



Kettle and Stony Point Education Services

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Cathy Hampshire, Interim Program Manager

FROM: Beverly Bressette, Transportation Officer

DATE: July 10, 2020

SUBJECT: **Response to LKDSB Secondary School Program**

In this plan, there are three options under the *Two Periods Per Day* model where the semester is divided into two blocks and the students are divided into two cohorts. The three options under this plan include: (1) Alternating Week Option; (2) Rolling Alternate Days; and (3) Fixed Alternate Days and Every Other Friday.

Preference: Alternating Week Option

(1) Student Considerations

- 1.1 Student attendance is an important aspect of student success; it is a concern in both elementary and secondary school;
- 1.2 Variations in student schedules leads to confusion and frustration, which could increase absenteeism which could negatively impact the high graduation rates we hope to achieve;
- 1.3 Students are already under stress due to the pandemic and additional stressors could be too much for some students who might consider withdrawing from school entirely;
- 1.4 Consistent scheduling from week to week, one week in school and one week studying at home, would be an easier adjustment in comparison to rolling alternate days or fixed alternate days.

(2) Student Transportation/Busing Considerations

- 2.1 Dividing the students into two cohorts will enable the students to be safely distanced on the school bus and revised scheduling will be possible i.e. Kettle and Stony Point students attending North Lambton Secondary School will be transported by two buses instead of one;

- 2.2 Two cohorts attending school every other week will be easier for the school bus drivers who will be given two separate bus lists and a school calendar showing which group is riding on specific dates;
 - 2.3 Alternating weeks reduces the likelihood of students attempting to board the bus on a day they are scheduled to study at home; the bus drivers will not have to take extra time to inform students about their particular schedule.
- (3) Parental Considerations
- 3.1 Alternating Weeks will be easier for parents who are already busy balancing work and home responsibilities;
 - 3.2 School calendar will be provided to the parents to ensure they are aware of which weeks their students are going to school and when they will be studying at home;
 - 3.3 Week to week changes will be easier for parents to manage rather than day-to-day changes on a rolling schedule, especially when there is more than one student in the home and where childcare challenges exist.

Impact on Bell Times

Under this plan, bell time changes may be required or at least changes to the policy regarding how early students may be dropped off at the school. In Kettle and Stony Point, the buses return to the community and have to then pick-up students who need transportation to the local elementary school. The school buses must be sanitized between bus routes to minimize the risk of students passing viruses to one another. Sanitization requires an extra fifteen minutes to be added to the morning bus schedules, which impacts the time students will be dropped off at NLSS for example.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please let me know.

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