

**From:** [Karen Matthews](#)  
**To:** [Karen Matthews](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Cancellation - Late French Immersion Program  
**Date:** December 17, 2024 12:46:05 PM

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**From:** John Ruffell <>

**Sent:** Monday, December 16, 2024 5:47 PM

**To:** Trustees BoardChair <TrusteesBoardChair@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>; Superintendent <Superintendent@sd68.bc.ca>; Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Programs <AsstSupSecondary@sd68.bc.ca>; Secretary-Treasurer <SecretaryTreasurer@sd68.bc.ca>

**Subject:** Proposed Cancellation - Late French Immersion Program

**CAUTION:** External Message

SD68 Board,

This past weekend, another concerned parent informed me about the planned cancellation of the late French immersion program in Nanaimo. This news was extremely upsetting and disappointing for my family.

I am a Father to 3 children, my oldest graduated from this program last year, and we were planning to enroll our other two children in 2025 and 2027. We intentionally made our decision to enroll our children in an English-speaking school for K-5, knowing that the District was proudly promoting this French option for Grades 6-7. In hindsight, this appears to be an awful mistake, and we will now not be able to provide all of our children with the same opportunity.

Can the Board speak to any efforts that were made to promote the program if enrollment was low? Can the Board wait and see what enrollment numbers look like this year? What if there is a full class this year?

I consistently see so much effort by the District to focus on the most challenged students, but so little on students that are wishing to push themselves (which I would argue this program provides students in Grades 6 and 7). The Board should champion, promote, and encourage enrollment in programs like this. And certainly making such hasty decisions with no consultation is just gutting. Disappointed is an understatement and I hope you will reconsider. Count me in as a parent that would be willing to get involved in brainstorming ideas to improve enrollment.

Sincerely,

John Ruffell