- Focus on transition from grade 8 to 9 to build confidence with parents and families
- Communicate the benefits we heard tonight with the school community

- Draw from best practice - use past schools' experiences as a guide
- Include grade 9s at the new school just like the 10 - 12 students
- Need visuals not just questions about things we can't imagine / envision
- Rolling out updated info in a timely fashion