



## ALGONQUIN AND LAKESHORE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### Quinte West Community Consultation

### Responses to Questions and Answers

***Q: Why is the Board proposing a Grade 7-12 model at St Paul Catholic Secondary School?***

The Board is building on the recommendations of the Quinte West Accommodation Review Committee and creating an exciting, future-focused Quinte West Catholic Campus concept. Part of this Campus concept includes the building of a new Grade K-6 St Peter Catholic School and a refreshed Grade 7-12 St Paul Catholic Secondary School on the expanded St Paul campus. The cooperation that will be created between both buildings on this campus will enhance program opportunities for both of our K-6 and 7-12 students.

The entire strategy for Quinte West includes locating our French Immersion program in the Grade K-6 St Mary's Catholic School and envisions a state of the art Outdoor and Environmental Centre at Sacred Heart, Batawa. Taken together, these four schools will contribute to the Quinte West Catholic Campus concept.

Declining enrolment in Quinte West requires the Board to ensure that Catholic education is strong and vibrant in years to come. If our secondary school continues to decline as predicted, the ability of St Paul to offer a suitable range of programs will be challenged. Studies from numerous Catholic boards who have adopted a Grade 7-12 model have consistently reported increased student achievement and enrollment. Locating all elementary French Immersion (K-6) at St Mary's fulfills the promise made to parents four years ago when the board divided French Immersion between St Mary's and St Peter's.

***Q: What advantages exist for elementary school students in a Grade 7-12 school?***

Grade 7-12 students have the experience of being part of the Catholic campus concept. While being educated in a separate wing of the school, the students will have the opportunity to use the cafeteria for lunch, experience prayer services in a Chapel, play sports in a double gym and act on an envisioned new stage. Programming opportunities such as instrumental music, communication technology and peer tutoring are all possibilities. Grade 7-8 students will be afforded opportunities to develop leadership skills through collaborative project-based tasks within their school division and across the Quinte West Catholic campus.

Secondary teachers will come to know these students and be better prepared to meet their academic and social needs. Teacher collaboration between the Grade 7-8 teachers and the secondary teachers will lead to greater program opportunities and resource sharing. School wide social justice activities designed for all

students and staff will enhance community building and serve to strengthen the Catholic character and leadership skills of our students.

***Q: What advantages exist for secondary school students and staff in a Grade 7-12 school?***

The funding that goes with the Grade 7/8 students will permit St Paul Catholic Secondary School to experience upgrades to the building that will enable the school to offer the enhanced focus programs such as communication technology, media studies and the Arts. The newly refreshed St Paul can envision a new Arts facility for school productions. The cooperation that can result from the building of a new St Peter and refreshed St Paul on the same campus will offer these communities an opportunity to design exciting, relevant and future focused programming that will engage learners and teachers in the skills of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

New and redesigned facilities can envision a new and modern 'Technology Commons' concept where students and teachers can come together to learn, connect, collaborate and create using the new communication technologies. Students will see themselves completing project based, cross-disciplinary tasks that encourage innovation and cross-cultural collaboration. They will see themselves applying their knowledge and creativity to solve real-world problems through the lens of our Catholic social justice values. Being part of a Catholic campus permits the secondary students and coaches to expanded outdoor facilities and gymnasium at St Peter's. The Catholic campus concept offers more potential for creative programming and community use.

***Q: Will the Grade 7 and 8 students be separated from the rest of the high school?***

Yes, the grade 7 and 8 students will be separated in the proposed Grade 7-12 model. The teaching wing for the Grade 7/8's will be separate and a separate bus loading zone will be designed into the new campus.

***Q: Will the Grade 7 and 8 students be safe in a high school building?***

Our secondary schools are safe environments and boast very low suspension/expulsion rates as compared with other boards. Grade 7-8 students will have an elementary experience and maintain separate social activities from the high school students ( e.g. dances, field trips, student council) to ensure that they are not influenced by older students. Grade 7-8 students will experience their lunch together in the cafeteria and have their own outdoor play area. At all times they will be supervised by staff.

***Q: What will busing look like for Grade 7-8 students?***

Shared busing, as we have now, will continue. Grade 7 and 8 students will be dropped off in their own area and secondary students will be dropped off in their own area. Teachers will supervise these areas. Times for bus drop off and loading will be staggered from secondary times.

***Q: How will the Grade 7-8 school program be organized?***

The structure of school day for grade 7 and 8 students and rotation of grade 7 and 8 classes are decisions that the school administration would determine in consultation with School Council. The day would be structured to stagger the day to reduce elementary and secondary student contact time. Decisions regarding school uniforms for Grade 7-8 students will be made in consultation with School Council. Grade 7 and 8 students would be considered students of St. Paul's and athletic teams would be known as the "Falcons". School Council would have representatives from the parents of Grades 7-8 students and staff from Grade 7-8. Two Student Councils would exist: one for grade 7 and 8, and another for grades 9-12.

***Q: How will St Paul accommodate Grade 7-8 students when it already has portables?***

The feasibility study will review the school space and program needs and make recommendations. Part of this process will be to examine current space use, offer alternative solutions and design new facility space in support of the recommendations of the Academic Program Review done by staff.

***Q: Where would the capital funds be allocated if St Peter Catholic School remained as a K-8 school?***

If the Board decided to build the new St Peter Catholic School as a K-8 school, then the funds would be allocated to this new building and to an addition at St Mary Catholic School to accommodate the additional K-8 French Immersion students. No funds would be allocated to St Paul Catholic Secondary School and the school would remain as is.

***Q: What is the next step in the process?***

The staff recommendations from the Academic Program Review will be shared with an Architectural firm who will be engaged to develop a feasibility study and preliminary drawings of the Catholic Campus concept at St Peter's and St Paul's. Once completed, a public meeting will be scheduled to review the study and receive input. The Board of Trustees will review the feasibility study, examine the business case and make a decision to proceed or not at this point.