

Correspondence  
North ARC  
Meeting of March 22, 2011

Received by email

Good Morning Ms. Vanderbeek, Mr. Merulla, copied to the Hamilton  
Wentworth Heritage Association,

My name is Christine Buswell, and I am wondering if I can obtain some  
clarification regarding the proposed closure of Delta High school.  
Should this decision pass, are their plans to tear down the building,  
or will their be a re-appropriation proposal? Please let me know, as  
I am a concerned Hamiltonian who would like to obtain further  
information. Thank you in advance, and I look forward to a response.

Best Regards,

Christine Buswell

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Received by email

If Delta closes in 2013, were are the approximatley 850\* students supposed to go?  
Wouldn't it make sense to combine Delta and Parkview so that it amounts to the  
population of other schools?

Blaze Forgie

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Received by email

Hi!

I think back to the days when we opened several Vocational High Schools and I'm amazed  
that the Board is seriously thinking of closing the only one left, i.e. Parkview.

Should this happen, I hope the Board moves the program to the remaining secondary  
schools. This will cost plenty! Today, the need is still there for many students who cannot  
handle a regular secondary school program, just as it was in the early 50s.

I am amazed at the number of former students who stop me on the street or in the stores  
to thank us for the programs we offered back then . Without the dedication of the  
teachers and the practical programs offered at the Vocational Schools they would never  
have been as successful as they are today.

Should Parkview and the programs offered there be shut down, shame on the Hamilton-  
Wentworth District School Board!

Don Werner

Since Mountain and Parkview are system schools should they actually be in the arc process? Would we not do a better service to our vocational/special ed students and future students to these to fine schools if we grouped Mountain and Parkview together and come up with how we could provide a new modern facility that serves our students? I know there is a terms of reference, but even the information from both the north and south arc doesn't really benefit these two schools. Daniel and I had this discussion in our working group on Parkview. Because technically the closet school to Parkview if you closed it is Mountain and vice versa, since they are system schools and offer a more unique track of programing and have more of a unique student body.

I feel we are doing the students of Mountain and Parkview a disservice by recommending(I know its only at recommendation at this point) their schools for closure, but the Board has worked so hard over the past years to engage these students for them become susscessful and we have heard the testimonies on how larger is way to much intimidiating to these students, it seems the board is about to scrap alot of excellent work that it has laid to make sure these schools turnout successful students.

I don't know maybe we are looking at this all wrong, instead of increasing our high schools(since we are learning that 21st learner will be much different) maybe we should be looking at closing larger high schools and building more intimate ones that don't go over a 1,000.

Case in point our friends at the other board have mega schools that students are jammed into, and is seeing increase suspensions and this is among females, the root of these suspensions are based on bullying, yet the public board our suspensions have decreased, the majority of our schools are not maxed out as our statistics have shown. If we do make sure our schools are at capacity ie Churchill, Glendale(just using these as an example) are we increasing the chances for more suspensions through bullying? I listened to the testimony of the one Parkview student(and yes I remeber his name)but these kids are fearful into going into a larger setting for the fear of being bullying, and you know something I feel we may have staff working at these two schools for the same reason they fear they may be intimidiated in a larger setting.

This is all just food for thought.

Sincerely,  
Grant Thomas

## **Letter to ARC NORTH from Community Planning Teams**

On behalf of the South Sherman, Crown Point, and McQuesten Community Planning Teams we would like to thank you for your recent invitation to the community to participate in the Accommodation Review Committee process. We are well aware that this is a complicated process that requires some very tough decisions to be made. We are also aware of the pressures that the Ministry of Education funding formula places upon local school boards and your need to accommodate students and families across the City of Hamilton.

We are certain that as a vital member of the Hamilton community you are committed to co-creating a unique solution that best meets the needs of the community of Hamilton. This is exemplified in your commitment to Making Hamilton the Best Place to Raise a Child. Your leadership in implementing the Ministry's policy regarding community use of schools speak to your commitment to the vital importance of schools to the fabric of high risk neighbourhoods and attests to your vision of the integral role schools play in our community.

During this difficult decision-making process we were wondering if it would be helpful to reflect on the work currently being undertaken by several Hamilton community leaders that may help inform your difficult decision. These include but are not limited to:

Terry Cooke, President and CEO; Hamilton Community Foundation

Matt Goodman Vice President Grants and Community Initiatives; Hamilton Community Foundation

Paul Johnson Director, Neighbourhood Development Strategies, City of Hamilton.

Tom Cooper – Director, Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction

Christine Lee Morrison, Manager, Nodes and Corridors Planning, City of Hamilton

Jill Stevens, Director of Rapid Transit, City of Hamilton

These people and the organizations that they represent have been actively engaged in assembling research and experiences from across North America about the revitalization of urban neighbourhood's and the importance of integrating local schools within a high risk neighbourhood. All are more than willing to share their knowledge with you.

We are looking forward to the May meeting when we may have the opportunity to hear your views on how this reflection of this work currently being undertaken has informed the Accommodation Review Committee's decision-making process.

Would it be possible to hold the next public meeting on Tuesday May 3rd at Delta Secondary, as it is a more central location within the Accommodation Review Committee – North area?

We look forward to your reply. Please do not hesitate to contact Steve Calverley at [steve.calverley@gmail.com](mailto:steve.calverley@gmail.com).