

Focus Group Notes – Chinese (group 1)

PPS – Enrollment & Program Balancing Focus Group

Session Notes

1. At the beginning of the session, the interpreters discussed the division of responsibilities which was extremely helpful. I was assigned to mainly help with the Cantonese speakers if needed.
2. All the parents expressed deep concern about the move from Woodstock. The main reasons were:
 - a. The Woodstock School has been doing the program for around 20 years and it has been highly successful.
 - b. Some parents that have children prepared to enter the Mandarin Immersion Program have purchased houses in that neighborhood for that purpose.
 - c. They were concerned that the proposed relocation would make their children more isolated and not gain the benefits of a more diverse neighborhood and culture.
 - d. There was also concerns about the transportation aspect of the move.
 - e. Also, there was dissatisfaction in that the school administration did not first communicate with native Chinese speaking families prior to the announcement of this proposed move.
3. Ms. Dai, the facilitator suggested that the parents attend the meeting in English this Thursday night.
4. Overall, it was very useful and informative meeting.