

Adapting for Growth – HRCE. Wednesday April 9th, 2025.

Presenter: Harvey Beaton

Representation is from 4 schools.

Enrollment Pressures

- Growth and pressure on the system
- HRCE = 136+ schools, 18 families of schools, 20 different grade configurations, 59,962 students as of April 4, 2025. 10,00+ staff
- >10,579 new students in only 8 years, from 48,966 in 2017/18 – 59,545 in 2024/25. Growth = 400+ full classrooms.

Options to Handle Growth:

- Growth temporary measures: portable/modular classrooms and reconfigurations – moving grade levels to a different school within the same family of schools. Goal of reconfigurations is to maintain stability of configurations for at least 3 years. Boundary changes can be considered when a school nearby has more space. New school is built- end decision is by the province
- Consultations take place in person, meetings round tables, online.
- Opportunity for all families in thought exchange to share their opinions/ideas. Email will be sent out to call schools.

Specific School Updates

- HWHS nears 2,000, increasing looking for ways to alleviate enrolment pressures. Consider boundary change to Brookside to go to Bay View High school 10-12 starting Fall 2026. Looking for feedback on this proposal.

Q&A

- What does this mean for grade 9 students with interest in the 02 program? Unable to answer, unknown currently. Can have opportunity to apply. No student will be disadvantaged to this change.
- What is the plan for kids already at Halifax West? They could continue to be students at the existing school if preferred.

- Would remain eligible for busing.
- What is the current capacity within Bayview school? 1,100 current students at Bayview. Does have space for Brookside students.
- Anticipated at least 3 years for the change. There is room to accommodate Brookside students.
- What have we been hearing in the community with the potential change? All positive.
- When do you anticipate the decision? Feedback will be sent to the regional level tomorrow with pressures to make the plans for the fall.
- Principal at Bayview, finished interview process, waitlist of 20 already to get into the o2 program. Though no child should be disadvantaged, may need to reconsider staffing model.
- Current grade 9 would go to Bayview, option to go to Halifax West would be an out of area request.