

Accommodation Review Committee

PUBLIC INPUT FORM

Please indicate how you would like to provide input:

I wish to present as individual

Individuals may present to the ARC at one of the public input meetings listed above and are allotted up to 5 minutes to speak. Please provide a written summary of your presentation for the ARC.

I wish to present as an individual representing _____ group

One person representing a group or organization may speak for up to 10 minutes at one of the public input meetings listed above. Please provide a written summary of your presentation for the ARC.

I wish to submit my input in writing (please attach submission)

Individuals and organizations are welcome to submit input to the ARC in writing at any time throughout the process.

Topic: TLDSB Trustee Attendance
Name: Tracey Devine, EA
Telephone: (705)305-7482 Fax: _____
Email: t.devine@tldsbc.on.ca
Signature: Tracey Devine

Please send this Input Form and your written submission to Honey Harbour Public School or Glen Orchard Public School, or to Karen Franke in the Director's Office:

Fax: 705-324-4323

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

Email: karen.franke@tldsbc.on.ca

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

Dear TLDSB Accommodation Review Committee:

My name is Tracey Devine. I have worked as an Educational Assistant at Honey Harbour Public School since November of 2003.

I, along with all of my co-workers, and all of the children who attend our school, will be impacted directly by the closure of Honey Harbour Public School. I have given considerable thought to the entire process in the past few months, and have watched, rather helplessly, as our impending school closure decision looms closer.

I would like to would like to ask one important question regarding the Accommodation Review process of our school, and I hope that it can be addressed at the final public meeting on Feb. 21, 2017.

My question is regarding the final decision process. It is my understanding that the final decision to close our school, or to keep it open, will not be made by the TLDSB itself, but will in fact be decided by our TLDSB Trustees. After checking the TLDSB website, I have come to realize that there are a total of nine Trustees listed. So, this group of people, will, in effect, become the “jurors” in this case.

Usually, a juror is required to be present in the courtroom, during the entire trial, so that they can listen, first-hand, to both sides of a case. In this way, they are able to make an effective, informed decision. They directly see and feel the emotions, feel the impact, hear all facts from both parties. In this way, everyone can live with the final verdict, knowing that each juror made their final decision taking all presented information into account. Being a juror is an extremely important job....the outcome of their decision will change lives forever. It is a job not to be taken lightly.

So what I would like to know is, how many of TLDSB's Trustees have actually taken the time to attend one of our Public Meetings? According to my research, apparently only two Trustees....Louise Clodd and David Morrison. Where are the rest of our “jurors”??

How can they possibly make an effective, informed decision without ever having attended one of our important public meetings?? Furthermore, I question how many of the nine Trustees have actually ever visited the community of Honey Harbour? Have they ever made the drive to see what is here? More importantly, have they ever set foot in our beautiful and unique little “gem” of a school?? Have the other seven Trustees taken the time to come and talk with our school staff, or to chat with our incredible students?? To actually see us “in action”. Or have they talked with any of our children's parents....those who will be impacted by the closure of not only one, but both, elementary schools in their tiny community, in the same year??

After having dedicated the past 13 plus years to the students of Honey Harbour Public School, I feel that the “victim impact” statements are falling on deaf ears, and it makes me very sad to

think that such an important decision as this will be made in the next few weeks, by people who haven't felt the need or the desire to come and directly hear both sides. Are they afraid to come and have to meet up with our community members face to face? Are they afraid that it might make them have to actually weigh the pros and cons?

If I was asked to be a juror in a trial, I would surely make it my mission to gather all of the information I could, and I would actively seek out answers to any unanswered questions that I had. To do any less, would mean I didn't do my job to the best of my ability.

It's so much easier to just sit back, read some information in a report, and make a very non-personal decision from somewhere 200 km away.....away from the community they are potentially changing forever. Just a "normal day in the office" for them.

Personally, I feel it would be easier to accept either final outcome, closing HHPS or not closing HHPS, with the knowledge that at least all of those nine Trustees cared enough to sacrifice a bit of their time to come and see things here for themselves..

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my written thoughts.

Respectfully,

Tracey Devine, RECE
Educational Assistant