

February 19, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The Newfoundland and Labrador English School District has been working in recent years to respond to enrolment pressures within the Mobile Central High school system, which includes both St. Bernard's Elementary and Mobile Central High School. The District has also been engaged with the Provincial Government during the construction of a 10-room (9 classrooms + computer lab) extension at Mobile Central High, which will be completed this school year.

In April, 2018, the District's Board of Trustees passed a motion to move Grade 6 students from St. Bernard's Elementary to Mobile Central High for the 2019-20 school year to alleviate space challenges at the elementary school. At that time, the Board also passed a motion to begin a school review of the Mobile Central High school system. In particular, the review was tasked to look at the potential to reconfigure St. Bernard's Elementary to a Kindergarten to Grade 4 school, with the Grade 5s being assigned to Mobile Central High School. While moving the Grade 5 students is not a requirement at this time, the District wants to provide these school communities with an opportunity to have input, share ideas, and have their voices heard.

The District is conducting this review using a new approach to consultation utilized in other recent school community discussions. The District has engaged [ThoughtExchange](#), a Canadian company with experience in school district communications throughout North America. ThoughtExchange will help the District provide an inclusive opportunity for all members of the school communities to participate in the decision-making process, and have their ideas and thoughts considered by their peers.

Today (February 19), the District is launching a ThoughtExchange online conversation to seek input on the following:

Share your thoughts and perspectives about St. Bernard's Elementary Grade 5 students moving to Mobile Central High as of the 2019-20 school year.

The results of this ThoughtExchange will help the District determine whether Mobile Central High should be reconfigured to a Grades 5-12 school in 2019-20. All voices matter, so your participation is crucial and valued.

Please take the time to thoughtfully participate before **10:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 5, 2019.**

Click here to launch ThoughtExchange: <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/#691532588>

Please note, you will be prompted to add and verify your email address, and create a password you will remember in order to participate in this online conversation. ThoughtExchange will allow you to share your own individual thoughts, consider and rate the thoughts of others, and learn what is important to the community. It will be important to not only share your thought but explain why it is important, as it will help others determine if they agree. ThoughtExchange keeps confidential who shared each thought and who assigned what ratings.

More information on the School System Review Process is available on the District's website at: <https://www.nlesd.ca/schools/schoolreview/2019/system-sbe-mch.jsp>

We look forward to working with you on this initiative.

Regards,



Darryl Feener
Assistant Director of Education (Programs - Avalon Region)