

TECUMSEH PARC
COMMUNITY INPUT COLLECTED VIA PARC MAILBOX
Up to June 12, 2013

Dear members,

As a parent of a child with special needs who has been shuffled from school to school since he was 5 years old, the possibility of having to change schools again is disconcerting. I truly hope that you strongly take into consideration that environmental change and re-adjustment is NOT an easy thing for a child who has a disability. I am hoping that I can advocate on behalf of all parents with special needs, by saying that children with such difficulties need to remain in a stable environment where change is not constantly introduced.

In my particular situation, I re-located my family more than 1100 km from here in order to have peace of mind and to have my child attend a school where such changes would not occur. I therefore ask that in the event of boundary changes, that you strongly consider that learning disabled children who often present anxiety and social adaptation issues, not be relocated to another school.

I thank you in advance.

Mother of William Bastouli (grade 3) at Lakeshore Discovery.

We moved to Windsor 2 years ago and purchased our house at 3138 Leisure Cres., Windsor, N8R0A2, specifically to ensure that we were in the French immersion boundary to be able to go to TVA. WE are closer to TVA than Forest Glade elementary school. We live literally on the border off of Banwell.

It is unreasonable that in less than 2 years this situation has arisen. We researched schools and it was a toss up between living in the area to go to TVA or Bellwoods in the South and we chose TVA.

We are obviously not in a position to sell our house and move to Tecumseh and my child will not be attending at Forest Glade so please advise what are the options?

Why can there not be a grandfather rule ie, those already there stay and you don't take any new students outside of the new boundary?

We will be attending the mtg on Monday but would really appreciate a response.

Thank you

Regards Ash

Sent from my iPad

Hi,

My name is Loretta Drover. I have a child who attends the Tecumseh vista academy French immersion program. His name is Joshua and he is 6 years old. He has been in the school for both JK and SK. TVA is the only school he has ever attended. He loves TVA and is always excited for school. My concern is with the proposed boundary change for TVA. We will now be outside the boundary in 2014. He is a very bright child but struggles sometimes socially. He becomes very nervous and exhibits anxiety when confronted with new social situations. He identifies all of his classmates as friends. Will he be able to attend TVA when this change comes into effect? I am very worried what this change will mean if he has to switch schools. This could be a major setback for his early development. If you could please let me know what this change means for us, or let me know if there is anyway we can continue with TVA, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank-you for your time.

A Very concerned parent

Loretta Drover

Dear School Board Administration, Tecumseh PARC committee members and School Board Trustees,

I appreciate having the opportunity to offer my input regarding the PARC recommendations for Tecumseh. I am a parent of two children who will be affected by the recommended boundary change for Tecumseh Vista. My children attend Vista in the French Immersion program and are currently in JK and Grade 2. My son who is in Grade 2 now, was moved to Vista from McCallum two years ago. He was very happy at McCallum and was reluctant to leave. However, with the promise of a new school, close by to our house which reduced his time on the bus by half, we were able to smooth it over and get him excited for his new school. He is a very shy boy and since he started at Vista he has blossomed both academically and socially. Both of my children love their school and they really feel like they are a part of the Vista Vortex family there. With that being said, I know that there are challenges with Vista busting at the seams and there is no easy answer. Without knowing all the specifics, I cannot offer any suggestions of my own and I know the committee has worked very hard to come up with this solution.

My concern is not really with Forest Glade School itself, I believe that the teachers and staff there will do everything possible to make it a wonderful place for the children to learn. But according to the numbers that were mentioned at the last community meeting, it seems that Forest Glade is nearly full already and with the addition of over 200 students from Vista, will put it in the same exact predicament that Vista is in now. There are several more streets planned in the East Riverside area, west of Clover. The street that they built just last spring is already filling up with houses. There is another street they built this spring which I'm sure will fill up over the summer. These are all potential students who would be directed to Forest Glade School for both the English and French track. My concern surrounds the children who are being moved again, to a third school with the probability of moving again in a couple years time. I can't even imagine telling my children after they get settled in at Forest Glade school and make new friends that they have to move again because the school has run out of room. They will never feel like they belong to any school community because they will always be facing the threat of moving to a new school every couple of years. This is not fair to the children. I feel like even though our intentions were good when we enrolled them in the French Immersion program, we might have done them more harm than good. It almost feels like they are being punished for being different. They need stability and to be able to feel like they are a part of their school family, not just a temporary visitor.

My hope is that you will look a little further into the future for these children. I hope there is some way you can keep these kids at Vista until we can figure out a more long term solution. That way they will only face one more disruption instead of two or three. Then they can settle in and get down to the business of learning. Thank you for listening to my thoughts and concerns.

Sincerely,
Cindy Seisun
Tecumseh Vista Parent

I would like to voice my concerns regarding the proposal of Forest Glade becoming a dual track school. My main concern with this proposal is capacity. Is there truly room at the school for a French Immersion program?

I currently have 2 children attending (one in SK and one in grade 2), with my 3rd starting JK in September. My oldest will be moving up to the main site in September, so I'm more familiar with the PLC site. That being said, is there room at the PLC to accommodate grades JK – 2 for a FI? Is there room at the main site? According to the numbers I've seen, the school seems to be running at almost capacity. Where is the FI program going to go? How is this going to affect the current students of Forest Glade school? I understand many parents are upset about a possible move, especially after having moved their children from McCallum to Vista, but has anyone considered the consequences of this move to the current Forest Glade students? Yes, there is room to add portables, but I don't agree with that solution for many reasons. The way the school is set up currently, grades JK – 2 are at the PLC and grades 3 -8 are at the main site. I think this set up creates a greater sense of community amongst the students, staff and parents. If a FI program is introduced to Forest Glade School and portables are added, who will be going into them? What will happen to the sense of community at each site? Will the students in the portables feel isolated from the rest of the school?

I have read many concerns about the continued growth of French Immersion programs, but has the growth of Forest Glade school, strictly on its own, been taken into account with this proposal? Will the school be able to handle the growth of both an English and French program? I fear the answer is no. And what will happen then? To all the students? It seems to me that this whole situation is being handled in an overly expedited manner, focusing on only fixing what is broken NOW with no thought or consideration for the future. Where is the harm in taking some more time to fully assess the situation and come up with a solution addressing both the short term and long term?

Sincerely,
K. Regehr
Forest Glade School Parent

Good Afternoon,

My daughter attends DM Eagle Public School and is currently in the Grade 1 program. We have two other children that will be starting school in 2014 and 2016 respectively and have some questions regarding the proposal for DM Eagle school. While I understand from the meetings that the current focus is primarily on Vista Academy, Victoria, AV Graham and Forest Glade, I would like to make our concerns for the future of DM Eagle viable as well.

There is a reason why DM Eagle is continuously at or over capacity and why parents choose to send their children to this school and not to one of the other two dual track schools within district. The teachers know every student by name, the principal answers the phone when available, the secretary is always available if the principal is not, please and thank you are required, cheering for and encouraging fellow classmates is mandatory ... love literally abounds from this school. This school allows the teachers, principal and all staff the opportunity to invest in every student, and every student feels invested in because of this. This is offered primarily because of the way the teachers and principal have chosen to administer education, with good old fashion values, manners and respect...and because the capacity of the school is low enough, the teachers are afforded the opportunity to instill these fundamental aspects of teaching and life.

While it is understood and appreciated the need for managing the overall budget, this area does not require yet another large dual track school in the middle of a farmer's field. We need schools in the community, we need children going to school with their neighbours, we need schools that offer children the opportunity to ride their bike safely to and from and not require a bus or car to drive them everyday, students deserve the opportunity to be on a team without having to be an elite athlete or gifted talent in competition with hundreds of classmates for the same few spots on a team or club. Most importantly, we need to offer teachers the opportunity to invest in each student because they know each student attending their school, by name. My daughter attended a large dual track school for two years, and while her teachers were beyond wonderful, the school as a whole was chaotic and invested in the masses and not individuals, not necessarily by choice, but by sheer need to manage a school with that many students. MANY core values were overlooked primarily because of the need to accommodate such a large number of children within the school.

The questions I have currently are:

- If "bums in seats" are what determine the money given to support the school, why can DM Eagle not be retrofitted to bring it up to technological and maintenance standards? Clearly this school has had the necessary population and is projected to continue to have the required capacity to be provided the dollars to support this. The school is over populated because parents want their children going to school in the community which they live. If there is to only be one "small school" left, let it be DM Eagle, and outfit it accordingly.
- What happens to these schools once they are vacated? Now there is potential for derelict buildings in the community.
- What is the approximate time line should DM Eagle be closed?

Has there been any support, other than budgetary, for the closure of DM Eagle (have parents expressed interest in closing the school to build a new dual track school or merge with AV Graham, or is this strictly a recommendation to accommodate budget requirements?)

Again, it is fully understood the need to meet budgetary requirements and it is encouraged to explore all options, but DM Eagle has, and will continue to have, the population to have money allotted to the necessary upgrades required to keep it where it is within the community and I firmly believe that should be considered

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Grondin.

Hello,

as a father of 2 children which are going to be affected by the proposed changes I can't help it being concerned with yet another impending move.

My children were moved from Percy P McCallum with the promise that this is it there will be no more moves, that my kids will be able to go through elementary school into high school and not worry about changing schools again...

Well we are facing another move and I just don't see how is this going to work. The board proposes to turn Forest Glade School into a dual track school and transfer over 250 children there, BUT According to one of the boards reports Forest Glade School is already running to 90 % capacity, where are those children transferred going to go-into portables? But it was argued that portables are not a solution for Tecumseh Vista Academy, why are they than a solution for Forest Glade School?

And how is dual truck exactly going to work in an open concept school, a school with no walls between classrooms, how are children going to be able to concentrate and learn when there will be instructions overheard in both English and French languages ?

And one more NEW thing for the next upcoming meeting- The Board now proposes to change boundaries for the High School students in Tecumseh Vista Academy, something that just came out, never mentioned before in previous communications

Just makes me wonder what other new proposals are going to be there?

What else will be coming next?

And how long my children will stay in the new school they are moved to?

Thank you for letting me share my concerns...

Luke

Just a father who would like the opportunity to plan what is best for his children

Ex Percy P McCallum Parent

Current TVA Parent

Future Parent of ???

Hi

My name is Agata and I am a very concerned parent of a 4 year old girl named Olivia who is registered to attend JK French Immersion in September. Hearing about the boundary changes is extremely frustrating as we purchased our home with the idea that our daughter would attend TVA. We are not in a position to relocate and sending Olivia to Forest Glade is NOT an option. I work for the Catholic School Board and I have worked in open concept schools and this is not a learning environment that we are comfortable with for our daughter. We do have an option of sending her to a Catholic French Immersion school and if she is not able to be grandfathered in then that is what we will have to do. It is completely unfair to the parents that have their kids already enrolled in the school or have even purchased their homes based on the boundaries hoping to send their children to TVA. I am completely frustrated with this and I am not sure what decision we should make. I don't want to send my daughter to JK to TVA for one year and then have to switch schools on her after she becomes comfortable in her environment, so what exactly do you suggest we do as parents??? Kids that are currently enrolled in TVA should without a doubt be grandfathered in.

From a very frustrated parent!!!!
