

## **Director's Response**

Board Meeting – March 20, 2019

When schools do not have enough students for certain elective courses it places the administration and the staffing teams that work with them in really challenging spots.

The compulsory courses of course have to be taken. When a school grows smaller or staffing becomes less that takes courses out of the school.

So, for example just to throw out a number- if a school is going to receive five teachers less from the system, that's 30 courses that can't be offered. I'm a former secondary administrator as you know, and I loved time tabling, I know, call me strange.

But one of the things I learned is when the numbers got tough it was 100% of the time the electives. That's an impactful statement around engaging students, ensuring that they're interested, ensuring that we keep them connected.

So already realizing the parameters that have been shared with us staff has already been working and we will bring to you different ideas because we have schools right now that I worry will not be able to offer many things besides the compulsory courses the way they exist right now. And we know that's not acceptable when the next school down the street, which might happen to have 1200 students has a very different learning experience.

That is something that simply as a staff that I trust through the Multi-Year Strategic Plan that was passed is acceptable to this Board. So, we are worried. Electives will be challenged. And more importantly, students will be given different programs depending upon the schools there in the situation we're in right now.