

I am writing to you to express significant concerns related to the potential temporary relocation of Loretto Abby Catholic High School. I am raising concerns about the process as well as the appropriateness of the proposed solution and I ask that my letter be submitted as communication for the meeting on Thursday.

The families at Loretto were blindsided this weekend by an unsubstantiated rumor that Loretto Abbey students were being relocated as of Sept. 2020 and that the trustees would be voting on a proposal this Thursday. Considering that the School and the Board have still not communicated anything to the parents at this writing (Tuesday 2 pm), it is difficult to see this as anything other than the School Board trying to ram through a proposal without any community input to the best solution to solve a long standing mechanical problem that they have been ignoring for years.

I do not believe that there has been due diligence preformed in making this decision, and certainly no transparency. The proposed temporary school is scheduled for demolition in 2022, making it likely that the current grade 9 - 10 Loretto girls will be relocated or dispersed once again in two years, as I believe it is extremely unlikely that a project of this scope could be completed in this amount of time. A second relocation is irresponsible and reckless to the mental health of these girls who are experiencing extreme anxiety about this sudden disruption.

It is my understanding that St. Edward Catholic School which is a feeder school to Loretto Abbey ( a school with historically over 90% of girls attending Loretto as their secondary school) has also not been informed of this issue. The Grade 8 parents are now filling out applications and making decisions for their children without having important information that will certainly impact their decisions. This seems like very underhanded behavior from the Catholic Board and I would expect better.

There needs to be information provided to the voting trustees and the community that assure us that all options were looked into and that data was collected and considered regarding location, demographics, timelines, and health & safety. Is there an architectural plan? Is there a construction plan and scope of work? Have contractors been asked to bid and on what? Has the viability of portables and sectioning the building been fully looked at? What is the cost associated with refurbishing the now empty school that is proposed for relocation? Is this a good use of tax dollars when the building will be torn down shortly to make way for a new school? All of these questions that have not had the opportunity to be asked

or answered are leaving the Loretto Abbey community with a deep distrust of this Board and this process.

As a result, I am requesting that this decision be deferred and that the Board be directed to provide a full assessment to the trustees which reflect the due diligence necessary to enable the trustees to make an informed decision about an issue that will have a significant impact to our school community.

Kindly,

Shannon Soro