

## **Allow Vote for Parkside's Plan B**

My name is Diana Kenel. I am a Parkside parent and I have been attending all of the ARC meetings. The board has said that even with a great business case for a new school, we may still not get funding from the Ministry of Education and the board requested guidance as to what to do if that should happen. So Parkside presented that plan B, which received positive endorsement from others at the table and yet the board did not allow the option to go to a vote. It simply moved on to other business. Ancaster submitted two options and both were encouraged along by the board and then brought to a vote. I am here today to say that the Parkside plan B option deserves the right to be voted on.

### **Plan B**

To summarize for everyone here, the Parkside plan B option is where if we don't get the money for a new school that Parkside would be the school to stay open and the Highland site would be sold. There are a number of reasons that Parkside is the best option in that case.

### **\$8.9 Million**

The board already admitted that Parkside is in much better condition than Highland which is why it only received \$200,000 in capital upgrades in the last 10 years compared to the \$10million spent at Highland, Ancaster and Westdale. Even more significantly, with the Parkside option, we will have \$8.9 million dollars to make upgrades from the sale of the Highland land. To put it into perspective for our friends at Highland who recently announced winning the Future Shop prize of \$50,000 for its computer lab. With \$8.9 million, we would have \$50,000 for each and every one of the 178 classrooms at Westdale, Ancaster and Parkside. To look at it another way, Highland said it needs \$5.3 million in upgrades in order to even be able to accommodate the students from both schools but they have no way to fund it with only \$1.6 million in proceeds from the sale of Parkside. Parkside would only need a portion of that amount in upgrades such as for a new gym and to update the science labs leaving millions available for upgrades to Ancaster and Westdale which should make this plan very appealing to those schools.

### **Facility Utilization - Time Tabling**

The plan B showed that Parkside could easily accommodate the number of students required by the board as it has had similar numbers in recent years by employing what superintendent Kris Kroxall called "time tabling". That is where classes are available for all 5 periods a day and kids have either 3rd or 4th period for lunch. Time tabling allows our school to have higher enrollment numbers than its capacity would suggest. Parkside has done this for most of its history even while there was unused capacity at Highland. As an added benefit it provides kids looking to get ahead the opportunity of occasionally taking an extra class in the semester. As a result by the year 2020, Parkside will still have a facility utilization rate of 93% as compared to only 78% with the board option at Highland.

### **Community Partnership #1**

Parkside also has two extremely valuable community partnerships that you should be aware of. The first is with the City of Hamilton. For the low cost of only \$1 per year, the City provides and maintains all 26 acres of outdoor space for Parkside including football & soccer field, 4 baseball diamonds, well maintained tennis courts, running trails, a skating rink and hundreds of parking spaces as well as unlimited safe parking for buses without impacting local traffic. The Park also provides many educational opportunities for the student in geography, art, science just to mention a few.

## **Community Partnership #2**

The second valuable community partnership that Parkside has is with the vast array of businesses and services in town. Did you know that at Parkside 30% of grade 11 & 12 students participate in co-op placements by the time they graduate? This is higher than at Highland likely because Parkside has over 100 co-op placements within 5 to 10 minutes walk of the school. These nearby placements include auto garages, hairstyling salons, restaurants, police and fire stations, fashion stores, medical offices, art school, galleries, banks, law offices, and many more. They provide real world experience and mentorships for the students that enhance their school learning. Because of the close proximity, all students are able to participate if they want to and make it back to school in time to catch the bus. Placements are not just limited to students whose parents can drive them during the day. This checks off the board's requirement for equity of opportunity. This community partnership is absolutely free but the benefit to the students is great.

## **Parkside Top 10 School for the Last 5 years**

Both of these extremely valuable community partnerships represent the true nature of what community partnerships are all about and likely contribute to the fact that Parkside is the only school from the 4 West ARC schools we are considering to be on the Fraser Institute's top10 school list for all of the last 5 years.

## **Rebuttal**

Now the Highland reps had some concerns that if we consider a plan B that we'll then open up to plans C, D & E and that would take up too much time. Actually this plan B is the only option you need to consider because the option of closing Parkside and keeping Highland open is already covered by the board option and everyone agreed that closing both Dundas schools and moving to Ancaster was not an option for our community. Secondly, Highland said we should present a "clean" proposal and that attaching a plan B would weaken the presentation. The fact is that a plan B will actually increase the chances that the Board of Trustees will vote for a new school proposal that takes into account if we don't get funding because they understand all too well that this is a real possibility. Also the ARC should decide what happens with its options and not leave it to the board or consultants.

As the facts have shown, Parkside's plan B is the perfect solution for Dundas because it succeeds on all of the reference criteria required by the board including transportation, community partnerships, facility utilization, equity and quality learning environments and we have a way to pay for it!

## **Democratic Right to a Vote**

My last point is that The Ministry of Education says this is supposed to be an open, transparent and democratic process. Parkside was denied its democratic rights at the last ARC meeting by the board. At the next meeting, the first order of business on the agenda needs to be to allow the Parkside Plan B to be voted on by the committee otherwise the validity of this entire process will be seriously called into question.

Thank you. Diana Kenel

See attached Plan B document

## ARC West Plan "B"

(to attach to each of the "new" school options)

Keep Parkside open and close Highland if we don't get money to build a new school.

### Benefits of this plan B:

**Selling Highland property will give us \$8,915,000 to renovate the schools.**

(board option only leaves \$1,636,000 to renovate Highland - not enough to get even basics done.)

### **Leaves Parkside with a 93% utilization rate in 2020/01**

(board option leaves Highland with only 78% utilization rate in 2020/01)

### **Parkside is in much better condition than Highland.**

The board admitted the reason they only spent \$200,000 at Parkside in the last 10 years is because it was in much better condition than Highland, Ancaster and Westdale.

### **Parkside has 2 valuable community partnerships in place.**

1. City of Hamilton provides and maintains all 26 acres of outdoor space for athletics, academic study, buses & parking. Cost \$1 per year.
2. The town's businesses & services provide 100 different co-op placements within 5 to 10 minutes walk of the school which 30% of students participate in. Cost: Free

### **Proof that Parkside can easily handle "urban" Dundas students:**

This chart shows that Parkside was fully capable of handling these numbers and in fact did so even when there was unused capacity at Highland. They did this using "time tabling" where classes run all 5 periods in a day with kids having either 3rd or 4th periods for lunch.

### **Historical Enrolment (source: Ministry of Education)**

PAST	Parkside	Parkside	Highland	Highland
	enrolment	% utilization	enrolment	% utilization
1995/96	900	116%	852	92%
1996/97	864	111%	838	91%
1997/98	854	110%	830	90%
1998/99	870	112%	883	96%
1999/00	903	116%	908	98%
2000/01	855	110%	908	98%
2001/02	874	112%	914	99%
2002/03	858	110%	913	99%

### **Proposed Enrolment (source: board's option "urban" Dundas catchment.)\***

FUTURE	Plan B: Parkside stays OPEN	
	enrolment	% utilization
2013/14	943	121%
2014/15	891	115%
2015/16	871	112%
2016/17	852	110%
2017/18	838	108%
2018/19	801	103%
2019/20	756	97%
2020/21	722	93%

**Fact: 1,118 Lockers at Parkside**

With this option, utilization % stays high so we can ensure that Dundas keeps a high school in the future.

\* alternative catchment possible with similar enrolment:

Urban Dundas catchment plus Greensville students. Seaton goes to Ancaster b/c its closer.

Millgrove catchment goes to Waterdown to shorten transportation times.