

Good evening Trustees, Director Browne and Staff.

My name is Anna DiCredico-Moya, I am representing the CSPC And a proud parent of Madonna - my youngest daughter is graduating this year and my eldest daughter graduated in 2017 and is currently in university. - when I say that I am a proud parent I say that with honor and appreciation for what Madonna has done for both my girls. Staff have provided the students with excellent learning opportunities and experiences, both in academics and extra-curricular. Madonna has won awards in robotics - the Skills Ontario Mobile robotics Gold Medalists, the Skills Canada Mobile Robotics Silver Medalists and World, World Skills Team Canada Prospects - We also have won the Google for Doodle Competition, Leadership athletics, and much more despite the physical building shortfalls.

I am sure that you are aware that the government has committed more funding to school infrastructure over the past several years, which is great, but I must say that for myself and many in our community, these decisions weigh heavily on the Madonna community.

The reason that this was a shock to us is that our school, for the most part, the community feels like Madonna has been overlooked in terms of anyone advocating for its needs for example:

- 1) Registrations - To give you context: students who live in our feeder area, and should be coming to Madonna, literally pass us by everyday to go to other single schools farther away. This issue has become bigger and bigger every year as more and more students are accepted at other schools and we have to continue to work hard to ensure our grade 9 registrations remain at a certain amount.
- 2) We have been advocating to our school Board for years for upgrades, and we receive platitudes, which have been accepted but doesn't change the needs of our school. In fact, both myself and the whole parent council participated in a full walk-through with Senior Capital and Facilities Staff as well as the Director of Education in 2016 to show the needs of the building.
- 3) As the previous delegation mentioned, we have been advocating for years for a simple field renewal.

Can we control how students choose their high school -no, and we know that there are many perceptions as to why one school is chosen over us, but, with new 24 million dollar funding (that is quite a chunk of change) and a new school, the reality is that we will not be able to compete with a new building there, also a new building at St. Joseph Morrow Park (another closest all girl school that just opened) and not to mention that all the high schools in the area that can welcome girls have newer buildings (JCM/St. Basil's/Dante will be soon).

Our work to ensure that Madonna remains a vibrant part of the community will be that much harder, and worries many of us about our future. We are a welcoming and inclusive high school with teachers who care about the girls' success. There is an opportunity with the new condos and development going up in Downsview Park that our enrollment will go up.

There has been more funding allocated, so as an initial conversation I put it to you that it is time we are treated equitably like all the other schools in the area and receive funding to improve our building.

We have been told that Madonna is a hidden gem, if we are a gem then we hope that we are diamonds, then in that case we would like to shine as diamonds do!