

Good Afternoon Tracy,

I am sure that my email is not the first that you have received today, so I will keep it short.

I was informed this morning that Prince Philip would be shutting its' doors this end of June for good. Would you be able to provide me with more information related to this or point me in the proper location to find it on my own. What exactly does this mean? Where exactly would my daughter go to school next Sept.? She would have been enrolled in the Grade 1 Mandarin immersion program. Will that be offered at the new school as I was informed that French immersion was already offered? And since we don't even live in the Prince Phillip district nor the new one for sure...will my daughter even be able to attend this new school?

I must say, that this is happening all so fast. And the rumours flying around are not good ones (portables and all).

Any related information would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

Cheryl Hough

Judith Bishop:

I am opposed to the closing of Prince Philip Elementary School. Please ask the Dalewood Accommodation Review Committee to consider the negative impact on students and the community if the school is closed. What is a community with out it's school. There will no longer be families, young or old drawn here. All that you'll have will be student homes.

Please help us.

George Sorbara

My sons currently attend GR Allan school, I attended the April 6 meeting, and try to keep up to date from the board website. Unfortunately there is no contact information on page for the Dalewood Area ARC, so please feel free to forward this to the appropriate people.

The minutes of the April 6 meeting have some omissions. People requested the background to the calculations of enrolment projections and the previous ARC process reports (5 years ago?), though this has not been posted on the website to date. There is a comment that the committee could request historical data, however this should be available to the public as requested at the public meeting. There are two sets of conflicting data in the presentation made by the Board Staff on April 6, and when questioned on this, staff distinctly stated that we should be using the second table (as in the school profiles) which indicates current utilization rates of 103, 102, and 108% for Dalewood, Prince Philip, and GR Allan schools, respectively. This is based on capacities of 368, 184, 437 pupil places. However the other table indicates places of 392, 233, 498 and we were told this is not the one we should use. I asked about who was consulted in making enrolment projections, specifically about McMaster University plans (I believe the answer was no), why enrolment had increased recently in spite of changes to the neighbourhoods, and there was discussion about implementation of day junion kindergarten in the projections.

I was surprised to find that the Board Recommendations presented April 28 use the capacities of 392, 233, 498 pupils, in direct contradiction to the information given us April 6. Further, I note there is a third set of data with Dalewood enrolment predictions changed from 447 to 31 in 5 years and from 418 to 297 in 10 years.

There is absolutely no rationale given for these huge changes in projected enrolment. Common practice would be to date tables and reports, and if an amendment is necessary then all previous documents should have this stated on them along with the reason and a clear indication of which is the correct data. As it is, there are currently several different versions on the Board website. People can click on the School information profiles and get different information than in the April 6 presentation or the April 28 presentation. Yes, if one reads everything on site there is the April 28 presentations and some SIP replacements, but if one accesses the information from elsewhere there is no mention that any changes have been made, or which are correct, or why.

This is critical, because the original SIP shows schools are currently over capacity, both Dalewood and Prince Philip will be about 20% over capacity in 5 years, and about 14% over capacity in 10 years. GR Allan is currently over capacity, and this will decrease to about 80% capacity (though we were told this includes the basement rooms that many including myself feel should not be classrooms due to environmental concerns; again not in the April 6 minutes). However the Board recommendation is based on assumption that 10 year enrollment predictions will be 76, 89, 69% of capacity. I am concerned that the proposed addition to GR Allan School may be too small to accommodate all the students from both GR Allan and Prince Philip schools.

The next comment is that the presentation of April 28 as posted on the website appears only to be an overview. There is usually a report on which such presentations are made, but there is no mention of such a report or a link to it. The presentation by itself is not detailed enough to evaluate. For example, there is no financial information. Costing of both the current school situation as well as alternatives is required. If finances is not the driver, then I'm sure most people would prefer to keep all three schools. If finances is the most important issue, then comparative information is essential. The report mentions selling Prince Philip school, but does not mention that the grounds are heavily used by the community. Closing the school and selling the property may have different impacts and value to the community. Cost of busing compared to school operation are not mentioned.

I feel strongly that minutes from any meeting should be circulated soon after the meeting, not at the following meeting.

Sincerely,

Glenn Fletcher

From: Colleen M. Morgan
Subject: Dalewood ARC

Message Body:

I would like to submit the following information/concerns regarding the board's option so that it gets submitted to the ARC for further consideration.

If Prince Philip is closed, the Ainslie Wood Community would be left without a public elementary school. All public schools (elementary and secondary) would be in Westdale.

Without a public school - all HWDSB students living in Ainslie Wood would have no other option than to be bused to their schools, for their entire education (JK-12) whether it is provided by the board or on public transportation.

There are two HWCDSD institutions in Ainslie Wood (elementary and secondary). Some families may leave HWDSB to attend the school in their community. I spoke with Mrs. Rossi, principal of Canadian Martyrs about admissions by non-Catholics. You do not have to be baptized Catholic to attend. You must apply, have a meeting with the principal and be willing to participate in religious activities but they would not attempt to convert students. Families would not be accepted based on the fact that they live closer but another factor considered is if students have a relative or close family friend that has been baptized.

Secondly, many of the Prince Philip families live on Main St. W., at the bottom of the Ancaster Hill, and do not have their own vehicles. Moving students to a school farther away would also prohibit parents from easy access to their children and being actively involved in the school community.

I have had several discussions with parents, neighbours and staff in the Prince Philip Community. All have expressed the same feeling: the HWDSB needs a JK-8 public elementary school in both the Ainslie Wood and Westdale communities. Perhaps less extensive renovations would be needed at G.R. Allan if Prince Philip was upgraded instead of Dalewood. The City has agreed to purchase Dalewood if it were made available and a new recreational facility could be built where these two communities come together with others for recreational purposes.

Hi Judith,

My name is Alan and both my children go to Prince Phillip and we propose you close middle school Dalewood and we can continue to go to PP. We moved into this neighbourhood 6 years ago and we are here because of the school, if you and others choose to close it it will hurt our community.

Please Do not close Prince Phillip.

Thank You
Concerned parent
Alan Kirkby

--

Subject: Dalewood Arc

Message Body:

A comment for the committee. I live in Westdale proper, sent kids to Prince Philip and currently have children in Dalewood but really won't be affected that much by this process. Having said this, I am amazed that the Board would recommend busing almost an entire neighbourhood. Can this really be the best solution? Is it really the best solution to leave one neighbourhood entirely without a school/rec centre while allowing another to keep theirs, but at a substandard level as both schools require a tremendous amount of upgrades. What about "walkability" for those in Ainslie Wood? There is absolutely no benefit to the Ainslie Wood neighbourhood in this scenerio that I can see.

Dear Friends,

I would like to bring to your attention my displeasure to be informed that Hamilton Wentworth District School Board staff has recommend that Prince Phillip P.S. be closed. I am particular troubled as to what impact such a decision will have for the Mandarin Chinese language program, both short and long term. It is already recognized by School Board staff that the program requires an increase in JK/SK enrollment to insure that there there is sufficient students for long-term viability. Therefore, what thought has been given as to how the recommended closure of Prince Phillip, and the relocation of students to G.R. Allan, will affect this program? Have the parents of children in this program been consulted about the proposed relocation? I do not believe they have. I feel that it is incumbent upon the School Board to examine this issue. Furthermore, I would like to know if the Ministry of Education, who supports and partially funds this program, are aware that the recommended move might affect the enrollment numbers in a negative fashion and that because of this jeopardize the programs viability in Hamilton.

I would appreciate any feedback that you might want to share with me about the above.

Best regards,

Jason Carline

I feel very strongly that the proposed plan to close Prince Philip School is a bad decision. Ainslie Wood should not lose it's school. I understand that one school in the area will be lost. Keeping one school on the Westdale side of Main Street and keeping one on the Ainslie Wood side seems reasonable and fair to both neighbourhoods.

I'm sure both sides of this issue will provide you with numbers and dollar amounts that support their opinion. Numbers on a page cannot properly convey the damage that will be done to the Ainslie Wood neighbourhood if Prince Philip is closed. We will lose the main hub of our community where our neighbourhood comes together.

I respectfully disagree with the opinion that Dalewood school, should be saved because it has an auditorium. The benefits of keeping the auditorium are greatly outweighed by the negative impact that losing Prince Philip will have. The negative impact of closing of Dalewood would not have the same impact on Westdale because there would still be a school for the children of Westdale. Ainslie Wood is not Westdale, we are our own separate neighbourhood. I greatly worry about the future of this area if the school closes.

Prince Philip School improves the neighbourhood of Ainslie Wood. Whatever is built in it's place after it is sold cannot possibly match it's importance to the local area. If student housing or low income housing is built there the damage done by the closure of Prince Philip will be compounded.

I hope that you will reconsider and help us save Prince Philip School.

Thank you,

Chris Cooper
42 Blackwood Cres.

To all parties influencing the Dalewood Area ARC proposal,

I completely disagree with the ARC's decision to close Prince Phillip Elementary School.

The ARC's current proposal:

- Is in opposition with the HWDSB's *Our Strategic Directions 2009-2013* document (See below for further elaboration)

- Removes Ainslie Wood's 'community hub'. HWDSB's *Education for the 21st century: Here, Now and into the Future* envisions future schools as "supported appropriately by all members of the community: such a school would function as a community hub"(pg. 16). Once the HWDSB sells the Prince Phillip land there will never be another school in the Ainslie Wood community. The land will be gone. It is incredibly short sighted to remove the only school in a community; especially so, if your organization envisions a school as a "community hub".

http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/staff/strategic_directions/education/documents/Full-Report.pdf

- Does not consider the pedagogical benefits of having 2 K-8 schools (G.R. Allan and Prince Phillip), versus having only one Middle school (Is the ARC ignoring the educational trend to close Middle schools in favour of following a K-8 model?) (See below for further elaboration)

- Does not consider that Dalewood property is on Main Street, one of the busiest streets in the city, and thus a desirable location for many developers and businesses. A business or high-volume housing complex situated at this site would be far less awkward than one placed on King St. W or on Rifle Range Rd.

- Disregards that keeping both G.R. Allan and Prince Phillip open as K-8 schools allows each community (Westdale and Ainslie Wood) to have a school and close a school (jointly losing Dalewood). This is an equitable and moderate solution; while closing Prince Phillip would alienate the entire Ainslie Wood community leaving them without a school. I am sure the good people of Westdale and the members of ARC recognize that in Ontario, families in all communities expect their children to be able to attend a community school.

- Will have some Ainslie Wood students driving 10 minutes or more just to get to school. That is ridiculous! In the city, children should be able to walk to school! In this day in age, we are supposed to be finding ways to lessen our environmental footprints, not enlarge them with long bus/car rides to elementary school!

- Ignores that the Dalewood property would bring in almost the equivalent of selling both G.R. Allan and Prince Phillip combined – Why would the HWDSB not want this revenue? The extra money from this sale would cover the cost of required renovations to both G.R. Allan and Prince Phillip.

- A state-of-the-art auditorium can be built on any school... especially if given an \$8 million profit from the sale of Dalewood to replace the apparently much loved, yet compromised Dalewood auditorium.

Current Proposal in opposition to HWDSB's *Our Strategic Directions* 2009-2013

The ARC's current proposal is in opposition to the HWDSB's *Our Strategic Directions* 2009-2013 document which states under the heading of *Community Partnerships* – “our priorities in this area is the community use of schools, which aids not-for-profit groups provide programs to meet the needs of the local community.” Your current proposal strips the Ainslie Wood community of a school and thus a central meeting place which can serve as a hub to meet the needs of the local Ainslie Wood community.

The HWDSB's *Our Strategic Directions* 2009-2013 document also includes the heading of *Equitable Allocation of Resources* – Does this goal not include the equitable distribution of the schools themselves. Are the children of the Ainslie Wood area not entitled to a home school which is actually close to their homes? Are they not entitled to a school where they can find a sense of community; peers that live within walking distance of their homes; after school and evening programs that they can actually attend; all because they do not have to get onto a bus at the end of the school day?

<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/parents/documents/strategic-directions.pdf>

K-8 School model versus the Middle School model

The ARC has apparently disregarded the benefits of K-8 schools. If we must close one of our west end schools (Prince Phillip, G.R. Allan or Dalewood), the obvious choice for closure is Dalewood. The middle school model that is currently being practiced in the Westdale/Ainslie Wood area is out of date. While, perhaps, both middle school and K-8 models have their benefits; to keep itself current, the HWDSB should be focusing its renewal efforts towards the development of well equipped, K-8 community schools.

Here are a few of the benefits of following a K-8 model:

- Students are benefited by a smaller number of grade level students and are often serviced by few teachers. Thus, fostering more intimate relationships with the teachers and increasing the likelihood that at-risk students will receive the supports they need for success. The K-8 School model better prepares schools and educators to meet the needs of students following the “Tiered Model” (pg. 13) of instruction/programming. Teachers who know the students well can serve them well.

http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/staff/strategic_directions/education/documents/Overview.pdf

- Grade 6 – 8 students perform better academically in the K-8 model than they do in the middle school model. <http://www.joannejacobs.com/2010/09/k-8-beats-middle->

[school-in-study/](#)

- Keeps siblings in the same schools
- 10 years in the same school fosters a sense of community

As I am sure you can infer from the above - I feel very strongly that Prince Phillip should not be closed. I also believe that G.R. Allan should not be closed. I sincerely hope that the ARC will consider the above points and change their proposal to reflect the needs of **both** the Westdale **and** Ainslie Wood communities. The current ARC proposal does not consider the needs of the children who live in Ainslie Wood community.

Respectfully Yours,
Jessica Cooper, BMT, B.ed, OCT

Hi Margaret,

Thanks for copying me on your concerns around a possible Prince Philip school closure.

I agree that intuitively closing Prince Philip is problematic and I am hoping that the School Board will be open to investigating options. As I understand it they are required to put forth an opening option by the Ministry as part of the ARC process; they have done that and now it is up to us to begin the process. To date I have asked our Planning staff to prepare an analysis of how losing PP would affect the Ainslie Wood neighbourhoods, and to update the population growth info as input to the discussions. I missed the first meeting where the option was presented with conflicting meetings; and am looking forward to the second meeting this week

I understand that the Board has financial and demographic challenges, but I also know that they have designed the ARC process to include community participation so I am looking forward to assisting parents, neighbours and the Board to get to the very best solution possible.

Looking forward to working with you on this.

Thanks,
Brian

Subject: Proposed Closure of Pince Philip School

To Our Elected Officials:

This letter concerns the disturbing proposal that Prince Philip School be closed in 2012 and the students bused to George R. Allan School. As members of a church in the Ainslie Wood Community, who have been actively involved with families and students here for nearly 45 years, we have seen many changes take place. We realize that with declining enrollment in many parts of the city, some tough decisions have to be made, however we have some major concerns about how this proposal will affect families and the community at large.

Closure of this school will leave no public school on the south side of Main St. in West Hamilton. This is very disturbing and potentially devastating to the community at large. When a new community is being planned, do we not plan for schools for the families who will be moving in? Of course we do. The family (however you define it) is the building block of society, and we seek to build safe communities where our children can be taught and nurtured to become good citizens. Consider some of the effects of removing a school from a community that now has a growing population of young families:

- Families who are presently here, many of whom are lower income families and immigrants, will not be able to participate in the life of the school and community as they now do. Children will not enjoy walking to school, with the health and socialization benefits that entails. Parents will not meet and interact, building relationships and sharing common concerns as they walk their young children to school.
- Many parents will not be able to volunteer and be involved in the life of the school as they now are, simply because of the cost of transportation to George R. Allan
- New families will not likely want to purchase homes in the area, since there is not a school close by for their children to attend.
- Current families will seek to move to neighbourhoods which have a school within walking distance.
- We have already seen a great influx of McMaster students into the neighbourhood. This would likely increase, as families move out. Absentee landlords usually do not care for their homes the way families living in the neighbourhood do, and so we would see a decline in housing and quality of life for all concerned in the area.

Although we realize that you are not responsible for all that has transpired in our neighbourhood recently, there have been some decisions made which effect the residents, schools, churches and businesses of West Hamilton, which seem to lack common sense.

- We now have a hospital for children under the age of 17 only, which is sitting with many of its beds unfilled, and which is laying off staff many of whom live in West Hamilton.
- We have a university and two high schools with probably thousands of 18 and 19 year old students who can't go to the hospital next door.
- We have 3 elementary schools within a very short distance of said hospital and the board is proposing the closure of the one which is actually increasing in population ... which is filled to capacity and has 4 classrooms in portables ... which would not bring as much money if sold as Dalewood would bring ... which would be much cheaper to

repair/upgrade
than Dalewood or George R. Allan would be.

We hope that this decision will be made on the basis of what is best for the students, families and communities involved, and not on the basis of politics. We appreciate the hard work that each of you does and the many hours you give to community service. Thank you for considering our thoughts about this issue.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bruce Mason, Marg Mason

I write as a former teacher for the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, a parent, and a community member. As it stands, the board's proposed option for the Dalewood ARC seems flawed. This choice will have long-term fiscal, environmental, and social implications.

First, keeping Dalewood open is the most expensive option. According to the board's data, Dalewood's replacement value, at \$8,857,500, is higher than either Prince Philip's (\$ 4,814,700) and G.R. Allan's (\$ 7,305,450). Dalewood will also cost more to repair. Ellen Warling, the board's manager of accommodation, named Dalewood's auditorium as the reason to keep Dalewood open and sell Prince Philip school. Balanced against the significant financial benefit of selling the Dalewood property, this reason seems frail. Why not sell Dalewood and invest the extra revenue in Prince Philip and G.R. Allan? Prince Philip has the largest property. Its enrolment is projected to grow as young families continue to move into the Ainslie Wood area. How will all of these children be accommodated at the already crowded G.R. Allan site?

Second, busing all Prince Philip students—one hundred per cent of them—to G.R. Allan is an unnecessary environmental cost that the board does not seem to be considering. Gas prices are unstable and on the rise. Why should we expose the community to needless pollution and ongoing transportation costs? Further, some students on the east end of Ainslie Wood who currently attend Prince Philip school will not meet the board's busing requirements. According to the transportation policy, these students from Grades One through Grade Five will be expected to walk to school, crossing both Main and King Streets on their way to G.R. Allan.

Third, keeping two K-8 schools in both ends of the catchment maintains significant social benefits. Schools are hubs for the community. Children can walk to school. Parents have easier access to the school communities. Neighbours may use the school properties and grounds. Warling claims the board will benefit from the city's plans to redevelop the city recreation centre that currently adjoins Dalewood Middle School. Further, many parents are concerned about the

safety risks inherent in housing a recreation centre on the same property as an elementary school. Our children can still make use of the recreation centre without having a school on the same property. In fact, they will obtain more regular exercise walking back and forth every day to school.

Local schools make sense. We teach our children about caring for the earth and the importance of exercise. We teach them about diversity of culture, fairness, and honest dialogue. We teach them about community. How wonderful it would be for the Hamilton-Wentworth District School board to model those values.

Regards,

Aimee Reid

Hello Everyone,

I am a parent from Prince Philip School. I currently have a child in Grade 2, a child in Junior Kindergarten, and a third child who will be starting Junior Kindergarten in September 2012. When I heard that the School Board is proposing to close Prince Philip's doors in June 2012, I was very sad, as well as frustrated and angry. We love our school, and we would hate to see anything happen to it, especially as it is the last remaining school on this side of Main Street. I love the community that we have, and it would be a shame to lose this special place. I'm sure G.R. Allan is a wonderful school, but we would much rather have our children stay at Prince Philip. Since we heard this news, our community has really come together to show our support in wanting to keep Prince Philip open. I want to take this time to express my concerns and ideas with you. We hope that you will see that this initial proposal is not the best option, and here is why we think so:

Our school is full and we have 4 classrooms in portables. Our numbers are not giving a good reason of why our school should be the targeted one to close
The number of students at Prince Philip is expected to grow. (We currently have 188 students, in 2015, the projected student population is 219, and then 208 in 2020)
Busing Prince Philip students would mean ongoing transportation costs, and with the price of gasoline so expensive right now, this just does not seem fiscally responsible
Busing is bad for the environment, and the distance to travel to G.R. Allan would mean that our students would not have the option to walk to school anymore
The city's plans to rebuild Dalewood Recreation Centre are not tied to having a school on the property, and there is no need to keep a middle school as the current model is to have K-8 schools

Prince Philip is worth the least amount of money and has a larger property than any of the other 3 schools.

So, what is our Alternate Proposal?

We would like to keep two K-8 schools, one in each end of the catchment (Prince Philip and G.R. Allan)

Selling Dalewood would bring over \$4 million more than selling Prince Philip

If Dalewood were to be sold, then the money made from that could be used to renovate G.R. Allan and Prince Philip schools

Dalewood's programs can be maintained at the K-8 schools

Each school community would maintain their "walkable community" and the social benefits of a neighbourhood school

Our kids at school are being taught to be responsible in how they treat the environment, yet the Board wants to bus an entire school population over to Westdale. Our kids at school are being encouraged to eat healthy and practice active lifestyles to stay in shape, yet the Board wants to take away the opportunity to walk to school. In order to be able to fit 200+ students from our school community and add them to G.R. Allan's population, the playground is going to be made smaller. More students are going to be crammed onto a smaller space, and traffic is going to be busier on the streets around the school, and this just doesn't make sense. It just doesn't feel that this proposal is the best option available. On the board's website, there is a quote that reads "We recognize that the school's value to the student takes priority over other considerations about the school", but I do not believe that this is true if the proposal to close Prince Philip goes through. In September 2012, if the Prince Philip students have to go to G.R. Allan, the school is going to be over capacity (103%), and I don't believe that this is doing what's best for our students.

Please reconsider. We would love to see Prince Philip stay open. It would be a shame to see it close.

Sincerely,

Kristi Gringhuis
A Concerned Parent

I recently learned that there were plans by the HWDSB to close the Prince Phillip School. On thinking on this I am very concerned.

1. I understand that this school has been growing in the last several years, therefore it doesn't make sense to close it.
2. The safety of the children is a stake.
3. By closing this school you will be closing a neighbourhood. When young families are looking for homes, they will not consider this area due to the lack of schools in the area, parents do not want their children bused to school.
4. This area needs this school to keep it vibrant. The cost to fix Dalewood is far greater than keeping Prince Phillip OPEN.

My proposal is that you close Dalewood, keep Prince Phillip and Geo.R. Allan open and move the middle school and French immersion I back to the appropriate schools, Prince Phillip and Geo. R. Allan.

The remodelling of Dalewood is far too expensive and the taxpayers in Hamilton/Wentworth are already over taxed and if we can save a few dollars (actually Thousands) it would be a plus for the school board. Even if you say it won't cost the taxpayers anything, it will in time.

THINK BEFORE YOU VOTE WE CANNOT AFFORD TO CLOSE THIS NEIGHBOURHOOD, OR THE COST TO EXPAND DALEWOOD.

Thank you for listening,

Joyce Andrew

As a resident near Prince Phillip and an operator of a preschool program, Early Scholars Preschool, I am concerned about the board's proposal to close Prince Phillip Elementary School.

This neighbourhood needs a public school on the side of Main Street for many reasons. As a Registered Early Childhood Educator and provider of care/education in the community, I feel it is VERY important to look at the needs of the children and their families in our community rather than just dollars and numbers. The school tends to be a meeting place for the community for certain events, parents are able to walk their child to/from school and be involved in more school activities. There are the issues of transporting our children to a location that already seems limited traffic access. All 3 schools, Prince Phillip, GR Allan, and Dalewood are at capacity which raises the question of space availability, especially when full day kindergarten is introduced to these schools.

I would like to know how closing Prince Phillip school supports the Board's mandate on education quality. Below are notes taken from the HWDSB website:

"we believe that every one of our students has the ability to reach his or her full potential." **this needs to be the prime focus when making decisions.**

"Your child's success in school increases when parents are involved. We know that students do better when parents are actively involved in their education." **The proximity of the school to the children's home is vital to supporting parent involvement.**

Thank you

Hi, I am one of the parent representatives for Prince Philip School and I have a few more questions that I would like answered. I give all permissions for these questions to be made public.

I would like to know how many schools that were initially JK-5 been made into JK-8 schools? I would like to know the names of the schools and the dates that they became JK-8 schools. I would also like to know why the board chose to make them into JK-8 schools.

I am also curious to past ARCs and how many times the board of trustees has accepted the school board option and how many times the board has chosen the option put forward by the committee?

Thanks,

Nadia

To Those involved in the decision regarding Prince Philip School,

I am writing to you to appeal that Prince Philip school remain open and that other alternatives be explored in order to meet budget requirements, which I'm sure is a major concern in a decision of this nature.

Prince Philip School, is a highly valued component of the Ainslie Wood Community and the **devastation and inaccessibility that will occur if it is removed will be very great** and therefore should be avoided.

Having a school in one's own community is a tremendous asset as it promotes the involvement of the parents, many of whom would be unable to participate due to distance and monetary limitations.

The benefits of exercise, in a society in which childhood obesity is a threatening health concern, should also be taken into consideration, as well as the increased transportation costs for busing children, not to mention the negative effects on our environment due to increased transportation.

With the desire for French Immersion, Prince Philip could also offer this program which would help to elevate the numbers of children at the school and solidifying a need for a K -8 school at both the George R. Allan and Prince Philip locations.

The Dalewood property could then be sold and or used for a West End Community Center which would satisfy the needs of all surrounding neighborhoods and provide greater income potential for the City of Hamilton.

Community is an essential part of life and to eradicate it by removing a central hub such as Prince Philip School, is a decision which will have a great impact on the Ainslie Wood Community and to the Greater City of Hamilton. The families that are residing in this neighborhood, mainly due to the school, are a stable and responsible presence in an area that is predominantly student rental properties owned by out of town landlords and therefore need to be maintained and valued.

Please keep families in Ainslie Wood by providing an accessible school.

Respectfully Yours,

Pam Keown

Dear Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Trustee or official:

I understand that you, and the ARC, are interested in taxpayer input regarding the upcoming decision about which school to school in the west end. I am writing to convey to you my opposition to the plan to close Prince Philip School, and bus the area children to George R. Allen School. I say this as a taxpayer and Ainslie Wood resident.

Prince Philip School is the heart of the Ainslie Wood community. Parents walk their kids to school, meet on the way, make new friends, introduce each other to neighbours, and create a friendly environment for the entire community. Busing the children out of the neighbourhood will have the opposite effect—it will reduce interaction between residents, prevent old-timers from meeting newcomers, generate traffic, and foster alienation rather than community.

The justifications for the plan put forward by the HWDSB seem inadequate.

The financial rationale, for instance, appears to be based on inflated projections that are not broken down into component costs. Over \$4,000,000 in projected costs to “repair” Prince Philip over the next 10 years seems to be artificially high. It looks like the HWDSB is coming up with numbers that have not been itemized, verified by objective estimators, and presented for public scrutiny, in order to create a justification for its preferred option—selling Prince Philip.

At a time when middle schools are being phased out--on the basis of research that has established that smaller neighbourhood schools, where children have continuity and their families are known to the teaching staff, are more conducive to good academic results, social integration, and

reduced juvenile crime than large district schools[1]—why is the HWDSB recommending a plan that is centred on a middle school?!

And to make matters worse, it is a middle school situated on an extremely high-traffic street that is dangerous to cross. Dalewood is sandwiched between McMaster University and the entrance to and exit from highway 403, generating a huge volume of traffic. It is the scene of numerous accidents, many of which involve students rushing to or from classes at McMaster from outside the city.

I therefore feel your recommendation is short-sighted and urge you to reconsider it.

Thank you,

Re: Prince Philip Potential Closure

The purpose of this e-mail is to express my opposition to the suggested closure of Prince Philip. As an educator myself in one of the largest and most progressive school boards in the province and as a taxpayer, I do not understand why the Hamilton Public School Board would even consider maintaining Dalewood middle school especially given that it is the most expensive school to repair and the property that will generate greatest revenue if sold. Keeping a middle school is just redundant, archaic and a misuse of public dollars (I'm amazed it has stayed open this long.... everything is moving in a K-8 direction). In addition, there are massive safety liabilities developing along Main West with the ever increasing traffic and growth around Mac, plans for light rail and so forth. Dalewood is not at all in a student friendly area and does not sit on student friendly property.

The suggestion of two K-8 schools, one in each of the neighbourhoods of Westdale and AinslieWood, is the only viable option which optimizes equity, safety, organizational efficiency, fiscal responsibility and educational pedagogy.

Prince Philip is a thriving stable school which is projected to grow.... and which apparently is even currently overcapacity... also it has a one of a kind successful Mandarin language programme recently celebrated in an issue of The Hamilton Spec. Not sure why it's even on the ARC.

Rosanne Lutz

To everyone,

We are concerned parents in the Prince Philip elementary school area. We have two children in the school already and have another child starting in a couple years. We do not want to see Prince Philip close as we live a block away. We enjoy walking our daughters to and from school every day. With the plan that the board proposed they want to incur costs and greenhouse gases by bussing our children to a school in the other end of Westdale, a school that is not prepared for more vehical conestion in the small streets surrounding the school. We feel that Prince Philip and George R. Allen should be made into a JK-8 school and close Dalewood school and use it just for a rec centre. The property that Prince Philip school is on is larger than Dalewood by itself and larger than George R Allen by itself and is great space for kids to play.

Please keep PRINCE PHILIP open!

Thank you,

Erin & Eric Bumbaca

Hi Tracy,
Can I add these questions to the list?

- What is the procedure if school land is sold after a school is closed.
- Who has the first option to purchase it?
- How far down the list is the City?
- Would this vary from school to school in the case of Dalewood, Prince Philip and G.R. Allan?
- What is the approximate price per acre for each property?
- Is the value of the building "usually" a factor in the sale or are buildings demolished?
- The replacement values quoted for each building - how are they arrived at?

Would you prefer that I send questions via the website?

Thanks,
Kim Newcombe

Hi Brian, members of ARC, and HWDSB trustees,

I am a member of Westside Baptist Church and a resident of the Westdale-Ainslie Wood area. I would like to see Prince Philip remain open for this community. The school is a vital part of the area and there are numerous options other than closing down this school. Please reconsider closing it and please vote to keep it open! The community needs this school!

Jeremy
