

## Help Plan Our Future

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**Our Lady of Peace School  
Attendance Area Reconsideration  
Table Talk Feedback, Questions & Answers  
November 6, 2018**

**Question 1: Do you have any questions about the information regarding the district's attendance area proposal that has been presented to you tonight?**

**General Comments:**

- As a parent of grade 6 at Our Lady of the Evergreens I am in favour of the proposal as is although we would like our gr 3 to come here as well.
- Keep siblings together between elementary and junior high
- I need more information about transportation between schools.
- No, I don't have any questions. It was all very clear. I just live across from James McKeivitt and when we moved I was hoping to go to Our Lady of Peace (currently at Our Lady of the Evergreens)
- My concern is that my daughter is going to be in grade 6 next year and St. Stephen's is so far away.
- Parents are feeling relieved - with the new proposal it's easier for parents to coordinate with each other to get their child to school.
- Travel time is lessened for students/parents commuting
- One family is basing their decision on where they live on the decision of this proposal. If the proposal doesn't go through they are thinking of moving into Shawnee Slopes.
- Parents were also worried about kids that walk and are in the way of frustrated drivers, or the slippery slope at the end of the parking lot at Our Lady of Peace. This is a very dangerous spot they noted, with many near misses, already. Parents were worried this will only increase.
- Bell times-concern about the bells and trying to get students to all schools within time.

**Questions regarding implementation of the proposal:**

- Where will my child go if they are in grade 8 going to grade 9?
- When will we know the decision for grade 8 at St. Stephen coming to Our Lady of Peace.  
**This was in part the purpose of tonight's engagement. Parents can expect to hear more information by the end of November or early December.**
- When will the overall decision be made?
- How long will this process take?  
**This was in part the purpose of tonight's engagement. Parents can expect to hear more information by the end of November or early December.**
- When will this be implemented, hopefully next year?
- Why do you have to decide either or? Why can't there be a mix of moving and not moving?
- Is it possible to start with grade 6 next year and then progress year by year?  
**With respect to students in Grade 6 and 7 this year, the plan is for implementation in September 2019.**
- Why can't this move be phased in, and leave 7/8/9 students at Stephens and then move bussing and grades over a period of 2 to 3 years?  
**While this would seem the least disruptive, transporting smaller and smaller numbers of students becomes more difficult. It also has the potential of separating siblings and disrupting friendships.**
- Would all students be moving at the same time? Or staggered?  
**The district's priority is sustainable decision-making that minimizes disruption to student program. Requiring a student to change schools twice in two years can be quite disruptive, whereas if a student remains in a learning environment for two or more years, the impact is less disruptive.**

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- Have you considered repurposing Our Lady of Peace/Our Lady of the Evergreens as K-4 and 5-9?  
This is not currently under consideration. This would not be a typical district grade configuration and presents significant challenges when it comes to provincial achievement test analysis and review as well as professional development.
- Could it be possible to include younger siblings with a junior high student that has moved to Our Lady of Peace (easier on parents' transportation)?  
While keeping siblings together has merit and is convenient for parents, this would occur at the expense of available room and resources for other students. Current enrolments and projections suggest that this is not possible.
- Would there be an opportunity for the parents to decide if their Gr.8 child could stay or move?  
Once a final decision has been made, parents would be expected to attend their designated school. There are occasions where it is in the best interest of student to remain in their current school. This is handled on a case by case basis.
- Is the only benefit less transportation time?  
This is one benefit of the proposal. A second is that all students from the area would remain with their peer group and attend Bishop O'Byrne High School. A third benefit, and one that is often voiced by the community, is that students will attend school closer to home.
- If capacity of St. Stephen was a concern historically, why were students from Evergreen being sent there? Why not sent to Our Lady of Peace a few years ago? Why is this just coming up now?  
Capacity at St. Stephen has never been the concern. The concern has been with respect to capacity at Our Lady of Peace. It is only recently that the capacity at Our Lady of Peace has afforded the opportunity to consider the inclusion of students from Evergreens.
- Will kids who are in in grade 6 now at Our Lady of the Evergreens be going to Our Lady of Peace for next year?  
That is the current plan under this proposal.
- Capacity-will younger siblings be grandfathered in when Our Lady of Peace reaches capacity?  
Should Our Lady of Peace enrolments exceed available space and resources, the district would return to the community for further consultation/proposals with respect to how restricted enrolment would be implemented.
- Are all parents on board with this change?  
That is in part the purpose of tonight's engagement, however preliminary feedback at the school council meetings held at Our Lady of the Evergreens (October 9), Our Lady of Peace (October 10) and St. Stephen (October 11) was supportive of the proposal.

### Questions with respect to the projections:

- Will boundaries be changing 5-6 years later?
- What if Our Lady of Peace reaches capacity faster than projected, what will happened to Our Lady of the Evergreens students?
- In 5-6 years will we be in the same situation to go back to St. Stephen?  
Should Our Lady of Peace enrolments exceed available space and resources, the district would return to the community for further consultation with respect to how restricted enrolment would be implemented.
- What is the percentage of our students that went to public school instead of St. Stephens, due to convenience?  
Approximately 25 students have moved into the public system each year for the past two years after finishing grade 6 at Our Lady of the Evergreen School.
- What are the number of Div. II students will be sent over to Our Lady of Peace? Would that be sustained for several years? Will this be issue be revisited again in 5-7 years?  
To be clear, Division II (Grades 4-6) students are not impacted by this proposal. Division III (Grades 7-9) students are impacted by the proposal. Projections suggest that the decision is sustainable for the foreseeable future. Should Our Lady of Peace enrolments exceed available space and resources, the district would return to the community for further consultation with respect to how restricted enrolment would be implemented.
- Have they the numbers coming in from the Shawnee Slopes development in Our Lady of Peace?

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Yes, this has been included in the enrolment analysis and projection.

- Families that chose to move their children to Marshall Springs School (CBE) will most likely return, how that will affect enrollment numbers at Our Lady of the Evergreens and Our Lady of Peace?  
This potential has been included in the enrolment analysis and projection.
- On the Our Lady of Peace historical and projected enrollment slide (slide 15) - the two dotted lines that go above the current capacity line. Does that mean that portables are added onto Our Lady of Peace as the projection lines extend beyond the current capacity line?  
The core building/modular classroom design is one of the ways that the district manages the ebb and flow of community growth. The current capacity at Our Lady of Peace is 700, however with additional modular classrooms the school can accommodate at least 875 students.
- Projections show that Our Lady of Peace will be over capacity in the next 5 years, despite apparently lower projections for Our Lady of the Evergreens and St. Stephens. Why is this?  
Re-designating students from Evergreen to Our Lady of Peace from St. Stephen would naturally increase enrolment at Our Lady of Peace and decrease enrolment at St. Stephen. Lower projections for Our Lady of the Evergreens are a natural function of the community growth pattern.
- How accurate are these projections? Where does this information come from?  
Projections are not only based on current populations of a school but also on the preschool census data collected by the city annually relative to each individual community and growth patterns experienced city wide. Growth patterns and relevant student demographics are analyzed to develop projections. The District has a high degree of confidence in the projected numbers. These figures are relied upon to make critical Planning decisions on an on-going basis.

### Questions with respect to the impact on Our Lady of Peace

- With the traffic increasing due to attendance, will there be supervision and how will we ensure the safety of pedestrians?  
Safety of our students is a top priority for the school district. Many of our schools are located on busy streets, and at every school there are often community habits that have developed over time that need to be reshaped. This is done in concert with the City of Calgary and includes things like ensuring proper signage (no parking, bus zone, and playground zone) and enforcement by Calgary Police Service.
- How will the principal manage the addition of 100-200 new students, regarding drop offs, pick up and parking?  
All schools are busy at the start and end of the day. Calgary Catholic has many schools with high elementary/junior high populations. Schools put procedures in place to ensure the safety of students. Following the direction of school staff will help ensure the safety of all students.
- Why is Our Lady of Peace a better school than St. Stephen?  
The district is proud of all its schools. Re-designating Evergreen junior high students from St. Stephen to Our Lady of Peace has nothing to do with the quality of either school, and everything to do with meeting goals expressed by the community for a junior high that was not so far away.
- How many classes of each grade are in the Our Lady of Peace Jr. High now?  
Currently there are 3 grade 7 classes, 3 grade 8 classes, and 4 grade 9 classes.
- Would Public School students be invited back to Our Lady of Peace?  
All resident (Catholic) students residing within a school's attendance area are entitled to register at the school. Non-residents (non-Catholics) may only be given permission to register if the school has available facilities and resources.

### Questions with respect to Transportation:

- Will bussing be provided to students in Evergreen?  
Junior and Senior High students in the City of Calgary residing 2.4 kilometers or more from their designated school may be eligible to receive subsidized Calgary Transit bus passes, upon application, where regularly scheduled Calgary transit service exists. Currently, Calgary Transit bus routes average about 20-30 minutes maximum each way from Evergreen addresses to Our Lady of Peace School. This ride time on regular bus routes is well within the standards

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accepted by CCSD Transportation, who will work with Calgary Transit to ensure a smooth transition, if and when this school transition plan goes ahead.

- What would transportation look like if parents choose to keep their kids at St. Stephen?  
Junior high students living > 2.4 km from their designated school are eligible to apply for the district's Transit Pass Rebate. In junior high students may purchase a bus pass and apply for a bus pass rebate. Students who are not attending their designated school are not eligible for a bus pass rebate.
- Can transportation be grandfathered for the grade 8 families who choose to remain at St. Stephen?  
This will depend upon the implementation of the proposal. Should the final decision stipulate that students currently in Grade 8 to remain at St. Stephen for their grade 9 year, then they would be eligible for a bus pass rebate. Should the decision stipulate that the designated school for Evergreen students currently in Grade 8 is Our Lady of Peace, then students who wished to seek permission to register at St. Stephen as an out of boundary student would not be eligible for a bus pass rebate.

### Questions with respect to the impact on St. Stephen:

- Could this proposal be reversed at some point? Are the numbers at St. Stephen in danger of getting too low?  
St. Stephen will continue to serve the communities of Southwood, Canyon Meadows, Woodlands, Woodbine and Legacy.
- What happens to St. Stephen after Our Lady of the Evergreens is removed?  
St. Stephen will continue to function as a district school and will continue to provide the outstanding core program currently offered. Options are determined on a year to year basis and are a function of staff and student interest.

### Questions with respect to high school:

- What would be my designated High School?  
There would be no change in designated high school. Students who reside in Evergreen attend Bishop O'Byrne High School. This is one of the strengths of the proposal, as currently, Evergreen students completing Grade 9 at St. Stephen are separated from their peer group, as the designated high school for the St. Stephen community is Bishop Grandin.
- Does BOB have an IB program?  
Yes.

### General Questions:

- Could the schools all post their options so there is consistency at all schools?  
Because options are based upon student interest, there is not consistency at all schools with respect to all options that are available for students. This is, in part, what allows our schools to develop their own unique culture and identity.
- Is there a possibility of a Junior High school in Evergreen - there used to be a sign for a Catholic school site? (close to Fish Creek Blvd & Everbrook Drive)  
The site referenced in the above question is not a CCSD school site. Currently there are no plans in the short term to medium term on our capital plan 2019-2022 for a school in Evergreen. The District does not have any vacant sites in the area.
- Are CTS courses offered at Our Lady of Peace or do the kids move around?  
Currently in 2018-2019 school year, CTS in the region is offered through Holy Child, St. Cyril and St. Bonaventure School.
- How do schools plan to manage challenges when student enrolment exceeds their capacity? Both in terms of classroom but also function around drop off, parking etc.  
Capacity of the school is based upon 25 students per classroom X number of classrooms. Often schools are able to exceed capacity through the strategic use of classroom space as well as other spaces in the school (ancillary spaces)

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as classrooms. With respect to drop-off and parking, safety of our students is a top priority, and all schools put procedures in place to ensure the safety of students.

- Outside of area-could our child still go to Our Lady of Peace? (parents moved since daughter started, live just outside area).

Once an out of boundary student is accepted into a school, that student is allowed to remain at the school.

Normally, any changes to who may attend are designated and implemented to impact students not yet attending the school, to minimize disruption to student program.

### **Question 2, Part 1: Regarding students currently in Grade 8, what would be the strengths and challenges of allowing them to complete junior high at St. Stephen?**

#### **General Comments:**

- Give choice without forcing students to move.
- Feel like it should be optional for all three grades to make move at parents' discretion.

#### **Strengths:**

- Relationships that were built they have the chance together with their classmates and teachers
- Opportunity to close the cycle before the move to another.
- Teacher relationships, friend groups maintained
- It wouldn't be a challenge because peers/friends often are from the same community.
- An extra year to build relationships in junior high before moving to high school.
- They have been in the school for two years and they will be able to finish with their friends and move on together to high school
- Consistency
- Security of being in a familiar place, know the routine, know the expectations
- Kids are known by the teachers
- They develop a closeness to their junior high teachers so the option to stay with adults they are familiar with for this age is important
- They have established routines. They have already formed friends.
- Doesn't make sense to move for one year. They already know the teachers and policies.
- Proximity to this school is an advantage, especially on inclement weather days
- Our table felt most students would want to stay at St. Stephen
- All friends are very important at this age. It is unfair to ask them to move.
- Familiarity of staff and administration – there is a comfort level with staying.
- Participants at our table felt all Junior High Students should complete their time at their current school. New students starting Grade 6-7 can then continue with this new proposal. The reason the table felt this way was due to Jr. High School being difficult as it was, and not losing already established supports. Some examples included keeping friendships, teacher relationships, and school champions. This was noted as the worst time for students to have to go through such a significant change, especially if transportation was also unclear.
- Stay with their friends
- Finishing junior high with the same group of friends, memories.
- Just one more year

#### **Challenges:**

- Transportation for parents to Stephen is long, 857 is VERY full
- Priority should be given to maintaining peer relationships. Either school could maintain that somewhat.
- Relationships could be stronger because they would live closer to their peers.

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- Splitting grade 8 students from their friends that they've developed over two years (from St. Stephen).
- Travel time; distance from home
- Bussing issues, will it run if there's only one grade/small amount
- Siblings might end up being split
- Removal of transportation is the biggest concern.
- Families with students presently in grade 6 and 7 next year would benefit from staying together.
- More challenging to go to another school for one year (for students and parents)
- Agreed friends would be a factor, potentially looking toward high school.
- Having kids at two schools (transportation etc.) if you had one in 7, one in 8, two different schools.
- If there are not enough numbers at St. Stevens from here, the transit bus may not run

### **Question 2, Part 2: What would be the strengths and challenges of moving them to Our Lady of Peace?**

#### **General Comments:**

- Provide an opportunity for the parents to decide if their Gr.8 child could stay or move
- Leaving all current St. Stephen students; beginning transition with Grade 6 students entering Grade 7 next year. Leave all current St. Stephen students from Evergreen at ST. Stephen
- Don't move the Grade 8s if it would make them ineligible for sports teams in 2019-2020
- Moving all students at same time, don't prolonging the difficulties

#### **Strengths:**

- Close to home, both catholic schools Challenge: transportation in winter can be a challenging ideally they attend Our Lady of the Evergreens
- The potential to build new relationships in a new environment with students that live closer to each other.
- Establishing relationships with the grade 9's from Our Lady of Peace so that they can make connections for high school - will make high school transition easier
- Integrated with the kids they'll be with in high school
- Could build resilience
- The change in friend group will need to happen sometime, it may as well be sooner rather than later.
- Start a friendship group that is moving to senior high together as a group
- Our Lady of Peace has a better reputation and proximity; will help students learn to cope with change
- Proximity is better for Evergreen students for working parents. Both Our Lady of the Evergreens and Our Lady of Peace are close together.
- Closer to community, their neighborhood
- Shorter transportation time, more free time
- After-school activities-closer to home and more alternate routes to home.
- More students could feel like they could participate in extra-curricular
- Better gym here at Our Lady of Peace!

#### **Challenges:**

- Moving them only for a year is a concern with their friendships and relationships they have already built. Parent mentioned about hormonal change that it is already a challenge, this may add more stress
- Breaking up established peer groups in junior high
- This will depend on the student. Fear of the unknown. Making new friends. Leaving relationships with teachers that have been their champions. Not being able to complete their junior high in the same school.
- Psychological impact, going to a new place during puberty
- Bonds of friendship

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- Would lose their friends
- Change of friends and routines would be a challenge
- Students would not want to move; they understand routine, know the teachers; comfortable; emotional stability. Wouldn't want to move twice in two years.
- Change is difficult for children
- Not wise to move the community (Evergreen) to Our Lady of Peace if we are going to have to move them back to St. Stephen in a few years
- Community sports/ activities build relations and staying in the community is important to their kids' relationships
- Moving current students would be too much change for them with the already existing challenges of this age group.
- Only here for one year, lack of attachment
- Bus routes-what is this going to look like. Might be much more challenging for some families.

### Question 3: Are there any factors that we have failed to consider that may have a bearing on our final decision?

#### General Questions:

- What ranking is Our Lady of Peace at?  
The district is proud of the work done in all its schools. A school's ranking (such as the Fraser Report) is one small measure of success and does not take into account other factors that are equally or more important such the strength of teacher – student relationships and personal development.
- Is JJ O'Brien is that an option?  
No, currently JJ O'Brien would not have available room and resources
- Could a reconfiguration of the schools in this area be made to allow all the congregation of students in the surrounding area together (i.e. create more exclusive elementary and junior high schools)?
- Has the district considered expanding the Evergreen school to a K-9 school?  
An elementary-junior high facility is built to different specifications than an elementary school, including factors like sink height, washrooms, and ancillary spaces. Our Lady of the Evergreens was designed to serve K-6 students and Our Lady of Peace was designed to serve K-9 students. A reconfiguration of the schools would not represent the best use of the facilities.
- Is the district going to consider giving parents an option of having their child stay at St. Stephen (especially students who have made strong connections or may fall through the cracks)? Will special circumstances be considered?  
This is in fact the purpose of our discussion tonight, to obtain input and feedback from the community in order to inform district decision making.
- Have you looked at and factored in all the Catholic families from Marshall Springs - if they came to Our Lady of Peace, will there still be room for Our Lady of the Evergreens kids? If not, will there be a priority for the kids that are still in the Catholic before they try to get in?  
This potential has been included in the enrolment analysis and projection.
- Would Our Lady of Peace have the staff to help with children with LSPs that require extra support compared to being at St. Stephen?  
Yes. Each school is staffed according to district guidelines. These guidelines ensure that necessary supports are in place to help ensure the success of each student.
- When do we know for sure? How long does it take for the decision to be made?  
Parents can expect to hear more information by the end of November or early December.
- Have they considered moving grade 7's for certain and Gr. 8's by choice?  
The current proposal calls for moving student's currently in Grade 7 to Our Lady of Peace for their Grade 8 & 9 year. What to do with Grade 8s is the purpose of our discussion tonight.

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- Are you 'killing' one school to benefit another? (St. Stephen)  
St. Stephen will continue to function as a district school and will continue to provide the outstanding program currently offered to the communities it serves (Southwood, Canyon Meadows, Woodlands, Woodbine and Legacy).
- Has walking from just outside the 2.4 kilometers in very cold weather been considered? Are there options that the district can provide?
- The 2.4 km limit is standard across the district. During very cold weather, parents are encouraged to take appropriate steps to ensure the safety of their children including dressing appropriately for the weather.
- Are there plans to build another school at any time soon? Expansion?  
There are no current plans for new builds or expansion in the communities of Evergreen or Millrise. Information on the district's Capital Plan can be found on the [Reports and Publications](#) page on the District web site.
- New communities coming up-where will those students go?  
As development begins in new communities, a school is designated for the community closer to occupancy date. A list of designated schools by community can be found on the [Schools](#) page on the district web site

### General Comments:

- Be clear in communication to students that this is a decision that will be made on their behalf.
- Some parents have chosen to leave CCSD to go to CBE because they didn't want their children to travel the distance to St. Stephen - was there a way that this could have been avoided?"
- We are in favor of choice especially for the students who are anxious
- Be very clear on the transportation piece as some parents could perceive that the bus would continue to bring parents to Our Lady of Peace just as there is currently as bus that takes the students to St. Stephen
- Plan is good - like the earlier bell time at Our Lady of Peace
- Being at Our Lady of Peace would allow students to maintain their connection with St. Patrick's Parish, which is their home parish church.
- Worried about the impact on families who have a younger student who are following an older sibling - for example, one attending St. Stephen and one attending Our Lady of Peace. Window of time for families that would be drastically impacted by attending two schools.
- Give the parents the option
- The major concern for parents at this table was around transportation. That can break or make the viability of this plan they noted.
- Parents also suggested setting up an alternate door for pick up and drop offs, to avoid congestion and accidents in the parking lot.