

Written Submission
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Dixie Shorefront

Bjarnason, Beth

From: gffs [gffs@rogers.com]
Sent: Friday, September 26, 2008 10:15 AM
To: Iannicca, Bruno; Pascucci, Mario; Bjarnason, Beth; McGuire, Elizabeth (Superintendent)
Subject: School Closures and French Immersion

Hello

I am a Catholic parent of students enrolled in the French immersion program in the public school system (specifically Mineola Public School).

My children attended St. Dominic school for their kindergarten programs. After much consideration and with heavy heart (as it would entail moving away from the Catholic board) we transferred them into the french program. We felt this was where our children needed to be for a number of reasons, many of which are outlined on your website. I truly was saddened to take them out of the Dufferin Peel board. I think the board is an excellent one. I totally agree with religious education for children. I believe in the sense of community the board fosters. My list goes on and on. I find many parents in the french immersion program feel the same as I do. If there was such a program in your board, we would have remained loyal to it but we had to do what we thought was best for our children.

Mineola Public School is expanding in leaps and bounds. There are now five portables on site (and this is only a JK to Grade 6 school). The predominant growth is from the french immersion stream. This year in grade one there are three full french immersion programs and one split grade 1/2 english stream. It remains evident that were it not for this program, I am sure this school may be considered in a student accomodation review.

I understand the Dufferin Peel board has put in a pilot program for French immersion in one of its schools and this program received great response from the community. I also understand that there is discussions around closing either St. Dominic or St. James school. Has the board considered making one of these schools into a french immersion school? My children are in grades one and three now. If the board opened up one classroom for each grade group and made the catchment area for Southern Mississauga extend from the Credit River to the Etobicoke border and from Dundas Street south to the lake, I am sure they would have enough interest to increase enrollment both in the short run and long run. Again, there are many parents whom I have spoken to who feel the way I do. Southern Mississauga is growing. The demographics are changing. The growth however is coming from the French stream.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Gianna Patrizio Torrelli

9/29/2008