

Type of Meeting: Governing Board – Special 2020-2021 #3

St. John Fisher Junior Parent Members: Christina Cory, Angela Kovalak, Phil Lambert, Nadia Lawand, Naomi Proctor

St. John Fisher Senior Parent Members: Marie-Claire Caillard, Sarah Campeau, Christina Forest, Nadia Lawand, Mark Sankoff

St. John Fisher Junior Parent Substitutes: Christine Archambault, Allison Gerhart, Matthew Knox

St. John Fisher Senior Parent Substitutes: Andrea Borrelli, Carla DaSilva, Cecily Ranger, Tiffani Wheeler

St. John Fisher Junior Staff: Nadine Émond, Michèle Larin, Martine Létourneau, Tania Nouvet, Sandi Hammock (Daycare)

St. John Fisher Senior Staff: David Arless, Rachel Ethier, Linda Neron, Marie-Hélène Mondor, Laura Sulano (Daycare), Aida Lukosevicius (Alternate)

SNAC Representative: Evelyn Hornblower

St. John Fisher Senior Community Representative: Tom Fullerton, Daphne Daifas

Ex-Officio: Deborah Shizgal, Natasha Mentore

Invited: Judith Kelley

Regrets: Tiffani Wheeler, Cecily Ranger,

### SP3.1 AGENDA TOPICS

#### SP3.1.1 TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

C. Forest read the Territorial Acknowledgement

#### SP3.1.2 DISCLAIMER

N. Mentore asks that out of respect of the participants and for transparency purposes issued the following statement.

We are about to begin a public meeting of the Governing Board of the Lester B. Pearson School Board. Out of respect for participants and for transparency purposes we ask that for the record, any member of the media who may be participating in this meeting via ZOOM, should identify themselves now.

As well, it must be stated that anyone wishing to rebroadcast or reprint quotes or any other excerpts originating from this meeting, including video and/or audio clips, in part or in whole, is asked to request prior authorization by the Lester B. Pearson's Department of Communications and Community Development.

Please also note that the minutes for this meeting will be made available on the school's website in the coming days.

Let it be noted that no members of the media identified themselves.

#### SP3.1.3 CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Meeting called to order at 7:11pm. C. Forest welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the Special Governing Board meeting.

SP3.1.4    ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

It is requested that two items be added to the agenda:

    SP3.3.1 Address to GB members by M. Émond

    SP3.3.4 Sr. School Budget Consultation

Resolution 20-21-08    It was moved by M. Létourneau, and seconded by M. Larin that the agenda be approved as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

SP3.1.5    ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF SP#2 (Mar. 10, 2021)

Resolution 20-21-09    It was moved by M. Sankoff, and seconded by R. Ethier that the minutes of SP#2 be approved as presented. One abstention.

SP3.2      QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No question from the public at this time.

SP3.3      BUSINESS ARISING

Question :    Did the GB get a response the letter sent to the School Board following the February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 special meeting?

Answer :      The GB did not receive a response to the letter, however a 2<sup>nd</sup> special meeting was held with participation from the School Board.

SP3.3.1    STATEMENT FROM Mme. ÉMOND

N. Émond read out the following statement:

“I would like to take this opportunity to clarify the intervention that I made last Wednesday. It was never my intention to be disrespectful. I meant to say that adults have ways to self regulate, for example, when they drink beer or when they close their office doors during work hours. It did not imply that employees of Lester B. Pearson drink beer on the job, I am a passionate person but I am not a mean one.”

Members of the GB showed their support for N. Émond and are fully aware of the intention of her comments and that they came from the heart with the well-being of the children in mind.

SP3.3.2 PARENT SURVEY RESPONSES

N. Lawand and C. Forest jointly presented the results from the Parent Survey sent out Friday March 12<sup>th</sup>. It was mentioned that access to the survey via mobile phone was limited and may have affected the total number of responses. Many parents were not pleased with the two options presented.

In Summary 63.7% preferred option B and 36.3% option A. A majority of parents preferred option B and a majority of Staff from both the Sr. and Jr. Campus' preferred option A. It was noted that 73.3% of respondents stated that the time change would be worse for them and 12.8% stated that it would be better for them.

Also, 48.9% of respondents would start using daycare services. There were a few concerns about extra fees associated with daycare and the length of time kids would be spending in daycare, especially in the mornings.

It was mentioned that the change in start time would negatively affect families, especially students.

Presently 249 out of 572 students from SJF currently take the bus.

A copy of the survey results with highlighted comments are attached to the minutes. See Appendix #1

SP3.3.3 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FROM MAR. 10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

C. Forest presented the School Boards answer to the questions arising from the March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 time proposal change, including the proposed school hours for both scenario A and B.

It was noted that the GB may request a change to the start times on a yearly basis and that many of us (including other GBs) are probably not aware of this possibility. Should the start time be changed to the late start, the GB will look to create a committee to explore this avenue next year. Currently there are 17 schools with a late start time.

The GB should inquire to when and how can a GB make this request to change the start times.

There are concerns with the allocation of parking for the staff due to increased traffic and busses at both St-Thomas and SJF. According to the document, there is adequate parking for staff at both SJF Jr. and Sr. and the School board will be looking at a proposal that should address this issue at St-Thomas at the upcoming School Board meeting.

L. Sulano shared her experience concerning the proposed time change as she has experienced both early and late start times to the Daycare programme. According to her having, an early start is more advantageous for Daycare activity programming purposes especially for the afternoon activities.

C. Forest was in contact with the GB for St-Thomas and they were not aware of the time change proposal made by the School Board to SJF. St-Thomas also prefer an early start time so that high school students can take part in afterschool activities and sports.

A copy of the Questions arising from March 10, 2021 Special GB re: Late Start are attached to the minutes. See Appendix #2

SP3.3.4 DRAFT RESPONSE

The joint SJF Sr. and Jr. Governing Boards would like to officially respond to the presentation and the two start times proposed by the School Board on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

A preliminary version of the letter was shown to all present with a request for assistance in finalising the letter. The letter needs to be sent to the School Board no later than March 20<sup>th</sup> as the next Council of Commissioners meeting scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.

C. Forest strongly feels that a board wide assessment of the transportation network should take place, possibly outside of the regular major school change process. She also mentioned that often times during a major school changes the Board often presents an option A and an option B, often with opposing situation that pits programs and schools against one another and that this does not service the community or the School Board well. This is the second time that SJF has had to change start times. She also reminded all those present the importance in getting involved in the process.

At a school staff meeting in which the time change was discussed, it was noted that the Teachers and staff feel that the options are limited but that the vast majority of teachers at the SJF Sr. and Jr. Schools preferred scenario A. Some of the reasons the teachers preferring option A is that having a longer lunch can lead to an increase in behavioural problems during the lunch hour and that it makes for a long school day for the students, especially the younger students.

It is noted that scenario C is a scenario that is not scenario A or B that has yet to be elaborated and/or an outright refusal of both scenarios A and B. Should the GB members so choose, scenario C may be included in the GB response letter. The School Board had requested that the GBs of SJF Jr. and Sr. return their preference for either scenario A or B.

Resolution 20-21-10 It was moved by P. Lambert, and seconded by S. Campeau that the joint GB propose scenario C to the School Board. Motion failed with 19 votes against and 1 abstention (number of votes cast: 20).

Resolution 20-21-11 It was moved by S. Campeau, and seconded by M. Sankoff that the joint GB propose scenario A to the School Board. A vote for scenario A is a vote against scenario B. Motion carried with 17 votes for and 3 votes against (number of votes cast: 20).

Resolution 20-21-12 It was moved by C. Forest, and seconded by N. Lawand to extend the meeting by 30 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

SP3.3.5 BUDGET CONSULTATION (SENIOR CAMPUS)

C. Forest is looking for some assistance from the Senior GB member in preparing the response to the budget consultation that must be submitted to the School Board for the 31<sup>st</sup> of March. Please private message C. Forest.

SP3.4 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No question from the public at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolution 20-21-13 Motion at 8:46 pm by C. Forest and seconded by M. Larin to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted  
Philip Lambert, secretary SJF jr.

Attendees from the public

1. Antoine Landry
2. Andrew Miller
3. Cassandra Dudley
4. Carole Choiniere
5. Gail Hung
6. Janis Kelly
7. Jennifer Mancini
8. Jessica Wasserscheid
9. Joslyn Paredis
10. Karen Weiner
11. Kristen Stanley
12. Krystal Legault
13. Lynn Dufresne
14. Magalie Teasdale
15. Marc Schultz
16. Michelle Lewis
17. Nadia Jasmin
18. Nicole Forsythe
19. Roberto Menegazzo
20. Sanjar Mayar
21. Shannon (Hawker) Miller
22. Shannon Sullivan
23. Steph Kobzan
24. Stephanie Lapierre
25. Tim Miller

## APPENDIX #1

Survey results with highlighted comments

# St John Fisher Junior & Senior SURVEY RESULTS

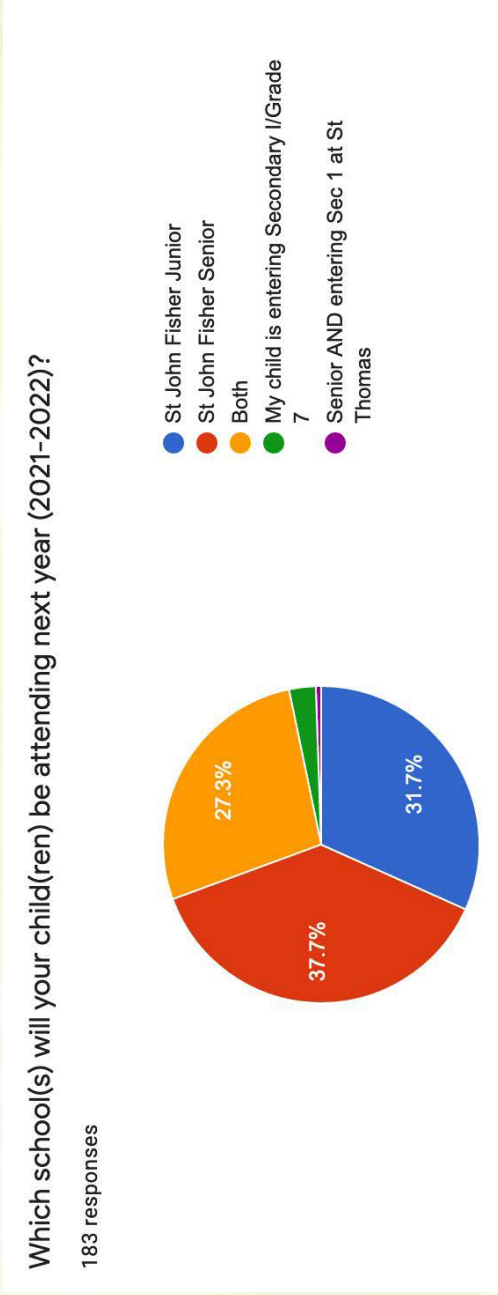
On March 12th, 2021, the Governing Boards of St John Fisher Junior (SJFJ) and St John Fisher Senior (SJFS) sent out a joint communication to the parent population regarding the Late Start proposal from the Lester B. Pearson School Board (LBPSB). This communication included a survey to assess preference for either scenario proposed by the Board and provided an opportunity for parents to respond with additional suggestions and comments.

**The following presentation summarizes the survey results.**

\*Survey closed @8pm March 15, 2021 with 183 responses  
\*\*Some comments paraphrased for brevity. Raw responses are available in the Appendix



## Which school(s) will your child(ren) be attending next year (2021-2022)?



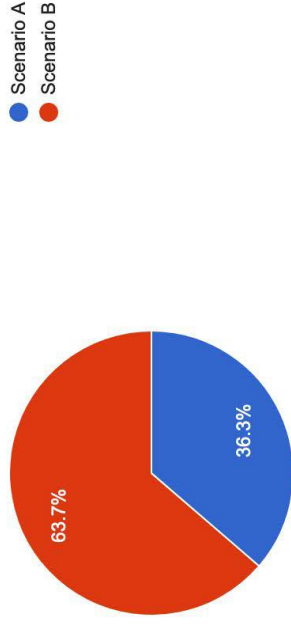
**Analysis :** These percentages translate to

- 108 Junior Campus responses
- 120 Senior Campus responses
- 6 grade 6 responses

## Which of the presented options for the 2021-2022 school year would prefer?

Which of the presented options for the 2021-2022 school year would prefer?

179 responses



**Analysis :** 63% of parents, when given a choice between scenarios without a third option, chose scenario B over A.

Please note, there were no comments offered in clear support of either option.

### Selection of Comments :

- I selected the scenario I picked because I had to pick an option. **Both options are terrible** for my family.
- I don't think it's beneficial to prolong the school day and **may cause me to consider changing schools** if scenario B is picked. I rather have them home instead of at school for an extended period.
- I do not like any of the proposed options. They are giving us the choice between "a bad option" and "a worst option". I propose: "**Keep the start hour the same. Fundraise money for additional buses** that are required for this option or **eliminate bus service** from other regions and off-island"
- **We chose SJF for the early start.** We are extremely **disappointed** in the school board for making this drastic change. We are considering sending our children to another board for high school.
- I would prefer the schedule stay as is... **but we can manage with a couple changes** to our routine

## ...do you have any suggestions for an alternate scenario?

### Selection of Comments :

- Many comments and solutions regarded the **adjustment of the bus schedule**.
- St Thomas should be the late start school and SJFS and SJFJ remain early start. **Many believe the science supports an early start for younger children and a late start for teenagers.**
- Studies if the **number of students who will require bussing currently predicted is accurate** [may not need as many busses].
- Get **crossing guards at the intersections!**
- **Fund additional busses** and encourage parents **to use bussing rather drive their children to reduce traffic**
- **Reduce bus service to St. Thomas**
- **Designate different and specific drop off areas for each of the three schools (SJF Jr. on Belmont - as it is now. SJF Sr. on Summerhill. St. Thomas / Lindsay on Broadview and / or St. John Fisher Road).**
- **Stagger the arrival and departure of school busses**

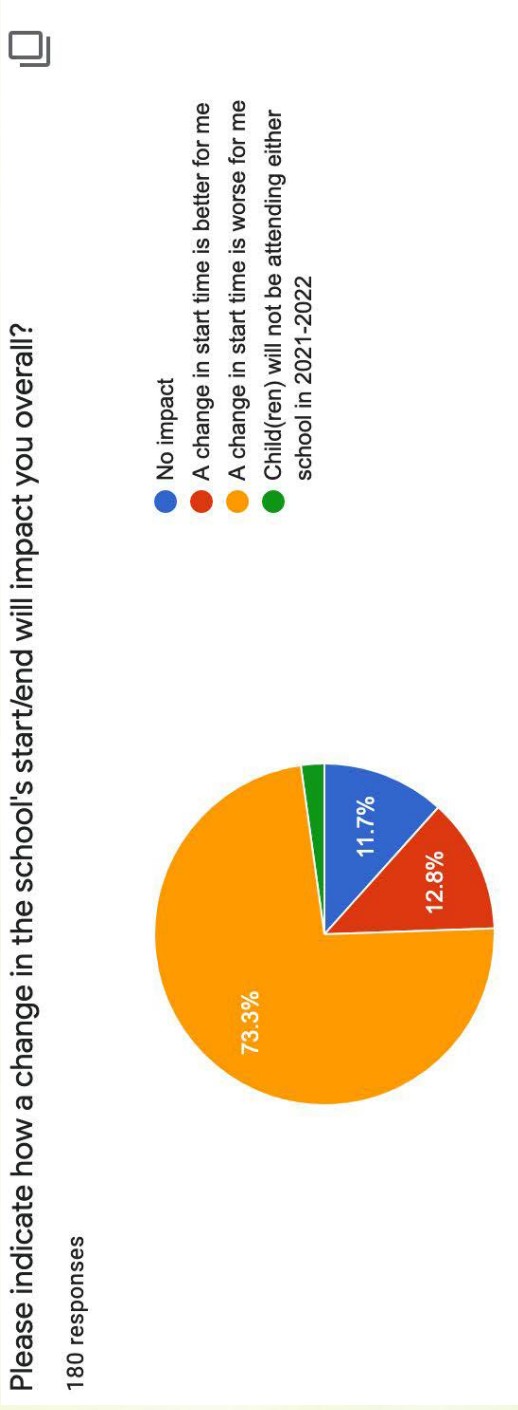
### Outside of the box suggestion :

- **Consider-Scenario B with ONE drop off and pick up for both schools: Turn the parking lot behind St John Fisher Parish into a bus Drop off /Pick up zone leaving Summerhill and SJFJ circle for parent drop off only.**
- SJFS: **The exit on the West side of the parish designated for WALKERS ONLY and no parking in this space at any time.**
- SJFJ: **Build and maintain a path leading from the parking lot and connecting with the path on the East side of SJFJ;-monitors for SJFJ to be in place to escort children to school yard along the extended path from bus drop off.**

### SJFJ & S Schedule made possible by this scenario:

- **School Bus drop off at 8:30. School starts at 8:40. 120 minutes of class. Morning recess at 10:40 – 11:00 am (20 minutes), 60 minutes of class. Lunch 12:00-1:10 (70 minutes). 120 minutes of class. Last recess at 3:10-3:30. Dismissal**
- **Option for parents to pick their children up at last recess of the day. Allows for earlier start and some flexibility at the end of the school day for children who want to attend the many extra-curricular activities that start earlier in the afternoon than after 3:30 pm.**

## Please indicate how a change in the school's start/end will impact you overall?



**Analysis :** 45 respondents are neutral or favorable; 134 are unfavorable; 4 n/a

### Selection of Comments :

- In 2010 we were a late start school, and everyone hated going to early start. Now the opposite is happening. **People will adjust**, as we did then, whatever happens. Change is hard to swallow sometimes. Our family will be less stressed to make all our other time commitments. Good luck to all of you!
- The real and only important impact, rather than on our work schedule or commute habits, will obviously be on the children, their **long-term learning experience, school experience, homework efficiency, level of fatigue, routine and down time at home**. As adults, we should be the ones taking the **right decisions for their well-being**, and for our mental health as parents at the same time.
- Could we **lose any of our amazing teachers** who themselves would be asking to transfer elsewhere? Also, **will there be guaranteed daycare spots or guarantee bus transport** for those who request? My son is zoned for the bus at senior, my daughter in grade 1 won't be. If there is a risk we wouldn't be able to be accepted for a spot on the bus (we know we have to pay) that would gravely affect our situation.



## A change in the school's START time will mean we will... (pick the response that applies most often)

A change in the school's START time will mean we will... (pick the response that applies most often)

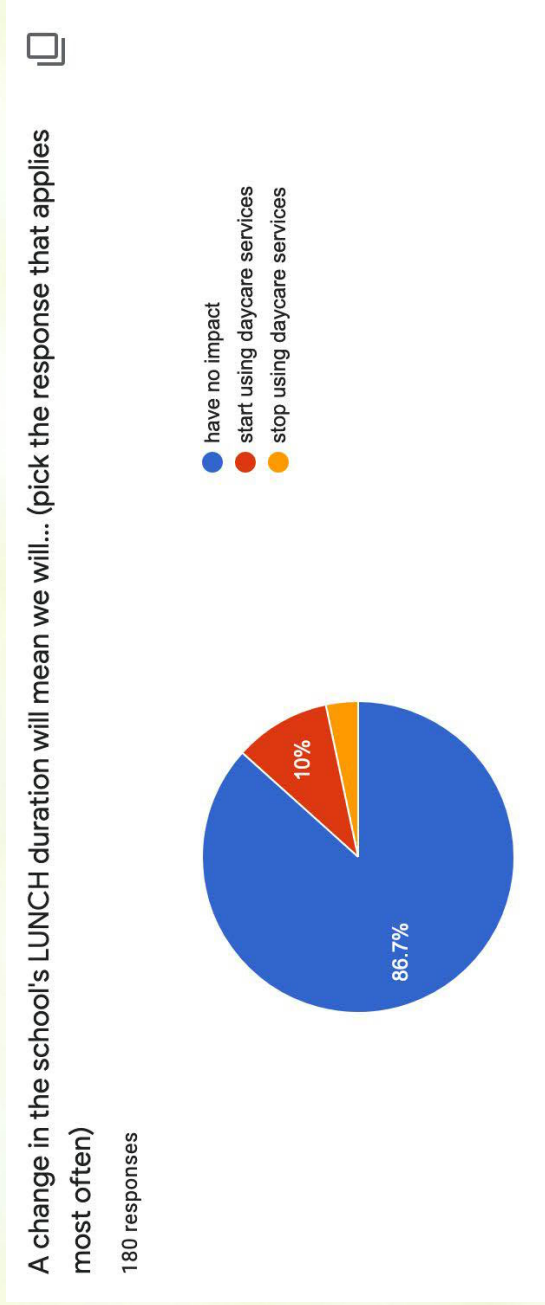
180 responses



### Selection of Comments :

- *My child will now be in morning and afternoon daycare. Much longer day for little kids. Not so happy about any of this. Still don't understand how traffic will be different because of a change of name of a high school.*
- *I want an assurance all students that require daycare services in the morning will be accommodated.*
- *An extra 20 minutes of sleep for the kids will be beneficial.*
- *We will need to adjust our work hours or start using the daycare service most likely, which will add additional costs for our family. We chose this school based on location but also based on the schedule. This is a very frustrating situation for all involved, especially families with less flexibility.*

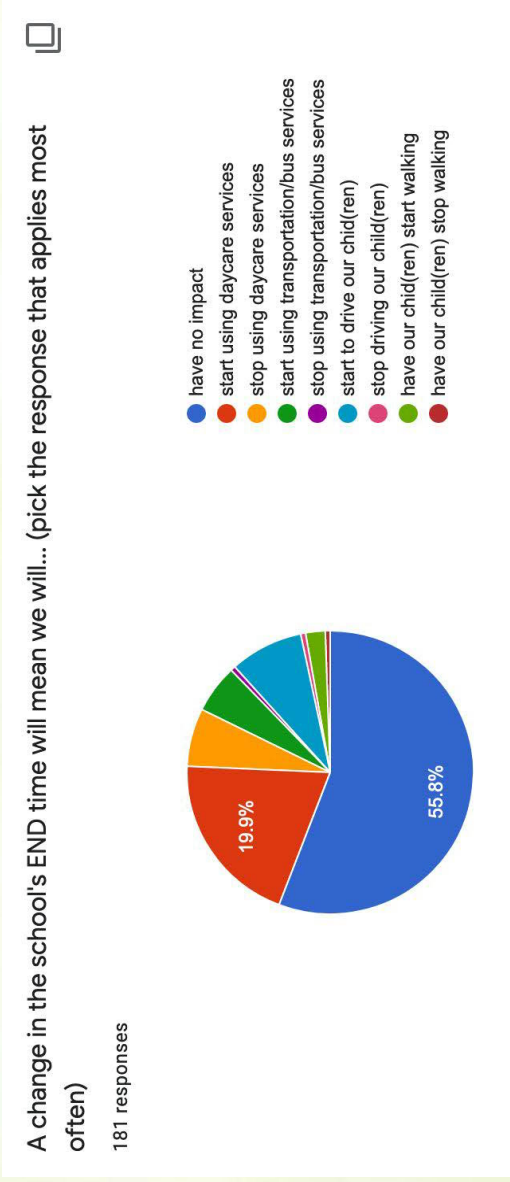
## A change in the school's LUNCH time will mean we will... (pick the response that applies most often)



### Selection of Comments :

- Our children have told us that with a 50 minute lunch, they are very rushed to eat. **We support the longer lunch** and would hope the extra time would allow student to be able to finish their lunch.
- I prefer option B, however it would mean an **additional \$60 per month daycare fees** as I have 3 children and I only use lunch service, so I chose option A...
- I like the idea of a **longer lunch hour!**
- I wholeheartedly **disagree with extending the lunch hour**. It does not change the amount of time daycare children have to be in daycare. The only thing it does is **impact families that don't use morning or afternoon daycare**. Why extend all the children's school days.

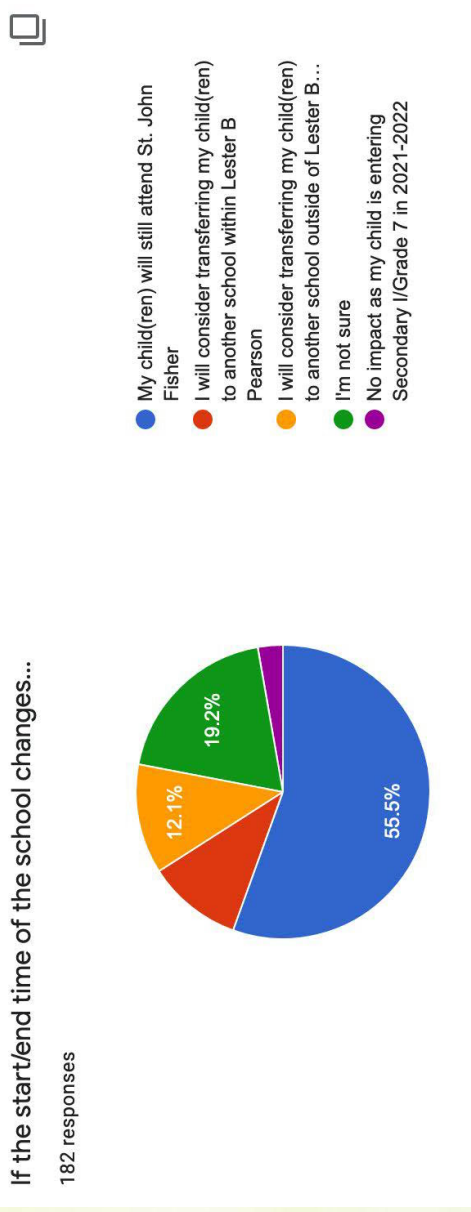
## A change in the school's END time will mean we will... (pick the response that applies most often)



### Selection of Comments :

- I am so unhappy about this change. I am really not sure what the following school year will hold but it is also **very possible that I will need to use daycare services**. This is **not part of my budget** (trying to figure out any other type of solution) and so I have just put down bus service as an option for now in my answers to this survey. This school time change is not beneficial for all those students involved both in the elementary and high school.
- I think it is unfair to make such a change. Families will be impacted because they will need to have those children in school for **very long days**. Kids and parents will be more tired, and this will **affect family dynamics**. Daycare before and after. Families who chose SJF for early start now will need to budget in money to pay for daycare. **Stressful mornings and evenings**.
- My kid will be at school from 8h00 (ish) -16h00. **Later start means daycare in the AM AND PM**, as opposed to PM only. Not a huge adjustment for our family in terms of drop off/pick up times.
- I don't want this change at all. It **complicates multiple things**. I'll need to start both my children for daycare services (at extra cost), bus services(at extra cost) and will have less time for homework and forget family time.... Which is hard enough now as it is. Very upset that this is even being discussed.

## If the start/end time of the school changes...



**Analysis :** Although >1/2 half of respondents will be returning to St John Fisher, this proposal was announced AFTER school registration.

### Selection of Comments :

- The **timing is horrible**. Registration is completed and the change to our routines in our case is very disruptive
- Having this discussion after we have already registered our child for the next year is shameful. We are both **front line medical workers and this change will drastically upset our schedule**.
- Not impressed with the school board who did this AFTER registration period ended. School board is **NOT transparent**, and students, teachers and support staff all have to be uprooted because of this when at the end of the day, it's \$\$ and they probably make more money with St-Thomas vs SJF and Lindsay. Typical - **think \$\$ instead of community**. If not the case, **I'd like for the School board to show the analysis that proves this wrong**.
- I feel that as a community that trust(ed) the school board, it was very wrong for this announcement to have been made for us, AFTER school registration. I would've liked to know ahead of time as **we would have switched schools**. The biological needs of our kids should be the focus here. The respect of teachers should be a priority. This change impacts everyone involved. This is a change that should have been voted on. 2-40 finish allows my family and other to enjoy uninterrupted time outdoors to unwind after a busy day. This is something my children have come to rely on and to love. Starting later in the day **will cancel out the time we spend outside daily**, it will need to be replaced with the beginning of dinner time and preparing for the following day. Children wake earlier than teenagers, their brains are ready to learn by 8:15 I simply wish the impact on the teachers, students and parents were considered with this change from the beginning.



## Do you have any additional questions or comments?

### Selection of Comments :

- *I think the whole system needs to be revised and that won't happen before September.*
- *Not ONE question asked how the change will impact the children!*
- *Is there not a solution where 2 or 3 schools can share a change in start times?*
- *I would like to see **traffic lights installed** at the end of the walking path between Broadview and Lindsey place and at the intersection of Summerhill and Valois Bay.*
- *The longer lunch will **allow more time for lunchtime activities** (if they will be able to happen next year).*
- ***Major transportation reform.** Take the time to poll parents of all the school's requiring twinned busses with St-Thomas and ask them if they prefer an early start or late start. This might be a great opportunity to switch late start elementary schools to early start (depending on poll results) and high schools to a later start time.*
- ***Teenagers should be surveyed too.** They are also the ones impacted and very capable of speak for themselves. Their voices should be heard.*

# Appendix

# APPENDIX 1: SURVEY QUESTIONS

- Which school(s) will your child(ren) be attending next year (2021-2022)?
- Scenario A: (JR): 9:15 start - 3:45 end - 50-minute lunch; (SR) 9:05 start - 3:35 end - 50-minute lunch.
- Scenario B: (JR) 8:50 start - 3:40 end - 70-minute lunch; (SR) 8:40 start - 3:30 end - 70-minute lunch (increase of \$1 per child per day for extended lunch for children who are not already in daycare)



- Which of the presented options for the 2021-2022 school year would prefer?
- Given there are many factors to consider (including influx of students to St. Thomas at the Broadview location for in 2021-2022, transportation constraints due to bus twinning (requirement of the Ministry of Education), traffic congestion in the area, start times of other schools in the region with twinned bus routes, collective agreements with teachers unions, guidelines set by the Ministry on the length of instruction, breaks and periods of supervision throughout the day, etc. ) do you have any suggestions for an alternate scenario?
- Please indicate how a change in the school's start/end will impact you overall?
- A change in the school's START time will mean we will... (pick the response that applies most often)
- A change in the school's LUNCH duration will mean we will... (pick the response that applies most often)
- A change in the school's END time will mean we will... (pick the response that applies most often)
- If the start/end time of the school changes...
- Do you have any additional questions or comments?

## **APPENDIX 2: REDACTED RESPONSES**

Document attached with file name:  
**SJF Jr & Sr Time Change Survey\_REDACTED.xlsx - SJF Jr & Sr  
Time Change Survey.pdf**

**(All personal identification information removed.)**

## APPENDIX #2

Questions arising from March 10, 2021 Special GB re: Late Start

# ST. John Fisher Junior & Senior


## Questions arising from March 10, 2021 Special GB re: Late Start

### General Questions:

Q: What proposal(s) are being explored, can you please detail them?


A: Scenario A & B were presented.

### School hours Scenarios A



SJF Junior Campus		SJF Senior Campus	
7:00	Daycare opens	7:00	Daycare opens
9:15	School start	9:05	School start
	120 minutes in class		120 minutes in class
11:15	Recess (20 minutes)	11:05	Recess (20 Minutes)
	60 minutes in class		60 minutes in class
12:35	Lunch (50 minutes)	12:25	Lunch (50 minutes)
	60 minutes in class		60 minutes in class
2:25	Recess (20 minutes)	2:15	Recess (20 minutes)
	60 minutes in class		60 minutes in class
3:45	School ends and Daycare opens	3:35	School ends and Daycare opens
6:00	Daycare services close	6:00	Daycare services close

### School hours Scenario B



SJF Junior Campus		SJF Senior Campus	
7:00	Daycare Opens	7:00	Daycare Opens
8:50	School start	8:40	School start
	120 minutes of class		120 minutes of class
10:50	Recess (20 minutes)	10:40	Recess (20 minutes)
	60 minutes of class		60 minutes of class
12:10	Lunch (70 minutes)	12:00	Lunch (70 Minutes)
	60 minutes of class		60 minutes of class
2:20	Recess (20 minutes)	2:10	Recess (20 minutes)
	60 minutes of class		60 minutes of class
3:40	School ends and Daycare opens	3:30	School ends and Daycare opens
6:00	Daycare services close	6:00	Daycare services close

**Q:** Would it be possible to start at 8:30 or 8:35 instead of 9:10 at the junior school?

**A:** Scenario B proposes a start time of 8:50 at the Jr. campus and 8:40 at Sr. campus. This proposal takes into account many factors including influx of students to St. Thomas at the Broadview location for in 2021-2021, transportation constraints due to bus twinning (requirement of the Ministry of Education), traffic congestion in the area, start times of other schools in the region with twinned bus routes, collective agreements with teacher's unions, guidelines set by ministry of education on the length of instruction, breaks and periods of supervision throughout the day.

### **Transportation, traffic & logistics:**

**Q:** Assuming you've conducted an analysis of the traffic patterns in the area, what were the results? If such an analysis hasn't been done, is one planned and when?

**A:** From observation and history of the schools, we are aware of the traffic patterns in and around the campus. The increased volume of students and resulting traffic has resulted in our decision to ensure that we stagger start times. Once a decision has been made by Council, the City will be approached regarding circulation patterns to ensure safety.

**Q:** We've been told we can't maintain an early start because the traffic will be impossible in the crunch time right before the school bells ring. However there will still be congestion at the earlier time due to an increased number of parents dropping off their kids to daycare. What is the estimated % improvement in traffic if St John Fisher moves to a later start?

**A:** Having differing start times for the high school and elementary schools allows for the tempered flow of student arrival and departure for these three school campuses. We anticipate the following number of students to attend each school next year; St-Thomas: 1365, SJF Junior: 240 , and SJF Senior: 360. This approach maintains a safer environment for walkers, bussers and cars.

**Q:** If traffic flow in the area can be mitigated and managed, could our schools maintain an early start time?

**A:** The flow of traffic for all three schools (walkers, busses and car drop off/pick up) during the same time is unmanageable and creates increased risk for accidents. Different start times will mitigate this risk.

**Q:** Can you offer our community a solution that would allow us to keep our current early start or a modified early start? Possibly with fewer buses to make it work?

**A:** At the current time it is not possible to provide other options. Start times can be reassessed and recommended by Governing Boards on a yearly basis. The solution offered in Scenario B considers the request to push back the start time. The times indicated in Scenario B are the earliest that things can be pushed back without compromising twinned routes.

**Q:** Maybe the other early start elementary schools (twinned buses) would prefer a late start if given the option? Which elementary schools are currently late start? Have other schools in the network been consulted as to their preference of start time?



**A:** There are 17 late start elementary schools. School Governing Boards may request a change in start times on a yearly basis. There have not been any such requests this year.

**Q:** What steps are being taken to prepare for the influx of students?

**A:** During the summer of 2020, building renovations were made to 111 Broadview to accommodate the incoming student enrollment of 1365. A contract for civil work at 111 Broadview will be awarded at the next council meeting. We are currently out for tender on the SEAO for additional summer 2021 building renovations to 111 Broadview <https://www.seao.ca/OpportunityPublication/ConsulterAvis/Recherche?ItemId=3b53fb8a-c25a-4eec-a3a0-03853ef84cb6&callingPage=2&searchId=1bdc1f93-ee66-4dfd-838d-acec00a8f14d&VPos=500> .

A transition committee was formed in January 2020 with members of both the Lindsay Place and St Thomas High School communities. The committee has been meeting regularly during the past 14 months to discuss bringing the two communities together. Recommendations were made and presented to both governing boards and presented to council in January 2021. Work continues in order to ensure a smooth transition.

The next step is to prepare school access, entrance and departure during peak periods based on the Council's vote of start time at SJF campus.

**Q:** How were transportation and schedule issues handled when the three schools were part of two different school boards in the 90s, when the schools had higher attendance?

**A:** In the 90s, there was always at least one of the three schools with a different start time. Furthermore, there were fewer buses and less car circulation because more students lived in the immediate area. At that time, Valois Park School and St-John Fisher School were also distinct school communities. With these two schools now being junior and senior campuses of the same school, we must preserve similar yet staggered schedules for its families (10 minutes difference).

**Q:** Snow removal on the main streets/sidewalks in the school zones is already problematic. With the influx of students, has the city of Pointe-Claire been engaged to adapt their operations and will details of those plans be publicly available?

**A:** These discussions will need to be made with the City of Pointe-Claire in the near future.

### **Buses:**

**Q:** How many students use school buses at Jr & Sr?

**A:** We have seen a reduction of students board wide using daycare and transportation services during the 2020-2021 school year as the Ministry required us to reduce the number of students in school buses and an increased amount of caregivers worked from home. For the 2019-2020 school year 321 students out of 642 St John Fisher students used transportation. For the 2020-2021 school year, 249 students out of 572 students are using transportation.

**Q:** Could the number of buses be reduced at St. John Fisher Jr., Sr., or St. Thomas to ease the congestion and traffic caused by the buses and allow all schools to keep the current start times?



- A. Rules surrounding the provision of transportation services are established for the full network of schools in the Lester B. Pearson School Board. Their parameters must be consistent with any provincial regulations which exist and apply. Any modification to arbitrarily reduce the number of buses would run counter to those established parameters. An extraordinary provision such as this would need to apply moving forward. The decision to accept a reduction in service is being made by current parents on behalf of parents subscribing to the school in the future.

There are longer term modifications to the transportation plan which will play out in the years to come as grandfathering provisions for current St. Thomas students play out. However, they will not be in effect in the 2021-22 school year. This would likely include some current St. Thomas routes which are being populated primarily by courtesy riders.

There is a security risk of having 2000 students and 150 employees converge in the area at the same time. If we reduce the number of buses transporting students we will see an increase in families driving their children to school. Reducing the number of buses would require an increase in the walking distance of students to school. Students are eligible for transportation if they live greater than 800 metres for kindergarten students, 1.6 kilometers for grades 1-6 and 2.4 kilometers for students for secondary students.

**Q:** With the large influx of kids at Saint Thomas is it possible to get the STM to pass at shorter intervals?

**A:** STM has not provided any assurance to LBPSB for extra busses for West Island schools

**Q:** Why should every student change their schedule for a small percentage of students using the school bus?

- A. In the same way that we cannot escape the interconnectedness of all the schools in the system in managing the transportation network, we cannot isolate transportation as a stand-alone dossier in an individual school. We have an obligation to provide educational services to all students who are registered in a building. We are equally obliged to provide transportation services to those who qualify. Reconciling those two obligations sometimes means we have to make modifications to school hours.

The decision is based on multiple factors and variables, not only busing. 50 % of students in the St John Fishers community use school bus transportation.

**Q:** Will the busses at St-Thomas use the parking lot on the West side of Broadview or will they access the school via Summerhill?

**A:** The bus drop off/pick up areas have yet to be finalized. However, it has already been proposed that Summerhill only be designated for SJF Senior busing and parent drop off/pick up. Our orientation is to have transportation services (buses, drop-off, pick-up, etc.) for St. Thomas concentrated on Broadview.

### **Daycare:**

**Q:** What is the projected daycare enrollment for 2021-2022 at each campus if the schools move to a later start time? What is daycare enrollment projected to be post COVID-19 at both campuses? If daycare

enrollment increases due to a change in the start time, can the schools accommodate this increase? Will the necessary COVID-19 safety precautions still be maintained until the pandemic is over?

**A:** We are unable to assess the enrollment numbers at this time. The timeline for lunch/daycare registration is May 2021. Both the St-John Fisher Junior and Senior campuses can accommodate increases in daycare students.

Yes, until the pandemic is declared over, we will continue to maintain all sanitary measures and adjustments to ratios in accordance with Covid protocols for the safety of students and staff.

**Q:** Parents and school staff have concerns about children in daycare for extended hours prior to the start of class and the impact of this on their health and well-being. As SJF Jr and Sr were early start schools, many of the parents have organized their schedules around the early start and have been able to use daycare services either in the morning briefly if necessary OR after school. The potential new schedule means many families will have no choice but to use additional daycare services. Parents are concerned about the physical repercussions of having their children in extended daycare hours.

How would the school board address parent concerns on having exhausted children as young as 4 years old, due to longer/late days?

**A:** We have 17 elementary schools with late school starts. The daycare hours are from 7am-6pm for the parents' convenience. The daycare program provides engaging activities and provides snacks for its users. Students who follow a routine, that may include daycare, become accustomed to their schedule. We cannot presume to know everyone's circumstances and we would not be so bold as to dismiss concerns parents may have about the time their children spend in daycare. We will say, however, that parents across the system access daycare services as required by their regular daily schedules and adjust morning or afternoon hours based upon those schedules.

**Q:** Some families may incur additional costs if the schools' start and end times are changed. What is the Board's response to this concern?

**A:** We are always concerned about increasing fees to parents. Daycare and lunch services however remain a parent subsidized service. If there are any particular financial hardships for families, principals should be contacted to seek payment arrangements. These requests will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

**Q:** 1\$ extra per day per child for lunch hour is over 100k\$ per year for 500 students. Where does that money go?

**A:** This pays for the salaries of lunch monitors for the 20 minute time period in Scenario B. There is no change to lunch fees to parents in Scenario A.

There are 572 students who attend SJF Jr./Sr. of which 362 students who attend daycare. Students attending daycare pay one fee which encompasses morning, lunchtime and afternoon daycare and lunch hour. The remaining 210 students would pay an extra \$1 a day if they participate in the lunch program.

## **Educational & Sociological Impact:**

**Q:** Why is the LBPSB prioritizing the wishes of the St Thomas teachers and transportation logistics over what is the right approach for the students from a learning perspective? There have been a tremendous amount of studies shown that Older HS age children benefit most from a later start, as well as that the younger children are most open to learning between 7:30am-11am? In addition, I have heard from very reliable sources that the St Thomas teachers have refused to accept a late start - how is that OK? In no work environment I have been in, both in the private and public sector, do staff get to decide their start time collectively!

**A:** Any suggestion that this decision is being driven by a decision related to a stance taken by the staff at St. Thomas High School is categorically false. Staff members at both St. Thomas High School and Lindsay Place High school have been nothing but professional in their approach to a very challenging set of circumstances.

We acknowledged at the meeting that the interconnectedness of our system means that there are times when decisions are made primarily on the basis of fiscal efficiency and maximizing the allocation of resources. We also pointed out that the same interconnectedness has seven schools twinned with St. Thomas High School's transportation routes, each of which would be affected by a shift in their start time.

**Q:** Parents have also commented repeatedly on the research of young children and the benefits of an early start to their academic day. How would the board answer questions regarding prioritizing bus schedules over what science has found is a better way to educate younger children?

**A:** A meta analysis and comprehensive literature review is required to determine the components, criteria, benefits and impact on school hours. This would require system wide readiness to implement this type of modification. These decisions reach a far greater impact than the current start time revisions of the three campus schools. We have identified this as an area of further investigation.

## **Process:**

**Q:** Why wasn't this included as a part of the last Major School change consultation?

**A:** Only the MSC scenarios were discussed in the consultation. The domino effect of each scenario MSC cannot be anticipated. The ripple effect of the decisions is managed after final decisions are rendered.

**Q:** Why did it take so long for the LBPSB to advise us of this impactful change (over a year since the decision to move St. Thomas to Broadview was made) yet we only have 9 days to respond?

**A:** The transportation and subsequent proposed changes of school hours is done on a yearly basis on a timeline which starts in January and is completed in May for the following year.

The impact of the Covid system shutdown on March 13th, 2020 cannot be underestimated with what the school board was expected to achieve and there were certainly some tasks that were attended in priority and timeline.

**Q:** What are the next steps?

**A:** The Lester B. Pearson School board and Council of Commissioners invite the joint GBs to provide a response to the proposals presented at the special meeting held March 10, 2021. The GB response is due March 19th. The Council of Commissioners will review the 2021-2022 transportation plan at the next council meeting.

**Q:** When will the Council of Commissioners vote on the proposal to change the start times for St. John Fisher Junior and Senior

**A:** The Council of Commissioners will vote on Monday, March 22.

**Q:** How will the results of the vote be communicated?

**A:** The result will be voted live during the Council of Commissioners meeting. School principals can elect to send a follow up message to the SJF community on Tuesday, March 23rd.

**Q:** What are the next steps **after** a decision is made?

**A:** Once a decision is made the planning continues in preparation for the 2021-2022 school year.

### **Schedule:**

**Q:** Could we have a longer recess' instead of the longer lunch? Or could recess be at the end of the day?

**A:** This is only relevant to Scenario B. Recess falls under teacher workload and would go against the collective agreement to increase this supervisory time for teachers. It must remain as an addition to the lunch hour and be subsidized by parents using the service.

**Q:** What was the start time for Lindsay's Place?

**A:** The current starting time at LPHS is 9:10 am (2020-2021). The current and proposed start time for St-Thomas at 111 Broadview is 7:55am (2021-2022).

### **Financial:**

**Q:** This is a decision purely based on economics, considering all other arguments would point to the logic of elementary school children starting earlier than high school students. In this respect, is this something parents should be discussing

with their MNA?

**A:** This decision is based on student safety, logistics and available resources. Parents or Governing Boards are more than welcome to communicate with their respective MNA's regarding education policy and funding. MNA's do not directly influence the management of school boards, however.

**Q:** How much will extra costs for additional staff help be to support the children?

**A:** There are only additional costs in Scenarios B. These costs for staff are related to increased direct supervisory time with students at lunch (+20 minutes).

**Q:** Why are we prioritizing buses to transport students off island to bring them to St-Thomas, rather than using that money for buses to keep SJF an early start school?

**A:** St Thomas school buses do not travel off the island of Montreal.

**Q:** And to pay the extra daycare staff? How much would that be approximately. Could that pay for a few extra busses between the schools?

**A:** The additional cost for an extended lunch (+20 minutes) will need to be paid by parents.

**Q:** Could the money saved from closing one school be used to get some buses to keep SJF early start?

**A:** One savings does not equate to the gain of the other. The closure of a school is a system decision and any subsequent savings are used for the benefit of all LBPSB school/centre communities.

### **Parking:**

**Q:** Will there be adequate parking for staff, or will staff use the summerhill parking lot?

**A:** There is adequate parking for day staff in the designated SJF Senior staff parking and adjacent parking spaces on Summerhill. Discussions will be required by the SJF Senior school principal with St-John Fisher Church to allow for lunch staff parking on their property.

SJF Junior has ample parking for all staff.

**Q:** What about staff parking at Saint Thomas(Lindsay Place)? Will there be enough? I fear they will use our area and at lunch time it is often a struggle to find parking for the lunch staff.

**A:** LPHS staff will have enough parking with the onsite LPHS parking and the Broadview parking lot adjacent to the school.

**Q:** Has a start earlier than been considered and is it possible? This may be preferably to a late start.

**A:** Clarification required, earlier start for St-Thomas or St-John Fisher?