

9 November 2017

Dear TCDSB Director Rory McGuckin; Chair of the Board Angela Kennedy, and Board of Trustees:

I am writing this letter to request that you place an immediate moratorium on school closures in Scarborough based on Ministry of Education memorandum B09 that indicates that the PARG/CPPG review process is undergoing an overhaul as directed by the Ministry.

I would like to request that you keep St. Gabriel Lalemant Catholic School open.

Schools are the heart of our communities. Apart from the vital education that children need in close proximity to their homes, schools bring families and neighbours together, provide community city services and represent the strength and the social bonds of our neighbourhoods. The impact of school closures on communities is enormous and at times devastating.

St. Gabriel Lalemant for example, is at 69 per cent capacity now which demonstrates a healthy number of students and a vibrant surrounding community with many families. However, the school utilization has been reduced from 91 per cent two years ago, since the school closure process began. The process itself is causing schools to lose students because it puts the future of the school in question.

By placing an immediate moratorium on the school closure process, you will stop the uncertainty in the minds of the parents, guardians and students about the future of their schools that leads to a decline in enrollment, and allow time for the schools to rebuild and motivate the community to grow.

Therefore I ask that you choose the option provided by the Ministry of Education 2017: B09 memorandum to halt the Pupil Accommodation Reviews underway and allow the school communities to provide input to the Ministry's call for feedback to the new Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline (PARG) and the Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline (CPPG).

If the provincial government recognizes that the Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR) process for all school boards *"requires an overhaul"*, and the Ministry of Education is beginning the process of revising its PARG to "promote inclusion of community impact alongside the focus on student achievement and well-being", then now is the time to stop any more school closures in Scarborough.

I understand that the Ministry of Education is revising its Community Planning and Partnerships Guidelines (CPPG) to "encourage joint responsibility for integrated community planning, with a focus on communication between school boards, municipal governments and community partners." Therefore, I look forward to working with the TCDSB on this matter.

Sincerely,



Councillor Neethan Shan
Scarborough-Rouge River
Ward 42