

Hi,

My name is Tracy Barber and I am a parent to Olivia Buston in Grade 9 at Loretto Abbey. My other daughter Emma is at CCAA in Grade 11. I chose the Catholic School Boards for my daughters as I feel it is a far superior education system, with values I want my girls to be learning in. However by saying that, I am disgusted in how the matter of a renovation and relocation of the Loretto Abbey students has been handled. If someone had not “ leaked “ this information out via social media no one would have been informed to “oppose “ it, exactly I’m sure what the Board wanted having it approved via the back door.

The parents should be consulted about the renovation and relocation. The students should have been told via their parents and not a bunch of hysterical students via snap chat! The parents should be informed of this BEFORE they registered for a 4 year high school education. We had many choices of where to send my daughter CCAA Lawrence Park, Havergal, Northern and Loretto Abbey. We choose the Abbey, for many reasons. The proximity to our home (literally steps away) allowing for her to come home at lunch and also in older grades being able to come home with spares.

Relocating the school to Keele and Wilson is ridiculous, it’s not even on a subway stop. Parents cannot drive there and it’s in my opinion not in the best of areas to relocate a bunch of girls to. Students / Parents are now left high and dry to find a new school as most of my daughters friends will be looking for new schools, therefore you will be breaking up friendships and bonds that have been formed, you have left it too late for private school admissions and most people do not want to go to their home schools because they are awful, which is why they applied out of district to a good school like the Abbey. The students are hysterical coming home crying thinking of their school changing friends changing and starting the high school experience over again.

It is possible to repair the heating and boiler in the summer, it is possible to renovate while closing off sections of the school (its done every day in malls, hospitals) the abbey has a large amount of space to bring in required portables to house the girls during renovation.

I feel that there is literally no thought process to how this was handled or communicated to anyone and I am disgusted by the Catholic School Board for allowing such upheaval, stress and anxiety in their students.

There will be a huge number of parents at the meeting on Thursday who are all so upset but this proposed relocation and we will do everything possible to stop it. Our children deserve better than this.

Tracy Barber