

Kristen West
ARC Parent Representative
c/o George R Allan Elementary School
900 King Street West,
Hamilton, ON
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arcgraparentrep@gmail.com

June 30, 2011

Dear Ms. West,

I am writing to you and the Accomodation Review Committee to express my concerns regarding the Accomodation Review that is currently being conducted for the Dalewood area which includes Dalewood, George R. Allen, and Prince Phillip schools.

As Acting Chair of the Department of Physics & Astronomy at McMaster University, I have had an opportunity to see first hand how the availability of a walkable neighborhood close to the university is very important when our department is trying to hire a new faculty member. The availability of excellent schools in the immediate vicinity at all grades from kindergarten through Grade 12 is an important selling point to young faculty, many of whom have children at the time they are recruited or, given the typical age of a new faculty member, are planning to have children in the near future.

George R. Allen and Dalewood schools are particularly important in this regard, as they are situated close to each other, and also to Westdale Secondary School and the other amenities of Westdale Village (shopping, library, etc.). On a personal note, when I myself was hired at McMaster in 1992, the combination of being close to the university and close to these excellent schools was a primary consideration when we purchased our house on Sterling St. Both my children have attended George R. Allen and Dalewood and so I know first hand the excellent learning environment provided by those schools.

I urge the accommodation review committee to find a way to keep these fine schools open so that they can be a resource to the McMaster and wider Hamilton community for many years to come.

Sincerely,



Dr. Christine Wilson
Professor and Acting Chair
wilson@physics.mcmaster.ca