

I would like to present some facts that deal with student and community impact should this school board decide to close SCITS. SCITS is the only school within the LKDSB that has a priority school initiative designation. This designation will be lost if SCITS closes. The reason this is important is that the PSI designation allows community groups to use SCITS facilities and amenities at no cost or minimal cost. There is currently over 20 groups using SCITS for over 1700 hours this school year. The LKDSB is provided \$48,287 from the ministry of education for SCITS because of this. On page 3 of the ministry of education's memorandum sent to the directors of education it states that, the money the school board receives is to be used to give groups free access or reduced rate to SCITS and to pay for hydro cost, custodian fees, etc. Can you show that all \$48,287 went to SCITS directly? Another very important point with the PSI designation is that was created as by the ministry of education to support the Poverty Reduction Strategy and help student and families in high priority neighbourhoods benefit from expanded access to programs and services. Are you willing to remove this help from the people and community surrounding SCITS because this designation will be lost if you close SCITS? Have you looked into the socio economic factors of this?

Mr. Girardi you stated at the Jan.13 meeting that "there's no question that the health of the downtown is a concern for all of Sarnia.....But I don't think that coincides with our objectives". So I ask you Mr.Girardi, what are your objectives? The LKDSB logo says "student achievement, community success" The 20/20 vision reports from your board's website states "public education is an investment in the future of all peoples and communities". So how can this school board refuse to take into account community impact of a possible SCITS closure. The ministry of education had already proven it to be in a significant area due to its PSI designation. SCITS is directly surrounded by many small businesses that count on the students to operate. You will cause a wave of closures if you pull SCITS out of this neighbourhood!

The ability for students to pay for all the costs associated with post secondary education is a big concern. SCITS has the largest number of scholarships and bursaries in the entire LKDSB. They have 95 awards. Many of these are funded through SCITS alumni and will be lost if you close SCITS. SCITS also awards the highest in total monetary value in scholarships at over \$85,000. In comparison

ST.Clair has 49 and just under \$50,000 in value. SCITS has 46 scholarships unique to them, and ST.Clair has one. There is a difference of over \$35,000 more available to SCITS students. Would you not want students to have the most opportunities possible to fund their post secondary educations?

The SCITS auditorium is a huge asset to the students. Every year it puts on a professional scale production called the SCITS revue. It is held over 3 nights in the 850 seat auditorium and continually sells out. The ticket sales alone for this year based on \$10 presale ticket price over 3 nights would be \$25,000. This is a continual money stream for the school! There are also many other sources of revenue generated by the SCITS alumni, The 75th anniversary reunion proceeds paid for 300 seats to be refurbished in the auditorium. The annual SCITS alumni golf tournament proceeds go to support SCITS athletics and contributes thousands every year. The CATHERINE WILSON FOUNDATION alone invests tens of thousands of dollars every year into SCITS and its student. This quote is taken directly from the ministry of educations document titles "achieving excellence, a renewed vision for education in Ontario pg6. "Promote the value of the arts including visual and performing arts in developing critical and creative thinking skills that support success in school and in life" SCITS has the best arts and culture programs as proven by the revenue generating annual SCITS revue. It is also proven by the Imperial Theatre who employs over %60 SCITS graduates who can go directly from SCITS to working there because of the one site training they receive in the SCITS auditorium! On page 8 of the 2015/16 Education Funding: a guide to student needs, there is a paragraph of great importance. The school operations and renewal grant "This grant supports the cost of operating, maintaining and repairing school facilities. Under the formula, funding is adjusted for boards that have older schools with unique features such as wide hallways, large shop spaces and auditorium spaces" Which school does this describe? This is important to the students and the community.

Please take into consideration the above points before choosing to take all of this away from the students and the community!

Jennifer George