

MEMO

TO: Accommodation Review Committee – Forest, and Chief Tom Bressette, and Mayor Bill Weber

FROM: Andrea Walden

Date: January 20, 2017

Re: Proposal to Re-draw School Boundaries = Potential Reduction of Effective and Appropriate Education Programs for Students in North Lambton

The purpose of this memo, which I am forwarding to you so that it can become part of the public record, is to re-iterate my concerns relating to the importance of having a viable secondary school located in north Lambton. It is my understanding that since the public meeting held at Bosanquet Central School on November 16, 2016 some parents of children who reside in the “Bluepoint & Sunset Drive” community and “Bonnie Doone & Camlachie” have petitioned the LKDSB to re-draw the School Board Boundaries so that their children attend the Errol Village Public School and presumably by extension secondary school in the City of Sarnia.

I believe that the reasons the School Board Boundaries should not be re-drawn are as follows:

- **Decreased Enrolment at proposed JK – Grade 12 Kinnwood school (the “Kinnwood School”):** In the event that the School Board Boundaries were re-drawn such that students from Bluepoint & Sunset Drive, and Bonnie Doone & Camlachie attend Errol Village Public School and ultimately secondary school in the City of Sarnia, this will decrease the number of students who will attend the Kinnwood School. The decreased enrollment of the Kinnwood School would have the following negative consequences for the students who would attend the Kinnwood School:
 - **Fewer Students = Fewer Teachers = Fewer Classes:**

The Superintendents present at the Forest ARC Working Meeting #1 advised the Committee members that currently seventeen (17) students who reside in Bonnie Doone, the Village of Camlachie, and Bluepoint & Sunset Drive area currently attend North Lambton Secondary School. It is my understanding that seventeen students is approximately equal to one class of students more or less. If fewer students attend the proposed Kinnwood School, then fewer teachers will be required. If fewer teachers are at the proposed Kinnwood School, then fewer classes and programs will be offered at the school. The LKDSB is required to deliver effective and appropriate education programs to all of its pupils not merely those in close proximity to the City of Sarnia. Re-drawing the School Board boundaries such that the number of students who will attend the Kinnwood School is decreased will not enable the LKDSB to deliver effective and appropriate education programs to students in north Lambton.
 - **Impact on the Students:** The Consequences of Fewer Classes/Programs at the Secondary School: Some secondary school students at the proposed Kinnwood School could be impacted in the following ways if the School Boundaries are re-drawn:

- **Summer School:** In the event that fewer classes and programs are offered at the secondary school portion of the Kinnwood School, students will have to find alternative means by which to acquire the courses they require in order to either graduate and/or pass the prerequisite courses needed in order to attend post-secondary education. Students may therefore have to attend summer school in the City of Sarnia or the Town of Strathroy at their own expense (Please note that no public transportation is available from north Lambton to these communities and students must find transportation to summer school at their own expense.);
- **Require Additional Year to Complete Secondary School:** Some students may have to enroll in secondary school for more than four years in order to take the prerequisite courses they require to pursue a post-secondary education. This situation will delay their entry into the work force.
- **Attend Schools In Other School Boards:** For the reasons outlined above, some students may choose to attend schools in other school boards (the Thames Valley District School or the Avon Maitland District School Board). This will have an impact on the number of students in the LKDSB generally.
- **Drop-Out of Secondary School:** Unfortunately, some students may drop- out of secondary school if they are required to travel to either to Sarnia, Petrolia, Strathroy or Exeter in order to complete their secondary school education. If students drop-out of school, the LKDSB will have failed these students as it is the purpose of the public education system to provide students with the opportunity to realize their potential and develop skills which will enable them to contribute to the society.
- **Loss of the Potential STEM focused School:** The proposed Kinnwood School presents the LKDSB the unique opportunity to provide the students of north Lambton with a school catering to the economic needs of the community namely a focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) (and by extension the trades). Jobs exist for students with a background in STEM subjects and as outlined in my “Request to Delegate Form”. However, if not enough students attend the proposed Kinnwood School because the LKDSB re-draws school boundaries, then the LKDSB will have missed this unique opportunity.

In conclusion, my concern remains unchanged from the presentation I gave during the course of the Public Meeting on November 16, 2016, namely that: (1.) the most northerly portion of Lambton County requires a viable secondary school in order to ensure the academic achievement and well-being of students who reside in north Lambton; and (2.) all students in the LKDSB should have equal access to public education regardless as to where they live in Lambton County.