



February 8, 2019

To Parents/Guardians of Stratford and area,

As you know, Avon Maitland District School Board received funding to address significant structural issues at Stratford Central Secondary School. The funding requires us to reduce the number of student spaces at Stratford Central by about 300. We have supplemented that funding with board funds to address accessibility issues at the school.

Throughout this process we have remained committed to the renewal of our schools; renovating and enriching Stratford Central and Stratford Northwestern to better meet the needs of our learners. At the same time, we need to balance enrolment and fiscal realities, and provincial regulations. It has not been an easy process. We understand, and have been clear from the outset, that this is a sensitive issue with no one solution that will meet the wishes of all stakeholders.

On January 11th, we provided an update on our status. We highlighted our thorough, consultative process as we analyzed our six options against the criteria, and considered the stakeholder input gathered through *thoughtexchange*. That input told us that high-quality education, breadth of program and a sense of belonging were everyone's top priorities for students.

The review showed significant challenges within each of our six original options. They were not possible without significant consequences, such as increased concurrent programs, travelling back and forth between locations and loss of some program options at both schools. **However, through this exploration and with consideration of the input provided, another exciting option for consideration emerged -- Option 7, a 'One School-Two Campus' model.**

To remain transparent, we want to make sure that we communicate that this new option is preferred, as it meets the criteria and matches, most closely, the input gathered in *thoughtexchange*. Option 7 provides an incredible opportunity to create innovative and enhanced programming for all of our Stratford students, grades 7-12, and not unlike other options, would see the migration of Stratford Central and Stratford Northwestern to a '*One School - Two Campus*' model:

- Central Campus housing grades 7 to 9
- Northwestern Campus housing grades 10 to 12

This dual campus model ensures maximum program flexibility for our students now, and in the future. It provides equitable access to a wider variety of high-quality course options in all grades, driven by student choice, and finally, it allows for all students to develop a sense of belonging in each school over a period of time. We are excited about the possibilities this option affords, and are beginning to explore with our curriculum, student success and pathways teams.

We know that this has been stressful, but it is important that we get it right because the impact these decisions have on students, parents and the community, are profound. We are working on the most appropriate process to evaluate all options and reach a final decision.

We will keep you up-to-date and inform everyone on our next steps as soon as possible.

To receive notifications as this process unfolds, please visit the Stratford page of our website and subscribe to the mailing list for updates: yourschools.ca/stratford-public-schools/.

Please know we are always open to hearing and responding to your questions. These can be posted at bit.ly/StratfordSchoolsFeedback.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Walsh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" and the last name "Walsh" clearly legible.

Dr. Lisa Walsh
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board