

**Correspondence
South ARC**

(sent by email)

Hello,

I would like to thank the committee for their efforts and giving the communities an opportunity for input.

I sincerely hope that the decision to close Sherwood has not been made and that the committee will consider the comments from the meeting last night.

My husband and I were at the meeting, we didn't get a chance to speak.

I would like to thank the chair, Scott Sincerbox(spelling?) for his competent facilitating of the meeting.

We live on Woodside Dr., which is down the street from Sherwood.

This is a beautiful community and a beautiful property that Sherwood sits on.

The property is very large and bodes well for traffic during school hours and space for the students and community.

We have one son that has graduated from Sherwood and is continuing his education.

We have one daughter in grade 10 at Sherwood.

We have one daughter attending Highview Elementary in grade 6.

Our family agrees with many of the comments last evening.

I would like the committee to consider the following:

1. I wish I would have brought my young daughter last night. This is all about the kids...and I would like you to see her young face and tell her that she will be attending 2 or possibly 3 high schools during her secondary school education. If you saw these kids and told them that, there's no way you would move forward with this current proposed plan. You can't do this to kids, can you? Do you really want to be responsible for putting them through this stress/trauma of attending 2 or 3 schools during their high school years?
2. The proposed plan has Sherwood closing in 2013, Barton closing in 2015. We may

or may not get a new school. This is a "pie in the sky" school.

If this new school doesn't open or doesn't open on time, my child is "stuck" at Barton. I'm sorry to be blunt...but Barton is a dump. Sherwood is lovely in comparison. I will not allow her to go to Barton. Totally different community/culture than we have here at Sherwood. An option I would consider is a catholic school.

I never thought I'd be faced with a decision like this.

3. I would ask the community to thoughtfully consider closing BARTON first in 2013, then if you get the funding for this new school that may or may not happen in a timely manner, deal with Sherwood's future at that point.

Thank you again for your efforts and I hope and pray that you will save Sherwood. You heard the outcry of support last night. Walk our streets, walk the halls of the feeder schools, this community cannot lose Sherwood. Please, please think of the kids and taxpayers in this community.

Respectfully submitted,

Bev and Mike Russ

31 Woodside Drive

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Hannah Langille has sent the message below by email

Dear Hamilton Wentworth Distric School Board, I am very dissapointed in why Sherwood Secondary School is closing down, I live about 5 minutes away from The school and I do not want to walk all the way to Hill Park, Westmount or Barton. I know children need to excercize but I live in the community of Sherwood. If I would have to go to Barton, Westmount or Hill Park I would have to walk almost an hour. Please do not close down Sherwood, I mean think of all the students from Huntington Park or Highveiw. They all are counting on going to Sherwood but since you are closing it down they can't. Also, think of all the people who go there, how are they just going to switch in the middle of there semesters and they just have to leave, also think of the people who have already graduated, their going to look back and say " oh yeah, that school got closed, because they had more students then most of the other High Schools. " Please do not close down Sherwood. Think of the students and how the parents will be dissapointed because their child has to go to a faraway school. Thankyou for your time and have a nice day.

Hello:

I wanted to indicate that there are some errors in the SIP document regarding Sherwood Secondary School. Please pass these on to the ARC South advisory group. I would also like to know who verified the document as well (I think Mr. Bain indicated he prepared the document on a Tuesday night - if that's helpful.)

As well, the number for repairing the school seems extremely high - why is there no noting in the document that Sherwood is the only school (along with MacNab?) that has a central A/C system, something all new board facilities have which I assume is one reason for the higher cost to repair. What are the other reasons for this \$32million figure? Is there structural damage, etc.? Is the RECAPP 2003-2010 and for 2003-2020 publicly available? Has it been vetted by an outside engineering firm? What have the capital upgrades been for each of the schools in SouthARC plus Westmount over the past 10 years?

Here are the errors/discrepancies that I found:

School Capacity listed at 1344 (line item 7) On the ground capacity (Item 5 line 2) is 1308.

Sherwood has a barrier free entrance (front door) (Item 9.1)

Transportation - Bus Route - Indicated school is not served by a HSR bus route. School is served by three routes within 750metres. Two of these routes divert to school at parking lot at dismissal time. (Item 11.6)

Location of School within Community - distance to nearest school (Item 13.1) 2.8 kms is incorrect. Four schools within 1km (verified online by Google Maps) Nearest is 89 metres - (From 19 to 25 High St. front door to front door) this is the French Elementary School - formerly Sherwood Heights Elementary. Other schools are: Highview (890 metres), Huntington Park, and St. Margaret Mary (Catholic Elementary)

Facility for Community Use. Hill Park indicates (Item 5.23) that it has a pool - should be asterisked as in Item 14.4 - part of a adjoining building (Rec Centre)

Item 14.3 for both Hill Park and MacNab - number should reflect use of school for community group - excluding use through Community Recreation Centre. or noted.

Item 15.1 - 10-20 hours/ week for Sherwood . Uses include Soccer, touch football, ultimate, dog walking, baseball, sandbox (using long jump pit) ball hockey, bike riding, jogging, walking, reading

Thank you for your consideration of these comments, they are made in the spirit of making the process have the best possible outcome.

Tony Gzik

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

Hello:

I am a parent of two children at Lawfield School who are in french immersion. Both Norwood Park and Lawfield are currently struggling with large and growing french immersion enrollments. In fact, there may be a need for a third FI elementary site to be created on the Mountain within the 3-10 time frame. Currently, the only option for students to continue in the FI program is to attend school at Westdale Secondary as no secondary school within the south ARC offers french immersion. I would like to know if/how the South ARC is considering this program as it deliberates and if it has (or will) considered a K-12 french immersion school as part of its recommendations?

Regards,

Tony Gzik