Sent by the Department of Education
K Hawley George
May 23, 2024

NLSchools

May 23, 2024

Good day Prince of Wales Collegiate School System families,

NLSchools, Department of Education is pleased today to release the results of our recent grade reconfiguration review of the Prince of Wales Collegiate (PWC) School System. As you may recall, in April, we requested input from school community members about the shifting of one grade forward among four of the schools within this system. Following the close of the consultations at the end of April, staff completed a thorough review of the concerns and questions presented and **it was decided that the grade reconfigurations would proceed.** Therefore, effective September 2024 Larkhall Academy and St. Andrew's Elementary will be reconfigured to become K- Grade 4, Leary's Brook Junior High will become Grade 5-8, and Prince of Wales Collegiate will become Grade 9 - Level 4.

Since that time, we have been compiling the information shared for release to our school communities and determining next steps to assist our students. We are pleased today to share with you the **PWCSS Public Consultation Report - April, 2024.**

This report continues to utilise ThoughtExchange, a platform designed to provide a transparent and comprehensive overview of the feedback we have received from you, our valued community members. The report is web-based and presents an analysis of the responses we received during our recent engagement sessions. It highlights the main concerns, suggestions, and sentiments expressed by parents and other stakeholders about the proposed changes. The aim is to ensure that everyone in our community has access to the same information, fostering a shared understanding of the issues at hand.

We believe that this resource will be a valuable tool for our community as we continue to navigate this important conversation. We encourage you to visit the website, review the information, and continue to engage with us in this process. Your input is vital in helping us make decisions that are in the best interest of our students.

We thank you for your ongoing involvement and look forward to our continued collaboration, as we work towards the best possible educational environment for our students.

As always, we appreciate your input and perspective.

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nlschools.ca

NLSchools

What do NLSchools, Department of Education need to consider as we look to reconfigure grades within the Prince of Wales Collegiate School System?

April, 2024

Engagement summary

NLSchools, Department of Education is appreciative of the many individuals who shared their thoughts and concerns with us about the proposed grade reconfiguration for four schools in the Prince of Wales Collegiate School System. As noted previously, we have been closely monitoring the student enrollment situation over the last year and while it was believed the situation could hold until the planned new infrastructure is completed, we have reached the point where student numbers are impacting on shared learning space. **Therefore, it has been decided that this adjustment will take place for September, 2024.**

Thank you to the more than 600 individuals who took time to share their thoughts with us. We have taken the opportunity to highlight the themes discussed among the over 450 thoughts shared and staff have provided commentary to some of the comments to address some of the questions and concerns noted. You will notice that while every thought is not addressed, answers are provided for many of the like-style questions or concerns raised.

The following summary is an encapsulation of what we heard within the exchange:

"The responses indicate a variety of concerns regarding the reconfiguration of grades within the Prince of Wales Collegiate School System. The most common concern is the lack of space in the school and on buses, with many respondents suggesting that the addition of grade 9 students would lead to overcrowding. There are also concerns about the lack of technology for grades 5-6, the semesterized nature of PWC, and the potential for increased bullying. Some respondents worry about the impact on special needs students and the potential for younger students to be exposed to inappropriate behavior. Other concerns include the need for additional teachers and resources, the potential for larger class sizes, and the lack of cafeteria and library space. A number of respondents, however, see the reconfiguration as a positive change, suggesting it could alleviate overcrowding in other schools and recognizing it is a temporary measure until planning and construction of new infrastructure is complete."

As you will see in the Theming Report below, comments were focused in five different areas;

1. **Space and Capacity**
2. **Student Well-Being**
3. **Educational Impact**
4. **Infrastructure and Resources**
5. **Student Maturity.**

Throughout the Exchange, there were no concerns raised that were unanticipated by educational staff. NLSchools has encountered many of these concerns previously in past grade reconfigurations. A transition team of Departmental staff has been established and outreach to our community partners is already underway to ensure this change occurs as supported and seamlessly as possible.

This report includes the key results of the Engagement and will be used to inform next steps. View the interactive reports below for more details.

What do NLSchools and the Department of Education need to consider as we look to reconfigure grades within the Prince of Wales Collegiate School System?

616 Participants

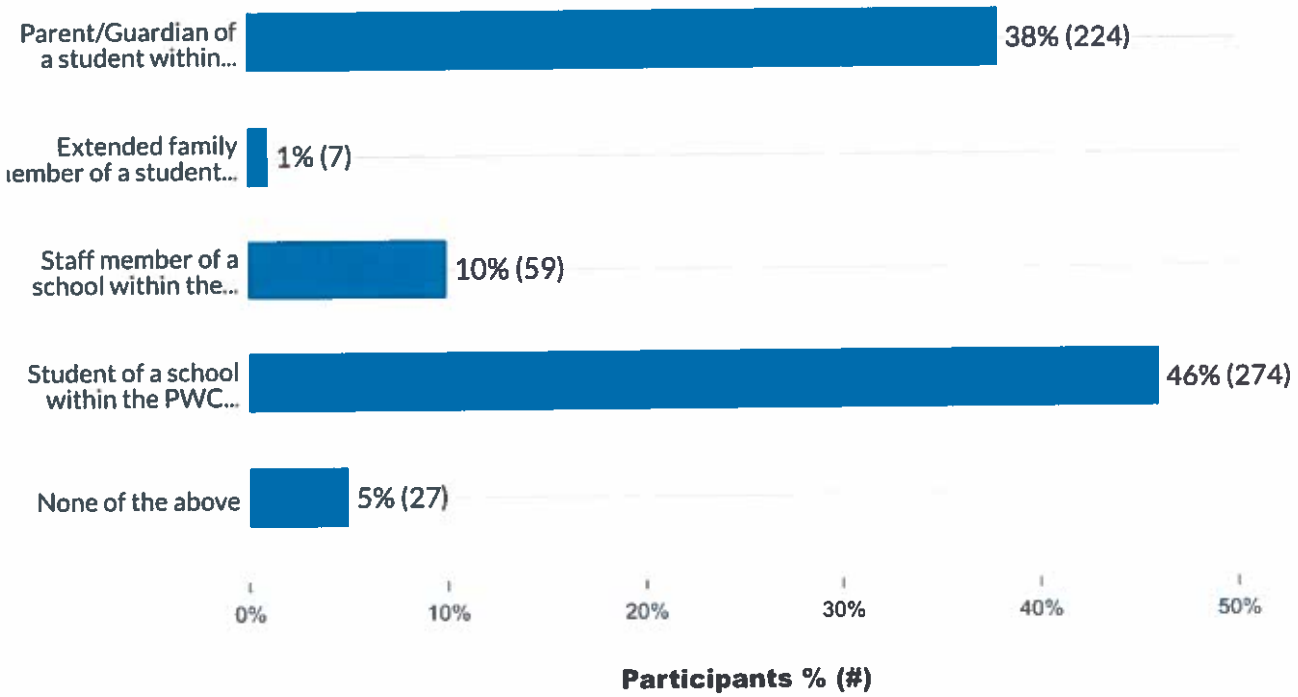
483 Thoughts

10,937 Ratings

Participation languages

%		Answer
97%	(599)	English
1%	(4)	Arabic
0%	(3)	Russian
0%	(3)	Ukrainian
0%	(1)	German
0%	(1)	Spanish
0%	(1)	Persian
0%	(1)	French
0%	(1)	Shona
0%	(1)	Thai
0%	(1)	Turkish

Please select the option which best describes your role in this exchange.



Please select the school you are most closely associated with during this (2023/24) school year

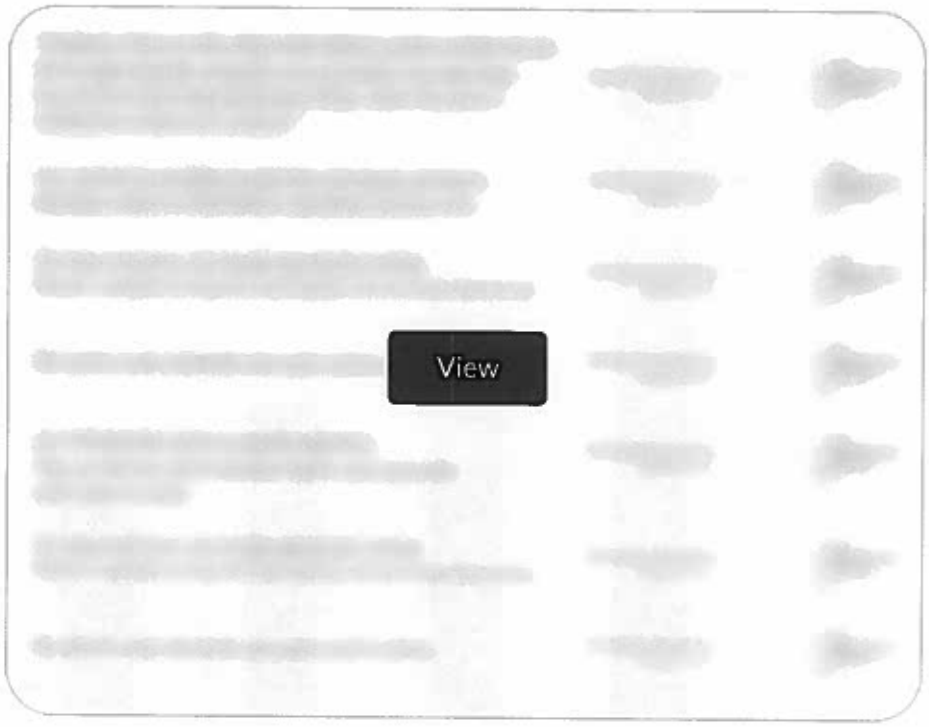
%	👤	Answer
13%	(78)	Larkhall Academy
7%	(40)	St. Andrew's Elementary
27%	(160)	Leary's Brook Junior High
50%	(293)	Prince of Wales Collegiate
1%	(5)	Another school elsewhere in the province.
2%	(10)	I am not directly connected to any school community in the province.

- Hide section

Top thoughts

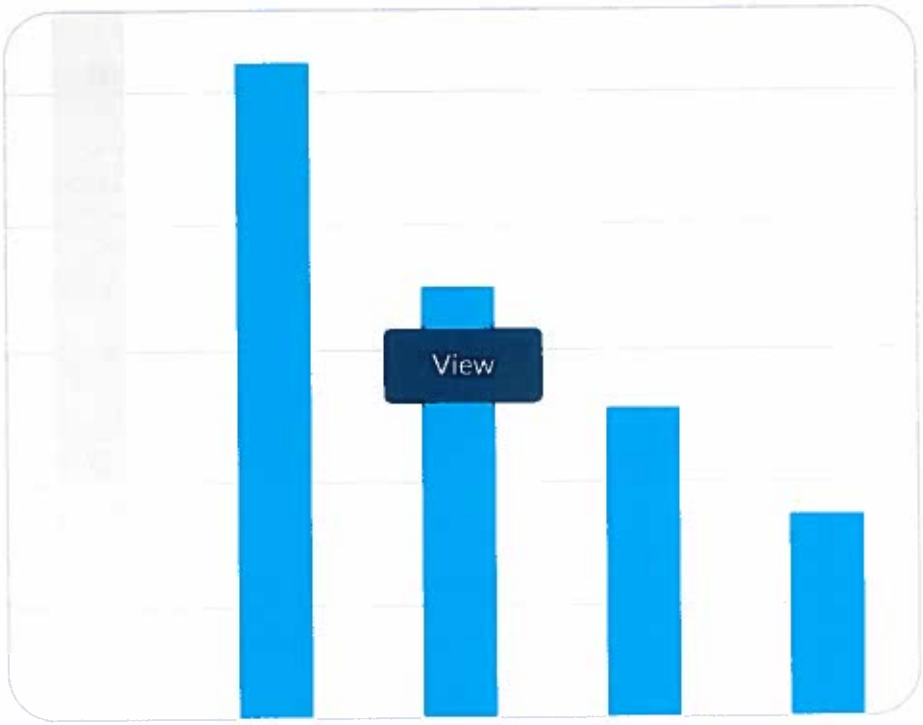
View thoughts in this Exchange.

As noted, staff have provided commentary to some of the submissions to address some of the questions and concerns noted. You will notice that while every thought is not addressed, answers are provided for many of the like-style questions or concerns raised.



Topics

View the topics in this Exchange.
To explore, click on the individual bars to see the thoughts included in the themes.
Additionally, toggle from word frequency to star-rating level by clicking the upper right-hand corner.



Once again, thank you for sharing your thoughts and concerns with us as we manage the current situation among these four schools.

NLSchools, Department of Education
TERMS OF USE

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TOP THOUGHTS - PWCSS PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT - APRIL, 2024

RESULTS

Newfoundland and Labrador Schools

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Search

What do NLSchools and the Department of Education need to consider as we look to reconfigure grades within the Prince of Wales Collegiate School System?

1 of 10

I believe , we should stay at a 10-12 high school , because we already lost our school bathrooms , now now they want move more people out our school This is important to say at a 10-12 schools because that population is already high enough and we can barely move around already , we don't need more

4.6 (27) Ranked #1 of 483

5 4 3 2 1

Published comment

From past enrollments in PWC, NLSchools is confident in the building's ability to house the anticipated number of Grade 9 to 12 students. In the past, PWC has held close to 900 students.

I don't think we should have the grade 9 because our school Is doing good now but with more kids, it'll get crowded just like that other school. Also, when younger kids are associated with older, sometimes they tend to try stuff like drugs or alcohol earlier than they would've in junior high.

4.6 (27) Ranked #2 of 483

5 4 3 2 1

Published comment

The transition team is working with community partners to ensure as much preventative education as possible is provided in advance to assist students to make good decisions in all social situations.

It's a bad idea to introduce students in to high school so young. It impacts the availability of our teachers who are needed in their area. And, students who are 13 shouldn't be in a school with others who are 18

4.6 (27)

Ranked #3 of 483

5 4 3 2 1

Published comment

There are opportunities and challenges to any grade configuration. There are examples on the Avalon and elsewhere of Grade 9 to 12 configurations where both younger and older students thrive, with mentorship and learning opportunities they would not have had otherwise.

They did to consider that PWC is semesterized and grade 9's aren't typically in that category I think one of the biggest things about PWC is that we are semesterized making it faster to get courses done. Grade 9 isn't typically used to this.

4.6 (27)

Ranked #4 of 483

5 4 3 2 1

Published comment

The transition team is mindful and equipped with mechanisms to organize the daily and yearly schedule for all students. NLSchools has experience, given that Carbonear Collegiate, Holy Spirit and Holy Trinity are among the schools in the province who already have this configuration.

the school is honestly already filled enough as it is, where would you get the classroom space for a whole separate grade? plus grade 9s have a different curriculum then we do, youd have to get more teachers, more study guides, i just dont think its worth it

4.6 (25)

Ranked #5 of 483

5 4 3 2 1

Published comment

Facilities and programs staff are working with the school to ensure optimum layout for programming for students. In the past, PWC has held close to 900 students.

NL schools need to consider how crowded classes and hallways will be Hallways are crowded as is and it takes a decent amount of time to get to class as is

4.5 (29)

Ranked #6 of 483

5 4 3 2 1

Published comment

While we understand this concern, NLSchools believes that based on past enrollments, there is space to accommodate the number of additional students.

I think it isn't a good idea to introduce grade 9 students to PWC. Their curriculum is different and cannot be merged with the other grades in this school. Also, I know I would not be ready to go to PWC when I was 14.

4.5 (28)

Ranked #7 of 483

5 4 3 2 1

Published comment

We appreciate you sharing your perspective with us. NLSchools staff are working to ensure a smooth transition to this planned reconfiguration and will work with students and community partners to provide support and continued social education for all students moving forward. In addition, we have schools that are of these configurations elsewhere in the province and these experienced administrations will provide support and collaborate for the PWC School System.

You need to look at if the students are ready to enter a high school environment. You have to look at how this change affects current pwc students. When I was in grade 8 going to grade 9 I would not have been ready to be in a school with grade 12. The current student's education can't be impacted.

4.5 (28)

Ranked #8 of 483

5 4 3 2 1

Published comment

It is wonderful that you are concerned not only for the current PWC students, but also the younger students who will be moving forward. This has been a matter of discussion among staff at NLSchools, LBJH and PWC and the planning and work to ensure students feel prepared and supported is underway. NLSchools has a wide variety of grade configurations throughout the province and are well-versed in assisting students to adjust as needed.

The impact on the students. Younger people coming to a high school can be dangerous as they may be exposed to harmful things. The maturity level between them is a big step.

4.5 (26)

Ranked #9 of 483

5 4 3 2 1

Published comment

We value your input. We are working with school staff and community partners to ensure students have the tools they need to make good decisions for their futures.

The student population within PWC, the amount of classrooms, the staff, the students... Teachers will have to give of their prep periods for grade nine

4.5 (26)

Ranked #10 of 483

5 4 3 2

students, the current students at PWC will have to adapt to the junior high students.

1 ★

I believe it is important to look at the size of the schools that will be getting more grades added to them. It is important because the schools need to make sure there is enough space for the students in the rooms and hallways as there isn't already.

4.5 ★★★★½ (25 👤)
Ranked #11 of 483

5 ★
4 ★
3 ★
2 ★
1 ★

No, I completely disagree for the grades in PWC to change. PWC is a high school and it should not change to being a 9-12 school. Because the grade nines are not mature enough for PWC to change to a 9-12 school. Where would they put all of us? There's just not enough room for all

4.4 ★★★★☆ (29 👤)
Ranked #12 of 483

5 ★
4 ★
3 ★
2 ★
1 ★

Such a bad idea People need space and are school is also crowded

4.4 ★★★★☆ (29 👤)
Ranked #13 of 483

5 ★
4 ★
3 ★
2 ★
1 ★

how many people are in a classroom could lead to the classroom being to packed

4.4 ★★★★☆ (29 👤)
Ranked #14 of 483

5 ★
4 ★
3 ★
2 ★
1 ★

In PWC we do not have enough space to put grade nine students in are school. Also the freedoms that the grade 10-12 students have should stay a Priori It's important because it's high school not meant or built for grade nines

4.4 ★★★★☆ (28 👤)
Ranked #15 of 483

5 ★
4 ★
3 ★
2 ★
1 ★

Need to be careful they don't over crowd other schools while trying to on crowd another. Schools can be dangerous if over crowded. It's not fair/saf It's definitely important because other schools are getting over crowded which makes the school a non safe environment and harder to learn.

4.4 ★★★★☆ (28 👤)
Ranked #16 of 483

5 ★
4 ★
3 ★
2 ★
1 ★

No space already enough people in the school

4.4 ★★★★☆ (28 👤)
Ranked #17 of 483

5 ★
4 ★
3 ★
2 ★
1 ★

PWC is semesterized The teachers at PWC are going to have to teach grd9 but we switch courses in the

4.4 ★★★★☆ (28 👤)
Ranked #18 of 483

5 ★
4 ★
3 ★
2 ★

middle of the year also there is no empty classroom space

1 ★

We dont need more people to be in PWC, because the school doesn't have enough space since its quite small, and having more people is not gonna help Its important to consider the spaces in the hallway and the size of the school it self, we dont have enough space for 100+ more students

4.4 ★★★★☆ (28 👤)
Ranked #19 of 483

5 ★
4 ★
3 ★
2 ★
1 ★

Where you putting all the garde 9s here There already lots of studens

4.4 ★★★★☆ (28 👤)
Ranked #20 of 483

5 ★
4 ★
3 ★
2 ★
1 ★

bathrooms. the bathrooms have already been taken away from pwc students and it is almost impossible to get into the private bathrooms.

4.4 ★★★★☆ (28 👤)
Ranked #21 of 483

5 ★
4 ★
3 ★
2 ★
1 ★

Published comment

There are just as many washrooms at PWC as there were when the building had nearly 900 students. We have experienced vandalism on occasion. However, repairs have been made as soon as possible. Everyone (students, families and staff) needs to ensure we respect the property we use everyday and do our utmost to ensure everyone can use the facilities provided for our health and safety.

the remaining space in PWC that is nonexistent. the students currently at pwc already feel crowded, class sizes are already large with the limited classrooms we have.

4.4 ★★★★☆ (28 👤)
Ranked #22 of 483

5 ★
4 ★
3 ★
2 ★
1 ★

where are they putting another 200+ students in pwc

4.4 ★★★★☆ (28 👤)
Ranked #23 of 483

5 ★
4 ★
3 ★
2 ★
1 ★

Absolutely not, we have no space for another grade coming into this school when it is already crowded This is important because it will take up any little space that we have left(which is really little) the rest of us will feel too trapped

4.4 ★★★★☆ (27 👤)
Ranked #24 of 483

5 ★
4 ★
3 ★
2 ★
1 ★

PWC is a two semester school system, while grade 9's continue through the year with their classes. At PWC we also have a longer class time then them.

4.4 ★★★★☆ (27 👤)

5 ★
4 ★
3 ★

Chaotic to have two bell systems. Disrupt classes having them switch while we have class. Already class capacity can't take some courses we want.

Ranked #25 of 483

2 ★
1 ★

Traffic in the hallways in between periods will be terrible. Traffic in the hallways is already bad. If we add more people it will only get worse.

4.4 ★★★★☆ (27 👤)

Ranked #26 of 483

5 ★
4 ★
3 ★
2 ★
1 ★

bathrooms stink they stinky

4.4 ★★★★☆ (27 👤)

Ranked #27 of 483

5 ★
4 ★
3 ★
2 ★
1 ★

no, we do not need more students in pwc, it's already crowded enough. Our school life is at peace and I do not want any junior highs to ruin it pwc doesn't have enough space, the bathroom gets crowded with people who vapes, we do not want to have more

4.4 ★★★★☆ (27 👤)

Ranked #28 of 483

5 ★
4 ★
3 ★
2 ★
1 ★

they need to have no delays in the building of the new school in Kenmount Terrace. Why not usethe plans that have already been used recently use . The needs of the children . Class size Do not waste money on this plan when two new schools are being built. Yes something need to be done overcrowdi

4.4 ★★★★☆ (27 👤)

Ranked #29 of 483

5 ★
4 ★
3 ★
2 ★
1 ★

this is a bad idea. we are already crowded and we already have too much violence, and substance use. it will increase with more students and younger students will pick up these habits. overall horrible idea

4.4 ★★★★☆ (27 👤)

Ranked #30 of 483

5 ★
4 ★
3 ★
2 ★
1 ★

How will you integrate the 9th grade education into a school built to maintain high school students? How will non semesterised students fit? The layout and build of PWC does not seem able to support another grade, especially if their curriculum and class structure is different from ours.

4.4 ★★★★☆ (26 👤)

Ranked #31 of 483

5 ★
4 ★
3 ★
2 ★
1 ★

I just personally think that pwc is a very crowded school already, when I go from class to class I have to go to heards of people through the hallway I think there's already think this school has a lot of people and we don't need more to make it insufferable and even more orvercrowded

4.4 ★★★★☆ (26 👤)

Ranked #32 of 483

5 ★
4 ★
3 ★
2 ★
1 ★

they need to consider how many people would be at PWC and the space this is important bc its gonne get more crowded then it already is

4.4 (26) Ranked #33 of 483

5 4 3 2 1

I'm at PWC, There seems to be no room for grade 9s. All the classes are full, I don't know where they'd go. Brookside students at a disadvantage in 10 Can't really add another grade when there's physically no where to put them. I think having grade 9 with 12 will expose them to negative stuff faster

4.4 (25) Ranked #34 of 483

5 4 3 2 1

I think that they shouldn't do this Because this school would be overcrowded, the schedule will be messed up and there are little rooms available for younger students

4.3 (28) Ranked #35 of 483

5 4 3 2 1

School capacity-Can the schools hold what is proposed? They are all at/over capacity.

4.3 (28) Ranked #36 of 483

5 4 3 2 1

Published comment

This reconfiguration will alleviate some of the pressures on St. Andrew's and Larkhall, keep Leary's Brook essentially static and move approximately 130 students into PWC - a school with a current enrollment of around 640 but has historically held close to 900 students. These schools can manage the anticipated student numbers.

The school is too small It will be overcrowded

4.3 (28) Ranked #37 of 483

5 4 3 2 1

They're not prepared I think grade 9's are still navigating alot that comes with being 14-15 and I don't think they'll get on well with our students.

4.3 (28) Ranked #38 of 483

5 4 3 2 1

Thinking about space in the school and other younger students I do not think we have a whole lot of space for more students. I also think it will be weird for the other grade 9s who won't come here until grade 10

4.3 (28) Ranked #39 of 483

5 4 3 2 1

We do not have enough bathrooms to cater to another 120 kids to use especially since the grade graduating this year is smaller Since the grade leaving

4.3 (28)

5 4

this year is smaller than the ones coming up we will be left with more people in the school without any proper commodities

Ranked #40 of 483

Published comment

There are just as many washrooms at PWC as there were when the building had nearly 900 students. Any necessary repairs have been made or are underway.

as a student of Prince of Wales Collegiate I find that this building is not suited for students of the ninth grade level or lower I think that this is important because these students will not get the space that they need to learn causing the decrease of mental health of the kids

4.3 (28)

Ranked #41 of 483

the age gap is going to affect the kids negatively they will be shown things too mature for them too quickly

4.3 (28)

Ranked #42 of 483

they need to add more buses because the buses are all ready full with some having to stand in the bus to get home and with the grade 9 coming here there will be not enough room

4.3 (28)

Ranked #43 of 483

Published comment

Buses are increasing for all schools in the 2024-25 school year due to the Provincial Government's announcement of the elimination of the 1.6 KM busing policy that will allow for all students to receive busing.

I believe this is not a smart idea because we are bringing in kids that are 13-14 years old with kids that are as old as 18 years old Because the amount of drugs that go through highschool

4.3 (27)

Ranked #44 of 483

I'm not sure this is a good idea because this could really break the way pwc has been teaching This is important because pwc would have to alter their teaching schedule to fit students from lbjh here

4.3 (27)

Ranked #45 of 483

Scheduling and programming. Grade 9 programming is different from semestered high school programming, which may make it difficult when planning.

4.3 (27)

Ranked #46 of 483

Staffing problems With staff shortages, how will they keep up with not just teaching but the cleaning of schools? Short on janitors, impossible to keep up on buildings.

4.3 (27)

Ranked #47 of 483

Published comment

Human Resources are working to ensure reconfigured schools would have the appropriate staffing complement; this includes both teachers and support staff.

Teachers Our teachers would potentially lose their prep periods for classes for grade 9's which is not fair to them.

4.3 (27)

Ranked #48 of 483

The room. Our school is quite full as it is. I think this school would be way too crowded

4.3 (27)

Ranked #49 of 483

There are to many of them Because are school is small and I don't want learys brook grade 9

4.3 (27)

Ranked #50 of 483