

Tue, Feb 21, 2017
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HHPS would not technically, if it were an independent school from Glen-O, qualify for an accommodation review this year or in any of the past several years. If this were just a numbers game we would not be having this conversation; something else is afoot here.

It seems to me that even after adding the students from HHPS Glen-o will not meet the threshold numbers required for being removed from short-term future accommodation processes consideration and will be on the chopping block again, if not next year, than certainly the year after that. If HHPS were closed, and TLDSB proceeded with stage two of this accommodation and amalgamated Glen-o with bracebridge, the bus rides to bracebridge for HHPS students would be untenable; certainly a 2-2.5 hr bus ride one way for some would not be out of the realm of possibility. That being said it would make sense for TLDSB to hedge it's bets that most, if not all of HHPS children will choose to go elsewhere if not next year then certainly as soon as the stage two moves ahead. By closing the HHPS now, having most, if not all, of the students bussed to Simcoe Vic Harbour, makes for an optically more pleasing transition for TLDSB and allows them to make there case appear more palatable with stage two of this accommodation review process most likely to start next year. I believe this needs to be presented to them as a question that needs to be answered.

Also, with regards to the funding formula, There is great discussion around the 4million+ dollars generated by GB Township that is sent to the province. there seems to be some confusion around thinking that TLDSB is a full recipient of these funds. In fact, it is my understanding that the funds go to the province and are then distributed based on headcount throughout the entire province not just TLDSB. TLDSB's statement that simcoe does not receive money from the province for the students attending the high schools in simcoe makes no sense to me. I think we need a clarification on the funding formula currently used by the province. There needs to be a clear picture of where our money is going and how we can ensure that we obtain education representation for our taxation.

I think the board is being shifty at best around this process. I do not believe them when they state it is regarding a better education for our kids, where is their evidence that our children's education has been compromised in any way? None of what they are saying adds up. If HHPS is a satellite or "portable" of Glen-O it seems we need to be chopped first to allow them to manage the population crisis at our sister school. Can we petition the BOE to allow an exception for HHPS to obtain its own BOE number? I feel we should investigate this thoroughly as one of the possible solutions for going forward.