

West Accommodation Review Committee

Correspondence – Meeting of April 14th

Sent by email

To The Hamilton Board of Education ARC Committee,
Hi my name is Alexis Wilson and I am 11 years old. My heart is broken because the Hamilton School Board is thinking about closing Parkside High School, but why? Parkside is next to the Dundas Driving Park that gives us a soccer field, beach volleyball court, ice rink, baseball fields, splash pad and skate park and tennis courts (private), and it is all free because the City of Hamilton maintains the park. Parkside is a short walk to a hiking trail. In the winter, the kids go winter camping at Valens. For speech (DECCA) and music the kids go on trips. Parkside is my 2nd home I grew up at Parkside and I feel safe there. The Parkside staff is our family and if you close the school, Parkside, Dundas Central, Yorkview, Olser, and Highland students will all be affected by it. Why does the board hate the kids, you don't care about the kids you just care about money? If you are going to close Parkside you should build a new school with a pool, tennis courts, ice rink, soccer fields, two gyms, a track with a long jump pit, and a beach volleyball and basketball court. If you do close Parkside many kids will be going to other schools, not in the Hamilton Public School Board. You must think we like old grungy schools, 8 kids in my school have hard time breathing because of the dust.

Parkside is a family; we support each other with everything. The love in the school is so big that even when we're not there we are. Please don't destroy my home and family or learning will be so hard for me.

Sincerely,
Alexis Wilson

sent by email to the Chair of the Board

Dear Judith,

I'm sure that you've been receiving a great deal of mail about possible school closures, but I wanted to mention a few things about Parkside.

Even though it's an admittedly small school, the staff do a wonderful job of helping students who benefit from a less crowded atmosphere. Some students with special needs have really blossomed there. I take my own daughter there each day partly because the research I did indicated that students with learning disabilities do better in smaller secondary schools. The staff respond quickly to any problems that arise.

Even though Parkside may remain open until my daughter graduates, I am concerned that the school will be unable to offer a wide range of options for those students who are staying. I am also concerned about the impact of the announcement of possible closure on enrollment in general. I would like to see some help available to bolster staff and student morale, as the transition will be (and already is) hard for both staff and students.

Thanks for your time and efforts,

Sheila V