

Good evening everyone and thank for this opportunity to address you all this evening.

I have been active in the St Norbert school community for more than a decade. My husband was born and raised in this neighbourhood for over 49 years, he attended this school and our three children have attended St. Norbert, we have one intermediate son left in this school. My daughter attends Loretto Abbey and my son attends Chaminade College School.

I am here to address the renewal budget. We found out about it on Monday night when our trustee informed us at a parent council meeting. I am here to address two safety issues. Security cameras and mulch on the school grounds.

Schools use many tools to ensure a safe environment for students and staff alike. One vital part to keeping our children safe at St. Norbert's are to install security cameras.

At any given moment something could happen, and Cameras ensure that the school grounds can be monitored consistently and effectively. Not only do school security cameras discourage violence or intrusions, but they also act as a deterrent. If someone was to carry out a crime, the cameras record it all.

The goal for our school cameras would be to

- Help deter crime, bullying, and school violence on school grounds
- Discourages vandalism and trespassing
- Easy to monitor
- Greatly aids in gathering evidence in the event of an incident

Our neighbourhood has been changing, more and more development, many cannabis stores, so called spas and questionable businesses are more the norm than not on Wilson Avenue.

Our children's safety is of the utmost importance and at times we fear for the dangers in our community.

Over the past two years some unsafe situations have increased. Security cameras would assist us in keeping our children as safe as possible.

A few situations that have arisen are the following, like many communities we have a cannabis store in walking distance, not just one but 3; we have a CAMH

temporary housing unit a few blocks from the school and this brings many individuals who are struggling with mental health issues who walk in and around our school yard on a daily basis; we have had several incidents where large dogs have been off leashes and have attempted to run into our school yard where the dog was blocked by students and staff. We have had and have a mentally unstable woman one block away from our school who is taking pictures and recording our children to the point where police have been called on several occasions and the principal has had to watch our children to ensure their safety.

At times staff do not permit the children outside to play -we abut a large city park- this is a shame especially since we are in the middle of a pandemic and we know that kids need the outdoors now more than ever.

We have had many youths gathering outside the rear doors at night and have seen needles, alcoholic bottles, and used condoms. Broken glass has been found on the school grounds; we have tree stumps that are supposed to be used for sitting but they have been removed and/or tossed around.

There was an incident at the so called spa, where a person randomly walked in and attacked with a machete. All this just blocks away from our children.

We had a parent enter the rear doors and approach two young children for them to notify their teachers that she should not be in the school but was able to enter with no detection. As a result, our school was placed in lock down. Thankfully it was not serious.

We as a Parent Council want to be proactive and not reactive, I could not imagine anyone refusing to assist our school community and keeping them safe.

Furthermore I understand the installations of cameras may not be carried out immediately and my son may not be a student when the cameras are installed but I still feel passionate that it is important to advocate on behalf of our current school community and growing school community.

Our community is only getting larger with all the development occurring, I am fearful that if we do not add this safety component to our school the results could be detrimental to some and then can not be reversed. I am pleading for your compassion and support to ensure that another step for the safety of our children will be approved this evening.

Furthermore, I would like to address the immediate danger and hazard of missing mulch in our school yard. It is a tripping hazard for both children at play and staff.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to a favourable response.

Teresa Colonna
St. Norbert CSPC Secretary
