

Name Sara Fraser
E-mail burnsief@hotmail.com

My concern is that this whole accommodation review is about money and not about the children. To close both schools in a small community like Honey Harbour is a terrible decision. To expect children, like my 4 year old nephew (who was set to attend HHPS in the fall), to spend 3 hours on a bus each day to get school is completely ridiculous and unacceptable, especially with the weather conditions these areas experience each year. Would the members of the board like that for their children? I can bet they wouldn't. The fact is that enrollment at HHPS is up and there are enough families who need that school for their children. To even question the quality of education there is just the board grasping at straws. My brother and I attended HHPS from JK to Grade 8, we had a great education. I now have two post secondary degrees and currently work for the government. Tell me what is wrong with the quality of my education? The decision to close this school will be a significant blow to the community and will prevent families in the future to even consider moving to a community that doesn't even have an elementary school. Not to mention all of the jobs that will be affected. My mother, for example, who has worked for the school board for 20 years, is now faced with losing her job at the end of the school year. The best that can be offered to her is a similar position at Glen Orchard. For someone who works part time it seems a little ridiculous that she is expected to spend as much time commuting to and from work and she would at work. How is a single person supposed to make a living that way? She chose to work in a community that has a school, a local school, not one that is over an hour away. I don't think the board as a whole can even begin to realize the negative impact that this decision will have on the community, the employees, the families and most importantly the children. These children deserve to attend a school in their own community, close to their families, and most importantly, be able to focus on the amazing education they would receive at HHPS, which has been proven by so many children and now adults who have attended. I could write pages and pages more about my concerns with what is planned for these schools because it is so terribly upsetting to myself and my family for many reasons and it should not even be an option to flat out close these schools. But based on the outcome of all of the meetings that have already been held and the people that have already voiced their concerns, it doesn't seem like it will make much of an impact. We as a community can only try to make our voices heard and hope the board decides to choose what is best for the children and not what will make a profit for them.