

Christine Breshamer

From: Todd Awender
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 2:21 PM
To: Christine Breshamer
Subject: Fwd: Upcoming Vote on Accommodation Study

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Christina Unger <christina.unger.87@gmail.com>
Date: May 11, 2017 at 2:17:25 PM EDT
To: todd.awender@publicboard.ca
Subject: Upcoming Vote on Accommodation Study

Hello Mr. Awender,

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank you for your commitment to building a high-quality future of education to students in this region of Ontario. I appreciate all the hard work and dedication that you choose to steer towards our children. I have faith that you truly desire to do what is right for our future.

As you consider the mountains of feedback you've received in the past months regarding your upcoming vote on June 8, I ask you to listen and respond to this, my last email to you.

I am a parent of two children at Gore Hill Public School. Not by technicalities, but by choice. When we arrived in Ontario 16 months ago, I researched and interviewed many parents. I personally toured the local schools, sat down with the principals, and discussed all the benefits that each school had to offer. I was not content just to send my children to some random school without fully knowing the extent to which they would be benefited from an educational and relational perspective. After my research, I was utterly convinced that Gore Hill School is someplace special, completely irreplaceable. I saw something in these students, both past and present, and in their families, that I did not see in other places. I saw a beautiful respect for individuality - one on one compassion and learning from the teacher to the student, which in turn has built such an incredible boost of confidence in EACH CHILD. And thus, the student environment is such that is hopeful, positive, successful. I can confidently say that the reason why I can recognize these things is because I grew up in a small town in western Canada whose school was very similar to Gore Hill in many ways. These qualities encompassed my school as well. And out of this small county school have come some of the most brilliant students that this country has seen - lawyers, doctors, physiotherapists and chiropractors, pilots, engineers, politicians, and so much more. Because in this amazing, irreplaceable school, there was an acceptance of each child. There was much creativity in outdoor learning, there was one-on-one teacher/student relationship, there was a passion for the success in each individual child.

Remember the reasons why we choose to send our children to school... not to lag behind in a sea of other faces, but to excel in who they were created to be... to become our future scientists, doctors, politicians! We must fight for this future.

Remember, also, other practical reasons: that parents who choose to live in the country also wish for their children to attend county schools. They do not wish for their child to be wasting hours each day on bus rides into the city, to be learning in an environment that is not of their choice. Happy parents will inevitably result in happy kids.

Remember the negative long-term effect that dramatic changes such as this current proposal will have on children. It is proven that children need the security and stability of a positive and unchanging environment around them. We know that this type of stability greatly decreases the risks of the development of mental illnesses. Please consider the long-range effect that this current proposal has on an entire city of children.

Remember the numbers... you have seen the development growth on the east side of Leamington. Think practically of all those children who also will need a near-by school to attend.

Lastly, I close this letter to simply implore you... please reconsider the suggested closing of Gore Hill Public School. Please do not make a decision that will later regret. Consider the future of our children, not just the current financial situations. I trust that you truly do care about these children entrusted to you, and that you will choose wisely.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Christina Unger

Christine Breshamer

From: micreid7@gmail.com on behalf of Kerri Reid <m.i.c@bell.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 9:34 PM
To: parc
Cc: Connie Buckler; Alan Halberstadt; Tom Kilpatrick; Ron LeClair; Cheryl Lovell; Kim McKinley; Jessica Sartori; Gale Simko-Hatfield; Dave Taves; Todd Awender; Erin Kelly; John Howitt; Julia Burgess
Subject: Leamington School Accommodation Study

Dear Trustees,

This accommodation study seems to be trying to do too many things in one brush stroke. You are trying to begin a dual track French Immersion program while at the same time attempting to consolidate schools. Any families interested in the French Immersion program could potentially be turned off by the prospect of starting at one school and transferring to another a few years in. Also, if the French Immersion program is successful, and Gore Hill is combined into a 550 student school with MD Bennie, will there even be enough room for that new program as it flourishes and grows by a grade or more each year?

It has become quite clear that town families want a town school, and country families want a country school. If a boundary change is done and the kids are where they should be, this could balance out.

I understand that East Mersea is being left out of this study because they bring a lot of money to the board by enrolling students from another board. Gore Hill has the potential to do the same, if it's still there.

I would also like to reiterate my thoughts on the Gore Hill property. The size of the property could easily accommodate a larger student population, even if that means a new larger build, with a new parking lot. There would still be room for a large blacktop, and huge playground. The outdoor spaces we have (outdoor classroom, butterfly garden, walking trail, and all the other things that have been previously mentioned by many parents) cannot be man-made to fit in town on a smaller site. To let this valuable property go unutilized would be a waste.

I'm proposing a wait-and-see approach. Adjust the boundaries and send new enrolments where they should be going. Get rid of the areas where two busses are travelling down the same street to take kids to two different schools. Let the French Immersion program begin, and grow. Let things settle and re-evaluate. Put a contingency plan in place for a couple of years down the road. Make the contingency plan public, and take action if and when required.

I sincerely hope that your open-mindedness continues through to the end of this study and that our pleas aren't falling on deaf ears.

Thank you,
Kerri Reid

Christine Breshamer

From: annie froese <annief78@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 07, 2017 10:35 PM
To: Christine Breshamer
Subject: PARC

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

MCB PARC ACCOMODATION

I agree with the recommendation to close Mill street school. Changing the boundaries and dividing mill street students between mount Carmel Blythewood school and queen Elizabeth school. I don't think it makes sense to close MCB because of the distance between Leamington and comber it would make for very long bus rides for the children. MCB has already been amalgamated a number of years ago with Blythewood school and mount Carmel school therefore the area is so big already. I feel the board is trying to present the best possible plan for the Leamington area. Our school is in great shape and has a lot of updates and also our operation costs are lower then the other schools. MCB has a new updated gym, new library, ten new classrooms, two were updated, we also have two new bathrooms added and a big staff room. We also have a kitchen area for hot lunch days. Our school is also air conditioned and well heated in the winter.

To add to that we have a big play ground with fenced in yard, with a new pavilion added that the children and staff enjoy using. A traffic study was performed in the area by the city and they reported that the school is in a safe area. I know that if MCB were to close many families would choose to home school their children or send them to a private school. For us to send our kids to a country school was very important because of the atmosphere and I know of a lot of families that feel the same. I love how welcoming the school is and I think it is crucial to keep a country school open. I know that MCB would welcome mill street school and the children would adjust well to our school.

Christine Breshamer

From: s_anscombe18@hotmail.com
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 6:18 PM
To: parc
Subject: Gore Hill PS

To whom it may concern ,

I'm writing to you regards of changes to Gore Hill PS . My daughter has attended this school since jk and I chose this school out all others in our community for several different reasons ...

1. Being a one of the smaller schools in our area - I made this decision because I strongly (and can not say it enough) believe that children who attend a smaller populated school get more teacher time attention. I believe that when there are to many kids in a classroom some fall behind and the teacher does not have that time to help the student out as much as if there were 10 less kids in the classroom- I don't write this because I'm guessing or assuming this will happen I write this because I was that child and do not want my child and my other children when they attend school to experience this.

2. Gore Hill is out in the country which allows me to know and rest asure that when I drop my daughter off at school that she will be safer.

3. There is no high traffic or traffic congestion.

4. Gore Hill sits on approximately 15 acres, as parents we know with that much property our children are getting a good amount of physical activity and that is very important for our children.

Gore Hill is in one of the biggest growth areas with in our community which allows for it to grow all on it's own. My suggestion here is a "wait and see approach".

Thank you!