

**A One Page Summary of The Report from Theatre Ancaster for ARC West on January 17, 2012
at Highland Secondary**

**Concerning the Future of Ancaster High School and The Theatre Auditorium at Ancaster High
School**

Theatre Ancaster's Position: Retain the Theatre Auditorium

- Theatre Ancaster is a community partner with the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB).
- Theatre Ancaster is deeply involved with the education of students and with quality programs for students and adults in the community.
- Theatre Ancaster believes that the Theatre Auditorium has played a significant and valued role in the quality training programs, education and performances provided to students, the school board, and the community.
- Theatre Ancaster has provided quality theatre experiences since 1997 for more than 60,000 students and for an additional 100,000 members of the community.
- Theatre Ancaster believes the educational benefits and experiences provided to students in a program that uses a well-equipped theatre auditorium cannot be duplicated in a cafeteria/gymnasium space.
- Theatre Ancaster believes the Theatre Auditorium should be retained to play an even larger role in the future education of students and the community at large. There is no other theatre auditorium available to students in the ARC West community.

Options:

- If the Theatre Auditorium is retained, it could be the cornerstone for the development of a specialist high skills major program with a focus on music, theatre and the arts.
- If the Auditorium is not retained by HWDSB, it should be offered to the city along with the attendant spaces in the west wing to be developed into an Arts Complex.
- Theatre Ancaster believes the Theatre Auditorium is too valuable to lose.

Conclusion:

- Theatre Ancaster is prepared to continue and enlarge its partnership role with HWDSB to further train students in musical theatre co-op education programs. (150 plus students since 1997).
- Theatre Ancaster will continue to provide performances by students to students through co-op education programs. (50,000 plus students have attended since 1997).
- Theatre Ancaster is prepared to continue to work as a community partner with Ancaster High and HWDSB to provide in-kind and financial support for the Theatre Auditorium (\$125,000.00 since 1997).
- Theatre Ancaster is ready to enlarge its community partner role with HWDSB to increase revenue for the HWDSB by greater utilization of the Theatre Auditorium under the Ontario Ministry of Education Community Use of Schools Program (valued at app. \$75,000.00 based on Theatre Ancaster's Partnership use of The Theatre Auditorium this school year).
- Theatre Ancaster might not have developed without the Theatre Auditorium, and it is also possible that many of the educational advantages mentioned for students would not have happened.