

St. Catherine Catholic School Boundary Review.

Good afternoon members of the committee, and thank you for the opportunity to speak.

My name is Adam Ayliffe. I am the parent of two daughters who graduated from St. Catherine's, as well as being a member of the parent council during their tenure at the school, as well as living within a five min walk to the school.

When the current parent council reached out to me asking if I could say a few words, I of course immediately said yes.

St. Catherine's has a special place in my heart. Not just for the fact that it is so close, and my children could walk to the school, but how during my time on the parent council when the board was in the midst of the ARC review, how much having a smaller local school means to the students and especially at the elementary school age, the importance of everyone knowing one another, so that the issues of bullying, either in person or online, are resolved quickly. When the principle and teachers know the names of every student in every grade.

Every parent wants their child to do well, do thrive, have the support and mentoring to prepare them, and in this day and age that is more important than ever. These are the intangibles that cannot be shown on a balance sheet, on a policy document.

As the current parent council makes the point of enrollment and new students come from the new boundaries proposed. Does that not make yet another point of how much St. Catharine's ensure that not just the curriculum is taught, but that it is a school that attracts students due to its small size.

There are of course the other tangibles, which the current parent council's presentation illustrates. Such as school bus routes that already extend into the area in question, no impact on other school's enrolment, which are very, very valid points. I remember when our parent council presented during the ARC review, and how the council understood the importance of a smaller local school to thrive. I can only hope that same thinking prevails today.

As a parent of two children that were students, member of the community, I thank you for your time.