
From: Jennie Lajoie <2lajoie@sympatico.ca>
Sent: Sunday, March 08, 2015 4:05 PM
To: parc
Subject: General Amherst High School - Amherstburg, ON

To whom it may concern:

While I do not believe that it is the School District's responsibility to assist struggling neighbourhoods, it also behoves it not to do further harm if at all possible.

As most people in Essex County already know, Amherstburg finds itself in a precarious financial situation – at least \$45M in debt and probably significantly more. Closing Amherst High will have a devastating economic impact on the town. I have never driven into Town near lunch time without encountering hungry teenagers rushing to the McDonald's across the street; Sobey's for take out lunches and pizza shops, to name a few. Closing the High School would also impact the number of families who might think of raising their families in this lovely little town and would undoubtedly have an effect on property values further impacting the Town finances. It appears that our new town council and administration are proposing solutions to our debt problems and closing Amherst would set back that progress.

Amherstburg is steeped in history - what better way to learn about Canada's early history than to walk where history was made! The Battle of Lake Erie was fought just offshore in Amherstburg; Tecumseh's famous speech was given at or near Ft. Malden; Amherstburg was part of the underground railway; the Black Museum is a great source of information. General Amherst itself was built in 1922 and is in its own right a historical building. And, Amherstburg is the safest town in all of Canada and therefore likely in all of the world.

Please, do not close Amherst High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennie Lajoie

Lynne Hornby

From: Robert Affleck <robertaffleck@sympatico.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 4:36 PM
To: parc
Subject: From a Harrow Perspective - a solution?

SUGGESTIONS FROM A HARROW PERSPECTIVE:

HARROW HIGH PROBLEMS:

- *School population is too small to provide a suitable timetable/option mix especially for older students.
- *Building is getting old.
- *There is a perception that Harrow is perpetually "dumped on" to give benefits to neighbouring towns. Emotion rules when it comes to Harrow being disadvantaged again.

POSSIBLE SOLUTION:

Close Harrow High School and Kingsville High School both. Build a new facility along the Arner Town Line or at least somewhere between the two communities. A second best solution from a Harrow perspective would be to unite General Amherst, Western and Harrow in a new location - outside of a town centre to avoid the aura of amalgamation.

ADVANTAGES:

- *This would be looked at as a union instead of a takeover for the advantage of one community over another.
- *Both current properties are central in their towns and the real estate values must be high. Selling for housing or commercial development would bring in dollars.
- *A large school in the country can be successful - just look at the success of Villanova as an example.
- *More Harrow people have closer attachments to Kingsville than Essex. Kingsville is Harrow's closest neighbour. Any attempt to send Harrow students to Essex would result in failure because of the long lasting bitterness many still hold to the forced amalgamation of those communities. The Catholic board would be the main beneficiary of such a move.
- *To encourage success the new school could include a "magnet" draw, perhaps a science or engineering academy aspect. Since so many Western students are involved in technical apprenticeships (OYAP) it would even be feasible to include that school population into the mix.

SOMETHING TO AVOID:

Please do not close Harrow High School in order to send those students to another town. Because of the mishandling of the takeover of the town of Harrow by Essex, people are unusually sensitive to solving other communities' problems at Harrow's expense. Compromise. The closure of Harrow High would be a bitter pill to swallow, but would be much, much easier to handle if it did not seem like we were the only ones making the sacrifice.

HARROW PUBLIC SCHOOL OPTION:

(assuming the grade 7's and 8's would be sent back to elementary)
Consider reopening the Harrow Junior School as an option instead of building a new wing on the current Public School. Perhaps repairs to the Junior building would be cheaper than a new wing to the current building. (Just speculation on my part.)

MY PERSONAL RELEVANT EXPERIENCES:

- *Retired teacher for this board - 31 years mainly in Harrow schools.**
- *Father of four children who attended Harrow schools.**
- *Currently raising two granddaughters - one at Harrow High and one at Western.**
- *Grandfather of a large number of grandchildren currently attending Harrow High and Harrow Public Schools or who will be old enough in the near future.**

**Robert Affleck,
11-201E 3Con. RR2
Harrow, ON
NOR 1G0
(519)792-4201**

Lynne Hornby

From: JEREMY PARSONS <parsonje@mcmaster.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 5:20 PM
To: parc
Subject: 2015 PARC Community Process

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you regarding the 2015 Program and Accommodation Review Committee study underway concerning a handful of schools in Essex County.

I am a graduate student in the School of Geography & Earth Sciences at McMaster University and an alumnus of Kingsville District High School. I grew up in Colchester, Ontario and am fully supportive of Kingsville, Harrow, and the other schools being investigated in the process.

I would urge you to not capitulate to the obstacles that each of these small schools face (particularly Harrow). They have community support and they need support from the GECDSB. Everyone is aware of the logistical challenges given provincial funding levels and enrollment levels. BUT, this is no excuse to do what I believe to be the wrong thing in closing these community schools.

All across Ontario, school boards are giving themselves poor reputations for their draconian approaches to dealing with and closing down community schools. These schools are integral to these communities and losing any one of them to an amalgamatory process would be devastating. Harrow High School, for example, serves as the lifeblood for this rural town; helping to maintain a sense of community identity, supplying support for local businesses, and serving as a hub to connect young people to community professionals. Current data also shows that community schools foster healthy living, providing the built environment for children to choose active modes of transportation in order to get to and from school. The 2001 Ontario Walkability Study also showed that 72.2% of children surveyed (n=400) preferred to walk or cycle to school over busing or being driven. These active modes are only possible when students are permitted to attend schools in their own communities.

I urge you, along with all my community members in Harrow and across Essex County, to find a way to keep these community schools open. These communities depend on you, as outsiders, to fight to save them. Please do not continue in the unfortunate tradition of other boards across the province.

Sincerely,
Jeremy E. Parsons

References:

Badger, Emily. "Is There a Link Between Walkability and Local School Performance?" in *The Atlantic CityLab*, March 15, 2014.

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment and York Centre for Applied Sustainability. "The Ontario Walkability Study: Children's Experiences and Aspirations",
http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca/oldsite/downloads/guide/Walkability_Study_Report.pdf, 2001.

Lynne Hornby

From: Jakob, Abby <AJakob@eyedoc.ico.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 6:33 PM
To: parc
Subject: Keep Harrow High Open!

Community schools contribute to a town's identity, pride of place, and encourage vocational/economic connections between youth and community professionals. They also allow students to be able to walk/bike to school instead of being bused to regional mega-schools. Please consider keeping Harrow High School (AND KDHS!) open!

Thanks!

Abby Jakob - Optometrist at Dr. Sanger & Associates in Harrow
Kingsville District High School - Class of 2006



Community input received
via email box Apr 9-20

April 8, 2015

Greater Essex County District School Board

451 Park Street West, P.O. Box 210
Windsor, Ontario N9A 6K1

Dear Board Members,

The Council for the Town of Essex continues to be gravely concerned by the process and anticipated outcomes of the accommodation review involving Harrow District High School. In response to the tremendous anxiety voiced in our community, Council has recently met with members of the Board's Program and Accommodation Review Committee (PARC) and with MPP Taras Natyshak and MPP Lisa Gretzky to discuss these growing concerns.

Essex Council passed a resolution at a Special Meeting of Council on March 31 of this year which states:

"In Premier Wynn's recent mandate letters, the Premier tasked selected ministers to participate in the development of a policy on community hubs, including the ministers of Education, Health and Long-Term Care, Municipal Affairs and Housing, Community and Social Services and the Minister Responsible for Seniors. A community hub can be a school, a neighbourhood centre or another public space that offers coordinated services such as education, health care and social services. According to the Premier's Office, a Community Hub can foster partnerships among community organizations and other groups to ensure that the framework addresses local needs.

In light of this initiative, the Council of the Town of Essex requests the Province to direct that all proceedings relative to closing the Harrow High School be ceased until further discussions can occur with involved parties on the creation of a Community Hub.

And further, we direct our administration along with Essex Council to continue discussions with PARC, Essex MPP Taras Natyshak to put into place a meeting with the Provincial Education Minister so that we can request the Minister to consider the impact that the decision of closure would have on the community of Harrow, to better understand our position as a municipality and



public assets and build better ties among schools, municipalities and community organizations.”

The newly appointed advisory group will review provincial policies and develop a framework for adapting existing public assets to become community hubs. They will be tasked with fostering partnerships among community organizations and other groups to ensure that the framework addresses local needs. Ultimately, the goal is to deliver coordinated public services through community hubs to ensure these services better meet the needs of children, youth and seniors.

The location of Harrow District High School is unique and well positioned to benefit from the concepts identified in the community hub context. The school is adjacent to the local fair grounds, the community arena, ball diamonds, playgrounds and tennis courts. It is near trails and many community amenities, such as senior’s complexes, health care facilities and dental clinics. It is very well positioned to take advantage of the community hub concept.

In closing, Essex Town Council is asking the Board and Trustees to defer any decision regarding closure of the Harrow District High School until such time as the concepts of a community hub and the associated socio-economic outcomes can be explored more fully.

Sincerely,

Mayor Ron (Tout) McDermott
Mayor

REP/

Lynne Hornby

From: Kevin klassen <mrklassen1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2015 9:30 PM
To: parc
Subject: Colchester North in PARC review

A notice was sent home with my child today informing me that Colchester North has been included with the ongoing PARC review of Kingsville, Harrow, Western and Amherst. To my understanding this process has been going on for many months. Why are the parents of Colchester North and Malden just being informed now that they are part of the review?

One of the recommendations is to have graduating students from our school go to high school in Harrow? Would this mean changing the boundaries to include all areas that are now part of CNPS? From a geographical standpoint this makes very little sense. The students residing North of the 8th concession live significantly closer to Essex High School. Some students on North Malden near #3 highway would be approximately 3 minutes from EDHS. I am hoping a boundary of one of the southern concessions would be considered rather than using the entire CNPS boundary as it exists today.

I would like to attend the meeting on April 13th, however with only 4 days notice, it is impossible to change a prior commitment. I look forward to a response specifically addressing my concerns as a parent of Colchester North.

Sincerely,
K. Klassen

Sent from my iPad

Lynne Hornby

From: PercyJ@ndp.on.ca
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2015 3:40 PM
To: parc
Subject: Letter of Support for Town of Essex proposal re: Community Hubs
Attachments: Letter To PARC re -Harrow Highschool.pdf

Dear Committee,

Please find attached a letter of support from Taras Natyshak MPP Essex for the proposal put forward by the Town of Essex in their correspondence with the PARC as it relates to Harrow High School and the Premier's initiative on Community Hubs.

Please feel free to contact our office, if you have any questions regarding this correspondence.

Regards,

Jody Percy
Constituency Assistant
Taras Natyshak MPP Essex
316 Talbot St. N.
Essex, ON.
N8M 2E1
Tel: 519-776-6420 Fax: 519-776-6980
percyj@ndp.on.ca

COPE 343



Taras Natyshak

MPP | député Essex



April 9, 2015

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing today to express my support for the request put forward by the Town of Essex with respect to the potential closure of Harrow High School.

I agree with the Town of Essex that a moratorium on the closure of schools in our small and rural communities should be adopted by the committee. This moratorium should remain in place until such time as the directive given to various Ministers by the Premier in their mandate letters with respect to the community hub concept is fully realized.

It is very important to give consideration to the fact that schools in smaller and rural communities are extremely important from a social and economic perspective. These schools more often than not play a key role in the identity of a community. We must recognize that there are many differences between our large urban centres and smaller towns when developing policy as it relates to schools. The mandate for the development of community hubs is an important step and could provide municipalities with an opportunity to maintain their schools, as well as develop other programming and partnerships in the community.

In closing I would like to reiterate my support for the proposal as put forward by the Town of Essex. I also would urge the committee to allow the time for the Town to see if new proposals under the community hub model can be employed to enhance the utilization of the school in Harrow.

Respectfully,

Taras Natyshak MPP Essex

Essex Office

316 Talbot St. North
Essex, Ontario N8M 2E1
Tel 519-776-6420
Fax 519-776-6980
TNatyshak-CO@ndp.on.ca

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Room 370, Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A5
Tel 416-325-0714
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TNatyshak-QP@ndp.on.ca



Lynne Hornby

From: Jamie Repaye <ghilfigr@distibutel.net>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2015 9:14 PM
To: parc
Subject: General Amherst

To Whom It Concerns

Not sure exactly why they are even looking at our school here in Amherstburg. We are the biggest city here and students should be bused from Harrow and the Western school to this establishment if we have room or the Harrow students can go to Kingville High. There is no reason to be shuttin down our High School in the biggest city around here. The outskirts should come here.

Sincerely James E Repaye

Lynne Hornby

From: Anita Zaleski <anitazaleski@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2015 8:11 PM
To: parc
Subject: Input on Recommendations

To the members of the PARC Committee

It is with utter shock that I received the letter dated April 9th, 2015 indicating that the 2015 PARC is considering recommending that Colchester North Public school and Malden Central Public school become feeder schools for Harrow DHS. Even more shocking is the fact that this letter would require that I access the Board website and 'find' these recommendations given that the public meeting is taking place on April 13th, 2015. With just four days notice and no direct communication stating the recommendations by letter, one can't help but think that this committee is trying to 'sneak' these past the Colchester North and Malden communities. Without ample time to evaluate, consider and respond to these recommendations, I request that you immediately remove them from consideration.

As a Colchester North family, we are all too familiar with the realities of small schools and the very real threat of school closure. Our family breathed a sigh of relief when we saw that the Essex family of schools was not on list to be studied this year. Our children are both incredibly excited to be attending the newly built Essex High school. We sympathize with the Harrow community and understand their desire to keep their community schools open. We are not, however, prepared to disrupt the education of our own children to assist in their cause. Sending kids from Colchester North and Malden Central makes no sense. It creates two problems to solve one, saves no money and will force my kids to attend a school which does not compare in facilities or programs to the school they've been looking forward to attending. Simply put, if either Recommendation 1 or Recommendation 2 are brought to Trustees and voted in, my children will not attend Harrow DHS.

I urge the PARC committee to remove these recommendations immediately. In the future, please do not consider recommendations which benefit one community but disadvantage other communities and their families without appropriate consultation and a fair process.

Sincerely,

Anita Zaleski

Recommendation 1

Maintain WSS and expand programming
Implement community hubs in each community/school
JK-12 facility in Harrow and JK-12 new build in Kingsville
Designate Colchester North and Malden Central schools as feeder schools for Harrow DHS
No school may be reviewed in a PARC more than once every 7 years

Recommendation 2

Implement community hubs in each community/school
JK-12 facility in Harrow and JK-12 new build in Kingsville
Designate Colchester North and Malden Central schools as feeder schools for Harrow DHS
Close WSS and transition to General Amherst as a separate program

Recommendation 3

Consolidation of HDHS and KDHS – close Harrow, KDHS new JK-12 school Close WSS and move AB program to General Amherst as a separate program Current LDC student population from WSS have option to go to home school or follow WSS to new location; any future LDC students would attend local high schools
A newly built General Amherst High School in Amherstburg on board/town approved site, possible school within a school

Lynne Hornby

From: Jason Paine <pjp@wavedirect.net>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 11:05 AM
To: parc
Subject: draft recommendations regarding Harrow High School
Attachments: Harrow High Letter.docx

April 12, 2015

Dear Mr. Awender and Members of the Harrow Schools PARC,

As a parent of two students currently attending Colchester North Public School, I am writing to express my concerns regarding the draft recommendations regarding Harrow High School, specifically, the first and second recommendations which suggest making Colchester North and Malden feeder schools for Harrow High School.

The PARC studies come with clear, specific timelines. As far as the Colchester North and Malden school communities knew up until last Thursday, neither was currently part of any proposed PARC study. A letter was sent home last Thursday with my children informing me that my school community may be impacted by an accommodation study, and if I wanted to know more, I should go to the board's website and consider attending a meeting at Western Secondary just two school days later. Had I not immediately gone to the website, I would never have known of a proposal which will have a significant impact on my children's and neighbouring children's education. As it was, I have had little time to evaluate the impact of this proposal and prepare a response.

There are a number of reasons that I think the first recommendation makes no sense. The reason the study was undertaken in the first place is to look at ways to provide a quality education for the students of Harrow, and at the same time, save money. Neither of these goals will be met through either of these recommendations.

Eight years ago, Harrow Senior graduated approximately ninety grade eight students. While many of these students did, in fact, end up attending Harrow High, several others made different choices for their secondary education (Villanova, Kingsville, Western, General Amherst) for a variety of reasons. Harrow did not offer music programmes, drama programmes or certain sports teams. This year, Harrow Intermediate will graduate fewer than sixty students. Next year, they will graduate even fewer, and the year after that, 2017, they will graduate fewer still, as there are only forty-four students currently in grade six. Even if Colchester North and Malden became feeder schools, the current enrolments at those two schools would still not make the grade nine class of September 2017 large enough to allow for effective, appropriate programming for all students. (Harrow's 44 grade 6 students plus Colchester's 27 and Malden's 33 makes only 104 students – and it can be assumed that not all of these students will choose to attend Harrow High School). My children, for example, will not be attending Harrow High School. If Harrow could not provide appropriate programming for 90 students eight years ago, I don't see how they could do it in 2017. One would expect that there will still be many split classes, (Academic classes combined with Applied Classes and Locally Developed Classes, as well as split grades – something that one should not expect in a high school), along with a large number of students having to take eCourses since the classes they require cannot be offered. It is for these reasons that I would feel it necessary to make other arrangements for my children's secondary schooling.

While I sympathize with the Harrow community and its fight to keep its High School open, I don't feel it should be at a cost to others in Essex County. Again, I refer to the current number of students in grade six who would make up the grade 9 class of September 2017. How is it fair to bus the 60 students from the Colchester and Malden communities so that the 44 students in Harrow don't have to be bussed from their community? Also, General Amherst needs students, too. One high school should not be sacrificed to save another.

In closing, please know that my children will not be attending Harrow High School. If the first or second recommendation is accepted by the school board director and trustees, I will have no choice but to find an alternative or relocate to an area with an appropriately sized High School offering more varied programs and suitable class sizes.

Sincerely,

Jason Paine

8030 County Rd 15

Essex Ontario

N8M 2X6

Lynne Hornby

From: Nathan Dahms <njdahms@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 12:03 PM
To: parc
Subject: PARC - Recommendations HDHS (former student)

To whom it may concern,

I would like to add my input as a former student of HDHS that graduated in 2000. After much consideration on the future of HDHS, from my experience as a student with an interest in Information Technology I unfortunately feel that HDHS should be amalgamated with a larger facility such as KDHS. Given the lack of facilities HDHS was not able to provide adequate resources for my education or proper class selection and qualified teachers. This was very much highlighted with my post secondary education starting at Seneca College, St.Clair College and University of Windsor. I enjoyed the sense of community at HDHS; however keeping this facility open does not benefit the future of anyone that attends. I implore you to consider this in your considering of the future of HDHS.

Sincerely,

Nathan Dahms
1470 Felix Ave
Windsor, On
N9C3M2

Lynne Hornby

From: Jaime Janisse <jjanisse76@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 12:47 PM
To: parc
Subject: Western Secondary

I believe Western Secondary is crucial for the success of the hundreds of kids who are currently struggling in grade school. Please do not to take away their opportunity to succeed.

My son will be attending Western Secondary come the fall of 2016/2017. He is so excited to attended Western Secondary for all the options and opportunities that are there for him. Please don't take the only chance of succeeding away from my son who has struggled for so long.

Sincerely,
Jaime Janisse

Lynne Hornby

From: Terri McPherson <terri@terrimcpherson.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 12:38 PM
To: parc
Subject: Western Secondary School Must Remain Open

I am writing as a concerned tax payer, mother and grandmother.

Western Secondary School is crucial to the success of students who struggle through grade school.

After struggling in grade school, my son was failing and falling through the cracks at Villanova High School. I spoke to the principal at Western Secondary and knew that my son's only chance for success was to transfer him to Western Secondary. I had to fight, tooth and nail, to get Villanova to approve the transfer. With the help of a guidance counsellor, I got the transfer approved. My son's educational world changed the day he walked into Western Secondary. He went from being a kid who had to be dragged out of bed in the morning to get him to school, to a kid who was the first one up and out the door in the morning. He graduated from Western Secondary on the Honour Roll. Today he is the manager of a successful Canada wide franchise. He is responsible for technicians, a sales force, supervisors and office management. Without Western Secondary, my son would have been a high school dropout.

My late husband was another Western Secondary success story. He was failing and falling through the cracks at Sandwich Secondary. After his parents transferred him to Western Secondary, he became a passionate student, and for the first time, his mind was set for success. He graduated from Western Secondary on the Honour Roll. He gained employment as a cement truck driver and eventually was voted in as the union steward. Without Western Secondary, my late husband would have been a high school dropout.

I am especially worried about Western's future today. I have a grandson in grade seven who has struggled tremendously throughout his grade school years. My daughter's plan is to enroll him in Western Secondary to give him the opportunities for success, that only Western Secondary provides. My grandson is only one of the hundreds of children in grade school today, who will falter, fail and fall through the cracks in a regular high school setting. Western Secondary is critical to the success of these children. Please do not take away their chance for success.

Sincerely,

Terri McPherson

Lynne Hornby

From: Allen Burgess <aburgess@town.lasalle.on.ca>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 1:49 PM
To: parc
Subject: PARC -Western

To the Committee

My daughter is planning to attend Western SS this coming fall and is excited about the opportunity that this unique learning environment provides for student with learning disabilities. Unfortunately if Western were to close, she would simple be pushed through a system that does not meet the needs of challenged students, that a school like Western provided to these unique students, so that they can thrive.

I agree with recommendation 1, strengthening Westerns technical trades programs, develop skill trades hub were student encouraged to fill our skill trades deficit. Expand the school culinary and bakery programs again opening to student thought the GECDSB. Opening the school to grade seven and eight students reducing the cost of having individual programs thought-out the board and giving these special student the additional help and resources they need.

Me, my wife and daughter love the small school, high teacher to student ratio, but if opening the school to more students and modernizing some of the technical programs and increasing school population means my daughter will still have a better chance, to have a meaningful education, we are in favour of that.

If recommendation one is not adopted, sadly I would add, more locally developed programs will need provide thought the high schools, which would come at a high cost, and new technical shops, and culinary facilities added to the schools. Individual Education plan will need to be more recognized, and greater recognition will need to be given to these student individual needs.

Alternatively, I would suggest a new dual track high school with all the programs and facilities of Western combined with replacement of more central high school, possibly Harrow SS or Essex. Were unique programs could still be made available in a more central location to encourage more students and being paired with small high school, there would hopefully be less drama and more acceptance of these special students

I was the typical parent, wanting my child to go to the "regular high school" but I realized that the additional accommodations and school absent of the elitist attitudes that high school staff and student hold, that my daughter would be pushed and in positive manor, in a direction to be self supportive and positive member of the community. My older daughter is challenged enough as a academic student, the 'clicks' and the lack of a supportive school environment exists and her friends at applied level seem to be no better off, only being pushed out the door.

This is not a local school, this is a regional assets, that need to be protected and enhanced, comparing this school to any model is not appropriate at it is unlike other grade school or high schools. In my opinion this one school is a cost effective model to provide challenged students a meaningful education, I only wish other parents with challenged student considered the needs of the children over there person need to say their son or daughter goes to regular high school

Allen Burgess

Lynne Hornby

From: Paula Beattie <beano147p@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 9:51 PM
To: parc
Subject: What makes Western unique

For my son, Western has been a positive experience unlike any previous school. Accommodations provided at EDHS and GNPS did not meet the needs of my son because he is not yet confident enough to self advocate. Further, the larger class sizes and larger number of students only served to heighten his anxiety and he was unable to achieve success. Going to class and handing in work became a huge obstacle for him, and he reacted with behaviours that were beyond what the school could manage. Suspensions and detentions led the cycle of lost credits and skipping school.

At WSS, the teaching and support staff are able to teach him in an environment more suitable to success. He feels more confident, has found practical, marketable programs that capture his interest, and because of WSS's remote location, he is no longer skipping school. He got all 4 credits in his first semester at WSS and is headed into the OYAP program in the fall.

I hope consideration is given to Western's unique setting and approach. I believe in inclusion, but I know from experience that the other high schools do not have the resources to meet the educational needs of some children, including my son.

Paula Beattie
Sent from my iPad

Lynne Hornby

From: sponge_88@hotmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 4:05 AM
To: parc
Subject: Parc recommendations

I am very disappointed that the PARC seems to be on a mission to deprive our special needs children of a decent education. 2 out of 3 recommendations this year support closing Western and combining the programming in a normal high school? I want you to know that this does not work. My children attend your new Westview and have suffered all year. The teachers are bogged down, my children's IEP's have been disregarded and the children who did attend Century and were successful in their programming are now struggling to pass and unhappy in their school. When the operations of the school are questioned the staff become defensive and rude and complain that they have too many students to meet the needs of specific students. If I am not mistaken that is the whole purpose of an IEP being in place for a special needs student.

It is disgraceful that the members of this committee seem determined to set these children up for failure. I am sure that you are all bombarded with input from many sources, I would just like you to consider that this type of programming has a very important place in our education system and western is the only school left for special needs students to have the special education they need in an environment that works.

I had a designation when I was in school as well, unlike my children I had a designation that placed me in the advanced enriched program at Massey high school. That program was an amazing program which enabled many people in our community to excel and become doctors, lawyers, professors and other talented professionals. Special education in every form is necessary for all of our children to be successful and these children deserve a place where they can also excel.

I hope that the PARC will consider all of these points and maybe interview some of the kids at Westview who previously attended Century to see the detrimental effects of what is being considered for Western now.

Thank you,
Sharon Snively

Sent by Outlook for Android

Lynne Hornby

From: Scott Scantlebury
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 7:10 PM
To: Lynne Hornby
Subject: Fwd: PageFeedback - <https://publicboard.ca/Parents/A...>

Received through board website feedback

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: GECDSB <sharepoint@publicboard.ca>
Date: April 14, 2015 at 6:50:19 PM EDT
To: <scott.scantlebury@publicboard.ca>
Subject: PageFeedback - <https://publicboard.ca/Parents/A...>
Reply-To: <noreply@publicboard.ca>

GECDSB

<https://publicboard.ca/Parents/A...> has been added

[Modify my alert settings](#) [View <https://publicboard.ca/Parents/A...>](#) [View PageFeedback](#) [Mobile View](#)

Title: [https://publicboard.ca/Parents/Accommodations/2015 PARC/Pages/Community-Meetings.aspx](https://publicboard.ca/Parents/Accommodations/2015%20PARC/Pages/Community-Meetings.aspx)

Page URL: [https://publicboard.ca/Parents/Accommodations/2015 PARC/Pages/Community-Meetings.aspx](https://publicboard.ca/Parents/Accommodations/2015%20PARC/Pages/Community-Meetings.aspx)

User Email: d_chuk@cogeco.ca

User Feedback: Keep Western Secondary School Open It is no surprise that Western Secondary School is being considered for possible closure. This process can be traced back to the push by the board to allow students to attend their local school, and take locally developed courses. These may meet the needs of some students, but not those students who should be attending Western. Many teachers in the other high schools are having difficulty with these students. A number of people have commented that the Forster/Century combination is not working. The teachers in that situation do not have the expertise to work with students who should be in a school like Western. Why keep Western open? • The physical building is in better condition than the other schools being considered. • It is wheelchair accessible. • It offers an alternative to students who cannot function in a regular school. • The students can be leaders in this type of school, and not sit by as they would in a regular school. • If Western were to close where would the students go, keeping in mind that many are bussed from many different areas of the county? If they were dispersed to different schools is the board prepared to provide appropriate support to meet the needs of these students? When I say support, I mean all of the support now offered to these students. I do not believe that the level of support would be duplicated in other buildings. That would also include enabling these students to access different parts of their new school. In other words would they be confined to the first floor of a building? At the same time the board would have to provide special toilet facilities, special entrance doors, etc. Is it not true that in a board report from 2012 five or six secondary schools were deemed inaccessible due to multi floors and the high cost to make them accessible? This reminds me of the days when special education students were confined to one classroom for the whole school day. • How could the programs offered at Western be duplicated in other schools? • The Board of Education is charged with providing the best education for every student. Take away Western and this statement is no longer true! Recently the Thames School Board was faced with the same dilemma of closing schools. They considered the closure of both of their vocational high schools Ross and Thames. Their decision was to keep Thames open and send the Ross students to Thames. The school board there recognized the value and need to provide a special education high school for the students that truly need the support that such a school offers. I strongly urge our school board not to condemn our special education students to attend schools that will not and cannot meet their needs. Do not go back to the days when there were no special education high schools. Please make the right choice for the students. Draza Chuk Tecumseh, Ontario

Created: 14/04/2015 6:45 PM

Last Modified 14/04/2015 6:45 PM by System Account

Lynne Hornby

From: shawnmulder_88@hotmail.ca
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2015 4:35 PM
To: parc
Subject: Harrow district high school

To whom it may concern,

I have grown up in the town of Harrow and attended Harrow schools from k-12.. I have gained such a benefit from this that I am very well connected with young and old members of this town. I was in grade 7 when walking home one day when I was going through the fairgrounds and someone needed a hand.. I have since been helping on the fairgrounds since and have elected to senior executive board as of 2 years ago. I feel like I wouldn't have made these connections without being in town. I work at the county of Essex through a person I met through activities at HDHS. I have met my wife there and continue friendships from there, I believe it is a huge mistake you are making for other young children with not many opportunities to curve their lives the way Harrow has for me and that begins with the school. I plan to run for council in future and I would not be able to without the success of relationships I have gained, stemmed from this school! I cannot stress enough the possibilities limited to kids that won't have the chances because they're out of town.

Please for me and all future Harrow youths keep our school around!

Thank you,
Shawn Mulder

Lynne Hornby

From: Dayna Pedrosa <weezy_4@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2015 10:34 AM
To: parc
Subject: Save HDHS!

Importance: High

Good morning,

I am writing this morning to show my support for both Harrow District High School and Harrow Senior Public School. I am a mother of 2 young boys...the oldest of which won't be starting school until Sept. of 2016. As it sits now, mine and my husband's plan was for our boys to be registered in the public system. We live right down the road from the High School. It's where me and my husband met 16 years ago. There was no argument on where our kids would attend school.

But now that is threatened.

To think that we will live in a town with no public school is disheartening, frustrating and, quite frankly, pathetic. If there is no Public School to register my future kindergarten students in, they will simply be registered at St. Anthony's. I am not comfortable bussing my small child to the next town. And I am sure that I am not the only parent that feels that way....this is only going to compound the Board's issue of empty chairs. You are effectively driving students away at this point.

Harrow is the perfect spot for a K-12 building. K-12 is something that we should be embracing in our small towns. It's clearing working at Vista...so many people want there children to attend there, they are busting at the seams with portables. Why should all of our small towns be threatened and pitted against each other over who gets the right to keep their aging building and who gets theirs taken away?

I am asking that PARC drive home to the Board and that the Board please, please keep our Harrow schools open. I believe the Town is more than willing to work with you on a K-12 building. We have clearly shown our cooperation and support in the past with the closing of the Junior Building.

Save our Harrow Schools.

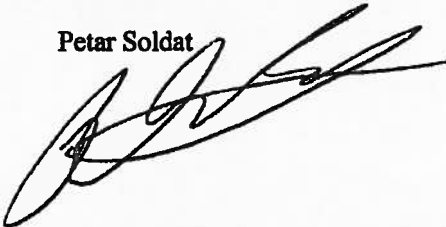
Dayna Pedrosa

To whom it may concern,

I wanted to send an email expressing my concerns about the recent decision to put Harrow schools up for potential closure. I am a resident in Kingsville and am currently looking for housing in Harrow as work has brought me here. My wife and I have 3 children Alaiya (8), Alanna (4), Rocco (2), and it is a concern to us that there won't be a school for our children to attend. One of the things that caught our attention in Harrow was the smaller class sizes. We like the thought of all the one on one attention our children will receive and the fact that our children will have the opportunity to be within walking distance to the school. It is also helpful that our children are interested in skating and it will be possible for our oldest daughter to be able to walk to the arena after school for lessons. We love the small knit community that is Harrow and look forward to being a part of this community. It is concerning to us what consequences school closures may have on our jobs, community and consequences our children must face as well. For our children to go to a school to form bonds and friendships only to have them uprooted and sent to other schools is unfair to the students and unfair for their education. Grade school plays a large role in development and I am afraid of the adjustment period our children would endure at such a young age. We would like for our children to grow up in a community where they are able to attend school here all the way from JK to grade 12 and still have opportunities to participate in school extracurricular activities as well as activities in the community. We have been looking forward to moving in to Harrow but this has definitely raised some issues we will have to further discuss on the future on these schools. I ask that you please consider all aspects of your decisions and to please keep Harrow schools open as every community deserves this.

Thank you,

Petar Soldat

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Petar Soldat', written over a white background.

Lynne Hornby

From: Ebony Grayer <ebonygrayer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2015 9:41 PM
To: parc
Subject: HDHS

Going through school you tend to know which high school you'll end up going to. Everyone in my family has gone to, and has graduated from HDHS. I took a different path and went to General Amherst for my grade 9 year. I felt so out of place and I just wanted to be somewhere familiar. I transferred back to HDHS and it was the best decision I made. Harrow is like a home. You know everyone and their family. Taking harrow high school away from the community would be like taking away the true stomping ground of the Hawks and all Harrowins.

Community input from email box April 20–29

From: Jen Pouget <jenpouget@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2015 11:18 AM
To: parc
Subject: Save Harrow Schools

I am writing this letter to ask you to please save Harrow schools. What does a community have if they do not have schools? Small community schools are where children learn and grow and make lifeling friendships.

Who will move to a town that does not have schools? How will a community grow without schools?

Please save our schools!!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Pouget

From: phil pedrosa <p.pedrosa19@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2015 11:46 AM
To: parc
Subject: Save Harrow!

I am writing to show my support for Harrow.

I have lived in Harrow all of my life. I can't imagine our town having no high school (or even no public elementary school). I have two small children that are not quite old enough to be registered for school.

If the Harrow Senior building is closed, I will not allow my children to be bussed to the next town. They will be registered at St. Anthony's. That's two more students the public board will be losing. I'm sure I'm not the only parent that feels this way.

You cannot close our Harrow schools. For the sake of our town, for the sake of our kids, and at the end of the day even for the sake of the continued viability of the public board, you cannot close our Harrow schools.

Save Harrow!!!!

Phil Pedrosa

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you on behalf of a future resident of Harrow. My wife and I currently live in Amherstburg have been looking at a new place of residence in Harrow. Since I work in Harrow, my wife and I have decided that it would be more convenient for us to live in town. Although newly married, we are planning to start a family in the near future and it worries us that we are moving in to a town that may not have schools for us to send our children to. We enjoy the small community atmosphere in Harrow and would love to raise our children and send them to school only a few minutes from home. It does not interest us to move and then have to send our children to a different community to attend school. Both my wife and I like to stay active in our communities and would like to be active in the schools our children attend. It would become difficult for us to do this if we are having to drive out of our own town to a different school. It is also frustrating to pay taxes in one municipality and send our children to a school in a different one. There are many other scenarios to consider when you close a school and the negative effects it can have on a community.

Please do not put so many opportunities and possibilities at risk for the community, students, future residents etc. by closing Harrow schools.

Luigi Mancini

From: Steven Smith <stevencarlosmith@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2015 12:19 PM
To: parc
Subject: Save Harrow

Hi there.... my name is Steven Smith and I went to Harrow Junior from 88-91, Harrow Senior from 91-97, and Harrow High graduating in 2002. My family is from this small town and closing schools kills towns. Please find a way to place a K-12 Building in the town for all the kids. Save education in Harrow and RESPECT the children in a small town. Towns need schools! Thank you for reading.... have a great Monday!

To whom it may concern,

I am a graduate of Harrow High School (2003) and wanted to show my support in solidarity with helping to keep Harrow Schools open. Since JK I have attended Harrow Junior, Harrow Senior and Harrow High School and I believe that Harrow has a solid foundation in both education and athletics. One of the things that stuck out to me most was that growing up in a small community you get to know everyone around you. I cherish the fact that I was able to have such close relationships with all of my peers because in smaller schools you have the opportunity to befriend everyone.

Now that I am married and have a son, (Jaxon, 18 months), we will be starting to think about where our son will go to school and it worries me that there may not be a future in education for him here in Harrow. It is unappealing to live in a town where I have grown up and have to watch all the schools I attended be scrutinized and put up on the chopping block year in and year out. There is something special about the schools in Harrow and it is unfair not just for Harrow, but for all schools, to have to go through such a disheartening process. Everyone deserves a good education in their own community and closing the Harrow schools is not the right solution for the problem at hand.

I urge you to please reconsider closing the schools in Harrow so that there is a future for Harrow youth in education here for years to come.

Thank you for your time,

Kyle Morency

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Morency', with a long, sweeping underline.

From: Danielle Cacilhas <cacilhasdanielle@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2015 12:47 PM
To: parc
Subject: Save HDJS & HPS

Hi,

I'm writing in regards to keeping Harrow District High School and Harrow Public School open. As a former student and graduate, my time spent at both of these schools is invaluable. Now as member of the Harrow community, home owner and tax payer it actually saddens me to think that once again our schools of Harrow are on the chopping block.

There is no doubt in my mind what schools my children will be attending. Both of these schools are a vital part in keeping the Harrow community alive and growing. Please hear the community out and keep HDHS & HPS open, open for the students, the community and our future students.

Regards,

Danielle LeBlanc
Resident of Harrow
519-300-0924

Sent from my iPhone

From: Justine McLarty <justine-14-89@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2015 10:42 AM
To: parc
Subject: HDHS

Hello,

I am sending this e-mail to voice my concerns regarding the possibility of closing my local high school – Harrow High.

I believe a high school is a very important part of a town's community. Without a local high school for our young people to attend I cannot see much growth or expansion for the community of Harrow as a whole. Those who may at one point be considered starting or raising a family in our community will begin to think twice. There is little appeal of living in a town without a local high school to send your children to. The idea of shipping our kids by bus to other towns is absurd. This would mean much earlier mornings for the kids and even longer bus rides. Not to mention the difficulty it would create for these students to find and maintain after school jobs or partake in after school activities.

I graduated from HDHS in 2010 and am very thankful for the four years I was able to spend at that high school. There is nothing quite like the education you receive from attending a smaller school. Teachers know their students by names there and not by numbers. Class sizes are smaller, allowing for a more personalized learning environment. I was able to work a part-time job after school and participate in after school activities like soccer and student council. Had I gone to a school out of town none of that would have been possible.

My family experienced the difference between having a child attend a small local high school and having a child attend a much larger high school out of town when my younger brother decided to attend St. Thomas of Villanova. My mom will be the first to say he was just a number in that extremely large school. When struggling with math he was not offered the extra help like the help that was available to me every day after hours. Even if the extra help was offered it would have been quite difficult for my parents to arrange for transportation for my brother to come home after as they both work and there are no after hours buses running. My mom always says she feels he would have excelled more in school had he attended Harrow High and received the attention every student deserves.

It saddens me to see HDHS being threatened once again. There is so much good that comes from having a small school like Harrow High in our community. I am a better person for having attended that high school and would not trade my small school experiences for anything. The children in the community of Harrow deserve a chance at those same experiences. They deserve a high school.

Don't close our school.

Justine McLarty

From: thalia_rose81@yahoo.ca
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2015 7:00 PM
To: parc
Subject: Harrow high school

You CANNOT shut down a town's public school system. It was bad enough having Harrow High on the chopping block every year for the past MANY years, but now Harrow Elementary Public as well? What happened to that Super School we were promised? Our schools capacities are just fine. I have been in both schools recently and all of the classrooms are being utilized. I have 2 children in the elementary school and a third who will be joining them in a few years. It is unfair to make an entire town/community pay for your budget mismanagement, and the ones who suffer the most are the children. It is unacceptable to have children bused to different towns when our schools in our own community are here and healthy. The amount of time those children will be spending on those buses is also completely unacceptable. Our town is growing. We NEED our schools. If you take them away, nobody will want to move into our lovely town, and nobody will be able to move out. If you shut down our schools, you will also shut down our town. YOU mismanaged your money, YOU fix it, without making the children and communities pay dearly for it.

Sincerely,

Jaclynn Derbyshire, Harrow resident, and parent of Harrow Public School students.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Rebecca Robinson <beccaboo23@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 8:58 AM
To: parc
Subject: Harrow High

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Christopher Fox, and I am a graduate of all three Harrow public schools. Most recently from Harrow High School in 2002.

I have very fond memories of my time at Harrow High in particular, and given the opportunity to do it all over again, I would certainly choose the same path.

Living only a few minutes walk from Harrow High left me lots of time to explore extracurricular activities, as well as work part-time after school. Aside from the great financial benefits of my after school job, I learned many practical skills which I find useful to this day. My extra-curricular schedule was very active, including serving as Student Council President in my graduating year, all of which would have been impossible if I had to commute to school.

There were many great teachers at Harrow High School during my time there, and I felt that they really cared about their students. To this day I'm still in touch with my Biology teacher from Harrow High, and we manage to meet in person from time to time.

I feel like my education at Harrow High prepared me very well for the very challenging curriculum I encountered in the University of Waterloo Computer Engineering program. Additionally, skills from my after school job (welding, metal work, carpentry), came in very handy as a founding member of the University of Waterloo Robotics Team.

After graduating with distinction from UW, I immediately started a career at Microsoft in the heart of California's Silicon Valley.

I then spent several years at a Smart Grid startup, before my wife and I took a two year sabbatical to sail to Mexico and across the South Pacific to Australia. All of which was possible since I had no student debt, thanks to the UW coop program, and entering University with money saved from my part-time job.

I now work remotely from Toronto for a company based in California, and have a 7 month old daughter. There is nothing I would like more than for her to have a similar educational experience as I enjoyed in Harrow.

Regards,
Christopher Fox

From: Rebecca Robinson <beccaboo23@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 9:03 AM
To: parc
Subject: Harrow High

My name is Melissa Grant Cordeiro. I am a graduate of HDESS 1970 and HDHS 1975. I also graduated from the University of Windsor with an Honours Bachelor of Human Kinetics, 1979 and with a Certificate of Applied Gerontology, 2002.

Just a note in support of keeping our local elementary and high schools. I attended both schools having grown up in Harrow. I was active in school sports, as well as in student and athletic councils. After graduating from HDHS I attended the University of Windsor. I currently work in Recreation in Long Term Care at Extencicare Southwood Lakes with a passion for working with those who have Alzheimer's. I was able to participate in various after school activities and hold a part-time job because my education was at the local level. I used the money earned to pay for part of my education.

The courses available for my education were not as pertinent as learning how to think and problem solve. Almost as important were the opportunities for leadership roles. I received these opportunities at my local schools from an early age right through to graduation.

Closing our local schools is contrary to teaching our children and grandchildren to buy local, shop local and live a life that leaves as small as a carbon footprint as possible. I think with technology we can provide the education the young people need right here in our own community. Many post secondary classes occur online or by video conferencing. This may be an alternative to busing children outside of their community.

Please use all the resources at your disposal to think outside the box to problem solve this recurring problem. The motto in my home and at my workplace is `` there is always a way``.

From: Rebecca Robinson <beccaboo23@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 9:09 AM
To: parc
Subject: Harrow High

Mary B. Wolfe, BSc, BComm, CPA, CA
50 McBride Ave., Bowmanville, ON L1V 0J6
February 16, 2015
Greater Essex County District School Board
451 Park Street W, PO Box 210,
Windsor, ON N9A 6K1

Dear Sir or Madam,

I must begin this letter with, "Really? Are we really doing this again?!!" I was a member of the previous PARC committee and was assured at the time (four years ago) that we had solved education in the Harrow community for the long-term by pursuing a two school solution. I am grievously disappointed to learn that our community is facing closure once again.

I am a graduate of all three Harrow schools. I graduated from Harrow District High school in 1983 and subsequently obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Guelph, a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Windsor and the professional designation of chartered accountant. I pursued a career in public accounting and chose to relocate to the Harrow area once my husband and I had children. This was a conscious decision as we wanted our girls to have the amazing opportunity of growing up in this small community and attending these small schools.

The advantages of belonging to the small schools of Harrow are numerous and so I will list them in point form.

- Stellar academic achievement is likely. For Harrow graduates, "Killer chem" as it was known at university was essentially a repeat of Grade 13 chemistry, thanks to the dedication and preparation by our teacher, Mr. Larson, who incidentally lived in the community and was actively involved as a teacher, mentor and sports coach to layers of Harrow students.
- Participation is probable, not just possible. I was very small when I entered Grade 9 and an unlikely candidate to make teams. However, due to the small student body which allowed us to know the entire staff and vice versa, I had the courage to try out and play varsity basketball, cross-country, soccer and track and field.
- A sense of community is instilled. The most recent example of this is the spectacular success of the Iron Hawk Duathlon, begun under the guidance of the principal at the time, Mr. Berard, (also a graduate of Harrow High). Please see the attached website for an account by the Windsor Star entitled, "Duathlon leaves legacy at Harrow school". <http://blogs.windsorstar.com/tag/iron-hawk-duathlon>
- Proximity to home allows greater opportunity for involvement. I grew up on a farm and during spring and fall was involved at home with planting and harvesting tomatoes. Attending a school that was only ten minutes from home allowed me and my siblings to help at home and still participate actively at school.
- Smaller numbers allow a greater depth of understanding of student backgrounds. When I was in grade 10, my father had a serious farm accident that caused him to be in the hospital for many months. Due to the small school, without any formal notice at all, our teachers were all aware of our situation and provided support.
- Local schools are well-supported by local community scholarships. The local community is hugely supportive of its students and Harrow graduates are incredibly

fortunate with the number of scholarships and bursaries that are awarded each year to high school graduates. With the rising cost of college and university, these scholarships are critical to the financing of post-secondary education. The closure of the Harrow family of schools would cause many of these bursaries to disappear.

- Local schools are an integral part of the fabric of society. Local schools give the community excitement and energy. They provide a source of plays and sports for anyone to watch. They encourage growth, which helps local businesses. The local businesses in turn help by providing student employment and co-op placement opportunities.

I think that the future of education in Ontario will be harmed with the closure of community schools and the relocation to large, centrally located buildings. Beautiful buildings and state of the art equipment are not necessary for excellence in education. The fundamental pieces are: a safe building in which to learn and dedicated, fairly paid teachers. It behooves everyone, currently in a position of responsibility for these closure decisions, to examine if the funding shortfall can be funded elsewhere in the bureaucracy of education.

Yours truly,

Mary B. Wolfe,

BSc, BComm, CPA, CA

From: Rebecca Robinson <beccaboo23@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 9:13 AM
To: parc
Subject: Harrow High

Katherine Wolfe, Student, Queen's University
February 16, 2015
Greater Essex County District School Board
451 Park Street West, P.O. Box 210, Windsor, ON N9A 6K1

Dear Sir or Madam

I am a graduate of all three Harrow schools, as follows. Harrow Junior School, 2000, Harrow Senior School, 2006, and Harrow High School, 2010. I am currently attending Queen's University and have earned a B.A. History, class of 2014 and am completing B.A.H. Art History, class of 2015.

The small size of the Harrow Public Schools was definitely an advantage to its students and staff. Going from J.K. to grade 12 with the same group of people created a very positive and community oriented atmosphere to grow in. Once I was at university, I was surprised to learn that my experience was very different than most other students who came from larger schools. Where my experience was filled with encouragement from teachers who knew all the students well, my friends from larger schools spoke of being in a faceless student body.

The staff were all helpful and were excellent teachers. Two that stand out in my mind were Mr. Gelinas and Mrs. Schwab (a former Harrow graduate) who went above and beyond as teachers and coaches of sports teams and imparted dedication to all of us. Attending such a small school allowed for an abundance of opportunities for involvement in extracurricular activities. Throughout my time at Harrow Senior School I was a lunch monitor, in the orchestra for years, took part in the school plays, and ran on the track team. While at Harrow High I continued running on both the track and field and cross-country teams. I was even named MVP for the 2008-2009 cross-country season. I worked on the school newspaper and was on student council my grade ten year. These are all opportunities that I likely would not have had if I was at a school with a larger student population.

The Harrow community is a very supportive one and the school system is a huge part of that. I, alongside many Harrow kids, was in the *Harrow News* numerous times throughout my childhood due to school activities and awards. That type of inclusiveness in the Harrow community is what boosts the confidence of children during important formative years and would be lost if the Harrow Schools were gone. As well, with two working parents, involvement on sports teams and other extracurricular activities would have been limited by the long drives to a neighbouring community. Finally, my experience in the Harrow Family of schools has allowed me to develop a true sense of what it means to be part of a diverse and yet cohesive community. Consequently, I have become involved in organizations that are important to me at university and envision myself becoming involved in community in the future.

Closing the Harrow family of schools would be a tremendous loss to future parents, students and the community at large.

Sincerely,

Katherine Wolfe

From: Rebecca Robinson <beccaboo23@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 9:15 AM
To: parc
Subject: Harrow High

February 17, 2015

To: GECDSB PARC

Re: Harrow District High School

Dear Committee Member,

I remember quite fondly my years at Harrow District High and think back to how they helped shape my life. In fact, even now they are having a positive effect on the lives of my children.

I received both my OSSGD and OSSHGD in 1983 from Harrow High. One of the great things about Harrow High was that the staff were able to formulate a custom plan for me to complete Grades 9-13 in 4 years. In spite of that fast academic pace, I was also able to participate in the life of the school community as a member of the school choir, the wrestling team, the track and field team, the chess club, the newspaper club and other activities. I would not have had time to do all this if I had to travel daily to and from another town for school. On the other hand, my opportunities to be involved in many extracurricular activities would probably have been limited at a large school by competition for places, especially on sports teams (I was no star).

When I graduated from Harrow High, I won a number of awards and local scholarships (including the George Young Award) that helped me to be able to go away to university in Guelph to study in the chemistry program that interested me. Since then I obtained BSc, MSc, and PhD degrees in chemistry and found employment with Ontario Hydro Research Division, then Atomic Energy of Canada, and now with the University of Western Ontario, where I am a Senior Research Scientist. Harrow High was the place where my early scientific curiosity took root and was nurtured, and the scholarships and awards were valuable in helping to take it to the next level.

I really profited from belonging to a relatively small school community, and I wanted my children to benefit from the special nature of the small school experience as well. That is why the three of them attended North Middlesex District High in Parkhill, a Thames Valley DSB school of fewer than 200 students. All three met academic success, taking advantage of the extra attention and respect they obtained from the teachers because of familiarity. They also enjoyed much fun, exercise, and social skill building through being able to join almost any school team (they played all the sports) or club. As members of the students' council they developed leadership skills. They were also selected to represent their school at a number of leadership sessions at the school board level.

The youngest is still at NMDHS, in Grade 11, and really loving it. He worries too that his special school will also be closed due to the small enrolment, as the TVDSB periodically considers such action to save money. The eldest went on from Parkhill to obtain two bachelor's degrees from Western and a job as a nurse in London. Finally, the middle child followed my footsteps to a BSc in chemistry at Guelph, and is now studying for his PhD in chemistry at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

Our family knows well the advantages and disadvantages of attending a small school in a small town. One feature that could be either positive or negative is that it is difficult to be anonymous –everyone knows you and your business. This is good motivation to behave well and let your leadership show through. With a small school population, the course offerings could also become limited if the school must fill a classroom to justify the teacher's time. Fortunately, we now have a range of solutions to this problem, using modern technologies and clever ideas. My youngest son is taking Grade 11 French as a partly online, partly self-study course. In his physics course, he spends time at home studying lessons delivered

online, but at school he sits in a classroom with university and college level physics students from both Grades 11 and 12, to work on the homework under the guidance of a teacher. The lessons, tests, and marking for my son are provided by a teacher guiding a similar mixed class at the high school in Glencoe. The teacher in Parkhill does the lessons, tests, and marking for another level in the mixed class and a third teacher guides another mixed group of students and prepares lessons and tests in West Lorne (i.e., with the three schools working together, there are enough teachers and students to run all the levels of physics). Finally, old fashioned teaching skills are employed by the French teacher in Parkhill to teach Grades 10, 11, and 12 in the same class, at the same time, just like they used to do long ago in a one-room schoolhouse.

In summary, I think that the small school can be quite a benefit to teenagers as they work to find their place in the world. Many of the challenges of a small school population can be readily overcome with modern technology and clever teaching methods. And, of course, having the high school in the community is a big benefit to the town itself.

Sincerely,

James Noël

jjnoel@uwo.ca

RR#1

Grand Bend, ON

NOM 1T0

From: Rebecca Robinson <beccaboo23@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 9:17 AM
To: parc
Subject: Harrow High

Testimonial of my Harrow High educational experience

My name is Elin Thott (born Danielson) and I am a citizen of Sweden. The school year 1989/90 I was an exchange student Harrow and attended grade 12 of Harrow High School. I have been asked to share my experiences of this school year, which I am happy to do as it has been a great and positive influence in my life.

When I left for my exchange year I was in the equivalent of high school in Sweden at a rather large school with around 800 students. The Swedish school system is not exactly the same but the curriculum is similar. The big difference that I experienced was the extra-curriculars and the very passionate involvement from all the teachers and other staff. I really felt that the teachers cared for each and every student and the relationships were much more personal than I was used to from home. I still remember most of my Canadian teachers by name and I can also remember parts of their classes. I really believe that this kind of atmosphere would be difficult to create at a larger school (regardless of its location being in Canada or Sweden).

The school was very much the center of everything for the children and youths of Harrow and as a student one could choose to engage in all kinds of activities arranged by the school. As a newcomer to the town I really embraced this and took part in almost all activities I could fit into my schedule. Off the top of my mind I can mention basketball, track and field, the social committee, badminton, the school play, noon hour dances (what a great concept!), dress-up days, fund-raising activities and I think I may have forgot another few...

As I had very good grades already coming from Sweden, I was offered to take the Extended Ed class with students with a grade average above a certain level. This I found to be an excellent way to stimulate those students to reach to that extra potential that the regular classes may not have demanded from them. Again, the teacher-student relationship here was close which made everyone do their very best.

During my high school year I stayed with one family right outside of town as well as one family in town. Having the school close enough to walk/cycle there myself was key to being able to participate in all the activities that I did, as I did not have driver's license at the time. I am certain that my year would have turned out very differently if the school had been further away, as I would never have been able to get rides for and therefore participate in all the after school extra-curriculars.

One of the things that surprised me during my stay in Harrow, was how lively the town was in spite of its size. Coming from a larger city of around 350.000 inhabitants I had expected to feel more isolated than at home, but instead I experienced the opposite. The feeling of being known by so many, and also getting to know so many people around town was a very positive experience. This was certainly intimately connected to the active school community.

Back in Sweden I continued through the Swedish school system to graduate from the Swedish "Gymnasiet" at age 20, and then continued to law school. I am now a lawyer and partner in a law firm in the city of Malmö where I live. I believe my school year in Harrow has helped me in many ways over the years. My English was of course improved greatly but I also grew as a person by experiencing the friendly and positive learning atmosphere of Harrow High.

Malmö, Sweden 20th of February 2015

Elin Thott

From: Rebecca Robinson <beccaboo23@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 9:19 AM
To: parc
Subject: Harrow High

From: Peter and Marilyn Scatterty
415 Waterloo Street, Port Elgin Ontario
N0H 2C0

It is a daunting task facing the GECDSB to evaluate area schools for possible closure due to declining enrolment and diminishing budgets, while protecting the welfare of the students and their communities.

First and foremost the end goal must be to provide the best educational experience for the students.

The previous SUCCESSFUL accommodation review recognized the merits of Harrow District High School and was supported by Mr. G. Kennedy, Minister of Education at that time.

One again a "PARC" is to be undertaken to help determine how and where best to get educational VALUE for the MONEY. Harrow District High School has been an academically successful school. You build on success. It is a challenge but also an opportunity to keep it open. Invest in its future and help it grow. The students themselves believe in their school. The teachers, parents and community at large support maintaining it. To determine why one school deserves to be retained over another, the school board has wisely looked beyond mere numbers and dollar signs for answers, to a preferred evaluation where the emphasis is on values to the students and to the communities. Harrow merits their support.

The Value to the School Board and Community and Students are interwoven. Scholastically Harrow District High school has produced an impressive number of Ontario Scholars, year after year. Many have continued on to college and university and pursue careers in law, teaching or the medical field. Other graduates have become entrepreneurs locally, chartered accountants – a mayor, community leaders, coaches and volunteers. Our agricultural community is essential to the future of Harrow. Fortunately some students continue on to agricultural schools and return to carry on the family enterprise.

Harrow has had dedicated, qualified and excellent community minded teachers and principals. They have guided and encouraged our young people to reach their highest potential. Good citizenship is not a subject on the curriculum, yet it has been fostered and encouraged in the school, as so many students become volunteers working with seniors in Harrowood, or with youth groups, fund raising or as coaches, etc. They do us proud. It is in their home town, home school where these lifetime values took root.

Our high school years are so formative. They are more than ABC's. Lifetime loyalties and friendships are forged. We gain a sense of "belonging". Too soon we find ourselves out in the world, on the move, searching for a job and a new permanence. How fortunate we are in Harrow. It is said that it takes a community to raise a child. This is a community supportive of its fine young people from kindergarten through high school. How sad for all if the educational facility was to close.

Economic Value to the Community

Harrow is a hospitable, safe and healthy community to raise children. There are athletic and recreational opportunities. Most importantly, there are schools. Families do not choose to come to a town without them, and

should they be closed, those families may even choose to leave our town. Parents may willingly drive the necessary distances to their work as long as their children have schools at home. They will sacrifice a lot to avoid having their students spend wasted time on long bus trips to a school in another community when in essence they are visitors without the opportunity to remain after school for extra-curricular activities or get extra help from teachers. It also interferes with their ability to participate in their own home town activities. Recent studies on the teenage brain go so far as to indicate a need for more sleep continuing later into the morning. This does not auger well for those children having to get up even earlier to catch a busy for a long ride. The economic effect on our community of a school closure could be disastrous. Small towns focus around church and school. If you remove the school you risk losing not only a student, but a family, its tax base, purchasing power, the energy of the young people, and hope for future growth and preservation of the local economy. The high school has already adapted to reduced enrolment by including Grades 7 and 8. Perhaps adult education classes could be added or use by community groups. Better yet, grow the school. Bring any displaced students to us. Harrow has much to offer. The school board could respond by investing in the central school, to increase its courses and technology to meet the highest standards. Attract families to Harrow with the educational excellence offered.

Value to the Student in Keeping Harrow District Secondary School: When students themselves campaign to keep their school, not once but twice, it behooves us all to listen. Who better to judge its value to them and their future? Bigger schools where you are often anonymous don't necessarily mean better schools. Educators fought for smaller classes for years. Harrow has that now. There is an opportunity to obtain extra help if needed. Teachers can focus on the student's progress and Harrow is proof of a high level of mutual respect and encouragement, as well as results.

Physical fitness has become a priority as society battles obesity and a sedentary unhealthy lifestyle that often begins in our youth. Here we have a high school situated adjacent to an arena, soccer field, baseball diamonds and tennis courts and has a busy gymnasium. We read with amazement and pride of the numerous Harrow athletes participating in baseball, basketball, volleyball, hockey and figure skating. More important than the championships won is fitness gained, the sense of teamwork, sportsmanship and the good citizenship that is fostered here.

For those students who love music and drama, it too can be found at Harrow High. Sellout crowds over several nights running can attest to the successful shows and productions enjoyed by our community. Talent is discovered, self confidence is built, love of the arts is nurtured here – in Harrow. Former students have gone on to fame (i.e., Shirley Matthews) who became a professional singer and Victor Brawn became an opera singer of international renown.

Submitted by Marilyn (nee Wensley) Scatterty, Harrow Grad 1954. UWO Grad 1957 (BA Secretarial Sciences). Secretary in Labour Relations Department for 2 years after attending O.C.E. for the school year 1959/1960 I was privileged to teach the special commercial course at Harrow High.

Married 1960 to Peter Scatterty. Born in Harrow, attending school from Grade 1 to Grade XIII when he joined Ontario Hydro, retiring as Senior Human Resources Officer at the Bruce Nuclear Power Plant.

We attended Harrow High too long ago to be pertinent to this inquiry. We did have the same advantage of smaller classes and teachers we respected and remember to this day. It is our hope that the values in question today are sufficient to save a deserving school.

From: Rebecca Robinson <beccaboo23@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 9:21 AM
To: parc
Subject: Harrow High

My name is Tawnie Grayer and I am a 1993 graduate of Harrow High School. I attended Harrow Jr. and Harrow Sr. as well, with a period of school attendance in Windsor from grade 2 to grade 6. I completed a Journalism diploma at St. Clair College. At the University of Windsor, I completed an Honours degree in Gender Studies and an Honours degree in Communication Studies. I attended Windsor Law and was a member of the first cohort of the Master's Social Work and Juris Doctor program. Currently, I am employed by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, where I create Pre-Sentence Reports to assist justices in determining appropriate sentences for criminal offenders.

My time in Harrow public schools was an invaluable experience. It contributed to a cohesiveness of community which persists today. Five generations of my family attended school in the town of Harrow and each generation had/has a sense of responsibility to the well-being of our community, whether or not we continued to reside there.

A rural community relies upon accessibility of services to survive and prosper. Access to education is a basic right. Having a parent or guardian deliver a forgotten lunch or assignment, being able to attend classes for partial days after an in-town medical appointment, and the ability to participate in extra-curricular programming were all vital parts of our academic success. Parental participation, which is known to be an asset to student success, may also be hampered by the distance to out of town schools.

The opportunity for rural youth to engage in employment and build a strong work ethic has been diminished by the influx of immigrant farm labourers who, although an asset to our agricultural industry, have reduced the number of traditional summer employment opportunities for Canadian youth. The limited remaining jobs for youth in non-agricultural industries will also become inaccessible if students are bussed for long distances and therefore not able to report on-time for standard evening shifts.

Many students had transportation barriers to participation in athletics. We walked long distances or rode our bicycles for miles to attend early morning or after school practices because our parents work schedules did not permit the provision of rides. If our schools had been located out of town, we would have missed out on the opportunities afforded by athletic participation: self-confidence, co-operation, improved physical health, increased wellness, appropriate stress management. Further, scholarship opportunities would have been consequently reduced.

In short, many agree that the cost effectiveness of amalgamation is beneficial to provincial budgets; however, are financial savings the primary measure of success? Student success is measured over a lifetime and encompasses much more than academics. Rural towns foster the traditional values which make Canadian culture strong. The impressive personal and professional accomplishments of the Harrow Hornets and Harrow Hawks attest to the valuable life lessons learned through community based education. Our ongoing relationship bonds and commitment to our home town and its schools is evidence of the value they provided.

Yours Truly,

Tawnie Grayer

From: Rebecca Robinson <beccaboo23@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 9:23 AM
To: parc
Subject: Harrow High

February 26, 2015

Hello,

My name is Emily Jenner and I am a local Harrow resident.

Over the course of my education I attended all three of the Harrow Public schools. I attended Harrow Junior Public School from the years of 1995-1999, Harrow Senior Public School from the years of 1999-2005, and Harrow District High School from the years of 2005-2009. Some of the most valuable experiences that I have had have come from my years at the Harrow Public Schools.

Growing up in a small knit community, I was very fortunate to have the chance to become involved in many different opportunities that were promoted and encouraged by the schools that I attended.

Right from the very beginning, while attending Harrow Junior Public School, I was able to take part in after-school extra-curricular activities that I would not have been able to attend if I had been sent to an out-of-town school. Due to the location and the community involvement I had the opportunities to participate in dance lessons, skating lessons, piano lessons, and choir practices. If I had attended a school away from my home town this all would not have been possible as time would have been taken away for busing, and a lot of the activities that I took part in were conducted through the schools themselves. From being a part of the small community a lot of my peers in the activities were also students that I went to school with or knew through the Harrow Public Schools. This helped in allowing my family and me to develop social relationships that still, to this day, thrive.

The after school activities and lessons only increased as I grew older and entered into both the Harrow Senior Public School and Harrow District High School. I began to get involved with the schools musical productions, the Horticultural Club, and Student Council. My family also always enjoyed the opportunities to attend the after school winter or spring concerts or the beginning/end-of-the-year barbeques, which we would not have been able to attend if it had not been for the location of our schools being right close to us in Harrow.

My involvement with Harrow High's Student Council began to take increasing gains as I entered into Grades eleven and twelve. I became the Student Council's Prime Minister during my last year at the High School and I highly value the experience that I gained. There were countless events that required after-school setting up and meetings that I could only attend because I was able to stay after school since the High School was right in Harrow close to my home. I cannot put in writing the extent that I loved the opportunities that I gained from my experience as a part of Student Council Prime Minister, and in general from my years at Harrow High School. It brings a smile to my face right now as I think back and reflect on all of the amazing times that I had with other council members and friends putting on school activities such as Semi Formals, Spirit Days, and Games Day Assemblies. Again, I have to say none of this would have ever been possible for me if I had gone to a school that was not within my home town. My mother also worked right in town while both my sister and I attended the Harrow Public Schools. She was able to provide us with transportation for the extra-curricular activities. If we had attended schools that were not within Harrow she would not have been able to give us rides to and from the activities. As a family we would also not have been able to attend many of the school community events due to driving and time accommodations with having to get to an out-of-town school after both my parents finished working and my sister and myself got off of the bus.

Aside from the opportunities to take part in many community and after school activities, the Harrow Public Schools also offered me the opportunity to provide after school care for my sister when my parents both had to work late shifts. Since both schools that we attended were in town we were able to take the bus home and timing worked out so that I was always able to be there when my sister got home.

Another benefit of attending Harrow Public Schools was that I was able to work a part-time after school job at the local arts studio teaching dance. I would often just walk right from the Harrow High School to Maikent's Music and Arts Studio. If I had attended another school, not located in Harrow, an after school job might not have been possible, therefore limiting my financial gains while preparing to attend a Post-Secondary Institution. This highlights the beneficial relationship between small local businesses and the Harrow Public Schools.

Often my friends and I would also walk up-town on our lunch breaks and purchase our lunches from the local stores. This promoted business for the stores, which in turn later provided local scholarships and bursaries for Harrow High School students graduating from Grade twelve. I benefited from these greatly as they assisted me in paying for my first year of University. The benefits of having the Harrow Public Schools are apparent for the local businesses of Harrow and vice-versa with the support that the Harrow Public Schools receive from the local businesses.

I am now a newly graduated Ontario Certified Teacher and am currently employed as an Occasional Teacher with the Greater Essex County District School Board. I was just recently called out to Harrow District High School for an Intermediate grade assignment and it was then that I really became aware of how great a loss it would be if there was no longer public education offered within the town of Harrow.

As I walk through the halls of the Harrow schools I am overwhelmed with warm feelings of past experiences, experiences that have helped shape me into the young woman that I have become. I cannot imagine a world without this for future Harrow citizens.

As a young couple, my fiancé and I are currently looking for a new home to settle into, a place in which we could grow, thrive and create a family of our own. I have become extremely affected by the thoughts of potentially settling in a community in which any children that I may have might have to be bused out of their home town and attend a school in which their neighborhood friends may not even attend and potentially miss out on all of the amazing school and community involvement activities that I was able to participate in as a student. This saddens me deeply because I had such wonderful experiences at all three Harrow Public Schools and I feel that they all sufficiently helped me in growing and thriving into the person I am today. It says a lot when you can still say that you see your peers that you grew up with and played on sports teams together or together put on Semi Formal dances on a regular bases because you are all a part of the tight-knit community still. It creates a wonderful feeling to be able to reminisce back on the experiences you had during your education. I just hope that for future generations to come this can still be a possibility within the Harrow community and that many more generations of Harrow High Hawks can graduate through the Harrow Public Schools.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter,

Emily Jenner

From: Rebecca Robinson <beccaboo23@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 9:33 AM
To: parc
Subject: Harrow High

March 1, 2015

PARC Committee Member

A HIGH SCHOOL TO FIT EVERY COMMUNITY

I am writing this letter in support of the Harrow Family of Schools, and I wish to thank the public education system and especially Harrow District High School for the positive values received (graduate 1969).

As you may or may not know I began my formal education in a four room (grades one through eight) Catholic school, St. Anthony.

Since graduating from Harrow District High School I have had many life experiences including working at Clark's canning factory while attending Harrow High; working at Green Giant factory in Harrow until they announced their closure; working at Heinz for two summers; living in Windsor and working at Hiram Walker; working at Delta Mfg. in Harrow and for the past 40 years I have worked for the Harrow News Publishing Company Inc.

I can truthfully say that it was the positive attitude and guidance of teachers Anthony Nespolon, Hazel Newman, Ralph Trombley and many others who shaped me into the person that I am today.

Harrow cannot lose its High School and I respectfully submit to you and the GECD SB that they consider having a smaller high school in Harrow. This will not resolve the immediate problem but should be considered going into the future.

I recommend the GECD SB make Harrow High School "the school" to test "a school of two time periods," all in a smaller building.

Closing any school just leaves an empty building and hurts the community.

Sincerely,

Cecil M. MacKenzie
Editor and Publisher
Harrow News Publishing Company Inc.

From: Rebecca Robinson <beccaboo23@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 9:36 AM
To: parc
Subject: Harrow High

March 1, 2015

Subject: PARC – HDHS

My name is Bill MacKenzie and I am a graduate of the Harrow District High School. I want to support those that are advocating for HDHS to remain open.

I attended HDHS from 1966 through to 1970 and graduated with a Diploma in the Business and Commerce program. In 2015 I will be celebrating my 63rd birthday and in looking back on my time at HDHS it always brings fond memories. Commitment is one word that stands out with my years at HDHS and I have the teachers to thank for any successes I have accomplished over the past number of years, teachers that got to know me!

While attending HDHS I was employed with our local Harrow Super Market grocery store and during the summer months my time was spent working in the fields with various local farmers. The strong work ethic that I developed I believe was from working in a small community such as Harrow.

I feel HDHS and its staff of teachers I had during my Business and Commerce program had a very strong impact on both my 'business' and 'life' career. The word 'teacher' is seldom used in today's fast paced world and replaced by words such as 'professor' or 'instructor'. I feel the programs at HDHS along with the teaching staff laid the groundwork for my pathway through both the business and personal side of my life.

HDHS teachers always took the extra time to spend with you to ensure that your years in attendance were meaningful and had direction. In 1972 after completing a two year program with St. Clair College in General Business & Marketing, I was employed with IBM in Windsor. I did not know at that time that my manager with IBM actually took the time to come to Harrow and observed me working at the Harrow Super Market store. I was hired shortly after. In 2009 I retired from IBM after 36 years and currently reside in London, Ontario.

I recall a mentoring program at HDHS and found myself either obtaining assistance on selected subject matter or offering my assistance to other students when required. Our teachers were committed to our development and always offered their assistance to ensure we were properly coached for future endeavours.

I was one of eight children while living in Harrow and this meant that I had to manage my time carefully. Family chores were always available for me and assisting my father in the newspaper business was key. This started at a very early age in my life. In looking back on this, I am not sure how I was able to make time for the sports activities I enjoyed at HDHS.

My final graduating year of 1970 was a memorable one. I recall HDHS' Co-op Program and spending a two week term at the Windsor Woolco department store. This was an excellent program allowing me and a fellow student time to set up store

displays. We also worked in Inventory Management and Customer Relationships.

HDHS has always been a very competitive high school in both academics and sports. Both the teachers and my fellow students paved the way for any of my future successes in my business and personal life. Together they formed a key part of who I am today. .

Students that come from small communities enjoy the camaraderie of the friendly atmosphere both in school and very importantly outside of school hours. I would like to thank the Harrow District High School for laying the pathway to the future of so many graduating students and hope that the powers that will decide the future of HDHS will see that it would be a travesty to close this valued educational pillar in Harrow.

Signed By: Bill MacKenzie

From: Rebecca Robinson <beccaboo23@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 9:41 AM
To: parc
Subject: Harrow High

How growing up and getting educated in a small town school was a positive advantage to my success in life....

All of my memories of elementary school are happy ones. I was fortunate enough to attend a school with the people from my community that I had already started to grow up with. We felt more like a family than classmates, we had a respect for each other that I don't see in the large suburban schools that my children go to. Many of us would walk to the arena after school for our skating lessons, something that I was very fortunate to be able to do. With working parents, it was never a concern to stay after school for sports or clubs, with the schools being just minutes from home.

Living in a suburb of a major city and raising my school aged children, I see first-hand the many disadvantages of larger schools. My Children's current school has approximately 1300 children enrolled. The hallways and classrooms seem crowded and the cafeteria is run on such a tight schedule that my kids have just over 20 minutes to eat their lunch. Even less time if they choose to purchase lunch. Rarely are they in the same class as friends from previous years, with there being an average of nine classrooms of each grade K-5th grade. It is nothing like the familiar feeling of walking into my schools in Harrow and the security that comes with that. My children arrive at their bus stop to catch their very crowded bus (3 children to a seat) at 6:45 am. The school is only a five minute drive from our home, but with so many stops it takes close to 25 minutes to get to school. I couldn't imagine how long the ride would be if the school was out in the middle of the county.

If I did return to Harrow to raise my children, the decision would most definitely rely on the fact if there were schools in town. I would hate to see Harrow's schools close and it's children get bussed off in different directions.

I hope this letter has helped in some small way,

Diana Cimaroli

Harrow High School Graduate 1997

From: Rebecca Robinson <beccaboo23@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 9:47 AM
To: parc
Subject: Harrow High

KEEP HARROW DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL OPEN

I have one boy that attends Harrow and I have another one that just graduated. I also have had siblings and various nieces and nephews that have attended over the past few years. I took a small survey within my own family and decided to share what I found out.

I found that not only each family had different needs but every single student had totally different needs. It depended on their personality as well as their goals, whether they attended Villanova or Harrow High School. Some graduated from Villanova and some returned to Harrow to graduate.

Some stated that they chose Villanova over Harrow High because they offered more courses, in hopes of achieving their goals. What they found was they had to work twice as hard because there were twice as many kids shooting for the same goals. This is not a negative but can put added stress on the student and the entire family. This also meant that kids had to be out the door at 7:00am to catch the bus and with most sporting events these days kids are not getting to bed until after 11:00pm. Some parents found that their school work was suffering because they were not getting enough sleep. Do we take the sports away so they can get to bed on time? It is a known fact that sports are good for most kids, it keeps them off the streets and it allows the kids to relieve stress. Sports also can allow the kids to show strengths where they may be weaker in school activities. This gives them confidence in themselves so they can push harder towards other goals. Kids enjoy the socializing that comes with sports and the bonding that occurs with their friends and also making new friends. I have heard more than once that the smart kids are the teachers pets, the favourites are never the kids that struggle with school.

I know that my sons would not survive without sports. I have one son that was picked on at school and I had to force him to go to school every day. Once he tried out for the school hockey team and made it he felt like he was on top of the world. He no longer felt like that little, shy kid that was easily picked on. He felt big and strong and popular. He finally wanted to get up and go to school, he finally felt like he fit in. Since then he has graduated and I owe it to Harrow District High School for putting him on that hockey team and showing him that there is a place for everyone. He would have been lost in the hallways of Villanova and would not have graduated. I have a nephew that attended Villanova and did not graduate for those same reasons. It took him 3 years longer to finish grade 12 and he is one of the brightest kids I know.

I have another nephew that attended Villanova in grade nine and found that the atmosphere was just too big and he was not ready to just be a number. He missed the special attention that a smaller school gives you with addressing you by your name, kind of like being part of a family and being able to make the school teams without being the biggest jock in the school. He ended up leaving Villanova and returning to Harrow High School where he happily graduated.

Some kids need the atmosphere of a smaller school so they can feel more relaxed.

My one son has a learning disability along with many others in his school and we had a choice of attending Western so that he could get special attention. We talked it over with him and we decided to keep him in

Harrow where his friends enrolled, in hopes that he would find his own way. All throughout his school years his friends have been by his side to help him with any obstacles that he may have within the classroom. They have never once made fun of him or turned him away because of his reading and writing disability. I think that being in his comfort zone is what has helped him be successful.

He is in grade 9 this year and I thought maybe high school would be more difficult for him. He used to have major anxiety about doing a speech and reading it in front of the class. His anxiety is minimal now and I believe that it is because he had the choice of attending a smaller school.

His friends and the unbelievable help that the teachers have given him throughout the Harrow Community has proven to save his education. The amount of support and guidance that we have received from the staff at Harrow High has been a God send. I as a parent also felt comfortable approaching a smaller school and asking for the help that was needed.

The teachers seem to treat the kids as an individual and you are recognized if you need extra help. Times have changed since we went to school and the rules are all so different. Life alone has become more difficult that we need to make sure our schools change with the times. There are so many more mental issues within the school systems now that if we resort to only having large schools then the challenged students will not survive. If we only allow large schools to exist it is like being prejudice against the kids with less talent, the parents with less money, etc.

I see Villanova as a school for the rich in both money and popularity. I see it as the high end of the community. I am not sure if this is true at all but it is portrayed in this manner.

I had a niece that went to Villanova and she pushed herself to be in the top of her class. She said that by just attending that school made her feel like she had to perform to fit in. Again pushing herself to the limit was one thing but once she felt like the school was pressuring her then it became stressful. She wanted to return to Harrow to graduate grade 12 but her parents talked her out of it. This is a student that has a 90+ average and even she almost cracked under the pressure of a larger school. How are the average and below average students expected to survive.

I just think that there are all types of kids and we need to make sure that we address the majority of the students and make sure that our suggestions and answers are ABOUT THE KIDS. It can't be about money, it can't be about the teachers, it can't be about the community. Our answers have to be about the KIDS.

Life has many challenges and we need to try and make life as simple as possible. If Harrow closes we are closing an entire community. Travel times can be tough on families, most people can't just up and move and change jobs because there are not that many out there to begin with. Most of the Harrow community has grown up here and their entire families are from Harrow.

Will students be late, will there be more absents, more sick days because they are being forced and have not been given the choice to go to an out of town school. They have no choice. We need to look at the current start time for school is it for the kids or for the parents, or for the teachers??? We need to look at why the numbers are down in each of these schools. Parents are not birthing as many kids as we used to because they are not affordable.

I believe that our schools need to look at what the kids need. They need to offer courses to the students like all the other schools. They need to change with the times. We also need to find volunteers that will also run more sports programs and allow us to be competitive with the other schools. It comes down to being competitive. We all come from sports oriented communities and the competitiveness is in our blood. Our community wants something to be proud of not just to exist.

The electronics world has become so advanced that teachers and schools all together may become obsolete. I think that we as a community need to keep one thing personalized, why not make it our schools. Kids have already been forced to text each other instead of communicating by phone. This is our chance to try and save communication and keep open as many schools as possible.

These decisions are about giving our kids choices. How come the higher achievers and the disabled kids have choices and yet the middle of the road students are being forced to fit in.

GOOD LUCK!!!!

From: Rebecca Robinson <beccaboo23@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 9:52 AM
To: parc
Subject: Harrow High

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jason Fabok, a graduate of Harrow Junior and Senior School as well as a graduate of Harrow District High School in 2003. I am writing this letter after hearing that the Public School Board is conducting a PARC once again looking at the value of the local schools that I attended. I hope to share some of the positive experiences and express my concern about possibly closing one or all of the schools in our community. But first, let me introduce myself and the success I've accomplished since graduating from Harrow District High School.

After graduation, I attended St Clair College in Windsor Ontario, graduating from their Tradigital Animation program with honors. I then found myself accomplishing my childhood dream of becoming a professional artist in the comic book industry for DC Comics Entertainment in 2010 where I have quickly risen in the industry as one of the top artists in the world. I have worked on some of the best-selling titles of the last 5 years including "Batman", "Batman: Detective Comics", one of the longest running comic titles in the history of the medium, "Batman Eternal", and now "Justice League", DC Comics flagship title and one of the top selling comic books month in and month out. On Justice League I work with writer Geoff Johns, who is arguably one of the most successful comic book writers of the past 15 years as well as a producer on Warner Bros. hit TV series such as Arrow, Flash, Gotham and the upcoming blockbuster film Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice. Together we are creating comics that are not only the top selling books each month worldwide, but also some of the best critically received books in the industry. I was also honored in 2014 with the St. Clair College Alumni of Distinction award for the arts.

I am not only drawing comic books, but using my talents to reach readers from all over the world. Comic books and the characters involved are pop culture icons that are ingrained in our society and I have had the opportunity to impact and even evolve these characters for readers in the present as well as in the future.

I've been able to achieve and accomplish most of my goals and lifelong dreams and I know these things would not have been possible without coming from the public schools in the town of Harrow. The small class sizes allowed my educators to get to know me on a personal level and watch me grow as I went from grade to grade. These teachers were able to pour into my life and teach me in ways that students of bigger schools never get the chance to experience.

While attending school at a young age, my teachers saw the artistic talents I had developed and helped to cultivate them, encouraging me to use my talents in unique ways in school projects. There were many times when I was given the opportunity to create a film or story to show my knowledge on a subject instead of simply delivering a speech or essay. These projects allowed me to explore my talents and use them to help engage my mind in the topics we were learning.

In fact, the turning point of my life occurred in a grade 10 English class at Harrow District High School when my English teacher, Mr. Brian Werbinsky learned that I loved to draw and encouraged me to pursue a career in comic books. Together with his wife, Ms. Sue Leslie who was my art teacher through high school, the pair helped educate me in art and storytelling and shared their love for comics, art, and storytelling with me. Without their personal interest in me and my dreams, I wouldn't be where I am today. I am certain I am not the only student who could attest to their desire to see their students reach their goals through a deeper one-on-one education.

But they were not the only teachers who went out of their way to pour into the lives of their students. Some of the teachers who had a personal impact on my life growing up were Ms. Arsie in grade 1, Mrs. Gouldie in grade 2, my Grade 5 teacher Mr. Chuck Leonard who cultivated my love for storytelling and filmmaking, as well as my Grade 7 teacher Mrs. Meyers

who took an interest in myself and every single student in my class and propelled us to higher standards in our work, something that has stuck with me even today. My Grade 8 teacher Mr. John Woodbridge was also a major impact on me and my life's pursuit, as well as many of my High School teachers such as Mr. John Garabon, Mr. Brian Donahue, Mr. Brian Werbinsky, Ms. Sue Leslie, Mrs. Boudreau, Ms. Love, and many others.

In fact, almost every teacher I ever studied under took personal interest in each and every student who came through their doors. That is something that you are going to receive when attending a small community school where everyone knows your name and who you are. I know that this isn't the case in much larger schools as my wife who attended a larger school in Owen Sound Ontario found it odd when I would tell her the stories that myself, and many of my peers experienced with the personal one-on-one education we received.

I can attest that when my wife and I, who are expecting, come to the moment when our children are ready for school, they will not attend a large school. I want them to have the education and personal learning experiences that I myself had because I believe that is the most important form of education possible. If there aren't any public schools within my community that my children can attend, I will not hesitate to send them to a private school which will offer the small class size and personal education that schools like Harrow Junior, Senior and Harrow District High School offered me. It's simply that important and well worth any price.

The closing of schools in any community is, in my opinion, a travesty. Within the community of Harrow, it would be devastating, not only for the families living within the community, but for the businesses, and growth of the community as well. And for what? To save some money down the road? Is it really worth it to destroy a community? Is it worth it to ship off kids on long bus rides each and every day, taking them away from the much more important family and home life that children need to develop into well rounded people? Living close to my home school meant I was able to have the opportunities for after school jobs to help save money for further education, as well as participating in after school programs, and sports.

Going to school in your community also allows you to be involved within your community, and allows a student the opportunity to get to know people in your town. This allows you to build relationships and care about the people around you and see how we are all interconnected with our small communities. If I had to attend a school in another town, I can tell you that I wouldn't have had many of the opportunities I listed above. I couldn't ask my parents to take time off of work to drive an extended length back and forth to pick me up after an after school program. I wouldn't be able to get an after school job. It would take an hour or more to get from school back to home while riding the bus, time much wasted where I could be spending time doing my homework, taking care of my younger brother and spending time with my family. Kids shouldn't spend most of their days away from their families riding a bus for hours. Kids should be at home quickly after school spending time with their loved ones and cultivating the most important relationships they can have in life.

In the end, I've come to realize that even though a small school can't offer the big programs and specializations that a bigger school can offer, it offers the small class size and one-on-one personal education that is much more valuable to your growth as a student in your education and work career. I never went to a specialized art school, or had fancy classes and yet (and I say this not out of a prideful heart, but to make a point) I've been one of the most successful graduates of any school within the Windsor/Essex County area outperforming any and every student within the arts. And I came from the small town of Harrow, attending the small public schools that are now being reviewed for their "value" to the students and community.

I would ask that as you review the schools within the Harrow/Essex County area that you please consider carefully the impact it will have not only on the community and businesses involved, but most importantly for the future of the children and teenagers involved. What other future success stories would be stifled if our community schools were closed down and our children sent out to other towns? What personal relationships between student and teacher would never come to be if our community schools were closed? The educational value that comes from a small community school is something that is truly priceless. I am living proof of this.

Sincerely,

Jason Fabok

From: Rebecca Robinson <beccaboo23@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 9:54 AM
To: parc
Subject: Harrow High

Lee Harris
1838 Northwest Ct Apt. E
Columbus, OH 43212
Lee.harris09@yahoo.com
614.581.6392

February 18, 2015

Greater Essex County District School Board,

My Name is Lee Harris, and I attended Harrow Sr. Public School and graduated from Harrow District High School in the year 2000.

Growing up and being a part of the Harrow community prepared me for the many successes I have realized in my professional career. Starting out at the young age of four, I had a dream of being a professional figure skater/hockey player. If it weren't for Harrow's many teachers, counselors, and the community as a whole, those dreams would have not have become a reality. With my strict training schedule and demanding hours outside of the classroom, the Harrow school system helped structure my learning and development so I could succeed both in the classroom and on the ice.

My success didn't come without a lot of patience and sacrifice by many people. For example, when I was in grade seven, my teacher, Mrs. Joanne Meyer, was very concerned about my low math grades. One day after school, I sped off on my bike not wanting to stay for after school math, Mrs. Meyer took it upon herself to call my Mom and demand I return to school. Mrs. Meyer not only taught me how to do math, but for the first time I was taught what really was important in life. To this day, I use the values that Mrs. Meyer taught me in grade seven. I believe that being a part of a small community where the teachers were invested in each students' success is a big reason why I continue to succeed today.

Since leaving Harrow in 2000, I have gone on to become a National Champion Figure Skater and competed at the 2002 Jr. World Championships in Norway. I've competed in six national championships and many international events. I performed professionally on Royal Caribbean Cruise Ships for five years and in other skating shows around the world. I currently live and coach both hockey and figure skating in Columbus Ohio, USA. I've coached my figure skating pairs team at the U.S. National Championships in 2012 and 2013. I recently began coaching skating skills for the Columbus Blue Jackets (NHL) and their affiliate team Springfield Falcons (AHL).

The Harrow School district is pivotal in the success of many businesses in the town. On a personal level, my parents, Roger and Sally Harris, have had their barbershop and beauty salon in downtown Harrow for close to 30 years, and it has supplied after school jobs for many students. The closing of the Harrow schools will certainly hurt and/or close the business that have been in town for many years, and I'm sure my family's will be one of the many businesses that will suffer greatly with the loss of the schools.

There are rare and hidden gems in the Harrow school boundaries that should not be overlooked and that provide a big advantage over many other towns. For one, the Harrow arena has the potential for providing many programs and part-time positions for students if the proper guidance and direction is set in place. I would be more than happy to help any Harrow students with interest and

experience in professional figure skating/hockey to grow and develop while also focusing on their academics.

Please feel free to contact me by phone or email at your convenience. Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Lee Harris

From: Rebecca Robinson <beccaboo23@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 9:56 AM
To: parc
Subject: Harrow High

March 3rd, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Melanie Garwood (nee: Fox) and I was part of the Harrow High graduating class of 1995.

I was born and raised in Harrow and had luxury of living only a few hundred meters from Harrow High. I really couldn't imagine it any other way. Growing up in a family where both of my parents worked, I couldn't rely on them for transportation to and from school or to extracurricular activities. With the high school being within walking distance, I was able to participate in activities at the school as well as within the community without the worry of how I was going to get there or home at the end of the day. As an avid figure skater, it was important for me to be able to get to school quickly after 6am practices or to get to the arena to be able to teach little ones shortly after school was released. None of which I would have been able to do if I was relying on a bus system.

As part of my education at Harrow High, I participated in the Co-op program. I was placed at Harrow Senior School to assist in the physical education classes. I really enjoyed my time at the school but it was this experience that made me realize that teaching young children was not the best fit for me. This was something that I probably wouldn't have realized until well into my post-secondary education if I didn't have this opportunity.

I strongly believe that coming from a small high school was an advantage, not a disadvantage. The teachers I had while at Harrow High truly cared about me as an individual and were always there to lend an ear or to celebrate my successes. I specifically recall multiple conversations with Mr. Bill McAdam about my Learn-to-Swim program I ran out of my parent's backyard for several years. He was always interested in the plan for the summer and made suggestions as to how I could grow my business. Mr. McAdam wasn't the only teacher that made a lasting impression; there are too many others to name.

My education at Harrow High prepared me very well for the challenges that I faced at the University of Western Ontario where I majored in Kinesiology and then at the University of Windsor where I graduated with a Master of Human Kinetics. Even though these were big schools with large class sizes, my experience at Harrow High gave me the confidence to ask for help when I needed it and the skills to stay focused on the task at hand. I was determined to not just be a number, but a valuable contributor in the classroom and in my University community.

Immediately following my graduation from the University of Windsor in 2000, I was hired by General Motors as a Program Ergonomist on Future Vehicle Programs. While at General Motors, I earned a Master of Science in Manufacturing Operations from Kettering University. After 8 years with General Motors, I left the company for personal reasons and was immediately employed by L'Oreal USA. Today, I hold the position of Director of Manufacturing for L'Oreal USA. My husband and I recently moved our family from Arkansas to a small community in Michigan. My hope is that my children will have the opportunity to live and go to school in a tight knit community, very similar to the experience I had by being raised in Harrow.

Harrow Public Schools played a very important role in making me who I am today and I hope they will also play an important role in the lives of children for years to come.

Sincerely,
Melanie Garwood
Director
Open Manufacturing Americas
L'Oreal USA

From: Rebecca Robinson <beccaboo23@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 9:58 AM
To: parc
Subject: Harrow High

To the Greater Essex County District School Board,

I am writing to you as a member of the Harrow community, as well as graduate of Harrow Senior School (1989) and Harrow High School (1994). My two daughters currently attend Harrow Senior School (at Harrow High) and my hope is that they will continue on to graduate from Harrow High School. I feel confident in saying that I've received a first rate education from these schools, which in turn laid the foundation for a successful post-secondary education and ultimately a rewarding career. The purpose in writing this letter is not to highlight the past success of these schools, but rather to propose a plan for the future. This proposal has mutual benefits to the Board, the Harrow Community and Essex County as a whole.

Harrow is in a unique geographical location in Canada as it is surrounded by the most productive farmland in Ontario. Its proximity to Lake Erie where there is fertile land allows grapes to be grown close to its shores, with wineries expanding into the area. This region contributes the highest Gross Domestic Product in agriculture compared to all other regions in Ontario. It can boast in excess of 18,000 full time positions in the sector, which is the highest in Southwestern Ontario (Fantoni, 2015). Harrow is also home to the largest greenhouse research facility in North America. The Harrow Research Center is a federal research facility involved in the expertise in plant breeding, crop physiology and management, entomology, plant pathology, weed science, and soil science. The Harrow Research Centre is also the Site of the Canadian Clonal Genebank, a part of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Plant Gene Resources of Canada program (Government of Ontario, 2012)

In my opinion, this is a fruitful opportunity for the Greater Essex County District School Board, the Harrow community and the Harrow family of schools as a whole, to benefit from Harrow's existing resources. With the development of a curriculum that caters to the strengths within this region, new students may be enticed to Harrow schools thus drawing increased funding. The prestige of a specialized program like this would breathe new life into the Harrow school system by creating a positive feedback loop that would attract not only students interested in agriculture, but students interested in science, biology and the environment. Some examples of partnerships that would give legitimacy to this curriculum might include The Harrow Research Center, The University of Windsor, and The Essex Region Conservation Authority. The curriculum

may include fields such as: a top notch biology program, a Great Lakes marine health program, a greenhouse techniques program, as well as an environmental studies and management program. The positive effects from this plan may benefit the students, the Harrow schools, the Greater Essex County District School Board, the Harrow community and Essex County as a whole. I understand that there is precedence for schools that specialize in certain subjects as Walkerville High specializes in the arts and Massey High in Math.

In closing, I believe that by taking action to utilize the existing resources of this community and apply them to the curriculum would positively affect the school system, our students and the community as a whole. I propose that the Greater Essex County District School Board consider how a robust program like this can contribute to the health of Essex County. I also propose that you take a proactive approach in considering this opportunity for a quality, specialized curriculum in this region and the multilevel benefits of such an education plan. I appreciate your taking the time to read this letter and encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Thank you,
Aaron Stevenson
arnstvnsn@hotmail.com

From: Rebecca Robinson <beccaboo23@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 9:59 AM
To: parc
Subject: Harrow High

Erica Kovarik
3 Melinda St Kitchener, Ontario N2E0B8
February 11, 2015

To whom it may concern,

I graduated from Harrow Junior School in 1991, from Harrow Senior School in 1997, and from Harrow High School in 2002. The experience of attending all three school in the same small town allowed for endless opportunities. Having the love and support of all the teachers and the support staff at the school enabled me to go onto a Bachelors of Science degree from the University of Waterloo as well as a Bachelors of Science in Nursing from Conestoga College and McMaster University. Without the teacher's vigilance and full attention (enabled by small class sizes), the discipline to accomplish these degrees would not have been possible.

One of the greatest attributes of attending all three school is that everyone knows your name. From year to year they know your strengths and weaknesses and work together to make the student the best they can be. The teachers have increased understanding and patience due to the quieter nature that a rural school can provide. This quieter system branches down and allows teachers to be more creative in their approach to teaching, giving students a wide range of benefits. For example learning to Scottish Highland dance to help illustrate the history of Scotland in Grade 8, or building a catapult to explain the laws of physics in Grade 12. Teachers in Harrow also had the privilege of having a large community backing, between parent volunteers and fundraising the school couldn't have asked for a better community.

The ability to work just down the street from the school gave me the chance to be independent and learn financial responsibility. This would have been extremely difficult if the amount of time on the bus would have increased or having to spend the money on a vehicle. Although local jobs in Harrow are difficult to come by, it helps build interview skills and increases creativity to find employment such as cleaning houses, or delivering catalogues.

In conclusion, taking away Harrow's schools would be sentencing a great community to fall. A community that has been my family's home for decades. Harrow is the type of community that I dream to raise my children in.

Sincerely yours,

Erica Kovarik (nee. Maitre)

Tel 123-456-7890 Fax 123-456-7891 Email no_reply@apple.com

From: Rebecca Robinson <beccaboo23@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 10:01 AM
To: parc
Subject: Harrow High

Moira Sanders
2 Royal Amber Crescent
Mount Albert, ON L0G 1M0
905.473.1268

Re: The value of public schools in Harrow, Ontario.

To Whom It May Concern:

As a graduate of all three public schools in Harrow, I have strong feelings about how attending local schools affected my community, my family and me. I graduated from grade 13 in 1991 and went on to attend St. Clair College for Marketing and then cooking. I am a published cookbook author and currently work in food television programming and the cookbook publishing industry.

I loved my school experiences and hindsight has shown me that a lot of that had to do with going to community schools in my hometown. I graduated from Harrow High with many kids that I started kindergarten with and continue to have friendships with to this day. The same goes for my dad, my aunts and uncles, etc.

From grade 9 through 13, I maintained an after-school job at a local hair salon. I was able to walk uptown and work for a few hours, earning spending money and learning responsibility. This wouldn't have been possible if I was commuting to and from another town for school.

On days that I wasn't working at the hair salon, I was playing sports. What I have learned by having my own kids in elementary school now is this – it is much easier to play sports at a smaller school than it is to try and get on a sports team in a larger school. My kids are up against tough competition when it comes to playing on sports teams at the “varsity” level and I fear that they won't make any teams unless they start playing and learning certain sports outside of school. Playing on sports teams was one of the more enjoyable aspects of my time at both Harrow Senior School and Harrow High School and I realize now how lucky I was to be a part of that sort of camaraderie.

In grade 12, I did a semester of co-op education at Harrowood, a local senior's home, learning about recreational therapy. I was able to walk there from the high school and not only did I know many of the residents from growing up in the area, my own grandparents lived there, making it a very special experience for all of us.

The education we received at the schools in Harrow was excellent. I personally know many graduates who have gone on to amazing careers all over the world. By attending our small (but dynamic) schools, as students, we were led to believe that anything was possible – because it was at our school. This amounted to lots of opportunities for growth.

When I attended the 100th anniversary of Harrow High School several years ago, I was blown away by the number of alumnae who attended the weekend-long event. In my family alone, people came from as far away as Vancouver, North Carolina and Florida, all to celebrate their time at our local high school. It was extremely encouraging to be

part of a history that means so much to people. I would go so far as to say that the schools are the glue that holds the community together. I am a proud Harrow Hawk and I hope the town doesn't lose this vital resource.

Yours Truly,

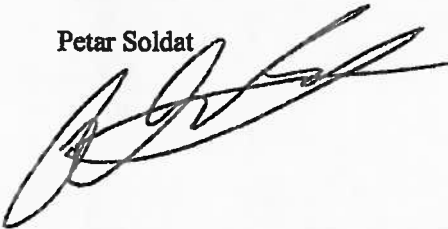
Moira Sanders

To whom it may concern,

I wanted to send an email expressing my concerns about the recent decision to put Harrow schools up for potential closure. I am a resident in Kingsville and am currently looking for housing in Harrow as work has brought me here. My wife and I have 3 children Alaiya (8), Alanna (4), Rocco (2), and it is a concern to us that there won't be a school for our children to attend. One of the things that caught our attention in Harrow was the smaller class sizes. We like the thought of all the one on one attention our children will receive and the fact that our children will have the opportunity to be within walking distance to the school. It is also helpful that our children are interested in skating and it will be possible for our oldest daughter to be able to walk to the arena after school for lessons. We love the small knit community that is Harrow and look forward to being a part of this community. It is concerning to us what consequences school closures may have on our jobs, community and consequences our children must face as well. For our children to go to a school to form bonds and friendships only to have them uprooted and sent to other schools is unfair to the students and unfair for their education. Grade school plays a large role in development and I am afraid of the adjustment period our children would endure at such a young age. We would like for our children to grow up in a community where they are able to attend school here all the way from JK to grade 12 and still have opportunities to participate in school extracurricular activities as well as activities in the community. We have been looking forward to moving in to Harrow but this has definitely raised some issues we will have to further discuss on the future on these schools. I ask that you please consider all aspects of your decisions and to please keep Harrow schools open as every community deserves this.

Thank you,

Petar Soldat

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Petar Soldat', written in a cursive style.

April 28, 2015

I am writing with my concerns of the draft recommendations from April 13th. I am for recommendation 1 but I am not for recommendation 2 or 3. To close Western is not in the best interests of the students who are in need of the way this school is set up.

You have posted on your website that the framework assess four areas in relation to the school under review: -value to the student* -value to the school board

-value to the community -value to local economy

*It is generally recognized that the school's value to the student has priority over other considerations.

So I ask why would you consider closing Western when these students need this education speciality to succeed at being productive members in society upon completion of attending this school. These are the students that would likely have difficulty graduating in the regular school system. Besides being taught life skills, the apprenticeships program and hands on work related experiences at Western these individuals are getting the learning support for their individual learning plans. I fully believe these young people may be lost in a regular school due to being embarrassed or bullied from asking for clarifications to subjects that they are struggling with.

My son just entered grade 9 in September. He travels 40 minutes on a bus to get to and from school each day. He has enjoyed his time at Western that the drive doesn't bother him. He's excited about school which is exciting for a parent to see their child happy and not frustrated when it comes to school. Why instead of closing Western are you not going back to these home schools and look at the students who may not be identified with a Learning Disability but who are not succeeding in the regular system and allow these students the hands on work related opportunities which would then bring enrolment up and increase the number of students to functioning adults in the real world. The school is located in a rural area which I believe these students need. If you have these students able to go into town during lunch break how many of them are going to not show back up at school cause they loose track of time or get upset about something and don't bother to go back. Having the school outside of the community where the students are not allowed to wander away is better for them. So they may not be spending money in the community during the school day but Western has other community organizations involved with them. These examples are stated in the school information profile for Western on pages 6,7 &13.

I would hope you would consider keeping Western open for the students that need the specialized education that is in the programming at this school.

Sincerely

Marjorie Beaudoin

April 28, 2015

Dear PARC,

I am Jessica Crumb, a former student of Harrow District High School. I attended from 2007-2011. Grades 9 through 12. Me like many other students, former students, teachers, parents, etc are upset with the possible closure of Harrow District High School.

My Personal Experience:

I have lived in the town of Harrow my whole entire life. I attended Harrow Junior Public School and Harrow Senior Public School before transitioning to Harrow District High School. The transition from HSPS to HDHS was a great experience. Never have I ever felt so welcomed into a school from teachers and students. Typically going into high school, students are nervous, and don't know what to expect, at Harrow High it's like one big family. Everyone made me and I'm sure others feel welcomed.

I played on many sports teams and was coached by many great teachers throughout my high school career. Some teams may not have made it to OFSAA, but we all made great friendships and most importantly had fun.

I think academic wise; Harrow High is a great school. If I ever struggled with a certain subject, project, homework, etc, teachers were always there to help, whether it was before school, during their lunchtime, or after school, they would go out of their way to help me and others. Being in a small high school from grade 9-12, teachers get to know your personality and how you work tasks are. I found that it is more one on one other than what it would be in a bigger high school.

I recently went back to HDHS to coach the SR Girls Volleyball Team.

The possible closure of HDHS will result in an overpopulation of other schools around Essex County. If you are busing out students to Amherstburg, Kingsville, Essex, their schools now become over populated and you will be spending more money on busing students out of their school district. Also like I mentioned above, Harrows teachers are more one on one with students with the way they learn. Sending students to a bigger high school with more of a student population can result in detrimental to students that require extra attention, students that require extra attention might not get that which can result them in less productive in class. Many students would have longer days, traveling by bus or by a family member to a school outside of their community rather than a 10 or 15 min bus ride to school or even just walking to school. Students that would like to get involved in after school activities might not be able to join because of transportation needs because the high school they are now attending is not in their community, therefore they have no transportation, especially when buses are on

schedules. Many school boards suggests that "walking to school is a healthy form of exercise" which students that live walking distance would have that option taken away from them because of the closure of HDHS.

Closing HDHS can result in many teachers, administrative staff, janitors, bus drivers, etc to become unemployed. Many teachers that do not have seniority will not be able to find a job like a teacher with seniority. Many teachers specialize in special subjects such as music or different languages which may not be offered at different schools around the area. The school board may not move teachers also due to budget concerns.

The town of Harrow is small community with the population of 3000. The closure of HDHS would have a huge impact on the small community. Every community deserves a school. Whether an elementary school or high school. Many people would not move into the town of Harrow or many people will move out of the town of Harrow. Many businesses in harrow would close due to the high school closing down. Many families will not move to a town without a high school.

What Harrow has to Offer:

Harrow District High School has various sports teams. Basketball, Volleyball, Soccer, Golf, Boys & Girls Hockey, Baseball, Softball and other sports. The SR boys Volleyball team is coached by a great teacher in the school and has made it to OFSAA numerous times and also to SWOSSAA & WECSSAA championships. Everyone that plays sports at Harrow High has fun and makes friendships that last a lifetime.

Harrow has many great teachers like I've said above. Teaching many subjects like Math, English, French, Anthology, Gym, Geography, Tech classes and the list goes on. It's one on one with the teachers in the school. Many students have went on the post secondary schools and have got greats jobs. You need your high school subjects to get into most college programs. I have known many students having over 90% averages throughout high school. Recently a current student won an \$80,000 scholarship for her academic success. That goes to show HDHS is a great school for students to learn and grow.

Dodge ball tournaments were enjoyed by most former and current HDHS students. Semi Formal, Prom, Student Council, The battle of the sexes Can Drive, Remembrance day assemblies, many school plays, Sadie's Hawkins Dance, Spirit days, Farmers day are just some activities enjoyed by many students and former students.

Overall, Harrow District High School is a great school full of great opportunities for the future and also it's in a great community with great people.

EVERY COMMUNITY DESERVES A HIGH SCHOOL!

SEND DISCARD INSERT APPS

To: salterk@uwindsor.ca

Cc:

Subject: Re: Accommodations website

< [REDACTED] >

If you read back through some of the notes on the website you will see that the committee requested that the notes not be posted until they have discussed them at the following meeting. Thus, the April 20 notes will not be posted until after the April 30 committee meeting. We endeavor to post notes from the community meetings as soon as we can but we must find answers to questions asked both orally and written, sometimes from several sources, and that does take some time to coordinate.

From: salterk@uwindsor.ca <salterk@uwindsor.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 11:39 AM
To: parc
Subject: Accommodations website

Good morning,
I am emailing in regards to the Board's website concerning the accommodations tab. I am looking to read over the committee meetings notes from the Monday, April 20th meeting that have yet to be posted and there is already another meeting being held tomorrow. I am also looking for the notes from the community meeting at Western S.S from Monday, April 13th that have yet to be posted as well.
Is there any idea when we can expect to see these???
Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Input April 30–May 25

Lynne Hornby

From: Liz Chittle <lizchittle@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 08, 2015 9:51 PM
To: parc
Subject: Response Letter from the Ministry of Education
Attachments: education response letter.pdf

To PARC,

I wrote to the Education Minister, asking how the future concept of Community Hubs could impact the current review. Please find attached the response to this question.

With this response, I suggest we pause the PARC process to consult with Ms.Pitre to see what future options may be available to all the schools and communities involved.

--

Liz Chittle

Harrow

Ministry of Education

Capital Policy and Programs Branch
19th Floor, Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation

Direction des politiques et des
programmes d'immobilisations
19^e étage, édifice Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



April 30, 2015

Liz Chittle
lizchittle@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Chittle,

Thank you for your email about the current accommodation review by the Greater Essex County District School Board. On behalf of the Minister of Education, I am pleased to respond to your concerns about the possible outcome.

School boards, as part of their normal accommodation planning process, review and assess their capital needs on a regular basis to determine their space requirements. An outcome of this planning process could be a decision to undertake an accommodation review.

The Ministry of Education is encouraging school boards to focus education funding to meet the needs of students and not to support underutilized space. Through a number of initiatives, the ministry is helping boards make more efficient use of school space. For example, we recently revised our Facility Partnerships Guideline, which was renamed the Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline. The guideline encourages facility partnership and supports effective planning with community partners, including land use and green space/park planning.

In reference to community hubs, as you know, high-quality, accessible and efficient community services are part of the government's plan for Ontario. To this effect, Premier Kathleen Wynne has appointed Karen Pitre as a Special Advisor on community hubs. Although the advisory group will review provincial policies and develop a framework for adapting existing public assets to become community hubs, it is important to note that not all schools are viable community hubs.

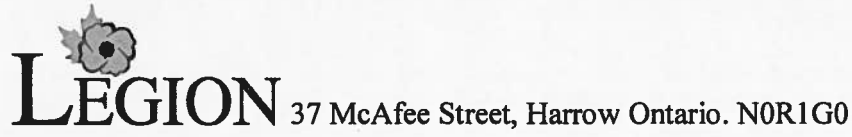
I encourage you to communicate with the school board and to take part in discussions during the ongoing accommodation review. Community participation is important in helping school board trustees make informed decisions so that the students of Harrow are accommodated in healthy learning environments with strong programming options.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant Osborn".

Grant Osborn
Director



June 2, 2015

To Whom it May Concern:

via: Electronic Mail

Re: Harrow High School and Royal Canadian Legion Branch 338

I am writing this for consideration in the discussions regarding the Harrow High School. There is a very important relationship between the Harrow High School and the Legion Branch. Harrow Colchester Branch #338 is in my opinion the "hub" of the community. In recent years, when things became financially tough for ALL Legions, most of them started opening for lunch serving cheap burgers, fries, etc.

The Harrow Legion tried it, with miserable sales only. Shawn Marontate and John Garabon who were coaches of the High School Hockey team started bringing the hockey team in for lunches. They wanted to help out, giving back their support as the Legion had supported the team. The Legion launched Wacky Wednesdays for all Harrow High School Students with great success that we can contest to saving our local Legion, Branch 338. Every Wednesday, you can count on between 25-40 students walking a block north from the High School to our local legion branch.

The Legion is a place where many students get their community service, and some have paid jobs working in the kitchen. They also have the opportunity to interact with our Legion members and Veterans. Thanks to the High School Students and their support, the Legion was able to stay open and have a place for our Veterans to continue to collaborate. With this Student support, we can continue to donate to other charities, and provide bursaries.

Without the help of the Harrow High School students and Wacky Wednesday, I am doubtful if we would still be in business today. The continuation of the student

support today and in the future through maintaining our Local Harrow High School will be vital to our operation and facility staying open for our veterans.

Please consider both Student and Veterans well being with the glue to this fabulous relationship between young and old being our Harrow High School and its students. Without our High School, closure of the Legion Branch 338 is inevitable.

I personally have been a Legion member for 25 years and I'm proud to say that my daughter and my son (who was on the hockey team) and his team mates are members.

Please help us in your decision to keep Harrow High School an active educational facility in our town heritage.

Mary Tomek

Royal Canadian Legion

***Harrow/Colchester Branch 338
Ways and Means Committee***

cc: Bob Baltin - Branch Secretary

Don Guthrie - Branch President



June 4, 2015

Julia Burgess, Trustee
Greater Essex County District School Board
451 Park Street West, P.O. Box 210
Windsor, Ontario N9A 6K1
Email: julia.burgess@publicboard.ca

Dear Julia,

At the regular town council meeting of June 1, 2015, Council reviewed the scenarios put forward by the PARC Committee and as a result passed the following resolution,

" Moved by Councillor Bondy
Seconded by Councillor Bjorkman
(R15-06-268) That the Town of Essex Council supports the scenario put forward by PARC to the Greater Essex County District School Board that maintains Western Secondary School as a Special Education School and expand programming; implements community hubs in Amherstburg, Harrow and Kingsville; maintains Harrow District High School at present location until a JK-12 build is complete; builds a new JK-12 school in Kingsville; and maintains General Amherst High School. "Carried" "

I trust you will find this satisfactory, but should you have any questions please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl A. Bondy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Cheryl A. Bondy
Manager, Legislative Services (Clerk)
Ext. 1132
Email: cbondy@essex.ca

CAB/lam



c.c. Todd Awender ✓

Superintendent of Education: Accomodation

Email: parc@publicboard.ca



June 19, 2015



Todd Awender
Superintendent of Education - Accommodation
Greater Essex County District School Board
451 Park Street West, P.O. Box 210
Windsor, Ontario N9A 6K1
Email: parc@publicboard.ca

Re: Harrow District High School

Dear Mr. Awender,

At the regular council meeting of June 15, 2015 Council discussed the situation with Harrow District High School. During the discussion the question arose as what it is that the Greater Essex County District School Board is looking for in order to keep the school open, whether a dollar amount or an amount of space. Council has requested that I contact you and request this information from you.

I trust you will be able to assist in this matter and look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl A. Bondy".

Cheryl A. Bondy
Manager, Legislative Services (Clerk)
Ext. 1132
Email: cbondy@essex.ca

c.c. Julia Burgess, Trustee
Greater Essex County District School Board
Email: julia.burgess@publicboard.ca

Greater Essex County District School Board

151 Park St. W., P.O. Box 210, Windsor, ON N9A 6K1 • Tel: 519-255-3200



July 6, 2015

Ms. Cheryl Bondy
Manager, Legislative Services (Clerk)
Town of Essex
33 Talbot Street South
Essex Ontario N8M 1A8

Dear Ms. Bondy:

Harrow District High School

We are in receipt of your letter of June 19, 2015 regarding Harrow District High School.

School boards are responsible for managing their capital assets in an effective manner and must respond to changing demographics and program needs while ensuring continued viability/sustainability of the school board.

Ontario's school boards are responsible for deciding the most appropriate pupil accommodation arrangements for the delivery of their elementary and secondary programs. These decisions are made by school board trustees in the context of carrying out their primary responsibilities of fostering student achievement and well-being, and ensuring effective stewardship of school board resources.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Awender".

Todd Awender
Superintendent of Education: Accommodations

From: lisacolledge35@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2015 8:02 PM
To: parc
Subject: Closing of Western high school

Please do not close Western high school. My daughter currently goes to Western high school. It affords her an opportunity that she would not receive going to another school. She has ADHD and Western offers her a chance to receive the tools she needs to be able to handle herself in day to day living and have a productive life. Giving her the chance to get a job after high school not a bunch of useless information that will not put food on the table or pay the bills. My son, who also has ADHD, would like to go to Western next year for their automotive programs .If you close the school you will be taking that opportunity away from him. There are not that many schools of this type around anymore so you will be limiting their chances if they have to go to a regular school.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email,
Lisa Colledge



Where you belong

October 5, 2015

Dear Trustees:

I am quite certain you have heard and read enough arguments and heart felt appeals urging you to vote in favor of keeping Harrow High School open. I am not going to reiterate those arguments, but wish to add my voice to the appeal.

One of my main responsibilities as Economic Development Officer for the Town of Essex is to promote the municipality as a place to live, invest and build a business. One of the chief elements used by site selectors when choosing a location is the availability of quality and accessible education for workers and their families. Without locally available secondary education Harrow will not even make it onto the list for consideration.

As a Town, council has worked diligently to raise the profile of Harrow Centre as a business and residential location. To date, council has:

- Eliminated development charges on new residential construction in Harrow to encourage families to locate in the community
- Implemented an aggressive Community Improvement Plan that provides incentives to businesses (industrial and commercial) encouraging them to expand, make improvements and increase employment. Increased employment opportunities results in increased residential growth.
- Fast tracked the approvals to enable the establishment of a new business park on Roseborough which has been selected as the site of Selleck Equipment's new manufacturing facility. The Windsor-Essex region suffers from a critical shortfall of zoned and "shovel ready" land so the availability of additional "ready to go" property at this new business park is attracting investment interest which will result in further job creation and residential development.
- Council also worked hand in hand with Enerquest to ensure it found a new home enabling its owner to consolidate his operations and put a solid foot-hold in Harrow. Enerquest is currently expanding and has plans for aggressive future growth and job creation.

In coming days you will be presented with a "made in Harrow" solution to the consolidation required by the Board. It is a solution that allows Harrow to look toward the future and enable growth, yet at the same time provides the Board with a viable solution to its immediate dilemma and a solution to the inevitable future decisions that will need to be made.

I certainly don't envy you the task you are faced with, but urge you to consider the creative and very doable option that will be presented to you.

Yours truly,

Anne M. Miskovsky

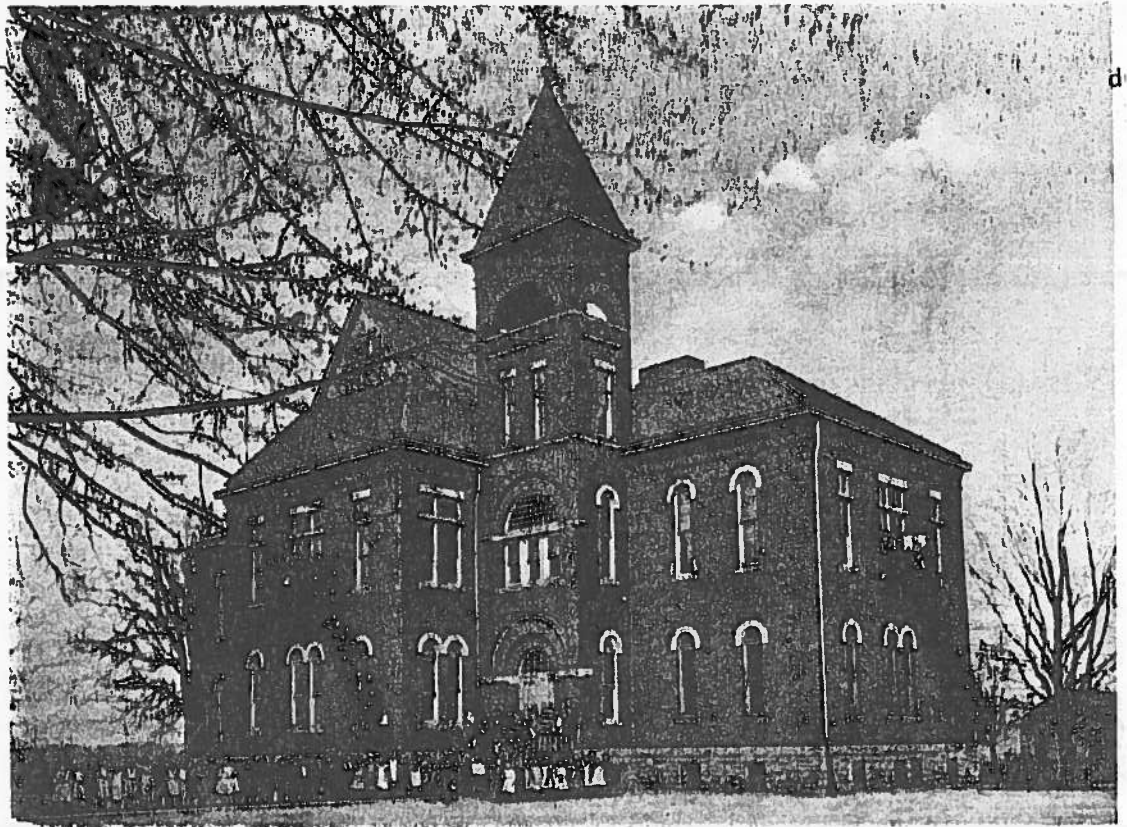
Economic Development Officer
Town of Essex

Schools, Promises and the Future

*A time for our
trustees to
listen, and do
what is best!*

*The Director
has done well*

*Western a great
site for General
Amherst*



Or, do we build on past success?

Walking, Cycling, Health and Physical Education key parts of any education plan.

Some might suggest that it is better for Western students to be out in the country away from the distraction of the built up area. If that were the case no doubt the Director would have suggested a new build location for General Amherst at the Western School site for a combined school serving the needs of both student groups within the Corporation of the town of Amherstburg.

The Town of Essex boasts a new Essex High School. I congratulate them on their success.

Salem, Inman, Albertville schools are no longer in existence. When Ruthven Public School was closed and new K-12 school was proposed in and for the Town of Kingsville.

I look forward to that build.

May we all learn from the lessons of the past?

Others will speak to the benefits of having a school within a downtown core such as Essex, Leamington, and Amherstburg.

When KPS had their field day this past year, the Town closed the street to aid in the running completion. Parents helping with events at the elementary level aids both the schools and communities.



The board, no doubt noted the additional costs at Jack Miner Public School dealing with waste following the closing of Ruthven. The waste to which I make reference was once handled by outhouses. JMPS is not on sanitary sewers.

A green school?

Or a school in the out in the country, nice and near to the Cow pastures. But far from services.

Shelia Fraser Auditor General

Was recently credited with comments that

"Government needs to look at ways to decrease costs and increase efficiencies"

The Directors report and recommendations posted and presented last month does that.

Building of any school where services do not exist will not lead to decreased costs or overall efficiencies

Knee jerk reactions to make changes to the research and report posted last month may be counterproductive over the long term.

Example: If General Amherst were to move to Western imagine the impact that it would have on that town. General Amherst a school built by a park.

We all want success for the students!

Ensure we still have opportunities for children to walk and bike to school.

*Trustees: for success build as promised with the closing of Ruthven in Kingsville
Build a school in Kingsville*

Please do not Bail on us now.



Just thoughts and questions for consideration.

Gord Queen, Kingsville