



March 1, 2023

Dear Elementary School Families – Clarke High School

As you know, we continue to experience increased enrolment pressures within the family of elementary schools that connect to Clarke High School. Specifically, we have significant challenges in having enough space for all our students at Newcastle Public School PS and The Pines Senior PS.

As part of our efforts to manage this issue on an ongoing basis, we began a consultation process last December with families to review and seek input on possible approaches to student accommodation within these schools.

We would like to thank all the families and community members who lent their voice, either in-person or online, throughout our recent consultation meetings.

Trustees:

Steve Russell
(Chairperson)

Jaine Klassen Jeninga
(Vice-chairperson)

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Maria Mahfuz
Kelly Mitchell
(Student Trustees)

We appreciate that these are difficult choices to make for students and families, and we will continue to work toward long-term solutions.

I am writing today to share that, at last evening's Regular Meeting of the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board, Trustees approved adjustments to educational programming at Newcastle Public School and The Pines Senior Public School.

Beginning September 2024, The Pines Senior Public School will change from its current Grade 6-8 structure to become a Grade 5-8 dual-track French Immersion School. Newcastle Public School will become a Junior Kindergarten to Grade 4 dual-track French Immersion School.

Beginning this September 2023, The Pines Senior Public School will utilize space within Clarke High School where necessary.

The Board also approved a motion to continue advocating for funding to build a new Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12 school on Board-owned property in Newcastle. To that end, the Board has re-submitted its capital funding request to the Ministry of Education, and remains hopeful that this funding may be approved.

Over the next few months, school leaders will continue to explore a variety of transition activities with families to prepare students for future accommodation adjustments for both the upcoming and 2024 school year.

We appreciate your engagement in public education and your continued support of our school communities.

Sincerely,

Sonal Gohil
Superintendent of Education

Rita Russo
Director of Education

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