

Good Morning Tracy

My husband and I have become increasingly concerned over the future of Ancaster High School. Very briefly I would like to explain that we chose to move to this area after researching the offerings of all the high schools in the Hamilton area. We firmly believe that a rounded education comes not only from classroom time but extracurricular activities which the present Ancaster High had to offer. It is of no coincidence that we meet so many parents and teachers who return to Ancaster High as it is truly a community high school, it is now also being referred to with some despair.

What disturbs us is that the review seems to be focusing on the provision of an entirely new high school with all modern amenities to Dundas, Westdale has already had money poured into and therefore will not be touch but Ancaster High is being totally devoid of any consideration. The existing building is antiquated. The classrooms and labs are antiquated. If one wing of the existing building is demolished how are we to be ensured that the remaining portion of the high school is considered for renovation and the school appears in a magnitude of renovation needs. Also, it has always been proven that renovation costs eventually far exceed the costs of building from new.

High schools now have their students grouped together whether it is sports, sciences or practical hands on learning but schools cannot exist only on a select grouping of orientated specialties, it needs to provide excellence in academics as well as athletics. In all reality Ancaster High has been at the end of an old era for a long time and needs desperately to be brought into the 21st century. It is no where near that. If the Board leaves Ancaster High in the condition it is, it is failing the community and the students it is meant to be providing for, it is ensuring that the students are to be "left behind". The Board is meant to be providing the best opportunities out there to succeed but in this situation it is not providing these students with the tools to compete.

It does not take much foresight to see that there will be a continual increasing withdrawal of students into the modern catholic high schools or even to a brand new school in the Dundas area that can provide the better opportunities that would be available there. If a new high school is built on the grounds of the existing Ancaster High, providing those required modern and diversified opportunities, one can plainly see that it would be top choice to have a child enrolled at this high school and will more than likely draw those that see Bishop Tonnos as the only alternative.

Yours truly

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