

Correspondence #1

Sunday January 19, 2014

Dear ARC

I am writing to you as a parent of a child who attends Greensville School.

I have been following the information posted on the website and can tell that both parents from the Greensville and Millgrove communities are passionate about keeping their schools open.

The Ministry of Education would like to see all schools in Ontario move to a JK-8 community. Currently we have two elementary schools that are both JK-5 feeding into Spencer Valley. It is unfortunate that these schools have to close because they both offer superior education to their students. Both schools have high EQAO scores and families are happy with their schools. I would prefer that Greensville remain open and nothing changes but unfortunately that is not an option. Thus I am going to make some suggestions that I feel need to be considered as you make your proposals to the Board of Education.

I believe this is the opportunity for both communities to have a brand new 21st century school. Our taxes are high and it would be wonderful to see our hard earned money be invested in our own community. Although I moved to a rural community so my children could attend a small school it would be a lucrative feature to bring new families into our communities. I read a post from another parent that stated a 21st century building is not necessarily 21st century education. I have faith and trust in the principal to hire teachers who would continue to provide our students with the same high quality education they have been receiving. They would have the resources at their finger tips that we as parents have been doing fundraising for. I have visited new schools and the facilities offer amazing opportunities for our students.

I believe merging Greensville, Spencer Valley and Millgrove Schools will be more cost effective and aligned with the Ministry of Education's goal.

If the proposal is to keep Millgrove open and Greensville and Spencer Valley become one, the building chosen for the new school will just get a renovation. This is a bandaid fix and before we know it, this situation will be before us again. Thus, I would ask you to consider proposing a new school for Greensville and Spencer Valley. I know that this may not be approved by the board but if not proposed at all then cannot be turned down. Or, provide a list of things that need to be renovated at the new school. If Spencer Valley is chosen, perhaps when they add the primary wing they could update the gym and ensure the library is renovated to accommodate both primary and intermediate books.

I would like the committee to consider the impact on extra curricular activities for students if Millgrove school remains open and is changed to a JK-8 school and Greensville and Spencer Valley merge to JK-8, it will be difficult for students to participate and be competitive in the extra curricular events that are offered to students in grade 6,7 and 8. There will not be enough students to create teams. This part of school climate is just as important as the academics.

I would also like to suggest that the timeline be carefully considered. Realistically, I believe that even a renovation could not be completed until September 2016. The renovation on the new Dundas High School hasn't even begun and the school will not be ready for September 2014. That ARC happened two years ago. I

Working Group Meeting #8 Correspondence

would like to suggest that students do not leave their current school until either the new school or renovation is complete. Thus the children will only experience a change once.

Thank you for volunteering to be part of this process and listening to the input from the community. I understand that this is a time consuming journey and your commitment is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely
Nancy Johnson

Correspondence #2

Hi,
My name is Barb Miller-Firman, and have a daughter in JK at Greensville Public School. I have been to a few of the arc meetings and unfortunately work prevents me from attending tonight. So I decided to email what I would have said if given the opportunity.

Our family lives in Dundas and my husband and I fought to have our daughter accepted out of catchment so she could go to Greensville. We live a few streets over from Yorkview but plan in the next year to move more rural and will be within the bounds of either Greensville, Beverly or Seaton. We have decided this because after doing our research we liked the more "rural" school environment and wanted her to get used to bussing and making some friends. We have family who went to Greensville and Spencer. We love everything about Greensville. It has been an amazing school so far.

Both my husband and I come from a long line of educators, principals and even a chairman/president of the Simcoe public board. We understand that changes will happen and don't delude ourselves that Greensville will be safe and remain open (even though we would love that) But, as parents we want the best decision out there for our daughters. Living in Dundas and being part of the community, we are seeing what is happening with the high schools, and do not want that happening with the elementary schools.

If Greensville is to close and Spencer taking on k-8 becomes the plan, I don't want to see so much disruption and upheaval happening. That is not fair to kids. Major work will need to be done, or a new school needs to be built. Both my husband and I vote for a new school, one that will properly accommodate all students. We decided more rural to avoid portables and overcrowding that is seen at other schools. I would hate to see a "bandaid" solution done to Spencer.

Through the Arc meetings I know it has been discussed that work will need to be done before kids move to those schools and that everything they currently have needs to be in place. Proper computer labs, smart boards, etc.

I know there is no easy solution when it comes to schools, and families and everyone has an opinion. I just hope that whatever decision is made, will be good for everyone. I feel that closing any of these schools is sad, but hopefully a new school will help accommodate everyone.

Thank you for your time,
Barb Miller-Firman

Correspondence #3

To the ARC committee and trustees,

With a heavy heart I write my last letter pleading for the best for my children. My name is Kristin Weber, mom of 3 children, 2 currently attend Greenville and 1 who is eager to begin in September 2015.

I have held onto a glimmer of hope that the Greenville site might remain a potential location for a new building to keep our community centered. After last weeks meeting I am still in shock of losing our school building and site forever.

I want a new school. My children will lose their charming, historical school without the chance to even fight to save it. I will NOT be happy with a pieced together Spencer Valley building. I would hate to see 3 portables pop up on the site, FDK modifications made to the school, and lose designated specialized labs, and call it a 21st century learning environment for my children and community.

I realize I am asking for the moon and stars, but I feel that we are due. Never has it been a possibility for us to fight to save our school, from the beginning we have been told, it's just too much money. So let's stop wasting money on maintenance, build a new, efficient, and safe school for our children now and for years to come.

Thank you ARC members for all the time you have committed to representing your communities, I'm sure it has been an exhausting and emotional journey, thank you.

And to the trustees, please weigh all options in providing the best for all our children today and students in the future.

Sincerely,
Kristin Weber

Correspondence #4

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39 John Martin Crescent
R.R. #1
Millgrove, ON
L0R 1V0

January 22, 2014

To the Attention of the ARC Working Committee,

Please Keep Millgrove Public School Open!

It has come to our family's attention that the Millgrove Public School is slated for closure in your current discussions.

We ask for the committee to please re-consider and keep the Millgrove location open. Although our children do not currently attend this school, we have high hopes they will be able to in the future. Our family is actively involved with the Millgrove Children's Centre day care run in the buildings immediately adjacent and across the street from the Millgrove Public School. We have a toddler and infant who will be entering the school system in September 2015 and September 2017 respectively. Our current plans and hopes are for them to attend Millgrove Public School so we can keep them in the Millgrove Children's Centre Before and After School programs so they can be familiar with the people they know now as they enter school.

For these 2 very important reasons and for the children of our local community, please keep Millgrove Public School Open!!

Please feel free to contact our family at (905) 690-7135 if follow up is required.

Concerned for the Future of our Children,


Teresa Radke-Glavin