



# Kingsville P.A.R.C. Public Meeting Comments:

Parent  Teacher  
 Community Member

for: Keeping Ruthven Open

- ① Ruthven should stay open - growth in community ~~area~~ - wait 5-10 years
- ② Whole process is bias - more Kingsville parents voting
- 3) Close part of KRS - send English kids to Jack Miner - keep them there
- 4) Keep Highschool open in Kingsville



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**Taras Natyshak**  
MPP Essex



**Good evening everyone. My name is Patti Hayes, and I am here on behalf of Taras Natyshak MPP – Essex.**

**I would like to start by extending Taras' regrets that he couldn't be here tonight due to commitments at Queen's Park.**

**Taras has asked me to share with you his unwavering support for rural schools in Essex, and throughout Ontario. He also expressed that he is proud of and inspired by the parents from the schools that are potentially slated for closure, for their passion and dedication to their children's education and to their communities. Taras urges you to continue to assist him to put pressure on Minister Broten to reassess the funding formula for rural schools to take pressure off school boards to close them. (I have brought a copy of the letter that was sent to Minister Broten)**

**Additionally, it is also important for voters to tell the Liberal government to live up to the commitment they made in 2007 to review the ARC process itself.**

**Your MPP sees rural schools as integral parts of small communities that go beyond just bricks and mortar. These schools serve as community hubs. They provide the opportunity for residents to connect with one another and discuss local issues. They also ensure that students aren't bussed at ever increasing distances. The more time a child spends on a bus, means less time for family.**

**Taras is honoured to stand with the parents in these communities and is committed to challenging the education funding formulas that put rural schools at a disadvantage.**

**Please keep the pressure on this government. Call the Minister, write letters, and continue to petition. My staff will be here to support you in whatever way they can.**

**Thank you**

**Taras Natyshak MPP - Essex**

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**What is a community?**

What is the heart of this community .....the community of Ruthven?

It is our **SCHOOL!!**

It is **HERE** that children celebrate the spirit of friendship..... it is HERE that we get to know one another and share our sense of belonging to a community. Parents and teachers get to know us, and we get to know them..... they are part of this community, a community of which we are proud. If our school is closed....it will take away a vital part of what makes **US**, a community!

There are other parts to our community.....we have a community library, a community post-office, community churches, community sports, clubs and associations. But there is only **one** part of our community that brings us all together, through our children. It is **our school!**

We do a lot of cool things at Ruthven School, because we are part of a community that cares about each other.

There is our participation in the Cancer Wish Foundation, collecting for our local Food Bank, reaching out to an impoverished school in Zimbabwe, and creating a memory garden to remember one of our students who died too young. I could go on.....because Ruthven School is like one big, caring family. We have worked hard at making Ruthven School what it is today. And we are proud of it.

It is easy to take things apart. But it is much harder to put them back together again. For this reason I would like to propose that Ruthven Public School be kept open for another 5 years. During this time a careful study of enrollment trends can be made. Ruthven is going into a new phase of development with subdivisions on the drawing boards and the prospects of a growing expanded population. **I urge you to go slow**.....communities share a common vision....and Ruthven School occupies a central part of this vision. Thank you for listening.....and sharing **our vision for the future.**

Respectfully submitted

Elise Russell,  
Ruthven Public School,  
Grade 5.