

The following list of questions and statements were recorded from the French Immersion Parent Meeting at Saint Mark Catholic Elementary School on Tuesday, December 8th, 2015.

1. A statement was made about the fact that a contingency plan was in place three years ago to offer the program at Saint Mark and now there is talk of moving the program to Saint John.
Superintendent Lefebvre spoke to his actual statement in 2012 regarding the fact that migration patterns and on ground capacity would be a factor in housing the F.I. program.
2. A question was raised about the feasibility of having an ELKP to grade six program offered at Saint Mark and a grade seven and eight program at Saint John?
Currently, St. Mark's enrollment exceeds its on the ground capacity. Superintendent Lefebvre is consulting with Facility Services but does not feel St. Mark's site plan would allow the additional portable classrooms needed to increase the FI Program to the end of Grade 6 in the short term.
3. A question was raised about why the Church was placed on the property when we are having a difficult time increasing the number of students for our school due to limited property? *It was noted that the church is already on the property and that the Board will look at all viable solutions for housing the program. A follow-up by Superintendent Lefebvre revealed that the diocese are the owners of the property for building site for St. Helens.*
4. If the F.I. program moves to Saint John - will busing be available from the daycare at Saint Mark to Saint John? *Superintendent Lefebvre spoke to the idea that everything will be considered for making the program viable. The Board will work with the Region and daycare providers to assist families requiring care.*
5. Will there be consideration for grandfathering the program at Saint Mark and beginning a new grade 1 at Saint John? *Superintendent Lefebvre stated that as we are keeping the F.I. program at Saint Mark for 2016-17. Any changes will commence in the 2017-18 school year.*
6. Why is there no consideration for the F.I. program at Saint Martin? *Superintendents Baldasaro and Lefebvre stated that the ground capacity at Saint Martin would not allow for the program with the number of student spaces allocated by the Ministry of Education.*
7. If the program moves to Saint John, when will the capital funding come through for an addition? *Superintendent Lefebvre stated that a capital funding application to the Ministry of Education is being considered in this school year.*
8. When the students get into grade 4 will there be class sizes larger than 20? Will there be any blended classes (i.e. 4/5)? *Superintendent Lefebvre stated that the Board is committed to the program and class sizes are yet to be determined, but are governed by regulation.*
9. How does registration take place for Grade 1? *Superintendents Baldasaro and Lefebvre spoke to the on-line registration process commencing January 15th, 2015 at 7:30 a.m. It was stated that all registrations will be date-stamped and placed in rank order by application time.*

10. Will siblings have preferential treatment for registration in the Grade 1 program?
Superintendent Lefebvre stated that the Board is committed to keeping families together, and that there is a pre-registration process for siblings of current F.I. families commencing December 15th.
11. Is the ultimate goal to have the F.I. program under one roof? When will this happen?
Superintendent Lefebvre stated that one option would be to move the program en masse in 201-18 after running the grade 4 F.I. class at Saint Mark next year.
12. Will there be release time for the teachers to transition students to Saint John?
Superintendent Lefebvre spoke to the idea that our Board always looks at transitioning students effectively when changing schools.
13. Could we have a committee to investigate this process further? *A committee to investigate this process will be considered.*
14. Will Blessed Trinity be able to house the F.I. program when the students get to high school? *Superintendents Lefebvre and Baldasaro stated that Blessed Trinity will be able to handle the course sections allocated to the program.*
15. Will ELKP ever be offered in French Immersion? *Superintendent Lefebvre spoke to the need to focus on language acquisition in ELKP.*
16. Will there be transitional activities to Saint John? *Superintendent Lefebvre spoke to the successful transitions that have occurred across our Board when students change schools.*
17. What will happen if some students decide not to leave Saint Mark, and the French Immersion class sizes decrease? *Superintendent Lefebvre reiterated the Board's committed to the program to make it work for the sustainability and integrity of the program.*
18. If the F.I. program moves to Saint John, will older siblings be able to transfer to Saint John as well? *Superintendent Lefebvre spoke to the idea of treating every case individually through the Boards Admission of Students Policy. The Board is committed to keeping families together.*
19. A statement was made that the idea of moving students en masse in 2017 would be the best idea. *Superintendent Lefebvre thanked the group for the comment.*

The meeting ended with Superintendents Baldasaro and Lefebvre, and Principal Ward, thanking everyone for their attendance and support of the French Immersion Program.