

From: [Karen Matthews](#)
To: [Karen Matthews](#)
Subject: D Redden FW: School Board potential cutting Late French Immersion program
Date: December 17, 2024 2:20:42 PM

From: Dawn Redden <>

Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 1:12 PM

To: Trustees BoardChair <TrusteesBoardChair@sd68.bc.ca>; District Administration Centre Manager <DistrictAdministrationCentreManager@sd68.bc.ca>; Naomi Bailey <Naomi.Bailey@sd68.bc.ca>; Greg Keller <Greg.Keller@sd68.bc.ca>; Tania Brzovic <Tania.Brzovic@sd68.bc.ca>; Leanne Lee <leanne.lee@sd68.bc.ca>; Chantelle Morvay <Chantelle.Morvay@sd68.bc.ca>; Leana Pellegrin <Leana.Pellegrin@sd68.bc.ca>; Mark Robinson <Mark.Robinson@sd68.bc.ca>; Tom Rokeby <Tom.Rokeby@sd68.bc.ca>; Tim Harris <Tim.Harris@sd68.bc.ca>; Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Programs <AsstSupSecondary@sd68.bc.ca>; Superintendent <Superintendent@sd68.bc.ca>; Secretary-Treasurer <SecretaryTreasurer@sd68.bc.ca>; Learning Services Director of Instruction Inclusive Education Elementary <DirectorofInstructionInclusiveEducationElementary@sd68.bc.ca>; Dpacsd68@gmail.com; Consultation <consultation@sd68.bc.ca>; sheila.malcolmson.mla@leg.bc.ca; stephanie.higginson.mla@leg.bc.ca; geroge.anderson.mla@leg.bc.ca; lisamarie.barron@parl.gc.ca; ECC.Minister@gov.bc.ca; EDUC.learningdivision@gov.bc.ca; DM.Education@gov.bc.ca

Subject: School Board potential cutting Late French Immersion program

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Dear School Trustees:

I am very disappointed to hear that the school board is considering cutting the Late French Immersion program in SD68. I am a parent of two children that had the privilege to enter the French Immersion program in kindergarten. Thank goodness, back in 2013, my eldest daughter won the "lottery" and was able to attend our number one pick of Ecole Quarterway. Had our eldest daughter not gotten into the FI program at kindergarten, we certainly would have tried again when she was entering Grade 6. This leads to the many parents that are waiting for their chance of having their child(ren) enter the FI program in Grade 6 (and also siblings in a later year) A question would be, when did the waitlists stop happening for entry in K/1. I know some parents back in 2018/2019/2020 that didn't get "picked" in the lottery are now waiting for the chance to enter into the LFI program. Now that could be taken away from them.

Also, the timing (seems very short notice) and no consultation with parents, LFI students, past LFI students seem underhanded. For concerned parents and community members to have to scabble in five days to voice their concerns is very disrespectful. To not have parent consultation is disrespectful. And not abiding by the Ministry of Education French Immersion Program policy which states: "Having established a program, school districts should promote the program and recruit students. Should the enrollment become insufficient, school districts should consult parents to find solutions. If there is no resolution to the problem, the district should give at least one year's notice to

parents of any changes contemplated to permit full discussion and to allow parents time to consider alternatives for their children"

This apparent hasty decision would not only impact the 50 or so students, but also the entire Ecole Quarterway population including teachers. And what about the 50 or so students that could have taken the LFI program next year, and the year after, and the year after that and so on.

I implore you to reconsider cutting the Late French Immersion program. Also, if it is actually the "low demand" for LFI, then reach out to parents and community members to help promote and increase the number of students. Please do not cut this program.

Sincerely,

Dawn Redden

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