



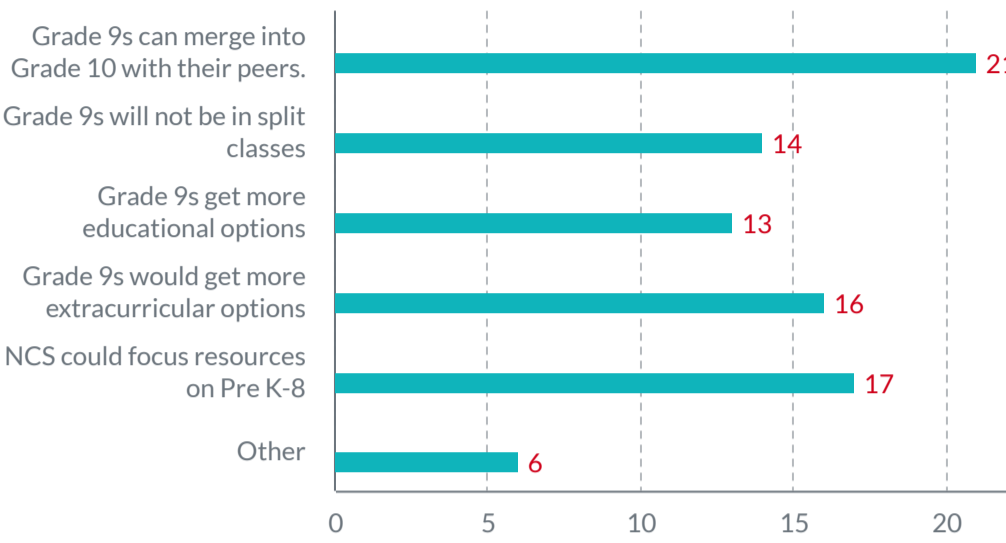
NITON COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS 2023

Parent Responses n= 29

The Community Asks: Can you move the Grade 9 program into high school?

Following the March 8th, 2023 Community Engagement Session held at Niton Central School, the principal received a request from a handful of parents requesting the Division consider moving the Grade 9 program out of NCS. In response, the Division shared a survey with parents, staff, and students, inviting their input on the request.

Q. What advantages do you perceive for moving the Grade 9 program into high school?

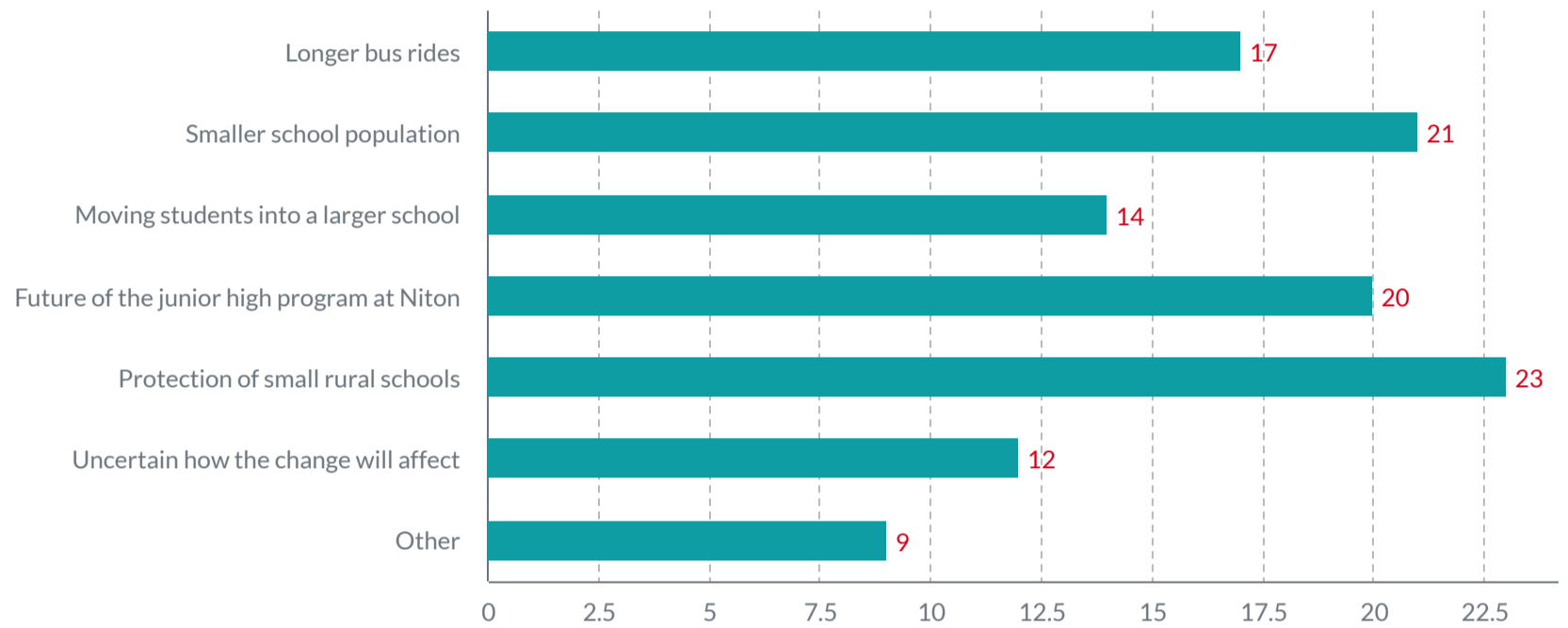


OTHER Breakdown:
Students would be exposed to more teachers: 2
Make more friends: 1
No advantages: 3

Parent Comments*:

- Expose students to multiple teachers, specialized teachers, for a very important year. Currently there is only 2.
- More exposure to multiple teachers that are teaching in their proper areas. I.E. Not having a Social Studies teacher who doesn't like Phys.Ed, teaching Phys.Ed.
- With small classes in Niton, limited the groups of kids to make friends. Moving grade 9 to Parkland would allow the opportunity of kids to not feel so left out and build their character
- I do not think it would be an advantage
- No advantages
- The advantage of moving the grade 9 class to a high school would financially show a quicker degeneration of the k-8 in Niton a would contribute to faster closure of said school. I've seen this happen in my hometown many years ago. When the "capital cost" becomes unviable, then closure and bussing comes next. Just because the Parents are not on said school board (which blatantly wastes tax dollars), don't think for one minute we don't understand simple economics.

Q. What concerns do you have about the Grade 9 program shifting into a high school?



OTHER Breakdown:
Not enough students for sports or other extra-curriculars: 1
Loss of leadership/ community culture: 2
Exposure to negative peers/issues/culture: 2
Speeds up the closure of Niton: 3
No concern: 1

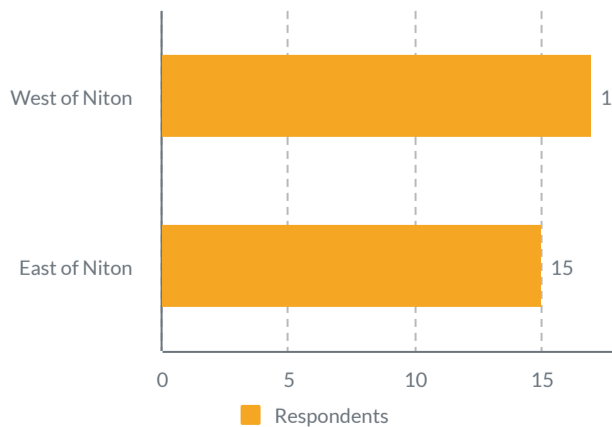
Parent Comments*:

- I fear for all the kids left behind, not enough kids for school sports and other beneficial programs. When is it going to stop? next will be grade 7 and 8, and then the elementary classes. This community needs this school, our rural communities will lose their halls and support because young families will not stay in this area. We are an hour from Edson, is that not too far to bus kids everyday? Right now our kids leave at 7 a.m. and are home at 5 p.m. just to go to school, because they are forced to go to Edson. Many adults do not even have that long of a day. If all students went to their designated schools Niton would flourish!! This needs to stop, my kids have went to Niton all four of them, they went till they had to go to Edson. From my experience Edson schools are NO better than Niton. They are just a number in a big school, and fall through the cracks so easly. Why is this even an option that kids can go to Edson early? this would not be a discussion right now if kids went to their designated schools. Kids are only leaving Niton because all their friends are. I really wish it would stop.
- The unique experience Niton students receive being in a leadership role due to the array of ages within the school. The sense of community is strong at the school as students have a close relationship with staff, and parent volunteers.
- I like the idea of Elementary to 8 small rural schools, and would be concerned about them being eliminated.
- more possible exposure to negative peer influences ie. smoking, drugs, vaping, sexual intercourse, etc.
- Concern around culture shifts to a bigger school. Not sure the benefits outweigh the risks of sending them earlier.
- The small school setting allows more positive opportunities for older students to engage with younger students (in a positive manner) further building a positive sense of community in both younger and older students.
- Well I guess I summed up this answer with the previous answer (see comment re: faster closure)
- Highly concerned that this will open the door for the Division to justify closing lower grades as well. The vitality of our community is dependent on a thriving school, without the school the entire community is in jeopardy.
- I have no concerns what so ever about the 9's shifting schools.

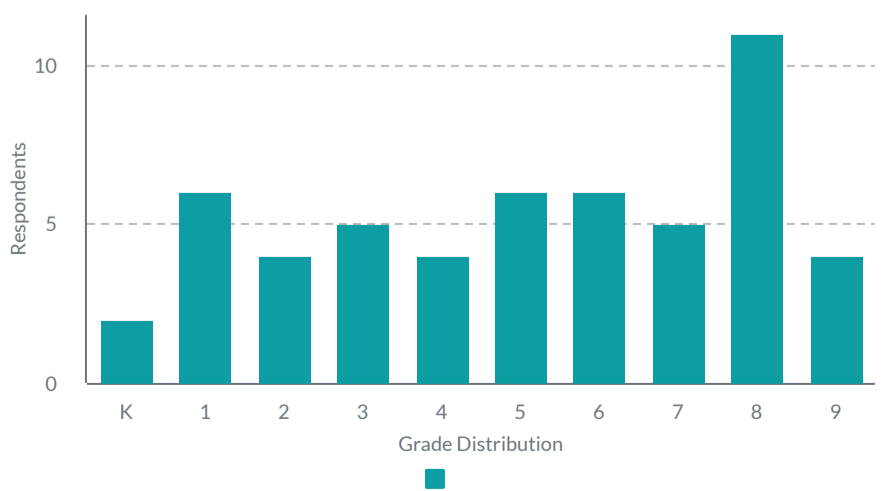
Additional Parent Comments*:

- Are we to believe that through the community engagement sessions that a community member (that would mean one person) brought up the question of moving Niton grade nine students and that brought on not only this survey but also a community conversation night in Niton on May 9th? If only other concerns and questions about our students were given such attention.
- Where does it stop? Grade 9 now and then in a few years you'll feel it acceptable to shit grade 8 down then 7. It's like a education system can't handle a status quo. They always need change. Have we learned nothing from how things have changed especially the last several years? Change isn't always good. Period!
- Rural communities are just as important as urban, if GYPSD would keep students in their designated schools this would benefit the greatest number of students. Maybe it should be promoted that kids in Edson can be bussed to Niton, and open that up for those students. Then see how Niton's numbers are.
- Would there be bussing made available for rural students towards Edson to go to Niton to help boost numbers to those who see a benefit of a small school and tight knit community? If Fulham ever closes, are those students going to be bused to Niton or to Edson?
- Niton is an amazing school with small town struggles that is hard to change. But by taking grades away doesn't always help either. First the high school which dropped our numbers. Now grade 9 which will drop again then leading to eventually no school left just like so many other small town school closures. While children who want a higher education would possibly benefit from the extra year, the children who struggle with school will not. I went through the school change in grade 10 and I do not feel it improved my education at all.
- I personally would like to see gr 9 remain in niton, and would support the return of k-12
- If the boards plan is to close the Niton school in the next 5-10 years... you might want to own the "plan" now.
- As it stands right now the division does not have enough bus drivers to cover sickness or a driver needing sudden time off. How is the division going to be able to bus this many more children to Edson? Is this going to make the bus rider longer for all students going to Edson?
- Why not bring wildwood and Fulham elementary students to Niton. Extend the school border to help boost the elementary numbers. Both Fulham and wildwood have such low numbers. Instead of bussing so many elementary to grande trunk, try Niton.
- We have already registered our son to attend grade 9 at Parkland next year. We feel he needs a fresh start. He is in the middle of adolescence and has very few kids around him his age, as all of his "growing up" friends have left Niton. My other 3 children talk fondly of their Phys-Ed teachers/classes they experienced at Parkland, so I'd love my youngest son to experience that as well.
- I sent my eldest to Parkland a year early and it was the best thing I've ever done. My next child is also entering Parkland this coming September early. The pros definitely outweigh the cons and the financial cost. I can tell you with certainty that entering a high school in grade 10, when everyone else is entering in grade 9 makes the social and academic adjustment much more difficult.
- I have already enrolled my upcoming grade 9 student in Edson and am aware of many others. Having 3 other children go to Parkland in grade 10, unfortunately, I have witnessed a significant lack of preparedness for grade 10, compared to students who completed grade 9 at Parkland.
- I would personally like to see the whole junior high closed at Niton, they are all missing out not just the grade 9's. They all deserve the not split classes, extra curricular, options and activities offered at the junior high schools in Edson/Evansburg
- Students need more exposure to other students in other schools to prepare them for the change over. This would support the students better than to move them a year earlier. Without exposure to different atmospheres, I feel the change over will not be any more positive than leaving at grade 9.
- For a jr high program, the teachers could concentrate on teaching grade 8 and give them better advancement
- Will parents be give option of which school their child attends? Will there be a cut off line?

Where do you reside in the Lobstick zone?



What grade(s) is your child in?*



*Breakdown of respondents' of children's grades currently at Niton: in some cases both parents provided a response so the data is skewed.