

parc

From: parc
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 3:20 PM
To: 'Henry Banman'
Subject: RE: Schools

All schools in the Board get staffed based on the same collective agreement class sizes. JK and SK is an average of 26 students with 1 teacher and 1 E.C.E. Grades 1 to 3 has class sizes of 20 or lower. Grades 4 to 8 has a class size average of 24.6 to 1 teacher. Some classes are lower and some are higher.

-----Original Message-----

From: Henry Banman [mailto:hbhenrybanman56@icloud.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 8:40 PM
To: parc <parc@publicboard.ca>
Subject: Schools

Hi I'm a mom who sends there child to mill street and will be sending another one next year, we love mill street and if it closes then what go to a school that has 500 plus kids in it? How can 1 teacher teach a class with 25 kids in it and get to know them personally and see what kids might need extra help nooo it doesn't work! I'm not happy bout this Idea of closing a great school just because they may not have enough kids really??? That's no reason to close a school!!!! Keep mill street open and other school being effected by this the way they are everyones happy why ruin that??

Sent from my iPhone

parc

From: parc
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 1:23 PM
To: 'Peter Epp'
Subject: RE: Accommodation Review of Leamington Area Schools: Location of French Immersion (FI) program

Based on the proposed initial recommendations, it does mention that Gore Hill is to consolidate with MD Bennie in a new building on the MD Bennie site which would be considered an urban site. Further, the initial placement of a French Immersion program at Gore Hill is due to space constraints that may initially exist at MD Bennie before the proposed new build. If the proposed recommendation comes to fruition, the FI program would be at the new urban site.

From: Peter Epp [mailto:lycoepp@kelcom.igs.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2017 10:12 PM
To: parc <parc@publicboard.ca>
Subject: Accommodation Review of Leamington Area Schools: Location of French Immersion (FI) program

In the **Initial Staff Report** Gore Hill has been chosen as the school to tentatively host the new FI program. While the prospect of more students for Gore Hill is positive (I'm a Gore Hill parent), I have some questions and comments about the choice of Gore Hill.

Comments:

In my eldest son's early elementary years he attended St. Michel. By grade 3 he was fluent in conversational French. St. Michel has a very strong program.

Gore Hill will be competing with two schools from the Separate boards for students. Some students, like my son, who would previously have gone to the public board, are in these schools for their French programs only. Both schools are in urban Leamington.

Questions:

Why locate a FI program in rural Leamington when most of the candidate students are in urban Leamington?

What makes Gore Hill a stronger candidate for the FI program than MDB, MCB, or QE?

Suggestion

In order to support MCB the Initial Staff Report proposes sending the nearest urban students north to bolster their ranks. I believe that the same should be done with Gore Hill. Students in the eastern portion of urban Leamington are even closer to Gore Hill than the students which will be bussed to MCB.

Locate the FI program in a new school in the urban area to give the Leamington program a greater chance of success.

Peter Epp

parc

From: Peter Epp <lycoepp@kelcom.igs.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2017 10:30 AM
To: parc
Subject: Accommodation Review of Leamington Area Schools

I am a Gore Hill Parent. I am a Gore Hill Graduate. The present Gore Hill school was built on the corner of my grandfathers farm.

(Please continue reading even though you can guess the gist of this letter)

Gore Hill is a great school and has a lot of stuff going for it. I will let other parents and Gore Hill community members speak to that.

In the Initial Staff Report submitted to the PARC, the proposal is to move the Gore Hill school community to a new combined Gore Hill/Margaret D Bennie school build on the MDB site.

The Leamington area currently has 5 elementary schools (excluding East Mersea). Three are inside of the Town of Leamington; two are rural and to the north and east of Leamington. Closing either of the two rural schools would be a mistake.

I believe that rural schools have "something" different about them that makes them unique, but am not going to dwell on that point. I do know that Leamington **PUBLIC** elementary schools are in a competition for students with **Private Schools**. While most people may not dwell on the differences between urban and rural schools, I know that the pool of families that considers **Public** versus **Private** education for their elementary children **DOES** care.

The BOARD has closed two elementary schools north of Leamington. Both were purchased by private schools and are full of elementary students. Now the BOARD is considering closing the nearest rural school east of Leamington.

A much better option would be to support the two rural schools with students and programming aimed at the specific needs of their communities. Gore Hill and Mount Carmel-Blythewood could be filled with boundary moves.

That leaves the three urban schools. I would suggest that an amalgamation of two or three of the schools, (if large elementary schools is the BOARD's desire) be done on the Secondary School site being vacated this fall when the new LD is finished. That site is HUGE and has a track and lots of parking. Construction would NOT interfere with programming until the new BUILD is finished. Also, cost wise. building one new school versus two, and possibly having prime residential areas in surplus would be a PLUS.

Finally, the **Initial Staff Report** proposes closing Mill Street and dividing the students. This flies in the face of previous moves, where school communities were moved as **ONE**. The Mill Street area is an "**Area at Risk**" (I don't know if that's the proper term). If the school is closed, and the community divided, that will leave a large **HOLE** in the area. This is my view from the outside looking in ... but I think the BOARD should look **VERY SERIOUSLY** at partnering with local social service organizations. A community centre / hub on part or all of the Mill Street School might be an option very worthy of exploration.

parc

From: parc
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 1:18 PM
To: 'Peter Epp'
Subject: RE: Presentation on Thursday Night at LD

Before the Queen Elizabeth expansion/renewal can be considered, Mill Street would have to be closed and MD Bennie and Gore Hill would have to be consolidated into one right-sized new building.

From: Peter Epp [mailto:lycoepp@kelcom.igs.net]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 8:03 AM
To: parc <parc@publicboard.ca>
Subject: Presentation on Thursday Night at LD

In Mr Awender's presentation Thursday night he talked about the five recommendations of the **Initial Staff Report**. When discussing the QE recommendation, he stated (I think) that funding would not be considered for a new/expanded QE until the OTG numbers in the Leamington area had been reduced. Both the closure of Mill Street and the combining of GH/MDB reduce the OTG numbers.

Could you please explain again what must be accomplished before the QE expansion/renewal can be considered.

Peter Epp

Christine Breshamer

From: Kim McKinley
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 11:08 AM
To: cdstadler@wavedirect.net
Cc: Todd Awender; Christine Breshamer
Subject: RE: Gore Hill Public School Parent - Letter of Concern to Trustee

Debbie

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I would like to Thank you for your email regarding Gore Hill Public School. We value the community input that we receive during this process and appreciate all that you shared with us in your email regarding Gore Hill and its many attributes to the community. It is very evident that Gore Hill is very much loved by those in the community including your own family.

As a Board we will be considering all community input during this process including yours. The first community meeting is scheduled for Thursday Feb. 9 at Leamington District High School at 6pm. I certainly hope you will have the opportunity to attend both of the community meetings being planned. I will also forward your email to the Superintendent of Accommodations, Mr. Todd Awender to pass along to the committee.

Kim McKinley

GECSDB Chair
Trustee Wards 1,2 & 9
519-972-1035

**“Building Tomorrow Together,
Every Learner, Every Day”**

From: cdstadler@wavedirect.net [mailto:cdstadler@wavedirect.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2017 10:20 PM
To: Kim McKinley
Subject: Gore Hill Public School Parent - Letter of Concern to Trustee

Dear Mrs. McKinley,

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read my attached letter concerning the upcoming Accommodation Review.

Sincerely,

Debbie Stadler

Dear Mrs. Kim McKinley,

My name is Debbie Stadler, I have two children in the Greater Essex County District School Board and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work and dedication in representing our families. My family truly appreciates everything you do and ensuring a high-quality education for our children.

I understand that a decision will be made in June of this year regarding an Accommodation Review. I would like to express my observations and concerns regarding this.

My personal thoughts and story:

I am a parent with a child in Grade 4 at Gore Hill Public School and a child that has recently graduated from that school, my daughter is in Grade 10 at LDSS. Since the day my daughter started JK at Gore Hill Public School, I have heard a tremendous amount of rave reviews about Gore Hill Public School and I continue to hear them today. I grew up in Kingsville and I was a student at Kingsville Public School and Kingsville District High School, having no prior experiences with elementary schools in Leamington. I moved to Leamington when I got married and since moving here, I've heard amazing, positive testimonials about Gore Hill from current students and from students that have graduated years ago and also from teachers that currently teach and have taught there. Even as my daughter is meeting new friends in High School, students that have attended other elementary schools in town, parents and students express that they wished they had the opportunity to attend Gore Hill because of all the great things they've heard about it. I personally know of a family that had two daughters that attend another GECDSD elementary school in Leamington and moved their two daughters from that school, due to numerous negative issues and placed them in Gore Hill and the mother expressed to me it was the best thing she did for her children. I have sent 2 letters raving about Gore Hill, one to Erin Kelly, Director of Education and John Howitt, Superintendent of Education. I also made a phone call to Clara Howitt and spoke to her Administrative Assistant, Anna. My son has a learning disability and as I'm sure all the schools have wonderful programs to help children with special needs, I feel that the staff at Gore Hill goes above and beyond every day with my son. From what I hear from parents, their children attending other elementary schools in the area, Gore Hill is a positive exception. Being in a more personal environment, everyone knows everyone and if I or if my son ever has a concern, I feel him or myself can go to anyone at the school and our concerns will be addressed with the professionalism and integrity we deserve. He receives the personal attention he needs at this time to learn and grow with confidence. Since this process with my son has started, three years ago, I have never been disappointed with the treatment and top-notch education and attention we've received from the staff at Gore Hill. When I walk in to Gore Hill, for any reason, I always feel that I am welcomed and I'm greeted warmly at the office by the office staff and the teaching staff. I've heard feedback from many other parents at Gore Hill that our children are currently in such a thriving, healthy and happy learning environment.

Evident Reasons why I truly believe Gore Hill should remain open:

- Gore Hill offers an outdoor classroom that no other school in Leamington can offer – what a fantastic way to enjoy the sun and the fresh air, keeping their minds engaged and their bodies healthy while learning.

-The school's property hosts a butterfly garden, nature trails and the largest property of all the schools included in the Accommodation Review for our children to explore and let their minds grow outside in the fresh air.

-Our large property hosts many soccer fields and other physical activity opportunities for all children to enjoy at recess. My son comes home every day excited about the games and other activities he's played at recess and how he says it gives him energy in the classroom. The students at Gore Hill were very excited that a local orthodontist, Dr. Abraham, is donating soccer nets to our school to promote physical activity.

-Gore Hill's property reduces field trip costs as we have many outdoor, natural ways to engage our children without having to transport them to other facilities. The students at Gore Hill are taught how to maintain and respect these natural areas with the help of staff, teachers and parent volunteers that continues in the summer months.

-Gore Hill has an incredible, convenient location. Clearly evident are the homes being built in the Gore Hill area. This includes SouthWinds Estates, Golfwood Lakes and Destiny Estates which contain over 300 properties and currently 120 homes have already been serviced. It would be crucial to our board to offer education opportunities for these family's children as we wouldn't want them to explore other options in other school boards. No other school in the town of Leamington has planned development near it at this time or in the near future.

-Additionally, the Leamington Soccer fields are less than a kilometer away. They've just built a new clubhouse and the potential in that area is phenomenal and growing every year.

-When studying which schools should close, Gore Hill's property is possibly worth the least to developers. The school properties in town (Queen Elizabeth, Mill Street, and Margaret D Bennie) would potentially bring in more money should the school board decide to sell any of them.

-The location of the Gore Hill property keeps children safe, away from town traffic, reducing the chance of accidents/legal fees.

-Also, when taking bussing/transportation into consideration, if all the country children were to be bussed into town, the amount of time that these children would be on a school bus increases greatly and in turn, the transportation cost would dramatically rise. If students dislike being on the busses for too long, they'll communicate that to the parents and the parents may look into sending their kids to a different school, possibly in a different school board, which would be fewer dollars for our school board.

As you and your fellow trustees evaluate all the options in the coming weeks, please consider that Gore Hill Public School has room to accommodate many more students who could take advantage of all the wonderful things I and many other parents have outlined that no other school in Leamington can offer. An option to consider that would minimize students moving schools several times is If Mill Street were to close, it would be easy to adjust the boundaries, students south of Talbot could be moved to Gore Hill and students north of Talbot Street, be moved to Mount Carmel-Blytheswood. This option would fill available seats at two schools and reduce the need to build a new school immediately. There would be no displacements and less chaos for students and parents. Looking into the future, a new large central school could be built in Leamington to accommodate the students from the other schools within Leamington

Thank you very much for your time in this matter. My family appreciates and respects your position and the time you spend helping our children receive the high-quality education they deserve.

I know it won't be an easy decision. We're putting our trust in you and the Greater Essex County District School Board to ensure the right decisions are made regarding our children and their future education.

Please feel free to contact me via e-mail or my home, number below, if you have any questions or concerns regarding anything in my letter.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Debbie Stadler

Home Tel. 519-326-4831

Christine Breshamer

From: Kim McKinley
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 11:14 AM
To: Todd Awender; Christine Breshamer
Subject: FW: Thoughts regarding the accommodation study
Attachments: IMG_4110.JPG; IMG_4111.JPG; IMG_4115.JPG

Please include in PARC file.

Kim

From: Donna S [mailto:djj80@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2017 2:47 PM
To: Kim McKinley
Subject: Thoughts regarding the accommodation study

Hello Mrs. McKinley,

I am Donna Stickles, the mother of 5 year old Lucas Stickles who attends Gore Hill public school.

I would like to thank you for the efforts, work and time that you put towards making the best decisions for OUR children. We understand that sometimes difficult decisions must be made.

That being said, I'd like to share with you the reasons we LOVE Gore Hill. My family recently built a home in the Gore Hill district, in part we did this to be in the school's district. Gore Hill has a rural setting that is slowly becoming a thing of the past. My son takes advantage of a large playground to play soccer, build snowmen and enjoy the sounds of nature rather than the sound of endless traffic. He also gets a first hand view of the agricultural activities taking place all around the school. He can't get this in town. Concerns about children's physical and mental health have become much more of a concern, a school that provides natural settings such a butterfly garden (which is maintained by our students), outdoor classroom, access to a wetland pond and the Chamberlain Trial are all benefits that can NOT be duplicated at any other site and are all benefits to healthy living. (Please see attached)

Leamington is not destitute as some may think. Heinz closed in 2014, but Highbury Canco within 3 years of operation has expanded to require 485 positions, just 200 jobs shy of what Heinz required. that's 70%, with plans on future growth, not to mention the expansions that have occurred in the greenhouse industry which requires more skilled labour managers, line managers, and forklift drivers. These positions are not just temporary migrant worker positions.

Below are my thoughts/opinion

1. Gore Hill is 15.5 acres and only 0.75km outside the urban sprawl, we are not a remote school but a rural school.

a) Gore Hill Property is worth the LEAST to any potential developer. Those that might be interested in the property are those seeking a building for a private school, which I'm sure is not in the best interest for our public system.

b) The only future housing development is in Gore Hill District, with approximately 120-150 lots that have new services in place. with an additional 340 lots pending. (residential activity is NOT sluggish, houses are being built, I see it, and if you would like, I would love to show you these new developments)

2. The OLD Leamington District Secondary School (LDSS) property will be VACANT in September 2017. This property is just 1 block away from the NEW LDSS with an established municipal trail and 2 established cross walks with traffic lights. This is a 13+ acre (19.9 acre total including the parking lot across the street) property with an existing track. This is NOT a prime housing development location, but an already proven location for a school.

3. MD Bennie is 8 acres directly across from the Municipal Sherk Complex. A prime location with high resell value as a potential housing development.

4. Should Gore Hill and Bennie amalgamate you are combining 2 schools on opposite sides of Leamington. Gore Hills Catchment reaches all the way to East Beach Rd and down Point Pelee Dr., to transport these children to the west side of town does not make logistic sense. Not to mention the traffic congestion of bringing 230 kids into town. As much as we assume all children take the prescribed bus, that is NOT the case, MANY parents take advantage of the KISS N Ride programs which means more traffic. The Old LDSS property has 2 entrances, Talbot St and John St. a perfect set up for busing and kiss N Ride.

5. If the OLD LDSS property is considered as an elementary school then a boundary change would be required. Should it be considered to amalgamate two or three of the urban schools then the board may only need to ask the Provincial Government for ONE new school instead of the proposed two.

6. Last but not least I feel it is better to bookend our community with public elementary schools

It is not in GECDsB best interest to have multiple buildings/property deemed surplus with no prospects in sight. Therefore it makes more feasible sense to use the property already owned, sell the properties that have higher returns and still meet the requirements of a proper education.

I hope you will consider some of these thoughts when you make your final decisions. I would love to meet with you at any time to discuss my thoughts in more detail as sometimes its hard to put on paper.

Thank you for your time!







2/1/2017

Dear Program And Accommodation Review Committee (PARC),

Hi my name is Sammie Staines and I've been at Mill Street Public School for 1 ½ years and been at public schools for a long time. Here are some reasons why not to close Mill Street Public School.

- Smaller classes with less kids
- More one – on – one with teachers. (More help from the teachers)
- Community involvement like going to a nursing home
- It builds more confidence by starting to speak in small crowds
- Good parent/teacher interactions like being kept updated on your childs progress
- More sports are offered

This is why not to close Mill Street Public School even though I'm only in grade 5 and have been here for a little while it has been the best time of my life. Thank you for listening. I hope you will take this into consideration.

A student who needs her school:

Sammie Staines
Sammie Staines

Christine Breshamer

From: Todd Awender
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2017 12:04 PM
To: Christine Breshamer
Subject: FW: The fate of Gore Hill Public School

-----Original Message-----

From: Kim McKinley
Sent: February 3, 2017 6:21 PM
To: Lauren Meadows <carinhandsofootcare@gmail.com>; Dave Taves <Dave.Taves@publicboard.ca>; Julia Burgess <Julia.Burgess@publicboard.ca>; Connie Buckler <Connie.Buckler@publicboard.ca>; Alan Halberstadt <Alan.Halberstadt@publicboard.ca>; Tom Kilpatrick <Tom.Kilpatrick@publicboard.ca>; Ron LeClair <Ron.LeClair@publicboard.ca>; Cheryl Lovell <Cheryl.Lovell@publicboard.ca>; Jessica Sartori <Jessica.Sartori@publicboard.ca>; Gale Simko-Hatfield <Gale.Simko-Hatfield@publicboard.ca>
Cc: Todd Awender <Todd.Awender@publicboard.ca>
Subject: RE: The fate of Gore Hill Public School

Lauren

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I would like to Thank you for your email regarding Gore Hill Public School. We value the community input that we receive during this process and appreciate all that you shared in your email to us in regards to Gore Hill School, your son's experiences, and Gore Hill's many attributes to the community. It is very evident that Gore Hill is very much loved by those in the community.

As a Board we will be considering all community input during this process including yours. The first community meeting is scheduled for Thursday Feb. 9 at Leamington District High School at 6pm. I certainly hope you will have the opportunity to attend at least one of the two community meetings being planned. I will also forward your email to the Superintendent of Accommodations, Mr. Todd Awender to pass along to the committee.

Thanks again,
Kim McKinley
GECD SB Chair
Trustee Wards 1,2 & 9
519-972-1035
"Building Tomorrow Together,
Every Learner, Every Day"

-----Original Message-----

From: Lauren Meadows [mailto:carinhandsofootcare@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2017 5:17 PM
To: Dave Taves; Julia Burgess; Connie Buckler; Alan Halberstadt; Tom Kilpatrick; Ron LeClair; Cheryl Lovell; Kim McKinley; Jessica Sartori; Gale Simko-Hatfield
Subject: The fate of Gore Hill Public School

Dear Trustees,

I am writing to you on behalf of my seven-year-old son who attends the second grade at Gore Hill Public. Nolan was, not by his choice, relocated to Leamington from Thunder Bay in 2015 as an attempt to make my life easier in living with a chronic disease. He was uprooted from his friends, classmates and beloved family, and as one can imagine it took him

several months to adjust to our new life in South Western Ontario. He was very depressed, and as a nurse I do not say that lightly, and it took much of the first semester before he opened up and befriended several classmates. He has always attended a smaller, quieter country school, which my husband and I feel are one of the safest, friendliest and unfortunately in many towns these days, rarest places to educate a child. What a difference it makes to a child to have 1:1 education in a classroom that isn't full of 30+ other students, as is the case in many other schools at least in the Thunder Bay area. The fact that Gore Hill is just around the corner from our home is truly a bonus; on the mornings that my disease is quite active I am not in a panic to try to get him there on time. If he were on the other side of town, however, this would prove difficult for me. There was no doubt in my mind when we registered Nolan for Gore Hill that it was the very best choice for his educational needs, as well as for his social and mental well-being. Nolan has blossomed at Gore Hill, and attending this wonderful school has really helped him to feel better about moving across the province. The staff at Gore Hill Public are truly like an extended family, something that I feel we will lose if Nolan is forced to attend a bigger school. Many of his friends will chose other schools in their zoning area, and I can't think of another school that we could send him to that could replace the sense of security and stability that he has at Gore Hill.

Please consider children like Nolan when you vote for the fate of Gore Hill Public. It's a small school, but it has made an enormous difference in his life.

Warmest regards,

Lauren Meadows RPN
Caring Hands Foot Care
Leamington, ON
519-324-9434
caringhandsfootcare.weebly.com

"Keep your eyes on the stars, and your feet on the ground." - Theodore Roosevelt

Christine Breshamer

From: Todd Awender
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2017 12:05 PM
To: Christine Breshamer
Subject: FW: Gore Hill Public School

-----Original Message-----

From: Kim McKinley
Sent: February 3, 2017 6:34 PM
To: Laurie Bilokraly <lauriebilokraly@gmail.com>; Dave Taves <Dave.Taves@publicboard.ca>; Julia Burgess <Julia.Burgess@publicboard.ca>; Connie Buckler <Connie.Buckler@publicboard.ca>; Alan Halberstadt <Alan.Halberstadt@publicboard.ca>; Tom Kilpatrick <Tom.Kilpatrick@publicboard.ca>; Ron LeClair <Ron.LeClair@publicboard.ca>; cheryl.lovell@publicboarad.ca; Jessica Sartori <Jessica.Sartori@publicboard.ca>; Gale Simko-Hatfield <Gale.Simko-Hatfield@publicboard.ca>
Cc: Todd Awender <Todd.Awender@publicboard.ca>
Subject: RE: Gore Hill Public School

Laurie

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I would like to Thank you for your email regarding Gore Hill Public School. We value the community input that we receive during this process and appreciate all that you shared with us in your email regarding Gore Hill and its many attributes to the community. It is very evident that Gore Hill is very much loved by those in the community including your own family.

As a Board we will be considering all community input during this process including yours. The first community meeting is scheduled for Thursday Feb. 9 at Leamington District High School at 6pm. I certainly hope you will have the opportunity to attend both of the community meetings being planned. I will also forward your email to the Superintendent of Accommodations, Mr. Todd Awender to pass along to the committee.

Thanks again,
Kim McKinley
GECSB Chair
Trustee Wards 1,2 & 9
519-972-1035
"Building Tomorrow Together,
Every Learner, Every Day"

-----Original Message-----

From: Laurie Bilokraly [mailto:lauriebilokraly@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 03, 2017 4:06 PM
To: Dave Taves; Julia Burgess; Connie Buckler; Alan Halberstadt; Tom Kilpatrick; Ron LeClair; cheryl.lovell@publicboarad.ca; Kim McKinley; Jessica Sartori; Gale Simko-Hatfield
Subject: Gore Hill Public School

Good afternoon GECSB Trustees,

I am writing on behalf of my child Maverick Bilokraly who is an SK student at Gore Hill Public School. He also has a sister Calleigh who will be attending Gore Hill in 2019. We recently moved to Leamington and one of the reasons that we chose the area is because of the wonderful things we heard about the school. I must say that we have not been disappointed. We have had a wonderful experience so far therefore; I have taken the time to write to you about the school today.

I wanted to outline what an absolute gem Gore Hill is. Coming from the GTA where schools have postage stamps for green space it was one of the major factors of us relocating to the area. The outdoor walking trail, outdoor classroom, butterfly garden, environmental awareness initiatives are very unique to Gore Hill.

I would ask that you consider these special qualities Gore Hill has as you review the Accommodation Study. I ask that you don't just consider the bricks and mortar of a school but look at what the entire package has to offer. Put yourself in the shoes of the children and try to see what they see. I believe we all have the same goal to create bright, passionate, well rounded individuals and to do that you need a school that is well rounded too.

I thank you for your time.

Laurie Bilokraly
519-551-6229
lauriebilokraly@gmail.com

"I love the walking trail because we go to the pond!" -Maverick Bilokraly age 5 (How many kids have the privilege of saying that)

Christine Breshamer

From: Christina Unger <christina.unger.87@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2017 2:30 PM
To: parc
Subject: Concerned Parent of Gore Hill

Good afternoon to Mr Awender and Program Accommodation Review Committee,

My name is Christina Unger. First off, I would like to thank you for the work that you do as a member of our education board and/or PARC member. I appreciate and respect your position and willingness to make difficult decisions for our schools. I trust that you desire for our children to thrive and succeed in a safe and healthy learning environment.

I understand that you are working together to form the best possible outcome for the good of our students, and that you will be aiding the trustees in making a final decision regarding the Accommodation Review in June of this year. If I may, I would like to express my thoughts and concerns regarding this. Thank you for taking a moment to consider my words.

My personal thoughts/story:

Currently, we have two sons attending Gore Hill Public School. Hosea is in Grade 1 and Caleb is in SK. We have two more younger sons who will be hoping to attend in future years. We moved across the country to Leamington Ontario 13 months ago. Upon careful observation and reflection of all the schools in Leamington, we chose to apply out of district to have our children attend Gore Hill. Since the day we moved here, we have heard, and continue to hear, so many positive raving reviews about Gore Hill from everyone we meet. Even now, I know of several parents who wish they could send their children to Gore Hill - this is based solely on the amazing testimonies and reviews of other families. Our sons began attending in September 2016, and my husband and I have also become involved in various ways with supporting the school. My high hopes and anticipations have been met completely; I have not once been disappointed. When I walk into the school, I am always met with a very positive and healthy environment; when I attend assemblies, I can visibly see that the children and teachers love to be there. Our children are thriving, happy and healthy.

Tangible reasons why I believe Gore Hill should remain open:

1. Gore Hill School offers outdoor education opportunities that no other school in the area can offer. The school's property hosts a butterfly garden, nature trails and a large area that is utilized for soccer and other physical activities. Lack of exercise is an epidemic problem for our children in Leamington. Gore Hill offers the space and outdoor options to address this concern. How, may I ask, can children twice the size in numbers get the fresh air, and space they need to get their exercise, when the available outdoor space is half the size and only contains a bare cement pad? Every day, my son comes home fresh and excited because of the soccer games they were able to play at recess time.

Furthermore, because Gore Hill's property offers so many outdoor opportunities, field trip costs can be kept down.

Also, Gore Hill has an outdoor classroom which no other school can boast about. What better way to keep children's minds and bodies healthy than to enable them to learn outside where the sun is shining?

2. Gore Hill School has a fantastic location. Most future development in Leamington will be east of the city. Most of this development will continue in the area that is currently in the Gore Hill School district; this includes South Winds Estates, Golfwood Lakes and Destiny Estates which contain more than 300 properties for housing development, and there are currently 120 homes that already have services in place. All other school districts do not have planned estate development.

Furthermore, the Leamington Soccer Fields are less than a kilometer away. We know that there is much potential in this part of Leamington.

3. When considering which schools should close, Gore Hill's property is potentially worth the least amount to developers. The school properties in Leamington (QE, Mill Street and Bennie) would probably bring in more money should their properties go up for sale.

4. Gore Hill keeps children away from in-town heavy traffic, thus reducing the risk of accidents. Keeping a country school open east of Leamington keeps traffic concentration down in town. Heavy traffic would only increase should all schools be consolidated within Leamington.

Also, if all country children would be bussed into town, the amount of time that these children would be in a school bus increases greatly. I feel it is best to keep transportation time as short as possible for children to be able to use their awake time for learning at school.

As you give direction to this accommodation study, please consider that Gore Hill School has room to accommodate many more students. If Mill Street School were to close, it would be easy to readjust the district boundaries so that Mill Street students south of Talbot could attend Gore Hill School and those north of Talbot could attend Mount Carmel. An option like this would fill available seats in Gore Hill School and Mount Carmel without needing to build a new school(s) right away. There would be no displacements. In the future, a large central school could be built in Leamington to accommodate the students from the other schools within Leamington.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter. I appreciate your dedication to help our children receive a high-quality education. Please contact me, should you need clarification or if you have any questions. Thank you, and I hope you have a good day.

Sincerely,

Christina Unger



Christine Breshamer

From: Christina Unger <christina.unger.87@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:45 AM
To: parc
Cc: Quentin Unger
Subject: Concerned Parent from Gore Hill

Good morning,

My name is Christina Unger. Thank you for taking a moment to understand my concern:

My husband and I, and our four sons, moved across Canada to Leamington Ontario in January 2016. As you might predict, it was a huge life change for us since we had no family, friends or even acquaintances. We were approved for our two older boys to attend Gore Hill School, after they first were moved in and out of Mill Street (our district) school for four months. They are finally settled in to school at Gore Hill, and they absolutely love it. As we predicted, this school is a wonderful fit for our family and our boys are thriving. It was my anticipation that we would not have to uproot and displace our children again for many years. Research shows that children need stability and security to thrive.

Imagine my disappointment when I was told that our third son, Gabriel (going into JK in 2017), would not be allowed to attend our school along with his brothers. This means that you suggest for our family to be broken up. This also means that you suggest our family attempt to divide our faithful support, time and energy between two different schools. I feel that this is not feasible, hardly even possible. I currently fully support Gore Hill, actively volunteering where I can and participating in the Parent Council meetings and fundraisers. I could not possibly do this with two schools.

Our sons have gone through so much change in only one year. And with all the changes likely coming up because of the Accomodation Study, please do not ask our family to go through more difficult changes than necessary. If you will not allow our son Gabriel to attend Gore Hill along with his brothers, my husband and I feel that it is in the best interest of our family to keep him home. We would choose to homeschool rather than to have him switch back and forth between schools and for our family to be divided. We would choose to take our children completely out of the public school system over having them split up. Please understand that we truly want the best for our children, and we truly believe that Gore Hill has been a wonderful learning environment for our sons.

Thank you for your time and interest in this matter. I hope you have a good day,
Christina Unger

Christine Breshamer

From: Todd Awender
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 5:32 PM
To: Christine Breshamer
Subject: Fwd: Input for public school accommodation study

Todd Awender

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kim McKinley <Kim.McKinley@publicboard.ca>
Date: January 28, 2017 at 12:31:55 PM EST
To: Quentin Unger <quentinunger@gmail.com>
Cc: Trustees - Board Members <trustees@publicboard.ca>, Todd Awender <Todd.Awender@publicboard.ca>, Erin Kelly <erin.kelly@publicboard.ca>, John Howitt <john.howitt@publicboard.ca>
Subject: RE: Input for public school accommodation study

Mr. Unger

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I would like to Thank you for your email regarding Gore Hill Public School. We value the community input that we receive during this process and appreciate all that you shared with us in regards to Gore Hill School and its many attributes to the community.

As a Board we will be considering all community input during this process including yours. The first community meeting is scheduled for Thursday Feb. 9 at Leamington District High School at 6pm. I certainly hope you will have the opportunity to attend at least one of the two community meetings being planned. I will also forward your email to the Superintendent of Accommodations, Mr. Todd Awender to pass along to the committee.

Thanks again

Kim McKinley

GECD SB Chair

Trustee Wards 1,2 & 9

519-972-1035

**"Building Tomorrow Together,
Every Learner, Every Day"**

From: Quentin Unger [<mailto:quentinunger@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 1:06 PM
To: Alan Halberstadt; Cheryl Lovell; Connie Buckler; Dave Taves; gale.simkohatfield@publicboard.ca; Jessica Sartori; Julia Burgess; Kim McKinley; Ron LeClair; Tom Kilpatrick
Subject: Input for public school accommodation study

Dear GECD SB Trustee,

Good afternoon. My name is Quentin Unger and am a concerned parent of Hosea (6) and Caleb Unger (5) who attend Gore Hill School in Leamington.

I believe that it would be beneficial for Gore Hill to remain open for the following reasons:

1. Gore Hill School offers outdoor education opportunities that no other school in the area can offer. The school's property hosts a butterfly garden, nature trails and a large area that is utilized for soccer and other physical activities. Lack of exercise is a epidemic problem for our children in Leamington. Gore Hill offers the space and outdoor options to address this concern. Furthermore, because Gore Hill's property offers so many outdoor opportunities, field trip costs can be kept down.
2. Most future development in Leamington will be east of the city. Most of this development will continue in the area that is currently in the Gore Hill School district. I think it would be prudent to keep a School in this area open to keep up with development.
3. When considering which schools should close, Gore Hill's property is potentially worth the least amount to developers. The school properties in Leamington (QE, Mill Street and Bennie) would probably bring in more money should their properties go up for sale.
4. Keeping a School open east of Leamington keeps traffic concentration down in Leamington which would definitely increase should all schools be consolidated in Leamington. I feel it is best to keep transportation time as short as possible for children to be able to use their awake time for education. More traffic also increases accident risks.

As you give direction to this accommodation study, please consider that Gore Hill School has room to accommodate many more students. If a school like Mill Street were to close, it would be easy to readjust the district boundaries so that Mill Street student south of talbot could attend Gore Hill School and those north of talbot could attend Mount Carmel. An option like this would fill available seats in Gore Hill School and Mount Carmel without needing to build a new school(s) right away. In the future, a large central school could be built in Leamington to accommodate the students from the other schools in Leamington.

Thank you for your dedication to help our children receive a quality education in the Windsor/Essex area. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me back.

Sincerely, Quentin Unger

Christine Breshamer

From: Todd Awender
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2016 4:01 PM
To: Christine Breshamer
Subject: FW: Leamington PARC

From: Jeff Betterley
Sent: December 13, 2016 3:06 PM
To: Todd Awender <Todd.Awender@publicboard.ca>
Subject: Leamington PARC

Hi Todd

So I was reading over the proposal for the PARC for the Leamington schools and was thinking of some other solutions than what you have purposed.

1. Use the bigger Gore Hill site that offers a bigger playground and natural area including our pond and outdoor classroom. The pond and outdoor classroom offer a unique learning environment for our students. The new subdivisions going in Leamington are in our area and quite close to our school. thus leaving the Board with the ability to sell the MD Bennie site in town which would be a more desirable site for developers to purchase.

2. Close Mill St. ,Queen E and MD Bennie and combine them all in a new build on the old LDSS site, that would include the dual track. Thus eliminating three buildings in town and creating three desirable properties for sale to developers. With this consolidation Gore Hill and Mt Caramel Blytheswood would get new boundaries for the edge of town.

I look forward to your thoughts on this as we go into the PARC process.

Jeff