

Help Plan Our Future

**St. Isabella School
Restricted Enrolment Reconsideration
May 14, 2015 – Feedback**

1. Do you have any questions about the demographic data or information that has been presented this evening?

Answers to these and other questions raised throughout the public meeting can be found in the companion document titled *St. Isabella Restricted Enrolment Reconsideration Questions & Answers*

General Comments with respect to the demographic data:

- No concerns with the numbers. It was straight forward and clear.
- All information clear - no questions.
- We are concerned with bus being late on a regular basis.
- Children are missing out on curriculum due to bus being late.
- Extended travel time with regards to Deerfoot Trail.
- The people here tonight were people who do not have students currently at Don Bosco, and we wonder if those people want their voice heard
- It would be nice if you could try to realign the community – Elgin kids back to St Albert so all the kids would be together, if there is room.
- It is important that children be together and go to school with the children they play with every day on the streets.
- Blessed Cardinal Newman seems more convenient (i.e. travel, no Deerfoot Trail)
- We are very satisfied with the data and feel that good information was shared and was very clear.

2. Please give us your feedback on each of the scenarios as presented. What do you see as the strengths? What are your concerns?

General comments and concerns:

- It doesn't matter. My son is on a bus either way.
- I am concerned about living close to the school, but having to pay for transportation to another school.
- I live within walking of St. Isabella and my son is on a bus.
- My concern is child care. It is a concern for my child to be on a bus.
- Boundary concerns were expressed again about the community of Elgin being included in St. Isabella boundary.
- There are people in Copperfield community who have moved but still have students attending St. Isabella.
- Concerned that daycares may not pick up at Don Bosco or Blessed Cardinal Newman
- I am concerned that I am on the waiting list but we will never get in to Isabella
- Still have to leave the community
- You must have known that the population would grow
- Clearly someone dropped the ball on how big they built the school
- This area hasn't finished being built
- I would be more comfortable with older children riding Deerfoot Trail
- Day cares won't take students outside of their area
- Because of the age of my child, my child will go to two different schools

Help Plan Our Future

- Day home is close to Maple Ridge so will go there and move them there
- I would prefer St. Albert the Great - my kids can potentially walk

Comments in favour of designating Blessed Cardinal Newman as overflow school:

- Don Bosco is too far – friends are not in the community and the students are missing out on close playmates. There are also childcare problems and transportation issues
- Blessed Cardinal Newman is closer transportation would be faster child care would be closer friends closer "
- I like Blessed Cardinal Newman because it is closer.
- Blessed Cardinal Newman is more accessible transportation wise.
- Would be happy to not have children on Deerfoot Trail during winter is a concern.
- Traffic congestion is a concern and would be less if children go to Blessed Cardinal Newman.
- Blessed Cardinal Newman is closer and a shorter and safer commute.
- While Blessed Cardinal Newman may not be the best scenario, it is preferred to Don Bosco
- Mackenzie Lake is more palatable.
- This could have a more positive effect on house resale values.
- Blessed Cardinal Newman is a far better option. The transportation is much more desirable and easy. This is definitely the preferred option. The people at the table felt that the program offered at C. Newman is stronger than that at Don Bosco.
- Strengths is perhaps schedule, suiting the needs of the family (drop off and pick up, bus schedule), staff, facilities, school operations.
- Blessed Cardinal Newman choice shows no real weaknesses, only strengths. It is a school that is close to home if one happens to live in Copperfield.
- If a transition is going to happen, attending Blessed Cardinal Newman would be close and students would not have to travel on the Deerfoot Trail.
- It would be more economically feasible to have students travelling shorter distances.
- Strength of redirection to Blessed Cardinal Newman is no more travelling on Deerfoot Trail.
- Children will have classmates closer to friends and home by going to Blessed Cardinal Newman
- Extra-curricular better to be closer by going to Newman
- Blessed Cardinal Newman takes the risk factor out of the situation
- Blessed Cardinal Newman is closer and there is not a commute on the Deerfoot eases worries
- The chances that the bus will be on time at a closer school is better
- Everything seems to point to the Blessed Cardinal Newman solution
- Closer for the day homes if they go to Newman
- Parents have confidence in the Catholic System. The main concern is the movement of children especially on Deerfoot Trail. Children are stuck on a bus and not getting exercise.
- I want to send my son to Blessed Cardinal Newman now in anticipation of it being the designated school
- If the decision is to go to Blessed Cardinal Newman then allow flexibility to allow Ks to go Blessed Cardinal Newman right off the bat and provide bussing, even if before 2016 so Principal and teachers can know the students from the get-go prior to the 2016 official switch
- Consensus is that closer is better. The families would like to see stability in the location of the designated school. Friendships are important for children and the longer the child can be in the same school the better the quality of the relationships that can be formed. Displacing students does not provide the stability children need to achieve success in school.

Help Plan Our Future

- For young families or for those who are new to school: the choice is Blessed Cardinal Newman – a school closer to home and daycare. St Isabella remains the #1 choice but if not then Blessed Cardinal Newman is the #2 choice.

Comments reflecting concern with Blessed Cardinal Newman as overflow school:

- Many students have just recently begun school at Don Bosco.
- Concerns are could be difficult first year of transition since good process in place and have to move again.
- Possible higher class numbers at Blessed Cardinal Newman

Comments in favour of status quo (Don Bosco as designated overflow school):

- My son is currently in grade 5 and I would like him to stay at Don Bosco because he has friends there.
- Strength in status-quo is that it does not disturb students currently attending Don Bosco.
- Strength is in not uprooting kids.
- Strength is that Don Bosco has the capacity
- Class sizes are a plus for Don Bosco.
- My concern is my daughter leaving Don Bosco to go to Blessed Cardinal Newman and maybe to St. Isabella. That is a lot of bouncing around.
- I am concerned that the children will be going to multiple schools in several years
- Stay at Don Bosco
- The existing programs at Don Bosco were well spoken of in the presentation this evening
- My child who is already attending at Don Bosco likes his bus ride.
- Perhaps the students in junior high can stay at Don Bosco or give students the choice – the students might prefer to stay with friends

Comments reflecting concern with maintaining the status quo:

- I am concerned about the current climate and culture at Don Bosco.
- We do not see Don Bosco as an option. The distance is way too far. The busing system is unreliable with respect to pick up and drop off times. Weather and traffic cause too many issues, especially for younger students with respect to travel time.
- Don Bosco weaknesses are distance, Deerfoot, travel time.
- I have concerns with the communities that Don Bosco serves and prefer to be closer to home.
- If a child is sick, it is sometimes hard to travel to Don Bosco.
- After school events sometimes make it difficult to travel to Don Bosco, especially when dealing with traffic on Deerfoot.
- Students need to wake-up earlier to attend Don Bosco.
- We don't like Don Bosco and our kids will not go there
- It is good school, just hard to get there.
- We live less than a block away from St. Isabella and it is a shame to have to be bussed to Don Bosco.
- When the road conditions are bad, I worry about the wait at the bus stop.
- 45 minute bus ride.
- Our family has to get up earlier than normal because one of our children goes on the bus for 1 hour in the morning. That child is 6 years old and is very tired and hungry by the end of the day.

Help Plan Our Future

3. Which scenario do you believe to be in the best interests of all students? Why?

Comments reflecting Blessed Cardinal Newman as the scenario in the best interest of students:

- The table believes that Blessed Cardinal Newman would be a better situation due to the location.
- Blessed Cardinal Newman is closer. However, Don Bosco sounds like a great school.
- It would be less time on the bus for the students to go to Blessed Cardinal Newman.
- I really would prefer the closer school.
- Blessed Cardinal Newman was the tables preferred choice of the table.
- Across Deerfoot versus Down Deerfoot was felt to be safer for kids
- Better option in the long run for all students to go to Blessed Cardinal Newman given the growth of community.
- Lots of challenges expressed around transportation and daycare for Kindergarten kids out of Deer Run for half day.
- Scenario 2 is preferred
- Students will be able to sleep more
- Peer groups will live closer together, relationships outside of school will be easier to build.
- Blessed Cardinal Newman is closer
- No Deerfoot Trail, therefore a safer bus ride
- Shorter commute for parents
- Mackenzie Lake is more palatable.
- This could have a more positive effect on house resale values.
- The table overwhelming preferred the chance to go to Blessed Cardinal Newman. All the families were young families K or younger.
- Scenario two. It's close, as good school, good teachers, good facilities.
- Having students attend Blessed Cardinal Newman would be in the best interest of all students. It is closer to
- Copperfield students would not have to travel on the Deerfoot.
- Attending school events and extra-curricular activities would be easier.
- Table all agrees Newman is better because friends are closer, distance closer, no Deerfoot, safer, extra-curricular closer than going to Don Bosco.
- The consensus of the table is that the Blessed Cardinal Newman scenario is best
- The members at this table prefer the Blessed Cardinal Newman scenario as it addresses all the concerns and the fact that it is closer and addresses the concerns of the families
- Blessed Cardinal Newman due to distance, community friends, and emergency time.
- Move the students to Blessed Cardinal Newman when possible.
- Don't want the children to be on the bus for a long time
- Secure spaces for people that live in a walk zone
- Blessed Cardinal Newman, if not St. Isabella
- Want closer to home - whatever is closer
- Consensus was that Blessed Cardinal Newman was the best scenario for all students because of its proximity and because it does not mean sending students on Deerfoot Trail.

Comments reflecting no specific outcome:

- I don't feel I know enough about Blessed Cardinal Newman to make an opinion about that school.
- It is hard to answer as I don't know where my child is on the waitlist
- Elgin shouldn't take priority over Copperfield

Help Plan Our Future

4. Do you have other ideas? Is there something that we haven't thought about? What do you see as other scenarios?

- I would like them to revisit boundaries - bus Elgin students and leave Copperfield students at St Isabella
- Make St. Isabella school bigger
- If Cranston has a designated school and can accommodate all their students so should copperfield
- Families also expressed concern over the amount of time children spend on the bus going and coming from school. Given the possible alternatives parents expressed concern as to the long term sustainability of the school options presented. The families were very concerned that the District consider the number of students being displaced from the local school community, consider the size of classes in the overflow schools and minimize the consideration of combined classes for those being sent outside the community.
- If all fails St Albert the Great if at all possible before Don Bosco
- It would be nice to be able to choose to attend another school other than the designated schools.
- Perhaps we could allowing younger children to attend and bus older children
- Introduce new and exciting programs to Don Bosco, such as extended French, Fine Arts, etc., to build capacity and variety in a school with dwindling enrollment - offer programs of choice.
- Make St. Albert as the designated overflow school for all locations once New Brighton opens.
- If Cardinal Newman becomes the community school, perhaps the students who live in Elgin could go to Cardinal Newman rather than staying at St Isabella. This would leave more room for the students in Copperfield to attend this school.
- Have CBE & CCSD work together for the betterment of our community.
- Limit the enrollment exclusively to the Copperfield community
- Consider the option of allowing the families to attend the New Brighton School when it opens