

December 3rd, 2021

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Steve MacLean Public School and Vimy Ridge Public School Councils.

Our school communities were dismayed to see the details of the proposed Accommodation Review in the news with no advance notice to the school administration or parents. Planning staff failed to provide an accurate summary of the current situation at Steve MacLean Public School which is currently over capacity and has been for much longer than Vimy Ridge Public School. The report is heavily slanted to the benefits and resolution of the overcapacity issue at Vimy Ridge PS but very light on the effects to Steve MacLean PS.

In Appendix D, "Historical and Status Quo Projected Enrolments", there is no data for Steve MacLean PS, only for Vimy Ridge PS. The Board has underestimated projected enrolment at Steve MacLean PS for a number of years in a row by as much as 50 plus students. Steve MacLean PS's historical enrollment and its current OCV numbers is information the trustees and public should have.

In the proposed Accommodation Review, there are no site plan renderings illustrating the placement of existing portables at the two schools nor a rendering showing projected future placement of additional portables. This is an important visual for Trustees and the public to see. Due to the addition completed in 2013 at Steve MacLean Public School, a significant portion of its overall outdoor space was lost and the only remaining green space is the sports field. This field is also where snow cleared from around the school is stored during the winter months. For many years, Steve MacLean Public School students have had to have staggered activity breaks and use the adjacent City soccer field as there is not enough room for students to play safely due to the lack of space on school grounds. Movement has become even more limited with cohorting measures. Vimy Ridge Public School has continued to provide quality education opportunities for students in both indoor and outdoor settings and can continue to do so with more portables arriving at the site. It should also be noted that Vimy Ridge Public School has an adjacent City park that could be used for overflow.

We respectfully request that Steve MacLean Public School's enrolment numbers for 2017 through to this school year (including OCV numbers), as well as the projected status quo for 2022 and 2023, be included in Appendix D of the report. In addition, current and proposed site plans for each school should be added as an appendix to the

Interim Accommodation Review report and included in the presentation to the Committee of the Whole on December 7th. This missing information will provide Trustees with a better picture of the potential impacts for both schools.

Our councils and parent communities would also like answers to the following questions:

1. When did the OCDSB realize that there was an overcrowding issue at Vimy Ridge Public School?
2. When did the OCDSB inform the Ministry of Education of this problem?
3. Given the overcapacity situation at both Vimy Ridge PS and Steve MacLean PS, why has the OCDSB not put new elementary schools in Findlay Creek and Riverside South at the top of its Capital priorities list?
4. What other options were considered to deal with overcapacity at Vimy Ridge Public School?
5. Has there been any consideration given to adjusting the boundaries for Vimy Ridge PS and Steve MacLean PS to accommodate the growing communities?
6. When was the last time the OCDSB met with City planners and Developers to discuss growth plans and projected population increase for the next 5 to 10 years? How will this impact the Capital Priorities List?
7. Have staff considered the possibility that with this significant disruption to Steve MacLean Public School and Vimy Ridge Public School that parents will abandon the OCDSB and enrol their children in the OCSB for grade 7 and/or 8?

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your prompt response.

Yours sincerely,

Kaveeta Ajwani and Ahmed Fawal,
Vimy Ridge Public School Council Co-Chairs

Lynn Vanasse,
Steve MacLean PS Council Chair

Kyle Creelman,
Steve MacLean PS Council Vice-Chair