

NCDSB Boundary Review Public Meeting

October 21, 2013 in Cobalt

Public Comments:

Sue – is a Town Councillor in Cobalt, she has been through an ARC with the Public Board. When looking at current Boundary map, one sees a huge disparity, it is not fair to the catchment areas represented for both schools and there's a danger in this. She asked is it the intent of the Boundary Review to close St. Pats School. Answer provided by Glenn was no. Sue went on to say that the school is vital and important to the community. She believes that children living in South end of Boundary are should come to St. Pats (ie. Martin River, Latchford). She commented on how it is dangerous to centralize services like DSBONE did with a super-school as this is not fair to smaller communities who lose key services. If required Cobalt can provide support behind Boundary Review and Cobalt definitely wants St. Pats in its community.

Rick – asked about the history of the current boundaries that predate 1994.

Chris – provided a brief history he got from Bob, that in the 1970s or 1980s St. Pats School only went from JK to Grade 4. St. Pats then grew slowly over the years to include grades 5 through to 8. A bus to ECCs has always existed through the south area of the boundary review.

Louis – we have to be careful when telling anyone what to do. We don't want to lose teachers and we don't want to lose students to the public board. He warned about offending parents and that we have to be careful in the messaging.

Todd – noted the idea that came up at the Temagami Public Consultation; that Current ECCS students should be "grandfathered" in and should be allowed to remain to complete their studies at ECCS.

Jackie – commented on how she feels sad that people in Cobalt can send their child wherever they want but that people in Coleman County or Lorraine Valley cannot send their child where they want to, due to existing boundaries. She commented on a bus that is going to Latchford that is a half empty, it would be so easy to transfer students to this bus that could go to St. Pats.

Louis – Asked about the town of Haileybury and where they go to school. It was clarified that students who live in Haileybury have a choice as to where they want to go to school.

Chris – asked about the boundaries that were in place when the ARC process took place affecting Cobalt Public. Sue responded that the boundary area affected by this was North Cobalt, South to Latchford.

Jude – asked if the school board has ever given the parents a choice in New Liskeard to send their children to St. Pats? Glenn responded that this has never been an option.

Debra – noted that no busses currently travel in that direction.

Lori – noted that the French Catholic School Board currently does offer a bus from New Liskeard to the South. They fall outside of the Tri-Board Consortium.

Martin – asked about 1 student who came from Latchford to St. Pats. This is a one-off situation.

Glenn – noted that the Southern boundary is actually in the District of Nipissing and 2 students do travel from Latchford to North Bay (1 hour and 15 minute bus trip one way).

Glenn provided thanks to all for coming out and sharing their views, comments and concerns regarding the Boundary Review Process. He highlighted the methods people have to provide on-going comments and wrapped up the meeting.