

Greater Essex County District School Board
2015 PROGRAM AND ACCOMMODATION REVIEW
Report of the Second Community Meeting
Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.
Kingsville District High School



At the December 9, 2014, regular meeting of the Board, Trustees approved the following recommendation regarding General Amherst HS, Harrow DHS, Harrow PS, Kingsville DHS and Western SS,

THAT THE SUPERINTENDENT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCOMMODATIONS FACILITATES AN ACCOMMODATION REVIEW OF GENERAL AMHERST HIGH SCHOOL, KINGSVILLE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL, WESTERN SECONDARY SCHOOL, HARROW DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL AND HARROW PUBLIC SCHOOL, TO ADDRESS CAPACITY ISSUES.

Present: There were approximately 165 persons in the audience including committee members.

Regrets: Director of Education Erin Kelly, Superintendent of Business Cathy Lynd, Trustee Kim McKinley

Facilitator: Todd Awender, Superintendent of Education

Recorder: Lynne Hornby, Administrative Assistant.

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Superintendent Awender welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. This is the final community meeting in a series of four. He explained that notes were being taken that will be posted on the board website and that the proceedings were being audio and video recorded. This evening, members of the PARC the committee will present a draft of their final recommendations that will be presented at the Education Committee meeting of the Board on June 2. Their report will be posted on the Board website for 60 days (excluding summer break). The Director will review this report and make her own recommendations that will be presented in a report to trustees at a regular meeting of the Board on September 15. Trustees will make a final vote at a special meeting of the Board on October 13.

2. Introductions

Principal Salinitri pointed out the location of the washrooms and the exits. Superintendent Awender introduced Superintendents McLaughlin (Special Education and Lyons (Area Superintendent of Education). Trustees Buckler, Burgess, Lovell and Sartori were also in the audience. He also thanked S. McLaughlin, Media Services, for setting up equipment. He thanked the PARC committee who have worked very hard on behalf of all out students over the past few months.

3. PARC Committee scenarios

The Superintendent introduced B. Orawski, PARC Chair and members P. Catton, T. Richards and R. Trepanier, who formed the report writing sub-committee. Ms. Richards presented in no particular order, the three PARC scenarios. Sheets containing this information were available for the audience.

The PARC committee's PowerPoint presentation is attached

4. Presentations

1. Mr. Nelson Santos, Community impact – strengthening the previous Kingsville Family of Schools' PARC recommendations
submission attached

2. Mr. Thomas Neufeld, A new school in Kingsville

submission attached

3. Ms. Melanie Paul Tanovich, Preserving schools in smaller communities

submission attached

Following the formal presentations, Superintendent Awender noted that any information related to the PARC process is available on the Board website at publicboard.ca. The Student Accommodation is a red schoolhouse located in the bottom left of the front page of the webpage.

All information from this evening's presentation will be available there.

The PARC Committee will be presenting its final scenarios to the Board at the June 2 regular meeting of the Education Committee.

5. Collection of Input

The next portion of the meeting was the collection of community input. Each school community was represented at a table to answer questions. Members of senior administration, including Mr. Awender, and trustees were also available to answer questions. It was noted that some valuable input has been received in the past in the smaller focus group setting.

Input was collected at tables for individual conversations for a period of approx. 30 minutes. Cards were available for written questions or comments and answers are appended to the notes of the meeting on the Board website. Input is continuously collected via the parc email box. Mr. Awender cautioned to be mindful that anything posted to the PARC email box will end up published on the internet. All information relating to the PARC including notes from all meetings etc. is available on the website.

Input was next heard at the microphone. The Superintendent noted that in an effort to accommodate everyone, during the open mike period, each speaker will have a maximum of 3 minutes. ~~Everyone who wished to do so, was afforded the opportunity to speak.~~

Prior to commencing this portion of the agenda, the Superintendent confirmed that everyone in this room knows their school is excellent. The Superintendent stated that he will not tolerate derogatory comments toward another school or community and asked that the audience not be offensive in their comments. We know it is impossible to please everyone but we try to do what's best for all.

Tammy Whitney, Parent Council Chair of Colchester North PS

Submission attached

Parent Council Chair, Westview Freedom Academy

She was aware of this current PARC process and felt that she wanted to come to the meeting to speak to her experiences since Forster and Century schools combined to form Westview Freedom Academy. Her daughter was at Century in a LDCC program previously. Both student bodies were apprehensive about the changes they had to face as the two schools came together

to form a new facility. She noted that there have been some growing pains but it really took the support of the parents to help things along. The kids are thriving. Students still have all the learning support they had before and things are going well. The students in the academic programs are also faring well. The staff is wonderful and there is a great deal of support for the students. Her daughter is thriving in the new atmosphere and is experiencing lots of new opportunities.

She said that as she was leaving Westview this evening, there was a softball game going on. Kids from both previous schools were proudly wearing their new Westview athletic uniforms. There are fantastic teachers and learning supports in place. She believes this has been a tremendous success. There are more sporting opportunities for the students than previously at that site. Her daughter and her friends are thriving. All the comprehensive programming is still there.

Bill Caixeiro, Essex Council

Read correspondence that Essex County Council is sending to the Board

Submission attached

He added that in short, the message in the letter is that is you not only have the support of all the communities in the PARC but the support of the other four communities in our county, which he believes speaks volumes. Council is meeting with the Director of Education in the near future. We need to find a resolution to help the school board out with its capacity issues but let's not close any schools. There are opportunities in all three municipalities.

Liz Chittle, Harrow resident

She said that a Community hubs framework advisory was appointed on April 8. A website has been set up to get public opinion on what they want from community hubs. We can say what we want. The Minister has said she wants Ontario to be the best place to work, live and raise a family. Community hubs are part of that vision. Can we pause this process? There could be ministry silos that can be torn down to find available money that can be used. We could partner with the Ministries of health, tourism and recreation and maybe find money where there was none. We can take this and see. It is under communityhubstalk2015ontario.ca

Stephen Maclauchlan, Former WSS student

Submission attached

Leslie Ballsillie, Harrow resident

She would like the Board to consider accommodating more emphasis on the agri-food industry. There are a lot of opportunities in both the greenhouse industry and development in wineries. There are many opportunities in agri-food in general and if the students would learn about this all through the system, there would be lots of opportunities – computers, lab work etc. nutrition. We would like to have such a program in Harrow. The Ontario agri-food organization has developed a lot of curriculum. I hope teachers are incorporating this curriculum into their classrooms. We can find lots of people who would be willing to work with the board on this project. We could put this into education and these community hubs.

Cassidy Wood, Harrow DHS student

Submission attached

Lauren Abbot, Harrow DHS student

Submission attached

Michael Abbott, Harrow DHS student

Submission attached

Jamie Munger, Harrow parent

Good job to everyone on the scenarios. No one wants to see a school in their community close. My business hires students from Western. There are three scenarios on the sheet, the first is good for everyone. I want you to work with the communities. Mr. Caixero has done his homework, I agree with everything he says. You need to listen and work with the communities. Harrow is growing. The wineries are putting it on the map. We have the biggest tube maker in North America. My business does work for these businesses. If you split the high school between two other schools in other communities, those kids will always be known as the Harrow kids. The board pushes to not bully but you are bullying us. As the shirts say, find a way. We don't need a ghost town. No one will buy my house if you close the school. The town won't grow. If you do have to close Harrow then why should Harrow be the only one that has to suffer in all of this? Put a new school on the Arner townline, it's only a 9k drive, it's on the boundary. It has to be a team effort but at the end of the day it's the government's fault, not the board. Please be considerate of all the five schools.

Matthew Brozer, Harrow DHS student

Submission attached

Steve Bjorkman, town councillor, Essex

Thanked the PARC committee for their work. He prefers Options 1 and 2. Does this group have the latitude to explore community hubs before you move forward?

It is in very preliminary phases at the Ministry of Education now. The concept has been out there for a number of years. What that is going to look like will be determined in the future. We will be continuing with this process until it is completed.

Last December, trustees questioned whether or not they should move forward with the process or wait for the new program to come out. They decided to move forward without waiting to see the new program. If the next one has community hubs as a part of it, we should have full access to that program. A decision was made to not allow us to see what was the better program to go with. We should learn a little more about community hubs. We should defer this final decision until we understand what the minister and the premier want for our communities.

Klair Salter, former Harrow DHS

Two definitions were shared.

TRY – is defined as to make an effort to do something in order to see if it works or be successful

CHANCE – is defined as an opportunity to do something, the possibility something will happen

She said that we need to try something out to give our schools a chance. She advocated for a motion for a moratorium on this process until other avenues are explored. A portion of the audience supported her. She asked to see copies of the sign up sheets but it was noted that they are not kept but are destroyed. She felt that the majority of audience were from Harrow. She felt that the turn out from Harrow has been the strongest at each community meeting.

6. Closing comments and Adjournment

There was no further input. In closing, Superintendent Awender again noted the information for the PARC presentation to the Board, and thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to order and welcome
2. Introductions
3. Presentation of PARC Scenarios
4. Presentations
5. Board information – The PARC Committee will present its final recommendations to Trustees at a regular meeting of the Board on June 2, 2015 @ 7:00pm
6. Questions and Collection of Input
7. Closing comments and adjournment

PARC 2015

Presentation to
The Board of Trustees for the
Greater Essex County District School Board

PARC 2015

- ▶ **Program and Accommodation Review Committee (PARC)**
- ▶ **General Amherst High School, Kingsville District High School, Western Secondary School, Harrow District High School and Harrow Public School**

Purpose of this Report:

- ▶ **This is the final report from the Program Accommodation Review Committee (PARC) for General Amherst High School (GAHS), Kingsville District High School (KDHS), Western Secondary School (WSS), Harrow District High School (HDHS) and Harrow Public School (HPS) to address capacity issues with consideration to programming. This report contains the findings and Scenarios of that committee**

Purpose of this Report cont'

- ▶ All comments and feedback received from each of the PARC's community meetings, as well as the general public and various levels of government have been considered while completing this final report

Background

- ▶ The GAHS, KDHS, WSS, HDHS, and HPS Program and Accommodation Review Committee was established as a result of the following motion approved by trustees at the regular Board meeting of December 9, 2014:
- ▶ **THAT THE SUPERINTENDENT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCOMMODATIONS FACILITATES AN ACCOMMODATION REVIEW OF GENERAL AMHERST HIGH SCHOOL, KINGSVILLE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL, WESTERN SECONDARY SCHOOL, HARROW DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL, AND HARROW PUBLIC SCHOOL, TO ADDRESS CAPACITY ISSUES:**

With consideration of guiding principles as listed below;

1. Consolidations (Ministry favours for new builds)
2. Must improve Utilization Rates/Empty Spaces
3. Community School
4. Renewal Needs/Aging Infrastructure
5. Try to minimize the # of student changes
6. Student Programs
7. Secondary Size Schools (800–1,200)
8. Transportation
9. Coterminous Board – Strategic places

Composition & Role of the PARC Committee

- ▶ The PARC is comprised of the following 26 members;
- ▶ General Amherst High School
- ▶ Principal; Hazel Keefner
- ▶ Staff Representative; Amy Soucie
- ▶ Parent; Mary Lippert
- ▶ Parent; Kim Laframboise
- ▶ Community Representative; Pat Catton

Composition & Role of the PARC Committee

- ▶ **Kingsville District High School**
- ▶ **Principal; Dina Salinitri**
- ▶ **Staff Representative; Chris Clements**
- ▶ **Parent; Michelle Hedge**
- ▶ **Parent; Bill Orawski**
- ▶ **Community Representative; Elaine Mailloux**

Composition & Role of the PARC Committee

- ▶ **Western Secondary School**
- ▶ **Principal; Melissa McIntyre**
- ▶ **Staff Representative; Alison Oldfield**
- ▶ **Parent; Valerie Cormier**
- ▶ **Parent; Robin Trepanier**
- ▶ **Community Representative;**
Mary MacLauchlan

Composition & Role of the PARC Committee

- ▶ **Harrow District High School**
- ▶ **Principal; Mary Edwards**
- ▶ **Staff Representative; John Konopaski**
- ▶ **Parent; Sheri Dzudovich**
- ▶ **Parent; Bill Parr**
- ▶ **Community Representative; Barry Mannell**

Composition & Role of the PARC Committee

- ▶ **Harrow Public School**
- ▶ **Principal; Michelle Sprague-Keane**
- ▶ **Staff Representative; Teri Gorick**
- ▶ **Parent; Rebecca Robinson**
- ▶ **Parent; Trudy Richards**
- ▶ **Community Representative; Barry Mannell**

Composition & Role of the PARC Committee

- ▶ **GECD SB Administration**
- ▶ **Facilitator/Superintendent; Todd Awender**
- ▶ **Recorder; Lynne Hornby**

Process of Public Input

- ▶ **The PARC scheduled four community meetings to review and present its work, seek input and community feedback, and receive comments and questions from the public. During the Committee meetings, members have been able to gather information, analyze data, generate and study options regarding student accommodations.**

Process of Public Input

- ▶ Advance notice of all public meetings was provided through school newsletters, postings on the school and Board websites and letters to the school communities

Scheduled Meetings

All available information to date including the committee and community meeting minutes and any PARC committee proposed Scenarios are available at the GECDSEB's website.

DATE	LOCATION	Meeting Type
January 29 th , 2015	General Amherst District High School	Community Meeting
March 2 nd , 2015	Harrow District High School	Community Meeting
April 13 th , 2015	Western District High School	Community Meeting
May 12 th , 2015	Migration Hall, Kingsville District High School	Community Meeting

Scheduled Meetings

Date	Location	Meeting Type
January 26 th , 2015	General Amherst High School	Organizational meeting
February 9 th , 2015	Harrow District High School	Committee meeting
February 23 rd , 2015	Western Secondary School	Committee meeting
March 9 th , 2015	Kingsville District High School	Committee meeting
March 23 rd , 2015	Harrow Public School	Committee meeting
April 8 th , 2015	General Amherst High school	Committee meeting
April 20 th , 2015	Harrow District High School	Committee meeting
April 30 th , 2015	Western Secondary School	Committee meeting

The GAHS, KDHS, WSS, HDHS and HPS PARC Final Scenarios

- ▶ The committee has determined that three (3) of the ten (10) options presented and discussed at all the committee meetings are viable, and offer these three (3) Scenarios to the Board of Trustees and the Director of Education for the Greater Essex County District School Board.

Scenarios

- ▶ **Scenario 1:**
- ▶ Maintain Western Secondary School as a Special Education School and expand programming
- ▶ Implement community hubs in Amherstburg, Harrow and Kingsville
- ▶ Maintain Harrow District High School at present location until a JK – 12 build is complete
- ▶ Build a new JK-12 school in Kingsville
- ▶ Maintain General Amherst High School

Scenario 1 cont'

- ▶ **Advantages**
- ▶ Schools stay in each community resulting in continued stability and allows community hub partnerships with possible revenue for the Board
- ▶ Overcomes a large renewal backlog and a realization of savings on operations, utilities and maintenance costs by consolidating schools
- ▶ Meets the special needs of students at Western Secondary School
- ▶ Meets the Board's Mission Statement and all 5 goals of the Board's Strategic Plan (2011-2015)

Scenario 2

- ▶ Move Western Secondary School by transitioning those students to General Amherst High School as a separate program in a newly built school in Amherstburg on a board and town approved site (possible school within a school)
- ▶ Implement community hubs in Amherstburg, Harrow and Kingsville
- ▶ Establish a JK-12 school in Harrow
- ▶ Build a new JK-12 school in Kingsville

Scenario 2 cont'

▶ Advantages

- ▶ Consolidation of schools builds a stronger business case for Ministry funding
- ▶ Schools stay in each community resulting in continued stability and allows community hub partnerships to develop with possible revenues for the board
- ▶ Overcomes a large renewal backlog and a realization of savings on operations utilities and maintenance costs by consolidating schools
- ▶ Minimal decrease in transportation costs

Scenario 3

- ▶ Consolidate Harrow District High School and Kingsville District High School
- ▶ Close Harrow District High School and transition the Grade 7 and 8 students back to Harrow Public School
- ▶ Build a new JK–12 school in Kingsville
- ▶ Move Western Secondary School and the AB program to General Amherst High School as a fully accessible separate program

Scenario 3 cont'

- ▶ Allow the current and future LDC student population at Western Secondary School the option to return to their home schools or to attend General Amherst High School (possible school within a school).
- ▶ Build a new high school in Amherstburg on a board and town approved site

Scenario 3 cont'

▶ Advantages

- ▶ Consolidation of secondary schools builds a stronger business case for Ministry funding for a new builds
- ▶ Maintains community schools in two of the three communities, leaving 2 secondary schools in close proximity to coterminous board schools (strategic)
- ▶ Improves efficiencies and utilization rates while decreasing the number of empty student spaces
- ▶ HDHS can be accommodated in KDHS facility without renovations

Conclusions

- ▶ As we reach the end of this PARC process, it is with mixed emotions that we submit our final scenarios.
- ▶ After voting on several options, we ended with three final scenarios. This is not to say they are perfect or that all group members collectively agreed upon the final three.
- ▶ ~~Multiple schools and many different programs presented too many issues for a unanimous decision.~~
- ▶ Our scenarios express overwhelming support for maintaining community schools wherever possible, as well as maintaining the unique learning environments that currently exist in all of our community schools.
- ▶ Much time was spent addressing the special needs of students currently attending Western Secondary School. These vulnerable students require specialized services to succeed in our education system. The combination of staff, students and programming has been very successful for many years at helping students achieve their goals.

Conclusions

- ▶ As we move forward, accepting change will become paramount for all parties involved. Local change could inspire and promote more community and governmental partnerships within our schools and communities.
- ▶ The "STATUS QUO" is not working on many levels in our education system.
- ▶ The Ministry of Education and local school boards, across the province of Ontario, could also embrace change by collaborating together to build new schools and share programming.
- ▶ Merging their efforts and assets could solve many financial issues that are affecting all of our students, today and tomorrow.

PARC 2015

**Respectfully Submitted,
by the GAHS, KDHS, WSS, HDHS
and HPS PARC Committee**

To follow the PARC please refer to the GECDSB website where the most accurate and updated information will be posted throughout the process.

- GO TO <http://publicboard.ca>

- Click on



which is located on the bottom right corner.

- Inquiries can be submitted through the following address : parc@publicboard.ca

Nelson Santos

Presentation to Greater Essex County District School Board 2015 Program and Accommodation Review Committee

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

(Kingsville District High School – Migration Community Hall)

By Nelson Santos, Mayor for the Town of Kingsville

Subject: Our community hub already includes our Family of Schools

Forgive me as I begin this evening attempting to shake this sense of 'déjà vu' all over again. It's true. It does seem as if it were just yesterday when our community was called to the table to review the delivery model of our Kingsville Family of Schools. From January through to the end of May in 2012, we were all engaged in our first Program and Accommodation Review that looked at reducing the number of empty student spaces and improving the utilization rates within our Family of Schools.

During this time there were many passionate discussions amongst our 'family', where we discovered that the status quo was not an option. I recall vividly how the PARC members from this original examination reported to the School Board Trustees that over 25 scenarios were reviewed in an attempt to meet their mandate. The process identified a series of important points:

1. that our Community of Schools would require a disproportionate allocation of the Board's annual renewal budget.
2. Community input clearly provided evidence that the maintenance of a community high school in Kingsville was a priority.
3. Administration reinforced its position that it is not the building that people are in but the people that are in the building that make the difference.

Believe me, the identification of each of these points have had, and continue to have left, lasting impressions on our community. Afterall, we were brought together as a Community of Schools to work toward a scenario that would best strengthen our 'family'.

By October of 2012, the Trustees were presented with recommendations and ultimately made the difficult decision to close Ruthven Public School at the end of June 2013. But each of our schools knew that the facilities they currently reside in were still in great need despite the \$3 million renewal cost savings found by closing Ruthven.

This closure was just the first we anticipated under the PARC findings and the original recommendation that Kingsville would pursue the construction of a new JK to 12 School at a site to be determined. The new construction would mean the closure of KDHS, KPS and Jack Miner in the future. And for the most part, it was a recommendation that was supported by each of our family members and it was one that we all put 'trust' in our 'Trustees' and the Board Administration who reassured all of us that...

**"This is the best decision for the KFOS and the Board as a system."
*Pg. 9 of Kingsville Family of Schools Report, October 2012.***

From this moment, the Board realized an improved asset utilization rate, cost savings, and a reduction in renewal costs.

Unfortunately, the Kingsville project did not rate high in the 2013 capital prioritization by the Board and received minimal petitioning at the Ministry level for consideration and thus was not successful in the Ontario 2014 budget, in October 2014, the new JK-12 Kingsville School was approved with a high capital prioritization. (As high as #2 in Public Board needs) However, we believe this new PARC process, stalled this action and has let many, many people down as we now lose at least another year in the process. Some believe the 'trust' is in question as we proceed today, but I have to put forward that our community is not giving up on its 'family of schools' and we as a municipality are standing here willing to be a working partner through this right to the end. And the end for us, means a new JK-12 School in Kingsville that is welcoming to all students.

So I'm not going away, and the families in Kingsville and now across the new PARC study are not going away. We want the Board to '#Find A Way'

This current PARC was positioned in a manner that told our Kingsville Family of Schools that it would strengthen our findings from the 2012 PARC. Today, I see three new draft recommendations that appear to support that proposition.

~~Something is definitely different. We see proposed recommendations that~~ actually appear to strengthen our original business case. We also see this as an opportunity to secure an environment of learning beyond your typical single track or even traditional 'super school' strategy. It is different because we see great potential with a diversity of student population, talents, and skill sets. It's different because we now have more student interests at heart here that are beyond our boundaries. The same boundaries that on a daily routine are crossed by students from our community and neighbouring communities to other schools including Western.

And as the three recommendations before us today ponder additional closures and potential community hubs, the discussion and consideration of the ultimate school facilities need to be comprehensive, accommodating, flexible and innovative. Any new school proposal needs to be equally as creative as the students and teachers that are going to be brought together. Because together, we have seen tremendous community impact and successes to our region and to our School Board.

At this time, I want to echo and reinforce the Community input piece and give further evidence to the priority our Municipality has for a community high school. Now the delegation rules don't allow me to present physical photographs or make a compelling powerpoint presentation to you here tonight, but let me paint you a picture of what the High School presence in Kingsville looks like...to what it feels like...and to what it means to the spirit of our community heart and soul.

Your committee's previous outline of the community impact is a good starting point for sure. And contains important references of the strong school and community relationship we have. I'd love to walk you through the more than 200 displays that are part of Kingsville's Fantasy of Lights Festival that were created just across the parking lot here in the TECH Zone. Created by the students from the materials our community provided and over the watch of amazing staff like Mr. Doug Doey. This relationship goes back to day one of the festival nearly a quarter century ago. Their work is proudly on display for all to see. Whether they are lit up at Lakeside Park or are the snowflakes hanging along our light posts from Division and Main Streets or right into downtown Cottam, the students can take great pride in their work.

The TECH Zone was also pivotal in helping us culturally in assisting our town capture some of its heritage. The Water Wheel set up outside of our Historically Designated Carnegie Building is part of our inaugural Peace Garden and tribute as part of the War of 1812 BiCentennial celebrations.

How about the environment, you ask? Well the TECH Zone has that covered too with class projects that have assisted with the nature of things as well as the physical accessibility and needs of individuals. From bird boxes and neighbourhood projects to accessible park benches and tables to home builds, the skillset at KDHS has proven itself time and time again.

That's why if we look to build a new JK-12 facility, it needs to incorporate this stream and offer access that OYAP has already proven to be fruitful and supported within our small urban community and its businesses.

The high school Co-op program is one I recall being part of the inaugural student body when it was first introduced to Kingsville. I learned many aspects of how a legal office operates and even filed paperwork for small claims court cases where I was prepared to serve as the agent for the client.

Not bad for high school, right? A couple decades later and the Co-op program lessons I learned are still with me, but more importantly the program is one that offers amazing insights into future career paths for students. Noting that many students are faced with making these types of career choices earlier and earlier in life, the Co-op experience often leaves students with eyes wide open versus going into a career path with eyes wide shut.

Kingsville and its community-minded business and trades sector is the perfect community to provide the practical and hands on knowledge for our future generations to absorb. And this can extend to offering programs at KDHS where our hometown and Leamington-based Western Students could find their learning program, that is currently offered at Western, now offered closer to home. I'm confident our families would appreciate this opportunity.

A new consolidated Kingsville High School along with our family of school members Jack Miner and Kingsville Public could make the setting for a new hybrid of JK-12 school that I believe could be a first in the province. We have come this far, so let's not settle for a standard cookie-cutter program that the Ontario Centre of Toronto has devised for our rural communities. We have a student body here in Essex County that is generous and giving, and we have amazing teaching professionals who are rooted here who are always looking for ways that give back to the place they call home.

Look at the impressive \$43,000 raised in Kingsville this past week. Just outside these doors, the collaboration between students and teachers with their community and their willingness to help battle cancer saw a Relay for Life event that won't soon be forgotten. The epic battle of 'Boys vs Girls Can Drive' that supports the Goodfellows Campaign and our food bank. And so many more.

Or how about the innovative and recent entrepreneurial success stories of KDHS students at the recent Enactus Business Challenge at the University of Windsor? The top team in this YouThrive event came from the hallowed halls of KDHS where its business department has an impressive history as well. We're willing to walk with you as far as it takes to get the provincial confidence and I will be happy to put on any shade of Dubs that KDHS has to offer to make it happen. So long as we walk together...we can.

Historically, the music program at KDHS was also well renowned. Given the presence of new music festivals, the opportunity to excel in music may only be one simple connection in our community away. I can already see it on stage as part of the International Folk Festival our town hosts each year.

The Athletic program and local high school sports teams are also bringing home impressive achievements with WECSAA and SWOSSAA titles in various sports.

Regionally, Kingsville has also been host to a couple of All Ontario (OFSAA) championship tournaments in the past year and there are more on the books in the coming months. For example, our town is thrilled to work in collaboration with KDHS in coordinating the 2016 OFSAA Soccer championships with municipal facility support.

Let's be strong together and look to provide a progressive school setting that is dynamic in every sense. From the academic to the skilled trades all the way to the artistic and the innovative, a new school in Kingsville would be a most appropriate setting. A place where we can see the excellence in education and achievement continue for generations to come. All within a location that is fully serviced municipally, surrounded by accessible amenities for walking and cycling. A place that offers access to municipal services and spaces for playing, for learning, and more importantly a place where there are no limits and our pride in education and in community can and will excel.

Our Town is ready to stand with the School Board and take our collective pitch to the province for the necessary funding to make our vision come true. August will be here soon enough and our Municipality is eager to schedule important meetings with the provincial ministries to secure commitments on our most high priority programs and initiatives. And that includes our educational facilities. I look forward to working towards the implementation of the PARC recommendation for the new build for our Family of Schools.

Thomas Neufeld

Good evening ladies and gentlemen of the board and members of the audience. My name is Thomas Neufeld. I am a Councillor in the Municipality of Kingsville and a parent of four children, two that currently attend Kingsville District High School, and one at Kingsville Public. I would like to speak to you tonight in support of the JK to 12 new build facility proposed in all three of the Committee's April 13th recommendations, why it should be at the current KDHS site and why it should be green.

I would first like to state publicly that I am a little dismayed at the board's decision to include Kingsville in another accommodation review within a five year span, and yet, here we are again. That being said, I sincerely hope that we can come to a resolution that is mutually acceptable to both the School Board and the Town of Kingsville.

New schools have an air of excitement about them. A clean slate. We have the chance to have a

state of the art facility, a Super School, which would be fully accessible and equipped with the latest technologies available. Looking at the David Suzuki School in Windsor as a model, green initiatives have advanced significantly since that build. Let's face the facts folks, energy costs are going up. If we don't go green, we would literally be taking a step backward. What was once future technology is now here. Enhancing education will result in better student learning and ultimately better informed citizens.

The underlying question, which is the mantra of all those in real estate: Location, Location, Location. The current site of KDHS in my opinion is the ideal spot for a new build. It sits on a roughly 14 acre parcel with available land to the East and West. It is located along one of the main arteries in Kingsville, within walking distance to the downtown core and East end business district. Many students take advantage of the schools proximity to these

businesses during their lunch break. These places have come to rely on the lunch rush from the school. Many of those same students are employed by these local businesses and are fortunate enough to walk to their job or co-op placement within town.

Walkability is something that I think should be seriously considered when choosing a site. Many students choose active modes of transportation to get to and from school. In a world where obesity rates are climbing, kids today are more prone to be found playing video games inside rather than being active outside. By placing a school in a location that can realistically only be reached by bus, we would be doing these students a great disservice. In the words of John Butcher, founder of Walk 21, Walking is convenient, it needs no special equipment, is self-regulating and inherently safe. Walking is as natural as breathing. Walking is one of the first skills we learn, and one of the last we want to give up.

I realize that not everyone is fortunate enough to be within walking or cycling distance to school. But for those that are, please don't take that option away from them. We have a chance to build something great together. Something we can all be proud of. In the end, it's all about the children and giving them the opportunities we didn't have. Let's do this together.

Thank you

Melanie Paul Tanovich

Preserving schools in smaller communities
Melanie Paul Tanovich
May 12, 2015

Mr. Awender, respected members of the board and PARC committee, school families and community members.

We have a common goal: the well-being of our young people. We make it our priority on a daily basis to care for them. We instinctively want them to be healthy, safe, and content. We know that there is no better investment than our young people, our future, and this responsibility is a shared one.

It is our job to provide a favourable environment in which students can achieve their full potential. Providing an accessible place to learn is the most direct way to sustain a mutual well-being of student, family and community. This is worth every resource that it requires.

This is why schools that serve their community in their communities need to be preserved.

This is why support and funding must be directed to maintain existing community schools, not to “consolidate” students by drawing them out of their home environment. This results in major disruption to students, families, staff, administration and community development. If we have student well-being in mind ahead of all things, our discussions would be directed towards how we can minimize emotional risk factors for teens, providing for them the continuity they need to thrive academically and personally, rather than presenting them with the social and logistical challenges that come with adjusting to a new school.

We should also be supporting and promoting schools that one can walk, bike or take a short ride to, for the sake of student health and fitness, and the environment.

We should encourage schools to build a strong relationship with their community, to provide applied learning opportunities with community members, businesses, trades, and services; to provide special programming unique to the area, such as agriculture, tourism, conservation, and small business management; to teach practically about health care, accessibility, economic stability and civic responsibility.

By supporting a school in a community, the economy of the region is supported. At a time of economic struggle, sustaining a school means sustaining the economic development of its community. If there is nothing viable to attract the next generation, there is no growth. A school is the heartbeat and future of a community and it cannot thrive without it. Conversely, a strong local economy presents learning and employment opportunities to its young people.

Let us use our available resources to right-size our schools by renovating, making efficient use of existing space and exploring relationships with local stakeholders, rather than pulling students into “consolidated” schools that eventually end up over-crowded with portables, often in a location to which no student can walk and from which no local business could benefit.

We encourage our young people to be community-minded, environmentally responsible, economically stable, civically engaged, and lead a healthy lifestyle. What better way to teach these qualities, than by example. Let us allow for the growth that could happen if we invest in updating small-town schools, attracting more development and more families, hence more students to the area. Let us look at the potential for growth instead of inviting demise by accepting the decline. Schools in small communities are gems. If we preserve them they will become even more valuable and attract the attention they deserve. Let's fill these empty spaces. And let's start by providing the next generation with an example of confidence instead of resignation, to support their community, not desert it, and focus on what can be done, instead of what cannot be done. Valuable things cost money but when this money is invested, the returns are high.

At Queen's Park on Thursday, Education Minister Liz Sandals addressed her new Student Advisory Council of 60 young people from across the province. She stated "students want high-skills majors, co-op opportunities and to be connected to community". She identified 4 goals: well-being, public confidence, excellence and equity and highlighted that it was Children's Mental Health week. Our individual county schools are the ideal vehicles to realize these goals and ideas.

I am appealing to the PARC committee and the board to consider the following:

- keep the county high schools in this review open, and investigate potential solutions and funding opportunities, including case-specific school- and eco-grants
- apply for government consolidation funds creatively to renovate and right-size existing schools.
- explore community and business partnerships that would share the building space and cost of running the existing schools.
- appeal to various levels of government for their attention and support
- investigate valuable and unique programming opportunities, such as French, Life Skills, Skilled Trade training, Co-op and apprenticeships, Special Education, International Baccalaureate, Arts programmes
- explore creative programming options for students with special needs, including technical, culinary and vocational facilities, potentially at Western, Harrow, or in home schools

I am speaking particularly on behalf of Harrow High School and generally on behalf of all county schools in our board and in Ontario. I am involved in this cause because I love Harrow and its neighbouring towns, because I am a product of a Ontario country school myself, because I am a parent, an educator, and a small business owner, because it is healthy for students to go to school close to home, and because I believe that a positive solution for Essex County schools can serve as a precedent for other schools in small communities.

I know this solution will present itself. I hope due diligence is carried through to investigate all possibilities and consider the sentiments expressed by the school communities. I hope enough time is allowed to explore options that will lead toward the best outcome.

I am willing to help petition the board and province with a specific request and I know there are many others who would as well.

I thank you for your efforts in synthesizing a creative, viable, and considerate solution.



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

☒ Parent ☐ Teacher
☐ Community Member

for: Western Secondary

As a parent from Western, I am concerned that classes will be closed for new students to programs at Western if they do not choose 'Adaptive' courses. please keep options open for future students, new entrants to LACC programs at Western (or any new facility that would offer the programs)



Name: Priya Sivakumar
Address: Lasalle, ON



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

☐ Parent ☐ Teacher
☐ Community Member

for: _____

Transitioning the AB Program to the most western (geographically) high school in Essex County is inequitable for that vulnerable population. Were other locations (ie more centrally located) high schools considered?



Name: Erin Ray
Address: 12106 Ducharme Lane, McGowen

ON



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

☐ Parent ☐ Teacher

☒ Community Member

for:

Please ~~not~~ maintain schools over within the community along w the specific programming available in each school as well. Keep relations between the schools and community groups.

How could Harrow raise and help change the mental community in Windsor-Essex without the success of the Iron Hawk?



Name:

Address:

Janet Balsillie
Harrow

We believe with Harrow being the strong community it has been over many years, it can always make a positive difference in Windsor-Essex



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

☒ Graduate
☐ Parent ☐ Teacher
☐ Community Member

for: Western Secondary

Western has the lowest Repair Rate & is the only Special-Ed-Specialized School left in our area Why is it being moved in 2 out of 3 Scenarios?
Is money that important to you???



Name:

Kayla Beneteau

Address:

1095 Pelissier Windsor ONT

The scenarios have been formulated by the PARC committee. Parents and Community reps are the only voting members. These are the current scenarios based on the numerous committee, community and public input meetings.



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

☐ Parent ☐ Teacher
☒ Community Member

for: THE WHOLE COMMITTEE

IT WAS A DIFFICULT PROCESS TO GO THROUGH.
I CONGRATULATE THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS
ON THEIR LONG HOURS OF HARD WORK.



Name:

ANTHONY R. LEARDI

Address:

23 SANDWICH ST. SOUTH, AMHERSTBURG, NV 125



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

☐ Parent ☐ Teacher
☒ Community Member

for:

Keep community schools open!



Name:

Sydney Mannell

Address:

Harrow



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

for: HDHS

- ☒ Students
☐ Parent ☐ Teacher
☐ Community Member

I am currently a student at HDHS. I feel that Scenario 1 and 2 would be the best for students, teachers, and our communities. First of all, our school is not just a school, but a family. Our students would be greatly impacted by a transition to a new school. Personally speaking it would be a very negative emotional transition. Our students have grown up together and it would be devastating for us to split up and be exposed to a new environment. Secondly, our school is the heart of our town. If you close our school, not only students and staff would suffer, but the rest of our small developing town. We support many businesses on a daily basis and many community events.



Name: Maddie Peters, Madison Stapleton, Sarah Bonyai
Address: Madison Greives, Alex McKee, Madison Shepley, Kendra Wright



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

for:

- ☐ Parent ☐ Teacher
☒ Community Member

Keep programming and athletics just as high, if not more successful in the new review and accommodation of the schools.

Example: music, technology & french @ Hulton
Science & athletics @ Harrow



Name: Janelle Baskin
Address: Harrow

Tamara Whitney

From: Tamara Whitney
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2015 1:00 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: PARC notes

Hello, My name is Tammy Whitney, I am the Chair at Colchester North Public School. I came tonight for 2 reasons, the first is to Thank the committee for removing CNPS and Malden from the recommendations for the PARC. All of the parents and students of CNPS are very grateful to you for this.

The 2nd reason for coming, came from discussions with parents within our school. Everyone wanted to know what was happening with Western Secondary School. So, I am here to express our support of Western Secondary School and the importance of having this school within our community. I ran into a graduate of CNPS not long ago, he is currently attending Western and is in grade nine. This student always has a smile on his face and when asked he told me that he is really enjoying school and he is thinking that he would like to be a welder. He was with his grandmother at the time, she expressed her frustration with the idea that her grandson would have to go to another school and be integrated back into classes. She told me that her grandson has already said that if that is his only option then he will drop out. This is very disheartening.

Western Secondary School currently offers numerous technological courses that are in high demand within our community. The Government of Ontario is currently funding programs that will allow for additional training within the skilled trades areas some of which are already being taught at Western. This funding has been put into place because our area does not have enough skilled trades workers and the demand is projected to increase in the coming years. Therefore, if the school board is looking to make the right decision for the students and the community at large, it seems that the best choice would be to maintain Western Secondary School and expand the programming to include additional skilled trades.

Thank you for your time.

Many employers throughout Essex County are finding it difficult to secure enough skilled trade workers.

technological courses such as: Aesthetics and Cosmetology, Horticulture, Woodworking, Auto Service, Auto Body, Small Engines, Welding, Hospitality and Event Planning, Baking, and Food Preparation.



County of
Essex

Office of the Warden, County of Essex

Warden Tom Bain

May 12, 2015

(Email: director@publicboard.ca)

Ms. Erin Kelly,
Director of Education and Secretary of the Board
Greater Essex County District School Board

Dear Ms. Kelly:

Re: Public Accommodation Review Committee (PARC) in Essex-Windsor

Essex County Council, at its Wednesday, May 6, 2015 meeting, considered a request from the Town of Essex regarding delaying the Public Accommodation Review Committee report which is considering the closing of General Amherst High School, Kingsville District High School, Western Secondary School, Harrow District High School and Harrow Public School. After much discussion, the following resolution was adopted:

108-15 Moved by Mr. Meloche
Seconded by Mr. Paterson
WHEREAS the Greater Essex County District School Board has approved an accommodation review of General Amherst High School, Kingsville District High School, Western Secondary School, Harrow District High School and Harrow Public School, to address capacity issues;

AND WHEREAS, a Public Accommodation Review Committee has been established to review the capacity issues at these schools, listen to community input, review current and future enrolment trends, examine school boundaries/school information profiles/student programming and transportation and submit a report containing recommendations to the Director of Education;

AND WHEREAS the Premier of Ontario has established a Community Hub Framework Advisory Group and appointed Karen Pitre as Special Advisor along with Doug Reycraft, former President of AMO and Chair of the Community Schools Alliance,

whose responsibilities will be to review provincial policies and develop a framework for adapting existing public assets to become community hubs for such services as education, health care and social services.

AND WHEREAS some municipalities in the County of Essex are exploring partnerships to create community hubs as an alternative to the closing of schools;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that Essex County Council forward a letter to the Greater Essex County District School Board and copy the Premier of Ontario, minority party leaders, the Minister of Education, President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and Karen Pitre, requesting that any decisions on the PARC Report recommendations be deferred until municipalities have had an opportunity to undertake a complete analysis of the Community Hub Task Force report.

Regards,

Tom Bain

Originally Signed by Tom Bain
Warden – County of Essex

TB:sw

Attachment

cc: Honourable Kathleen O. Wynne, Premier of Ontario
Honourable Liz Sandals, Minister of Education (Email: minister.edu@ontario.ca)
Andrea Horvath, MPP – Hamilton Centre, Leader, New Democratic Party of Ontario (email: ahorvath-qp@ndp.on.ca)
Jim Wilson, MPP – Simcoe Grey, Leader, Official Opposition, Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario (Email: jim.wilson@pc.ola.org)
Mr. Gary McNamara, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (gmcnamara@tecumseh.ca)

Public Accommodation Review Committee (PARC) (Email:
parc@publicboard.ca)

Karen Pitre, Chair, Community Hub Framework Advisory Group

Stephen MacLauchlan

My name is Stephen Mac Lauchlan.

I am a former Western Student.

I learn by doing things.

At Western,

I cooked in a commercial kitchen

baked bread in a commercial bakery

built animal homes in wood shop

grew seedlings in the green house

drove a riding lawn mower in horticulture class

cut hair in Cosmetology

detailed a car in auto shop

spent time in the Snoezelen room

made hot lunches in room 114

and went to gym every day for 7 years.

Western gave me a chance to learn these things.

Future students deserve that too.

Cassidy Wood

①

Hi my name is Cassidy Wood and I am currently a grade ten student at Harrow District High School. I am one of the many students who would be affected by the closure of Harrow High School. If Harrow closes in 2016, I will be one of several students who would be going into grade 12 at the time if Harrow close.

When you go into grade 12 you should be walking down your school halls with confidence. It's your final year; you should be a familiar face to all of the students and teachers, you should know where every classroom is, your locker should still be next to the same person it has been since grade three, you should be able to try out for a team or run for prime minister and feel you can be a part of teams and clubs with the fellow students in your community that you have grown up with.

②

Imagine if all that changed, imagine going through the halls not knowing which way to turn looking for your homeroom. Looking for your locker number and not knowing who your locker buddy is. You don't know if you should run for Prime Minister because you don't know most of the students in your school and they don't know you. When you're a senior you are supposed to feel confident and excited but if you close down harrow high school, the Grade 12 students entering a different school will struggle in an unfamiliar setting in a crucial year.

Not only if you close down harrow, our grade twelve students are not going to have that great senior year experience but they won't get have as many opportunities. One of these opportunities is receiving a scholarship. Harrow High gives the most scholarships in all of Essex County. With the most scholarships harrow students have a greater chance of receiving a scholarship. University and college costs are increasing and having a scholarship is really important for students to assist with these cost.

ty. Sandra S.
won 80,000.
+ Scholarship

③

Another opportunity students would miss out of is being apart of sports teams and clubs. Sure you can still try out for these teams or be a part of any club but it won't be the same. An example is student council. There are many active student council members at Harrow High. If these grade twelve's who are on the council have to move they have a smaller chance of being elected for an executive position which they have been working towards for years now. Students do not deserve to feel like this.

④

If Harrow is shut down there is a possibility of losing some of our staff. Our amazing supporting staff members mean a lot to us. Academics are very important to grade twelve students because having high grades help you get accepted into universities and colleges. We could lose teachers who have been teaching us since we entered high school. They understand how we learn best and how we understand things and have been guiding us towards our future. Our guidance counselor understands each individual student and what type of programs or schools we want in the future and how to accomplish our goals. Losing teachers who understand us and who have grown to care about us over the years will only hurt us students in the end.

⑤

In conclusion, the closure of Harrow District High School is going to strongly impact students who will be going into grade twelve. Think back on to your senior year and all the amazing things you ~~had~~ accomplished and earned and how happy and confident you were. Now think about students who might not be able to do those incredible things because of our school that we have been attending for years ~~was~~ shut down. Your high school experience should be at one local, community school your entire life and you should be able to say you had that amazing high school experience in your home town. So why would you take that away for the students of Harrow High School. Thank you.

Lauren Abbott

My names Lauren Abbott, I'm a grade 11 student at Harrow District High School.

I have attended all of the meetings for the PARC recommendations, and I leave all these meetings with a sense of uncertainty, disappointment and fear. It's us the students who are at risk and I beg all of you to Please Help Save our Community Schools!!

This is where we spend most of our day, it's the place where we make friends, a place which contributes to the people we are to become. There has to be something we can come up with to save all these community schools; we just have to find it. The idea of a community hub has been talked about by our town council. These places do exist today, and we may benefit from something like this.

It's painful to hear, that any school is under review from the school board again, and especially for Harrow – reviewing two of our schools. I am concerned and wonder will these reviews ~~really~~ stop? Will students ever ~~feel~~ safe within our school board?

Harrow has just made some changes to help save our schools a few years ago, grade 7 and 8s were moved to the high school. These students were unable to graduate from the senior school moving on to the high school building. A sacrifice anyone would take to be able to stay within a community school..... Now not long after these changes, we are under review again. And how disappointing this is for everyone especially that same group. Now they may be unable to graduate from the high school they've attended for years.

I ask these committees to please consider the effects this will have on any student – being uprooted a few times throughout their education. School should be a place where there is a feeling of comfort and belonging. These situations are where we as students make our greatest achievements. These reviews continually put all students in a state of uncertainty. When will the school board stop these reviews, and especially on the same schools? When will they stop sacrificing the students emotionally? Its hard enough for kids to find a place of comfort, and now we must worry about our community schools.

I find there are so many advantages of a small school - I've been given ~~as~~ many opportunities. I'm a part of student council, many sports teams and clubs. I've been chosen for leadership conferences and camps; and recently chosen to be a student representative for town council. I've been given so many wonderful chances to grow here at a small school - many I'm sure may have not happened at a larger school.

I also believe bullying is less a problem at a small school - the students all know one another - we know each other personally - like an extended family!

Once again, I'm a student from Harrow High School; a student who feels the kids should not feel the negative effects on the boards' decision to cut costs.

I will leave you with a quote ^{from an unknown source} I ran across, and I feel this sums up how we all feel here today....

"Closing failing schools is like giving up on students - if we want to affect a positive change in our young people, we need to show them how to tackle tough situations" and that is without closing any doors!

Michael Abbott

Hi, I just want to introduce myself before I get started. I'm Michael Abbott and I am a grade 10 student at Harrow District High School. From my understanding these meetings are to discuss budgeting education funds, which may result in closing schools. I find this devastating to us the students. These negative effects may cause lack of interest in class, marks may go down; and the likelihood of student involvement declining.

I also think busing all of the kids to another community is not the best option. I myself am already on the bus ½ hour each way to and from school. Sending us out of town could easily double this. Having such long bus rides out of our community could also eliminate after school jobs. I currently work at Laser Art, which is right across the street from the High School. This gives me the ability to start working at 2:30. If I were bused out of town, I would first have to take the bus home which could easily be an hour; then I would have to get a ride to town – now I would not start work till at least 4 to 4:30. This means that my work day would go an extra 2 hours in the evening which leads to less time for homework or any extra curricular activities. It is already hard enough to balance work, school and extra curricular activities let alone adding more time to my day just for bussing.

Many will no longer have the opportunity to take part in ~~after school sports or clubs~~, because they may not be able to find a ride home after being sent to another school.

Also you must consider the added danger that these extra long bus rides will have in bad weather conditions. As you are trying to cut costs, please keep in mind our safety should be your number one concern.

Mr. Awender, do you remember when you were the principal at harrow junior school and you knew all the students, and their personal learning styles. That is what being in a small community school is all about. The staff know the

students and can help them better since they are a person not just a number. Instead of getting lost in a bigger school the teachers at small schools make sure no student gets left behind.

Rather than closing any of these schools, I ask that you *Find a way* to come up with a solution to keep all our schools open for the students of today and the students of tomorrow.

Matthew Broser

In grade 8, before finally deciding to attend HDHS, I considered a number of high schools outside ^{my} the immediate Harrow community. My three older brothers had gone to Harrow before me but of course ^{at that time} I was not convinced that a "small" school like HDHS was capable of getting me where I wanted to go. ~~All it took was a matter of days~~ ^{It wasn't long} before I realized that the experience a student gets at what people call a "small school" like Harrow's is far superior to what one would get at any other school.

It occurred to me that the things I thought would hold ^{me} back have not been a burden in anyway. The high school is obviously in close proximity to the homes of the students who attend it. Furthermore, HDHS has an incredibly supportive staff that looks out for their Hawks and goes above and beyond in giving us every opportunity when it comes to extra-curricular activities. Even with HDHS's relatively low student population, we enjoy a great turnout for every tryout and we enjoy even more athletic success later on in the sporting seasons. At Harrow High, we see to it that every student who is interested has the opportunity to explore extra-curricular activities. * The same goes for more than just athletics. For instance, what we lack in a musical arts program we more than make up for with the productions the Harrow Players have organized in the past. Every one who auditioned received a role - this isn't something common that I'd see at other ^{overpopulated} secondary schools. The working staff and guidance department have gone out of their way on many occasions to provide students with volunteer experiences - both enabling students to gain practical skills, fulfill community service requirements, and pay it forward by contributing to their community. I, like many other students, have been impacted in this way. I found my first part-time job thanks to our past principal, Mr. Berard, who made my placement at Hometown

* nobody denied chance to be involved

Family Pharmacy possible and now, even with my busy course schedule, Mrs. Canavagh and Mr. Johnson, are making sure I get the most out of that placement by putting me on track to achieve two more coop credits. I'm one of many students who have been helped by our staff. Many of us work just down the road from school at the Pharmacy, or Laserart or Timmies or *Sanford's* Naples or other local businesses. The Hawks have realized that their lives outside of school actually do revolve around the High School. The students of HDHS cannot be moved just to fill classrooms elsewhere. Taking away Harrow High takes away our opportunities to volunteer and give back to our community, participate in extra-curricular activities, and also takes away our school boards greatest asset; our staff (who can't necessarily follow the Hawks to a new school). Harrow High is a remarkable school but I can't imagine Harrow without it.