



To: Chair and Members
Committee of the Whole

DATE: 11 May 2021

RE: Cambridge Street Community Public School

Trustee Bell has given notice that she will move as follows at the Committee of the Whole meeting on 11 May April 2021:

WHEREAS Cambridge Street Community Public School is a single track English program school with a capacity of 323 students; with declining enrollment over the past 10 years; and with a current combined enrollment of 55 in person students in all 8 levels: JK to Grade 6;

WHEREAS Cambridge Street Community Public School is situated in a community of mixed socio-economic demographics and has traditionally served the needs of a marginalized communities facing many challenges;

WHEREAS the current state of the school is untenable: three-grade split classes, no sports teams, no extracurricular activities, no funds for supplemental programming;

WHEREAS evidence demonstrates that the introduction of French immersion into single track English program schools increases the resources, opportunities, and parent involvement, helping to create a more equal footing for all students;

WHEREAS the addition of a French immersion program at Cambridge Street Community Public School would help to increase school enrolment and ensure more equitable access to programming for this community;

WHEREAS a significant numbers of children (approximately 166) in the current catchment area of Cambridge Street Community Public School are leaving to attend other schools outside of their community because of the lack of French Immersion programming;

WHEREAS many from traditionally marginalized communities have stated that the English program no longer meets the educational needs and aspirations of those communities and diminishes employment opportunities for those students;

WHEREAS the decrease in enrollment numbers at Cambridge Street Community Public School mirrors the district-wide trends and trajectories of increased enrollment in French immersion programming and the decrease of enrollment in the English program;

WHEREAS the OCDSB is committed to equity and anti-racist action for underserved communities;

WHEREAS a vibrant school in this community with its diverse populations and mixed income demographics will contribute to the cohesion and health of the neighbourhood, and social and institutional determinants of success for students;

WHEREAS the Building Community Together report released by Somerset West Community Health Centre in December 2020 notes that public services such as schools in a community with populations from a mixed income and demographics contributes to the cohesion and health of the community;

WHEREAS the community has been advocating for the introduction of French Immersion program at the school for at least 10 years;

WHEREAS with planned and approved construction development projects, it is anticipated that there will be an additional 2000 to 9000 mixed income new units built in the area between 2017-2026 which will add thousands of individuals and families in the community;

WHEREAS there is a provincial moratorium on pupil accommodation reviews and continued inaction could result in the eventual loss of an important community school;

WHEREAS waiting for a broader review or for plans to address the systemic barriers to student success in the English program will further negatively impact already disadvantaged students at Cambridge Street Community Public School and those within community;

RECOGNIZING that community involvement and input is essential to evidence-based decision making;

RECOGNIZING that grandparenting and phased-in programming will minimize disruption until population settles into new housing;

RECOGNIZING the long-term sustained viability of neighbouring schools;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

THAT staff be directed to prepare a plan to introduce a French immersion program at Cambridge Street Community Public School in September 2022, together with such other recommendations as may be feasible to ensure a viable English program for the current and future students at Cambridge Street Community Public School, with a report to the Board in September 2021 outlining the study and transparent community consultation process to be followed, and a final report to the Board in early 2022 with recommendations for implementation including attendance boundaries, initial grade structure and transition planning.

Camille Williams-Taylor
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board

Michèle Giroux
Executive Officer
Corporate Services

Signatures on this Notice of Motion confirm that the Notice was submitted in accordance with Section 12.9 of the Board's By-laws and Standing Rules.