

Good afternoon,

On behalf of myself and my wife Anne, we wish to strongly support the interim report and the status quo boundary for St. Gregory. We are located at 297 Burnhamthorpe Road, on the southeastern edge of the area which would have been transferred to Nativity of Our Lord, 3.3 km away. Nativity is the 5th furthest Catholic elementary school from us. We are parents of a 21 month old who would be protected from the proposed boundary change.

### **Why We Oppose the Boundary Change**

Our family's position is that the proposed boundary is unreasonable and unfair to us, for the following reasons:

1. The long distance and highway crossing from our location to Nativity of Our Lord will make it impractical and unsafe for our children to walk or bicycle to school.
2. We are located within the parish boundary for Our Lady of Peace, although St. Gregory is also a practical solution for us. We have no connection with Nativity of Our Lord parish and would never attend it.
3. Our children would be forced to attend a school unrelated to our neighbourhood or parish. This could potentially lead to them being excluded by other children and even bullied.
4. The proposed location would result in a lengthy school bus ride for our children, even while kindergarten aged. Combined with full day kindergarten, this will result in a deeply exhausting experience for our children at a very small age.
5. The proposed location would be very inconvenient for working parents like ourselves to drive and drop off children, and would represent an obstacle to Anna's return to the workforce.
6. The proposed location would make it difficult or impossible for our children to participate in extracurricular activities.
7. Our children will be unfairly singled out for removal from their community and a lengthy, unsafe commute. We do not deserve a vastly inferior educational experience to most other Catholic parents in Etobicoke and Toronto.

8. Although French immersion at Our Lady of Peace is an option, we would expect that a very high percentage of local residents would attempt to place their children in French immersion at Our Lady of Peace. This will lead to increased demand and crowding at Our Lady of Peace.

9. Although the Mimico Creek is allegedly a natural boundary for St. Gregory, it is not a major physical obstacle to us. Highway 427 is a real and dangerous barrier.

### **Exclusionary Behaviour at St. Gregory**

We are also concerned at the exclusionary behaviour and rhetoric of some parents at St. Gregory, and believe that this is inappropriate for a Catholic elementary school that represents the community. We note that a website giving the impression of a private school has been set up that tracks enrollment at the school, giving the impression the school is overcrowded. We also question whether the parent council exercises an inappropriate level of control over discretionary funding of approximately \$60,000 per year, based on our review of the parent council minutes and budget.

Yours truly,

Andrew and Anna Zur