

Good Evening

My name is Linda and I am the parent of two children, Jake 9, grade 4, Jillian 7, grade 2 that go to HHPS.

I have started and stopped this delegation countless times as I do not what more to say that has not already been said, stated and submitted from our community.

I truly hope that the decision to close HHPS is not a predetermined decision and that you, the nine trustees, have been reading every submission, presentation and letters, and you will be making your decision based on that and not the 'business' aspect of it.

It should be noted, that not once during this whole process have I or any other parent been asked if my/our children are receiving an inadequate education due to the multi-grade classroom or have we been informed there ever was an issue.

There is a school in New Brunswick that has received an award for being a multi-grade classroom. Which is what HHPS is already doing. Instead of the board trying to make this such a negative, they should be celebrating it and showing the rest of the province and country how truly effective multi-grade classrooms are.

[<http://www.cbc.ca/beta/news/canada/new-brunswick/keswick-ridge-school-national-award-1.3996316>]<http://www.cbc.ca/beta/news/canada/new-brunswick/keswick-ridge-school-national-award-1.3996316>

1. In the final staff report, the board stated:

"Our research suggests that multi-grade classrooms are not ideal for learners"

Where is this research? It has not been provided to us, the parents, or was it provided to the ARC. The ARC submitted an appendix that stated multi-class rooms do work.

How will going to Glen Orchard, currently has 140 jk-gr8, or Tay Shores, that currently has 502 students from JK-gr 8, benefit our kids? Where is the research on that, benefits to children going from a small school to larger school. Our kids will always be seen as 'those kids from HHPS'.

How will increasing the amount of time they are on a bus help TLDSB 'feed all four' policy. The driving distance from HHPS to Tay Shores 28.9KM one way (not including pick up/drop off times for kids)

HHPS to Glen Orchard 55.0 KM one way (not including pick up/drop off times for kids) **this is going up south bay rd**

I called Tay Shores Public School on March 21, we would have to apply every year for 'out of area/board' for our kids to go there. Right now they only pick up at LCBO in Port Severn

What will happen if they get to their maximum number, do our HHPS kids then get push out? Where is the assurance that our kids will be secure in that school. Where is the assurance that they will have end of driveway pick up?

It should be stated again, that HHPS is doing what it was built to do. Educating our children in our community.

Linda Foster

2. In the final staff report, they stated:

"TLDSB Staff have worked with the Simcoe County District School Board and have confirmed with their staff that students could attend schools in either Coldwater or Victoria Harbour, with transportation provided to the students based on the applicable policies of the Simcoe County DSB"

For all the board talk of transparency, where are the minutes from these meetings? As per Larry Hope, if no decision has been made, then why would TLDSB be already speaking to SCDSB?

3. Why was the funding for the winter electives denied to HHPS this year? Every year the school has received the funding, as we do not have a gym.

5. Why is there such a push to close HHPS this year? Did TLDSB and the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District Scholl Board (SMCDSD) have meetings to close both schools in the same year?

We are asking you, the trustees to give this community a fighting chance to see what the long term effects are in closing one school, OLM is slated to close June 2017. You truly cannot be obtuse to the fact that closing two schools in a community will have short- and long-term damaging results.

I truly hope you do not vote to close this school but IF it does happen, then April 26 there needs to be grief counsellors at the school available to the children, the parents/guardians and the teachers.

This school is truly a beautiful, unique learning experience for my children, all our children and future children and you want to rip that away from us.

The teachers have always provided top education despite the board constantly cutting back prep time, resource and teacher time and removing the portable and not replacing it and cutting our winter elective funding. We have always received this funding as we do not have a gym and it is for consequently convenient that the year you want to close our school we don't get the funding.

The best thing for our children is to NOT close the school. Please let our children learn where they live.

Thank you