

Dear Board of Trustees,

I am unable to attend the final meeting but would like to send in my final comments regarding the boundary review of St. Gregory.

According to page 70 of the board report it states that consensus could not be reached for the following reasons:

- **bussing across major highways was not acceptable.**
- **moving special needs programs was perceived to be detrimental and disruptive to students.**
- **opportunity for a new school in the area requires exploration and would be a better solution to the enrolment pressures.**

I will comment on each of these excellent reasons why this boundary change should not take place.

First, bussing across major hiways is not an acceptable solution to this issue. Considering all of the issues this board and many others have had this school year the bus may not always be reliable. As students remain in their elementary school for 10 years, not being able to independently get to and from school safely while walking or biking is unacceptable. This would result in students not being able to learn independence and responsibility. I know myself, as an adult, I will never cross that bridge again after my one and only experience as mentioned in my March 9 submission. Also, even if the boundaries do change this will result in an overcapacity issue in ALL schools and yes, portables will be coming to St. Gregory's as a result of this regardless of boundary change. What we need is a long term solution to the overcapacity issues in Etobicoke.

Second, I am not sure why this comment "moving special needs programs was perceived to be detrimental and disruptive to students" is in the report if it was not considered. There has been many miscommunications throughout this process and if at any point this was considered, this is absolutely unacceptable as well.

Also, people plan out school districts when deciding where to purchase their home. This is one of the most important decisions a parent can make. I know this is the reason why I purchased my home. I am not at all worried about property value as I and many others are in our forever homes and are not planning on selling and moving elsewhere. The reason why so many people are involved is because this is

the safety of our children. Media has commented on the problem with the boundary review. When I have spoken with anyone who is not involved in this situation I always hear the same reaction to this boundary review. How can a board even consider redirecting children over a major hiway to get to school without any planning to make it safe for them to do so?

A possible short term solution to the overcapacity issues could be to send all new out of boundary students in the extended French program to Nativity as this school offers the same program. Enrolling in special programs already means that students will have to attend a school that is not in their catchment. Since both Nativity and St. Gregory offers this special program this seems like a viable and safe option.

In the previous meeting on March 30th, it was stated that changing the boundaries would only be a “band aid” solution, as what we really need is a new school to alleviate all schools in the area. Please consider the safety of our children.

Thank you all for your time.

Melissa Giglio