

For those concerned, below are some resources. The parents involved in the 2014 Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) process are coming forward to the media today.

1. FORM LETTER

Send to officials at any level. Copy-Paste or edit and send to your representatives. Addresses below.

Dear

This note is to express how deeply concerned I am about the proposed size of the new K-12 school in Parry Sound for 815 students, the result of a process that began in 2012. The Near North District School Board's own Capital Plans show that the new school will be 17.5% under capacity on the day it opens, and a long-term projection of enrolment decline that has not been transparently justified.

Why is this project moving forward after a decade of deliberation, during Covid, with an insufficient budget, a location that ignores ARC recommendations, and with total lack of transparent and meaningful community engagement, while there is a provincial moratorium on school closures?

On June 8th, we see the architect's plans and are asked for feedback just weeks before a scheduled demolition. That is not "community engagement" nor is it meaningful consultation.

As you may know, the Ombudsman asked NNDSB to do better. This is their chance.

Our community deserves better. Please help us have a proper review and consider a 7-12 school, a combined pool and school build, and other options not available to us in 2014.

Please help us pause the demolition and review our options.

Thank you.

[Name]

[school name] parent / grandparent

2. WHERE TO SEND YOUR LETTER

NNDSB new school consultation form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfP_azsPZ_EDAX-RJn95ldFsWNRRT_MftKd0kIN_wR0I-XUA/viewform

NNDSB:

<https://www.nearnorthschools.ca/board/senior-administration/>

<https://www.nearnorthschools.ca/board/board-of-trustees/>

Ministry of Education:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/contacts.html#:~:text=Ministry%20of%20Education%3A%201%2D800,in%20Toronto%20or%20outside%20Ontario>

MPP Norm Miller:

<https://normmillermpp.ca/contact/>

MP Scott Aitchison:

[https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en/scott-aitchison\(105340\)#contact](https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en/scott-aitchison(105340)#contact)

Your municipal councils and First Nation councils need to hear from you. Find their contacts online.

3. COMPLAINT FORM TO OMBUDSMAN

<https://www.ombudsman.on.ca/have-a-complaint/make-a-complaint/complaint-form-general>

Complaint Form sample "Summary of your complaint" to copy-paste or edit:

*The Near North District School Board has received Ministry of Education funding for an ARC initiated in 2014 and is moving forward a decade later with a plan to construct a K-12 School in Parry Sound. This school is being constructed for a capacity of **815** students but the Board has not provided a transparent justification for this number nor have they held any meaningful public consultation since 2014.*

Their proposed capacity does not reflect any of the publicly available data and is inconsistent with the enrolment numbers that have been provided to the public by the Board in other presentations and media releases. The Board's own internal enrolment calculations, as per their 2020 Capital Plan (<https://www.nearnorthschools.ca/community/capital-planning/>) anticipates that the school would open in the fall of 2023 with an enrolment of 958 students and remain above 815 until at least 2028-2029.

We are also concerned that their projections do not take into account a new census and the growth in the Parry Sound area due to the Covid-19 pandemic and that a school built for 815 students may be too small throughout its lifetime.

I am requesting an external review of the Board's calculations of school enrolment be made public and that demolition of Parry Sound High School be paused until that information is obtained. Thank you.

4. ONLINE PETITION <https://www.change.org/p/near-north-district-school-board-is-this-what-we-want-for-our-children>

5. OTHER INFORMATION

Ombudsman investigation finds lack of transparency at NNDSB: <https://www.ombudsman.on.ca/resources/reports-and-case-summaries/reports-on-investigations/2019/lessons-not-learned>

Board slides to Town: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQQLP_hgjnU at 42:00 & 47:20 that enrollment projection went from 1066 to 866

NNDSB link for feedback following June 8th presentation:

Process according to Board: <https://www.nearnorthschools.ca/blog/jk-12-build-parry-sound/10652/>

Timeline: <https://www.nearnorthschools.ca/blog/16349/16349/>

Parry Sound Public School built capacity: 500. That's likely where K-6 overflow will go that don't fit in the "Mega" school.

NNDSB Capital Plan projecting enrolment updated in 2020: <https://www.nearnorthschools.ca/community/capital-planning/>

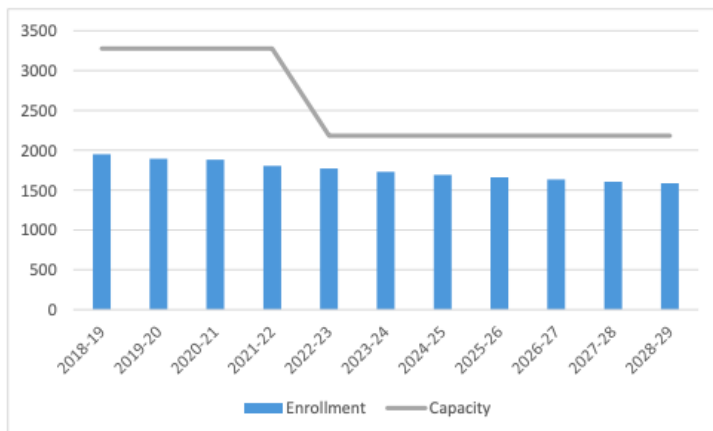
School	Capacity	Current Enrollment	Projected Enrollment									
		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Britt	187	35	34	37	36	35	35	34	34	34	35	34
Humphrey	305	233	213	217	210	205	196	195	192	198	198	199
MacTier	199	95	93	88	87	84	82	80	76	73	71	71
McDougall	302	162	151	137	127	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nobel	334	186	188	199	198	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parry Sound 7-12	1,293	796	779	789	732	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parry Sound K-12	835	-	-	-	-	959	958	943	923	896	869	851
Parry Sound Public	504	405	399	380	381	456	433	412	407	403	402	403
Whitestone Lake	153	39	37	34	34	31	27	28	29	29	30	30
Total Enrollment		1,951	1,894	1,881	1,805	1,770	1,731	1,692	1,661	1,633	1,605	1,588
Total Utilization		60%	58%	57%	55%	81%	79%	78%	76%	75%	74%	73%

Planning Area Observations

- Significant underutilization at Britt and Whitestone is a concern.
- Most students are Britt are tuition paying.
- Humphrey’s enrollment is stable.
- MacTier’s utilization of under 50% is of concern.

Possible Future Options

- Explore partnerships for underutilized schools.
- Monitor MacTier in preparation for replacement in the future.
- Consider using underutilized spaces to accommodate administrative staff and centralized services.
- Consider how Britt can best meet the needs of the community it serves.



Contact given for project: (705) 472-8170 ext. 5010

Deb.Bartlett@nearnorthschools.ca

Census population growth 3.5% in Parry Sound from 2011 to 2016

Budget

The original budget was \$27.6M in 2015 and dropped to \$26.3M in 2020. Yet, in order to build the 2015 school today, we would need \$31M and that doesn't include the actual rise in building costs for a "state-of-the-art" school. If closing Nobel and McDougall saves money - where is that money going? To benefit the Parry Sound area or just the Board's general expenses? Why go ahead with this project? What about building a new 7-12 school instead that has enough space for all students? What about building it with the new pool complex like Bracebridge so successfully has?

Business Plans are required to justify enrolment numbers and secure Ministry funding for new schools. Excerpt below from:

<https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/faab/Capital%20Programs%20Branch/From%20Concept%20to%20Classroom.pdf>

Contact for question about our K-12 Business Plan: Alexandre Beaudin, Business Process and Project Manager 416-212-4818, Alexandre.Beaudin@ontario.ca

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If you read this far and want to be part of a community strategy for a better school, we are hoping that Parent Councils will be organizing a meeting in the near future. Thank you for speaking up for our community, our kids, and our future!

Becky & Greg Mason

Nobel School parents & ARC Review participants 2014