

Dear TCDSB,

My name is Joanna Whittaker and I currently live off of West Deane Park at Rathburn & Martin Grove, which is in the area that the Board is considering removing from the St. Gregory catchment. **I oppose the proposed removal.**

I'm writing to you today because I am unable to attend the public meeting at the Catholic Education Centre to let you know about my extreme disappointment and anger upon hearing of a proposal to change the elementary school boundary for St. Gregory's at Rathburn & Kipling.

When I heard this proposal was being considered, I was devastated. We bought our house in 2015 based on the understanding that our children would attend St. Gregory's. Both of my sons were baptized in St. Gregory Parish and we have been regular parishioners at the church since moving to the area.

My family and I are currently active members of St. Gregory's parish. It wouldn't make sense to attend St. Gregory Parish with my children but then send them to a different school.

How could it possibly be safe for my children, once they are old enough, to cross the 427 bridge to go to school when they want to ride their bikes?

How does the TCDSB expect children from east of Highway 427 to get to and from a school that is west of Highway 427 when there are no safe crosswalks on the bridge?

We have established our roots within the St. Gregory community and we are so happy there. We moved to this area so we can send our children to St. Gregory elementary school. We want our children to attend St. Gregory elementary school and attend weekly mass at St. Gregory Parish.

Please consider alternative solutions such as:

- stricter rules regarding registering and proof of living within the area so that out of boundary children don't displace neighbourhood children
- creating portables or
- building a new school.

If this change is approved, you will see a lot of families upset by this and parents who were intending on financially supporting the Catholic school board will instead enrol their children in public or private school systems. I would likely be one of those parents.

o I do not want my community to be removed from the St. Gregory elementary school boundary.

o Please oppose this boundary change proposal and keep status quo

Joanna Whittaker, CPA, CMA