From: <u>Karen Matthews</u>
To: <u>Karen Matthews</u>

Subject: N. Jensen FW: Urgent: Vote on Late Entry French Immersion Program

Date: December 16, 2024 9:23:07 AM

----Original Message-----From: Nicole Jensen <>

Sent: Saturday, December 14, 2024 5:54 AM

To: District Administration Centre Manager < DistrictAdministrationCentreManager@sd68.bc.ca>

Cc: Tania Brzovic < Tania. Brzovic @sd68.bc.ca>

Subject: Urgent: Vote on Late Entry French Immersion Program

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Dear valued Board Members,

It was only yesterday that École Quarterway families learned we may lose our late entry to French Immersion (LFI) program. There is a feeling among the community that this recommendation and the voting taking place on December 18, 2024, is being rushed, with little time for parent and community consultation. So I'm writing this email to you today to ask you to strongly consider your vote, given the impact this will have on so many families.

For many families, LFI is the only opportunity for their children to learn French if they missed Early French Immersion. (Many families are unsuccessful in the school lottery for Early French Immersion). LFI opens doors to cultural, academic, and career opportunities while fostering inclusivity and supporting bilingualism.

Although I don't have the enrolment numbers to back it up, based on what I'm hearing from the community, there are a lot of families that rely on LFI. I know many families are in a situation where their older child did not get into the early French immersion program but their youngest did, who were counting on enrolling in LFI in the coming years.

It would be a shame to lose this program which is an opportunity for many kids to increase language skills, offer a new learning/peer environment, and experience quarterway's strong band and library programs (amongst other great things going on at quarterway). And moving the LFI program to another school like Hammond Bay unfortunately does not service the central and south Nanaimo communities. Hammond Bay has a different clientele and a culture very different from Quarterway.

I kindly ask for your consideration to vote 'no' on December 18th so we can keep LFI at Ecole Quarterway. Thank you for your time and support!

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