

Zimbra

Fwd: CSF Consultation - Prince George

De: "Joe Shea" <jose.shea@gmail.com>

À: "Patrick Gatien" <patrick_gatien@csf.bc.ca>

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Objet: CSF Consultation - Prince George

Cher M. Gatien,

I write to you as a parent of three children currently enrolled in Ecole Franco Nord (Grades 3 and 6) and the francophone program at Duchess Park (Grade 8) in Prince George, British Columbia.

I attended last night's online consultation session, and came away with a feeling of intense disappointment. While I support the Supreme Court decision that our children are entitled to "an educational experience truly equivalent to that of the majority", a hastily prescribed switch from the current widely accepted heterogeneous system

here in Prince George will do the exact opposite.

Our francophone community is small but vibrant. Would our kids benefit from additional French-language instruction in high school? Absolutely. But they also need the opportunities for socialization, the extracurricular clubs and sports, the breadth of elective classes, and the exposure to a wide range of teachers and mentors that simply cannot be provided in a K-12 francophone school with limited numbers of students. The staffing issues that were raised repeatedly by concerned parents last night cannot and will not be resolved by "hope". And by telling people that if they don't like the changes, they can always choose to move their kids out of the francophone system, your consultation process isn't much of a consultation at all.

My suggestions: increase the French language instruction at the high school level by bringing in additional Francophone teachers. But please: maintain the current heterogeneous model, with our high school students integrating with the large and diverse student population at Duchess Park and all the opportunities that a large school provides.

Regards,

Joseph Shea

cc: Mme Annette Azar-Diehl, Vice-Présidente
Mme Annie Bédard, Conseillère
Mme Marie-Christine Claveau, Conseillère
M. Robert Fillion, Conseiller
M. Roger Lagassé, Conseiller
M. Michel St-Amant, Directeur général du CSF
Mme Caroline Picard, Directrice générale adjointe du CSF
Mme Marie-Andrée Asselin, Directrice générale de la Fédération des parents
Mme Suzana Straus, Présidente de la Fédération des parents
Mme Dolorès Patenaude, Directrice de l'école Franco-Nord et du programme francophone de Duchess Park
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