

## April 4, 2017 Special Board Meeting

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### PRESENTATIONS / DELEGATIONS TO THE BOARD

Please complete the following and submit to the Office of the Director of Education:

Date: March 27, 2017

Name: (First Name) Kathy (Last Name) Kay

Address: (Street) PO Box 352

(Town) Honey Harbour (Postal Code) P0E1E0

Phone: 7054275277 Email: kalekay@hotmail.com

Signature: 

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I wish to present as an individual  
Please provide a written submission of your presentation.

I wish to present as an individual representing a group  
One person representing a group or organization may speak.  
Please provide a written submission of your presentation.

Name of group: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please send this form and your written submission to Honey Harbour Public School or Glen Orchard Public School, or to Wendy Browne in the Director's Office:

Email: wendy.browne@tldsb.on.ca

Mail: Trillium Lakelands District School Board, P.O. Box 420, 300 County Road 36, K9V 4S4

Fax: 705-324-4323

For more information please contact Wendy Browne in the Director's Office at 1-888-526-5552 ext 22104.



Good evening – thank you for attending this Special Meeting of the Trustees in the matter of the potential closing of the HHPS.

Initially, I would like to read two quotes from the TLDSB website

***“Ontario's Public School Trustees - Kids Come First - VIDEO***

***Trustees are the members of Trillium Lakelands District School Board. They are your locally-elected representatives and are your community's advocate for public education. A trustee's role is to maintain a focus on student achievement and well-being and to participate in making full decisions that benefit all of Trillium Lakelands District School Board. A trustee is responsible for identifying the needs and priorities of their community and for ensuring these are turned into practical educational opportunities for students. Trustees are the most direct way for the community to express itself in our schools. They play an important role in preserving our democratic heritage.***

***Your school trustee is a member of a team. Only the team (the Board of Trustees), not the individual trustee, has the authority to make decisions or take any action. The school board must place all students first when making any decision. Your school trustee is a member of a team. Only the team (the Board of Trustees), not the individual trustee, has the authority to make decisions or take any action. The school board must place all students first when making any decision.” –***

**TRUSTEE WEB PAGE**

Quite a Statement – I could spend my allocated time pulling that statement apart, but suffice for me to say that I personally find it insulting – especially the part about the Trustees making ‘full decisions that benefit all of TLDSB’. And here I thought the Trustees represented the people – they are elected by the people and represented the people – I guess a School Board has a different interpretation on democracy!

Funny – there are 9 Trustees, and when I read their profiles, every one of them states – in various different ways - their 1<sup>st</sup> consideration is the kids! To date, I have yet to see any consideration at all for the kids.

Let's face it – it is all about the money – TLDSB receives \$4.2 million dollars annually from the Township of Georgian Bay; and they spend approximately \$600,000 to school our kids! Where does the rest of our money go??

TLDSB wants our money, NOT our kids! They say they are willing to work with Simcoe District School Board to ship our kids off to either Coldwater or Victoria Harbour, since it is too far to bus our kids to Glen Orchard – *“TLDSB Staff have worked with SCDSB and 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 Simcoe County DSB.”*

I have been told that in order for our kids to go to SMDSB, they have to apply annually to their school of choice, and if there is room, they will be accepted – what happens if there is no room or for some reason, they are not accepted?! Secondly, for bussing, as it stands now, our kids will have to be picked up in Port Severn – on the Severn side of the locks – how are they supposed to get there? The way I read this, this is definitely NOT putting our kids first!!!!

It looks to me as if TLDSB is washing its hands of educating our kids and basically telling us our kids will be in limbo? Also, it seems as if TLDSB is still planning to take our money and run.

And what about the letter from Minister of Education dated March 6, 2017 – I understand the School Board has chosen not to act on it and plans to continue with the Accommodation Review, rather than put a Moratorium on this potential closure until details from the letter can be interpreted and reviewed. As we all know, it's easier to close the door before the horse gets out, cuz once it's gone, you can't get it back! The School Board Trustees should be ashamed of themselves – assuming they have any feelings whatsoever – which I am beginning to doubt!

Then the School Board follows the 'process' and selects an Accommodation Review Committee – a thankless job for those participating and a screwed system at best. You ask these people to make recommendations regarding the HHPS and then shoot down their Recommendations with 'pat' answers – falling back on responses *“does not address concerns identified in the initial staff report.”*

If the School Board is not willing to listen to the Recommendations with an open mind, what is the point of the ARC? Or is it because the School Board has already made up its mind – at the time of initial staff report – and nothing anyone says matters, but you think it will make everyone feel better, giving them false hope that something recommended might really make a difference! **AND setting up the members of the ARC in a 'no win' situation, leaving those members with feelings of inadequacy and failure.**

Trustees, you have heard – or read, without receiving the benefit of the emotion, sincerity and honesty – since there is no requirement for you, the deciding body, to attend the public meetings – all the excellent delegations and presentations – on why our School should remain open, yet you still fall back on your 'initial staff report' which recommends closing HHPS - which no one in Honey Harbour accepts anyway.

In my opinion, in having an ARC, all the School Board has done is build up false hope and not addressed the real issues, these being the education, health, safety and welfare

of our kids! Remember, these are our kids, not yours – you exist to provide the best education available to our kids, and we know what is best for our kids, YOU DO NOT. You are administrators, and number crunchers, more concerned about ensuring you are on the Sunshine List than providing the our kids with what they want – their school in Honey Harbour.

Thank you

