



*Office of the Director of Education*

December 11, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

While we remain committed to offering families with an opportunity to choose their child's preferred learning model, we also recognize that classroom stability is important to student learning and development. Last night, the Board of Trustees passed a motion that will impact the remainder of the school year.

Families will continue to be able to request to move their child(ren) from St. Anne's Virtual School of Learning, to their home school *or* from their home school to St. Anne's *only* under the condition that such a transfer will not disrupt the current classroom staffing allocations. For instance, no teacher will be moved from their current placement to accommodate a student transfer request.

This will mean that while families will have the ability to make this request to their home school, there will be no guaranteed start date for any requested change, as staff will review each individual request to determine whether a transfer can be made based on factors including availability of placements and staffing needs. Families whose transfer requests cannot be accommodated immediately will be placed on a waitlist until there is an opportunity to transfer. In instances where there is no availability, a request to transfer may not be possible.

In the last transition opportunity in November, approximately 3000 students switched their learning model to virtual resulting in the reassignment of staff from in-person to virtual. This resulted in the merging of some in-person classes which was, while necessary, disruptive in our bricks and mortar schools.

As we continue to navigate the challenges of this school year and adapt our methods to better serve our school communities, we remain committed to working with all families to support individual needs while prioritizing stability in our classrooms.

Please be assured that the Board will make every effort to minimize disruption, and to ensure an equitable distribution of supports and staff for all students, whether they are attending in-person or virtually.

We appreciate your continued understanding, patience, and partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brendan Browne".

Brendan Browne  
Director of Education