



Downtown Dundas

Business Improvement Area

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Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
100 Main Street West
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Hamilton, Ontario, L8N 3L1

**Attention: Tracey McKillop,
Secondary Accommodation
Review Committee-West**

To Whom It May Concern:

Over the past 50 years our downtown businesses, churches, junior schools, high schools (specifically Parkside), the arts and historical components of our town and Dundas residents in the older area of town have been an integral part of the success of the former Town of Dundas and the present Community of Dundas...all working hand-in-hand providing a healthy community in which we live, work and play. We the Downtown Dundas Business Improvement Area have serious concerns with regards to the potential closure of Parkside High School and the overall effect it will have on our tight-knit community.

Parkside High School has been part of our community for over 50 years and has contributed much to it. At the present time there are approximately 700 students registered. Assuming that they all have parents involved in school activities we are talking about 2100 people directly involved, not including siblings, grandparents, aunts & uncles. There are 22 extra-curricular clubs, 21 athletic groups, eight award winning bands, a choir and a strong drama program. Most of their activities take place after regular school hours and after the school busses have completed their daily routes, reflecting huge numbers of people that regularly drive through our town to drop off and pick up students in these programs. In doing so, much time is spent in our downtown, either visiting businesses, the library or taking classes at the Dundas Valley School of Art.

We, as commercial taxpayers have 36% of our taxes directed to our Board of Education. Residential taxpayers have 15.6% of their total taxes directed to the Board of Education. As commercial entities, we pay 2.3 times more taxes towards education than residential taxpayers do. In our specific community, there are over 100 commercial businesses within a 2.5 km. distance of Parkside High School, and as such, the effects of this school's potential closure on our commercial area's economic development is considerable. To date, no one in our organization has been contacted by the Board of Education with regards to this matter, and we fear that without looking at a much larger picture, over a much longer time frame, our community as we know it, may be in jeopardy.

The impact of this school's potential closure will have a long lasting effect on our community, and we respectfully request the Board of Education take more time to investigate, and consider not only their budgets, but the effects this potential closure will have on our community as a whole, and work towards finding a satisfactory resolution that will benefit all.

Regards

Phyllis Kraemer
President,
Downtown Dundas Business Improvement Area

cc: Councillor Russ Powers
BIA, Board of Management
Arlene Vanderbeek, Administrative Assistant

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