

Community input collected week ending to July 13
Herman

Here we go again with the lies. Giles Campus is supposed to be a "**CLOSED**" school with respect to boundaries. The Giles Campus school website and Mr. Awender confirmed this at the Giles Campus Open house. Therefore the Herman PARC **cannot** consider Giles Campus a solution to their problems with the overcrowding of Mc Callum. The Superintendent of Accomodation should have explained this to the committee - obviously he did not.

I understand the Trustees have not or may not have read this letter, I have attached for reference.

I also understand that these are only recommendations at this time - however the Herman PARC is currently out of line in their recommendations.

Karl Mroczkowski

I received a letter today which entailed 4 different recommendations for closing schools and moving students.

I don't know how much input can be provided but I don't like this idea. We live 4 streets over from McCallum and my son is in JK and beginning to adjust there. The last thing I want is him cramped into Herman. I went to Herman and it's not big enough so if that's an option, where are they going to put these kids which will separate them from the older kids in grades 9-12?

Option D seems to be the best in my bias opinion. I really hope this board takes comments and feelings of our community into consideration.

If our students are moved, will they still be learning french as per the curriculum?

Thanks.

Sent on the TELUS Mobility network with BlackBerry

FRANCES and DON DESJARDINS <fdesjardins1@sympatico.ca> writes:

Hello. Parent of David Maxwell, Frances & Don Desjardins.

-Could you tell me please, is the physical quality of the buildings a part of the decision to close a school?

Yes, please refer to the School Information Profiles on the Board website in the PARC area

-Why is a school that has a solid enrollment being considered for closure?

More than enrolments are taken into consideration when recommendations are made, FCI, Renewal needs, availability of empty spaces at adjacent schools

-If David Maxwell closes, will the school board bus my kids across Tecumseh Rd to Davis? Or to the new school?

Transportation will be provided according to Board policy

-Where will all the money that I have invested in David Maxwell go? The improvements, we as a community have already done, how can we recoup what our kids so love and tirelessly worked for?

These are the type so of questions that will be considered by a transition committee should a school close

-Why has there not been a survey of the parents, so many are unaware of what PARC plans are, been sent to my home?

Communications have been sent home on a regular basis and communities have been advised to refer to all minutes of meetings on the Board website

-My son is in Special Ed, how will his needs be addressed in another school where there are more kids, ones that needs outweigh my son?

Special education programming continues in a location where your son may be

Thank-you for addressing my concerns, Frances & Don Desjardins

Dear School Board Members:

I would like to remind you of your duty to act as advocates for the entire District, in the best interest of every student. I strongly believe that closing our school is neither in the best interest of the community, nor its students. I am asking you to please be more forward-thinking and consider the long-term effects of school closures, rather than just focusing on the short-term bottom line.

School closures will result in larger, more crowded schools, fewer students attending neighborhood schools, more traffic problems, and more parents choosing to leave the school district all together. If we continue on this trajectory, it is likely that we will be in this same position a few years from now. How many schools will close before you begin to take a real look at other options? Please consider the consequences for the community before you make your final decision.

With just a little research, I have found substantial evidence to support the following ideas: Smaller schools are better for students and teachers; Students are negatively impacted by transitions from one school to another; Students perform better academically and drop out with less frequency when they attend K-6 or K-8 schools rather than K-5 and 6-8 schools. Please consider the research before you make your final decision.

The Criteria for School Closures presented at the April board meeting did not address many issues that identify a quality school or a quality school district. These include: student participation in extracurricular activities; students' sense of belonging; community involvement; staff relations and collaboration; student performance; and the level of staff interest in student success. At smaller schools where communities already exist, these qualities are evident.

When communities are broken up and students are disrupted, these qualities are lost. Please consider the consequences for all students and staff members before you make your final decision.

We have a great community of parents We all have the same ultimate goals, a quality education for every student. Please consider that as your bottom line before you make your final decision.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Burnett

David Maxwell Parent Council Vice Chair

Hello my name is momique clingan my son currently attends Maxwell and he andi are up set about this . We have moved in to this area with the intent of buying a home and having are my kids go to Maxweel and we also use the daycare across the street . My concern are what will low income familys that use the daycare do ? When that daycare is one of the few that open at 6am and many familys that use them because of this and also walk and live in the area this school closing could cause grate diffectly for some familys Maxwell with the daycare across the street and the school rite there could notbe a better set up . Also we need to consider that some daycares do not bus students .What about lose of jobs? Please Dont close Maxwell

Dear members of the Herman PARC:

I attended your third public meeting this evening and would like to offer a suggestion as you prepare to make your final recommendations.

If you decide to include a proposal that would split the McCallum catchment area at Walker, perhaps you could consider making that recommendation effective only once the board is ready to open the permanent location of the Giles campus French Immersion program. We cannot yet know the outcome of the Forster PARC process, but if for instance it identifies a permanent home for the Giles students starting in September 2013 or 2014, you could specify the McCallum split to take place then.

That way, those students affected would not have the disruption of having to transition twice. I don't know how the numbers and timelines under consideration will play out, but if you were able to address this issue without children having to change school buildings twice, it might help to allay parent concerns. I offer this as a Bellewood parent myself, in the process of transitioning to Giles campus.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Johnson

To Whom it may concern

At this point I have 2 children attending McCallum, and a third who we HOPE will have the joy to attend there as well. We currently live in Remington Park and are concerned with the possible boundary changes. Considering that the Giles Campus is to be "temporary", should the boundary change what would happen when the permanent solution to the South Windsor schools' takes shape? Would you then choose to bus my children into another section of the city, or would they then be sent back to McCallum? In the minutes from the last PARC committee meeting one member wants everyone to remember that a student is a student. How about remembering that these are the lives of children who should NOT be bounced from one school family to another! They are not just 112 students but they are children with feelings, some of which may be very fragile and don't deal well with change. I must say that the thought of my children moving to Giles in "theory" doesn't bother me but when you know that it's just a temporary fix for Bellewood it begs the question what happens to my children when that solution is found. I feel that adjusting the boundaries for McCallum will not solve the problem in the long run for the east end of Windsor, and may in fact cause a drop either in enrollement in French Immersion and in the student population for the Herman Family of schools. If this boundary does change what High School do those students attend (the west of Walker affected students) ? I feel that the PARC committee need to look at the demographics of the families affected and the neighbourhoods affected. There seems to be a concentration on not wanting to separate or close small under populated english schools and chop out 112 french immersion students. I think we need to look at the BIG picture, where will these children attend High School. If you remove them from the Herman family now they may not return on their own and then you could in all possibility be looking at closing a High School program at some point. That may be a stretch but still a possibility.

In my humble opinion I feel that one of the better solutions will be to send the McCallum students as a whole to Herman and run dual track there and to close McGregor and Maxwell. This will see NO drop in French Immersion #'s, which by the way can rise and fall dramatically as history has shown before. And will leave the Herman family of schools intact.

In the end we need to think of what is best for the CHILDREN not the bottom line, and how this affects the future school planning issues.

These are some of the comments that our concerned parents and community members have to say about our school. These comments are copied from the following website <http://www.change.org/petitions/gecsb-keep-maxwell-open>. I also have a number of signatures collected on paper, that we will be bring forward to the board, to petition the possible closing of our school. David Maxwell School Is Worth Fighting For.....

Cheryl Burnett

[pamela zeman](#)

I also work in the daycare within the school. This school has been at FULL Capacity for several years. As a care provider we hear the voices of the parents and they don't want to put their JK in with 9-12 grades. Its just not practical to close the school at the highest capacity.

[Hickey Joanna](#)

This is a school that is almost at full capacity & I can see no logical reason for it to close. It is a wonderful school & my children's 2nd home...PLEASE do not take that away from them!!

[Lindsay Verkoeyen](#)

I work at the daycare that is run inside David Maxwell School.

[Jenny Kell](#)

Principal Joe Younan and his staff of wonderful caring teachers and support team, have been an integral part of my child's development and school experience. It would be SHAMEFUL to close this school and force our children to attend a high school for their PRIMARY needs. DO NOT CLOSE MAXWELL. Small community schools are better for our children, NOT Secondary Schools where they'll be stuck in a wing on their own.

[Charlene Vidal](#)

I live in the area and I am glad to have a school in our area. Has been there for many years and should be there for many more to come.

[Vicci Gauthier](#)

9 of my 10 children have attended David Maxwell over the years and it would be a shame not to have my 10th child not attend such a great school where the staff students and parents are more than just that they are family....I currently have 4 children attending David Maxwell at the current time and over the years HAVE NEVER had an issue with this school....My young children will not be able to adjust to high school life at this time....let them go there at THEIR time not yours....Walking all the way to Mc gregor is not an option for my children in grade 3 and jk that is way to far of a commute for them....thank you and I hope you take all my and other parents and children's points to heart and SAVE DAVID MAXWELL !!!!!!!

[betty simpson](#)

I went to Maxwell,my children went to Maxwell, and my grandson went to Maxwell. It is a very good school. Stop playing with children's lives.

[Amy Lesperance](#) This school is a wonderful school in the neighbourhood I grew up in and the school I started out at. If it closes it's going to hurt a lot of families and also will force kids to be crammed into other schools. They're shutting down schools and cramming kids into classrooms like sardines. Keep it open.

[John V Dore](#)

Why close a school at or near full capacity? Seems incredibly daft to me!

[Cheryl Burnett](#)

David Maxwell is a big part of our neighbourhood & community. It would be a shame if you closed the school. To this day we have students that have gone to our school in the past, that come back to visit their old teachers. Students even come to volunteer at our school fundraisers and co-op in the class rooms. When most students graduate from a school, they don't ever want to go back there. Well that is definitely not the case with our former students. Maxwell is located in a neighbourhood of all young families, that moved into the area so they could send their children to our school. Maxwell is more then just a school, it's a great big extended FAMILY in our community!

Please Help Keep Our School Open..... :)

[Jennifer Szorvas](#)

To help save the school my 5 year old twin boys go to and my oldest graduated from

[paula burton](#)

maxwell is in walking distance to my house.I feel that the lower income families in our neighborhood should not be picked on.

[DJ Clifford](#)

My family all attend this school and it's a great location for area kids. This school closing will be horrible for the neighbourhood and will drop value on our home. Maxwell should stay open!

[stacey mulder](#)

my kid goes here and soon my daughter and i don't agree that these young kids should be put with high school kids that have no respect for the younger ones my daughter is going into jk in september and she would not know what to do if these bigger kids come up to her at all Don't Close David Maxwell

[Melissa Kisil](#)

I use the skana daycare in the school and also have a toddler in the actual daycare. My son has been at this daycare since he was 9 months old and he will be 8 this year, he doesn't do well with change and i have worked with the daycare and school and RCC to better him and i really don't want to have to start all over again with a new school and daycare. Also my daughter attends the daycare as well and she is 3. Save our school.

[Shawna Moulder](#)

This school has generations that attend. We already have to worry about children learning bad from other kids in grade schools and putting them with highschool teenagers just allows them to be exposed to things they shouldn't be learning until very much later on in life. Keep the school open for the children!!!

[Candace Doherty](#)

I don't think sending grade schoolers to a HIGH SCHOOL is appropriate. There are so many bad influences there... Teens swearing, smoking, littering, dressing inappropriately, etc... Not something I agree on what so ever, We want our children to outgrow this messed up generation, not grow in it!

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing you as a concerned parent whose child attends David Maxwell Elementary School. The possibility of my child's school closing would have drastic consequences not only for the students of David Maxwell, but for the WHOLE community in this area.

Closure of our school would have many negative repercussions that will damage our communities vitality. Property values throughout our neighborhood would decrease, and there would be families who would be willing to leave our community in order to seek out a better education conditions for their children. "Catholic Board"

Did you know that having larger schools or mixing high school & grade school students together means, greater number of social problems, decreased parental involvement, poor attendance, lower grade averages, increased isolation for special needs students and greater problems with violence.

It is also a documented fact that students in smaller schools have better attitudes and increased participation. There is an increase in parental involvement, student attendance is improved and grade scores are increased. People find smaller schools are safer and more secure for our children.

Please consider all this valuable information and keep David Maxwell School Open. Save our Historic Building that has been in this community for over 80 years, leave our teachers and students right where they are, because that's where they all belong.....

I have also enclosed a Petition signed by concerned parents & community members, To Keep David Maxwell Open.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Burnett

Vice Chair of David Maxwell Parent Council

c.burnett@live.ca

In regards to the closing of Coronation, McGregor or Maxwell. As a parent, I personally wouldn't feel comfortable with my kindergarten student being in a JK-12 school if any of the schools merge to Herman. Also, can Herman accommodate an entire elementary school? Esp. one at full capacity such as McCallum? Also, if French Immersion is what people want, why couldn't one of the other area schools become French Immersion or at least partial Immersion if there wouldn't be enough enrolment with another full Immersion school so close. Another thing, if W.D. Lowe becomes an Immersion school, wouldn't that lighten McCallum's load? Again, I am not in favour of making Herman a JK-12 school and would not want my children going there.

Sonia

Greetings,

I just signed the following petition addressed to: The Greater Windsor Essex County District School Board.

Stop the closure of Gordon McGregor School in Windsor Ontario

The school board has presented the following options:

1. Close Maxwell and Coronation
2. Close McGregor
3. Close McGregor and Maxwell
4. Close McGregor and Maxwell

Of these options, keeping Gordon McGregor open is the only option where children jk-grade 6 will NOT be placed at Herman high school. Closing Gordon McGregor would mean fewer families choosing to live in the Ford City area. The community is losing their last school. I have grandchildren attending. It will adversely affect our community, Ford City. Bussing will affect families and some will move. A vacant building will be detrimental to our area. This building has historical roots.

Idella Lazar Windsor, Canada

At the last meeting (May), I noted that it had been decided by the committee that Herman High School would stay open. I would appreciate clarification on the reasoning behind this. I viewed Herman's school profile and it appeared to me that both space utilization and condition of many rooms in the building are relatively low. Also, it appears that the expectation for future enrolment in most, if not all of the high schools, is in the declining direction. With this information I have to wonder why accommodations are

being made at the grade JK-8 grade schools to keep Herman open (utilize its excess space) when it may be both a fiscally, as well as pedagogically and socially, a losing battle in the future. As a second point, at the last meeting I heard the views of a number of elementary school parents and their valid concerns regarding possible interactions with high school-aged children but I did not notice comments from any high school students. Is their voice being heard? How do they feel about having elementary students attend 'their' school? My children attend Herman and are quite concerned about this type of change. My knowledge of the school layout indicates that it cannot be easily divided to separate the two groups of students, so more information how this would be helpful.

Thanks for your time.

Julie Smit

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Closing Gordon McGregor would mean fewer families choosing to live in the Ford City area.

Sincerely,

maryann riberdy windsor, Canada

JOHN RICHARD YOUNG-HIGGINS east norriton township, norristown, Pennsylvania

Karlene Nielsen Windsor, Canada

marina clemens Windsor, Canada

Kate Gibb Lasalle, Canada

Janet Girard Windsor, Canada

Paula Saunders Windsor, Canada

Sylvia Harron Windsor, Canada

Amy Lynn windsor, Canada

Laura Desbiens Amherstburg, Canada

Liz marcus Kingsville, Canada

Kelly Mullen Windsor, Canada

Christina Raheb windsor, Canada

Elizabeth O'Halloran Kettering, United Kingdom

David Hicks Windsor, Canada

Carol Easton Windsor

Paul Lucas Windsor, Canada

Sincerely,

Sharon lazar Windsor, Canada

Sincerely, patchen albuquerque, New Mexico

Dan Lazar windsor, Canada

Stephen Lynn Windsor, Canada

V. Virgianne Windsor, Canada

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Sincerely,

My grade school. Sentimental reasons, yes.

Gordon McGregor brought Ford Motor Company to Windsor. A historical property sitting vacant is not wise, another use for it, a productive community useage?
Bonnie Landego Miami, Florida

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Sincerely,

Kevin Nielsen Windsor, Canada

All my neighbors and my friends kids go thier.It's a wide area of kids that go their ,to me it would be real DUMB to close it.

Karen Roberts Windsor, California

Marilyn Cameron Windsor, Canada

Claudia Nielsen Port Huron, Michigan

Christine Spidy, Windsor, Canada

Beth Spidy, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

Biljana Vasic Patterson, Kinsville, Canada

Catherine Ducedre, p, o, box 1293, California

Hello,

My name is Lisa Gawley, I have one child at this time who attends David Maxwell School. He is in SK, and will be in Grade 1 in the fall. We live on the 1600 block of Olive Rd, which is approximatly 3 blocks from Maxwell. We understand that the option to close Maxwell is no longer in discussion, however the discussion of changing the boundaries of Maxwell is still very much a possibility. I also understand that the boundary would have children who live east of Pilette going to Coronation which is about 15 blocks from where we live. Unfortunitly for us this would have my child switching schools.

First of all, this option does not make me happy, nor does it leave me with much faith in the board. If the Maxwell school is staying open, why would you even consider uprooting up to 80-95 children from a school and teachers they love. These children are familiar with the area the school is in and it is in a desirable neighbourhood. I for one, refuse to send my children to Coronation, if I wanted them to go to Coronation I would have registered him in Coronation. That school is not a great school, and is certainly not in a desirable neighbourhood that I would feel comfortable allowing my children to walk to. I wouldn't want to walk in that neighbourhood let alone my children. We bought our house a year before our son started school specifically because we wanted him in the Maxwell district, we previously lived in the McGregor district. We have two more children who will also be attending school in the next two years. We chose Maxwell and were accepted there, so tell me why now we are being told we may be sent somewhere we did not want. I would like to know if there will be a possibility that future families will not be accepted at Maxwell, but that current families will be Grandfathered into the school.

As far as I am concerned I will fight not to have my children be told they have to go to another school, one that we never wanted to send them to in the first place. If all else fails and the decision is made to move our family to Coronation, I will take my children out of the public school board and move them to the Catholic board, St. Jules is at the end of our street, in a good neighbourhood, and my son has friends on our block that already attend there so he won't be as uncomfortable with the situation.

It has also been brought to my attention that there are a couple of families out of district whose kids attend our school for ties to SkaNa. In one case their kids attended there before or after school and when their time with SkaNa was done, they were supposed to return to their own district, but 2-3 yrs later still attend Maxwell.

Also, there are two cases where kids custodial parent lives outside of the district. In one case Fountain Blue. They claim that the 'primary care giver' is within district. But the primary care giver is no longer that person, and the kids still attend Maxwell. In both cases the primary care giver was a Grandparent for before and after school care and the kids are now in Grade 6 & 7. They no longer attend that place before and after school daily.

So as long as these families are permitted to attend the school, does that mean that my family and the other families that will be effected by this change will have a reason to stay at Maxwell too?

I think it would be best for all, if the matter was put to rest and the children left alone. Children have a hard enough time adjusting to school without being shuffled around from school to school. Making friends is difficult and often leaves the new kids feeling unwanted and ostracised. They are young and impressionable, kids can be very mean and they have to carry it with them the rest of their lives. Just leave it alone please.

Sincerely, Lisa Gawley

Good Morning,

I am a parent of 2 children at David Maxwell school. They are 2 children to the the board, but to me they are Jake & Holly, 8 & 10, in grade 2 & grade 4...with a great attachment to their school & especially their teachers & friends. We live in this neighborhood for the SOLE reason that our kids can remain at Maxwell. Many, many other families that I have spoken to are doing the same.

I am very grateful the the committee is not recommending the closure of Maxwell - such a relief & my children were both so happy and relieved to hear. However, this possible boundary change frightens me. My daughters 3 best friends live east of Pillette - she would lose all of them. She is stressed & worried in a way that NO child should be. My one question for you is that, is there any way possible to "Grandfather" in the 95 kids & their families that are beyond this recommended boundary, so that they can remain at Maxwell? Considering the school is not over capacity, I truly believe these 95 families be grandfathered in. And then I would understand the boundary change. We are not over capacity.

Please, please consider this. I have spoken to so many families that live beyond the recommended boundary (only 3 blocks from the school!) and every single one of them live where they live or bought their house because their children can go to Maxwell. A boundary change would be so unfair to them, to those children.

All of these kids have an attachment to Maxwell, their friends & teachers. School is the one constant in their lives, please don't make them experience such disappointment, worry & adjustment - when they might have enough in other areas of their lives...children should NOT have to worry about their school. This whole process has made me lose faith in the school board, please help me restore some of that by keeping Maxwell open & grandfathering in the 95 kids, each with a name & friends & security in the place that they spend more time at then at home. There is no understandable reason to move these kids from Maxwell.

Our kids are not just numbers, for a school to close or children having to move because of a severe boundary change is unfair. Their lives & education is being played with. And as a parent I am extremely disappointed in these possibilities. My kids and all of those kids are NOT just a number.

I very much hope you consider my request of Grandfathering the children in, and I thank you for this.

Sincerely, A Very Concerned Mother of 2 very amazing children, Joanna Hickey

I'm just trying to figure out how this makes sense to close McCallum for McGregor students to come over. Two grade schools in a 2 block radius doesn't seem like it makes any sense at all.

I certainly hope the McCallum students do not get transferred to Herman, as I think this may change our choice of schools and school boards.

Herman high school was not designed as a JK-12 school like Tecumseh Vista was it? Unless you plan on moving high school students out of Herman?

I think by trying to alleviate over-capacity at McCallum you are forcing some parents to put their children into other schools. It would be unfortunate to have my son who is going into SK next year to a different school, and by different school I mean St. Anne's.

I am the parent of two children currently attending Ecole McCallum and am extremely distressed with the suggestion to transition these students to Herman High School. It is my thought, that this is not a viable option to the overcrowding at McCallum. My concerns lie in several areas: interaction of young elementary school children with high school children - the example that this works at Vista isn't exactly the same situation. Vista was built specifically for that purpose and measures are put into place there that make inappropriate interaction less likely to occur. I do not at all feel confident that this would happen at Herman. I have seen and heard the way that some students at Herman behave, speak and will not willfully subject my children to that.

In addition, I don't feel as though other options were fully explored. While I understand that the current situation is unsustainable, the idea that we would just move our children to the closest high school seems short sighted and unwise. I have spoken to many other parents and teachers who feel equally as strong about this potential move.

I prefer to enroll my children in the wonderful public French immersion program, and feel forced to look at options for their education that are not of the same quality because of this. As the Catholic board is not an option, I may have to consider selling my home and moving to another district to ensure that my daughters receive the best possible education. I will not send them to a program at Herman under any circumstances, and with the number of parents that I know feel similarly, high enrollment may not be an issue any longer at McCallum.

I strongly ask that the board and trustees consider other options, renovating, expanding etc.

Sincerely, Remy Boulbol

Dear Sir/Madame,

My children go to McCallum school, and I have been very happy with their schooling experience thus far. I am concerned with the current recommendation that McCallum move to Herman Secondary school.

If this recommendation is followed, you are asking parents to do more than just relocate their children to a new school. You are also asking parents to put their children in a school which will have a very different dynamic in that these young children will then be part of an extremely large school, and they will be mixed in with secondary students.

Like many parents, I chose McCallum because I value its cozy, safe, warm, and nurturing French Immersion culture that administrators, parents, and teachers have created. I don't think this culture could be replicated if the school were integrated into the existing secondary school environment unless there was a plan to ensure the two schools are completely physically separated within the larger walls of Herman. If the schools were physically separate -- separate bathrooms, hallways, lunch areas, and playground -- then I think the proposed plan is feasible.

While I believe there have been some fine mentoring relations developed between the students of Herman and McCallum, the proposal to join these two schools in my opinion shortchanges the families of McCallum. I think it is with good reason that almost every school board now has elementary/middle schools separate from high schools. I believe this is usually done to ensure that young children, especially in the middle years, will not be easily influenced by potentially bad influences amongst teenagers who are at a very different stage of development than the younger children. Young children are vulnerable and need the adults in their lives to ensure that their school space feels very safe to them. Through no fault of their own, the teenagers in the hallways, libraries, gyms, etc. are bound to dominate those spaces. And it is those unstructured times and spaces outside the classroom (hallways, bathrooms, playgrounds) where I feel young children are most at risk of being targeted, influenced, or exposed to language and behaviour that are not age appropriate.

If the board decides to move forward with the current recommendation which will mix all ages together, I hope that they will at least consider giving McCallum parents the option to attend one of the other French Immersion schools. In my case, as I am sure is the same for many other parents, with the opening of Lowe as a French Immersion program, I will be within walking distance of that school. I would prefer to send my children to Lowe if McCallum moves to Herman (mixing all grades) because I want my children in an elementary school that only goes up to grade eight.

If none of these options are available, I will switch out of the public board, which is a shame because the teachers and administrators at McCallum are excellent -- not just on their own as individuals, but as a team, which is why the current school has such a vibrant culture. Knowing that you are dealing with difficult decisions to make in the face of the material reality of increased enrollment to kindergarten, I still hope that you will consider other options for the future of McCallum school. Thank you for considering my arguments and point of view on this very important matter.

Best Regards,

Susan M. Holloway, PhD

To whom it may concern:

I am writing regarding the combining of McCallum and Herman schools. I think this is a bad idea. Elementary students and secondary students should NOT be housed in the same school. I think this would be disruptive to both and safety would be a concern. Teenagers have adult-like behavior that should not be influencing the younger children. My daughter becomes a Herman student this fall and my son just graduated from Herman this past June. I think it is beneficial to the older children to break free from the confines of elementary school in order to progress to become adults.

If there is over-crowding at McCallum then I think the solution is to find them a bigger building that it all their own. What about the old W.D. Lowe? Another solution is to create a second French-immersion grade school that is an entirely different entity, or else change McCallum boundaries as to bring down the population at that school. There are many different ways that the problem can be solved WITHOUT sending them into Herman.

If this does take place I will likely remove my daughter from Herman and send her to a proper high school, as that will be the best thing for her development into adulthood.

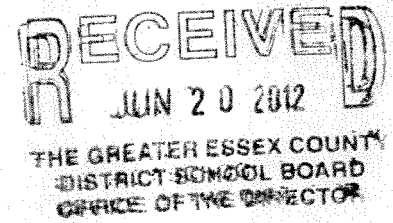
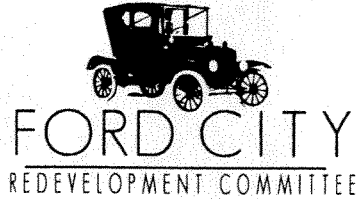
Please do not take away these teenagers school from them.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Mother, Lisa Brignall

To whom it may concern,

Hello. I want you to hear an opinion on the whole idea. I think it's not a good idea whatsoever for Herman to be a JK-12 school. I don't think it's smart for JK'S to be around swearing and bad influencing 12th Graders. I know you probably wont listen to me but I hope you do! the older kids WILL transfer to proper high schools if this happens. High school is a big thing for 9-12 graders. We don't want it to be taken away. I've always wanted to go to a proper high school, and now this is happening. High school is a big thing, and its changing us into adults! Just think how many people are gonna leave when Herman becomes what you guys want it to. I don't think it's fair. at all. Why not just keep it the way it is already? I've always wanted to go to Herman for grades 9-12. Yes, I am 14 and going into Herman this September. This isn't fair. All of me and my friends are so upset now. We will transfer to proper high schools if this happens. I hope you read this and get back to me. thank you for reading.
from; Jelena.



Membership:

June 15, 2012

Abundant Life Assembly

*Canada Mortgage
& Housing Corp.*

Drouillard Place

*East Windsor
Cogeneration Centre*

*Ford City Residents
In Action*

Ford City BIA

*Gino & Liz Marcus
Community Centre*

Local Artists

*Maisonville Court
Retirement Residence*

*Essex County Nurse
Practitioner Led Clinic*

New Beginnings

New Song Church

Retired City Planner

*St. John the Divine
Orthodox Church*

*University of Windsor,
School of Social Work*

Spirit of Excellence

Ward Councillor

Windsor Police Service

Greater Essex County District School Board
451 Park St W., P.O. Box 210
Windsor ON N9A 6K1

Dear Trustees,

We are writing this letter on behalf of the Ford City Redevelopment committee which is a community group made up of residents, business people, not for profit groups, area churches and resource people from Windsor police, the University of Windsor, the planning department and our ward councillor. We meet monthly to review areas of concern within the neighbourhood with our main focus being on neighbourhood renewal and revitalization.

School closures do indeed create very negative long term impacts within the neighbourhood they are located. Closures cause permanent "demographic polarization" within that neighbourhood. What this means is that by closing what is a critical social anchor of the neighbourhood, the primary means of ensuring a community's age diversity and overall demographic health is lost. The absence of a school will halt younger families from moving into an area because a core element of their life (the school) is not there. This is viewed as very poor planning and erodes the character and strength of the neighbourhood. Like churches, community centres, libraries and corner stores, schools form an integral component of a strong neighbourhood.

Another important negative spin off of school closures that cannot be forgotten is the vacated property itself. A large, older structure like Gordon McGregor will have very limited options for viable, compatible redevelopment. It can sit for years and in the interim, the building can become the target for vandalism, loitering and illegal activities which then becomes a source of detraction within the neighbourhood whereas at the present time McGregor is a great source of pride and heritage status.

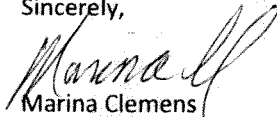
The committee also wants you to consider the severe impact that closure will have on the children who now attend Gordon McGregor. The Drouillard corridor went through this with the closure of Holy Rosary, and then St Anne's (converted to French Immersion) schools in the late 90's with the result that many families left the Catholic system and enrolled their children in the public system at Gordon McGregor. Families are certainly feeling once again abandoned by the educational system since three of the four draft recommendations from the PARC committee recommends the closure of Gordon McGregor.

Recommendations (B) &(C) indicate McGregor students would go to McCallum which means a much longer bus ride for most of our students residing along Drouillard and the side streets. It is our understanding that the original Recommendation (D) that proposed McGregor students would be bused to Herman has been removed by the PARC committee.

The committee is strong and firm in its recommendation to you that Gordon McGregor remain open and that measures be taken to ensure that McGregor receives capital funds to make it accessible and viable for many years to come.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our thoughts and recommendation.

Sincerely,



Marina Clemens
Co-chair Ford City
Redevelopment committee



Kerry Ippolito
Co-chair Ford City
Redevelopment Committee

June 19, 2012

To Board Members, PARC Committee members and fellow Parents,

My name is Kim Charron, I am a parent of three students at McCallum, and I will also disclose that I am also a GECDSB employee. I felt compelled to write this letter after reading that the committee had narrowed down the options to a final choice that will be presented June 19th.

After listening to other parents from many schools, including McCallum I found that there seemed to be many who are opposed to the chosen option of having McCallum students attend Herman S.S. The most common perception being that "4 yr. olds don't belong with 16, 17, 18 yr. olds" and that this will undoubtedly transfer some very unacceptable behaviours onto these young children.

After having a few candid school yard conversations with other parents it became clear that many did not feel the same way. In fact many said that they knew this model (K-12) was already successfully being used in other provinces, and that wasn't the newest school in the board, Vista, in fact modeled after this concept.

To me there are many benefits of having the K-12 model be adopted at Herman for the McCallum students and they are as follows:

- Students would remain together. It was only a school year ago that our school lost students when Vista was built. This negatively impacts students, as well as staff. The school community undergoes another disruption and McCallum has a very strong school community.
- Herman houses the Secondary French Immersion program and since McCallum students should in theory be attending this program it allows for them to transition with greater ease, creating greater success in their secondary school careers. If Giles F.I was adopted the students who wanted to attend Secondary French Immersion would possibly be going all the way to Sandwich S.S. as that would become the feeder school. For some this means traveling from Walker rd. to LaSalle for high school. For some younger students this would also mean a possible change of schools 3 times – and this definitely has

been proven to be detrimental to a student's success - academic, social and emotional.

- The sense of community, the social benefits and expectations that could occur from housing young children with young adults would be extremely beneficial. Young children are observant of positive behaviour modeling. Older students take greater responsibility for their actions and tend to make greater attempts to be role models. They show protection over the younger children. The option to work together on all levels to make a contribution to THEIR community is possible. This runs off into after school hours where the Adolescent students now see the Elementary students in their neighbourhoods, bringing that connection full circle.

If we trust high school students to be our child care providers outside of school, what does it mean that don't want them to attend the same schools.

What message are we sending high school students if we say they must act like young adults but that doesn't include giving them the opportunities to? To be responsible for their actions, and take responsibility for the reactions that follow, to be proud of their neighbourhoods, and their school. To embrace them as the young members of our community we must start to include them and give them the opportunity to show they can contribute positively.

Thank you for your time and I hope these points provide food for thought to the parents who have concerns that the K-12 model is not the right choice for their young children. As for our family, we couldn't be happier with this option being put forward as the best choice.

Sincerely

Kim Charron