

Lynndale Delegation

We are the Lynndale Heat! Where each recess you see 5 soccer games being played, the green team is working hard to keep the earth clean and where little mathematicians come to sharpen their skills.

We understand that we have a 5% availability of student spaces to achieve the board recommended percentage and believe that we will achieve and exceed that percentage within the next five years with the expansion of the Donly subdivision.

We are saddened to hear of the possible loss of a Simcoe school. Lynndale promises to open its arms to include and welcome any student and staff that come to Lynndale whether it be temporary or permanent to accommodate the boards decision.

Through this process we have seen the willingness of this board to research any and all reasonable proposals and believe that in making this difficult decision that the Granderie Mission Statement will be the centre of all decisions. "That our students should be considered first as the basis for decision-making." We at Lynndale have no doubt that the trustees will always put children first.

Thank you

Jessica Smith
Lynndale ARC parent representative

West Lynn Staff Delegation- April 27, 2016

As parents and educators we all want what is best for our collective school communities in keeping with the ministry funding formula. The West Lynn staff recognizes that some sort of change is inevitable and we hope to make the best of this transition. In 2002 West Lynn and South communities joined together following the closure of South Public School. Now we see an opportunity to minimize disruption for all by keeping the current Elgin and West Lynn communities intact, housing them together at West Lynn. Such an option raises many questions and in this presentation we will address those involving physical space, student safety and school accessibility, location within the community, bussing, minimizing disruptions during the transition period, future land use and financial considerations.

1) Space Needed-West Lynn is currently confined to a 4.11 acre parcel of land. There are parking issues. Student drop off and bus drop off are challenges. West Lynn is running at just over 80% capacity so there is little room to house additional students. There is not enough land to remedy these situations.

However, there is a large piece of open property directly behind West Lynn. Feel free to go out and look at it before you leave tonight. When you look at it you might be reminded of aschool playground because it already looks like one. If the board were able to obtain this property the lack of land issue could be resolved.

There are many ways to plan for the use of this additional land. A new playground could be created on the new land which would be behind the school, further back from the road for increased safety. Three separate vehicle areas could be created to allow for student drop off by parents, bus drop off and staff parking. The current parking lot, a portion of the front lawn and a portion of the land to the west of the current building could fill these needs. These changes should greatly increase efficiency and safety for students.

2) Safety and Accessibility- West Lynn enjoys many benefits by virtue of being a one-level school. All students have access to and from all areas of the school without the use of an elevator, flights of stairs or complicated evacuation plans. Entering and exiting the building is quick and easy not only for students, but for the community as a whole. People of all ages and abilities are able to enter the school to attend extracurricular events and other events such as polling stations during elections. In the event of a fire or some other reason requiring quick evacuation, emergency safety plans for students with special needs are simple and efficient. Staff don't have to worry about such things as location of the elevator key, or who will be involved in lifting a student down the stairs if the elevator is not an option. The expense of an elevator and the maintenance issues surrounding an elevator are also non issues at West Lynn.

3) Location and Partnerships within the Community- It is important to realize that our location on the south end of town has not limited our ability to develop strong community connections. Our neighbours in the White Horse Plaza are a prime example. Our choir has been invited to perform at the Pharmasave Christmas Open House and we have toured their pharmacy and previously, their postal outlet. Tours have also included stops at Fiedler's Delicatessen, Pet Valu and Sobeys. Last year we had a NASCAR demonstration, met the driver and checked out his car at a fundraising barbeque with West Lynn as the beneficiary. This is just one of many opportunities we have experienced courtesy of Sobeys. Subway in the Whitehorse Plaza has been a partner in our lunch program and Credit Union volunteers help serve breakfast to our students every week.

During Fair Week our students perk up their ears as we are within listening distance of the Fair. Perhaps this is the inspiration that motivated them to read like crazy and come out victorious during the Read Your Way to the Fair competition for the past 3 years. Our students also submit many entries to the Fair and of course our grade 4s look forward to walking to the Agricultural Awareness program.

We take advantage of many opportunities within walking distance including the Lynn Valley Trail, Memorial Ball Park, Golden Gardens and Simson parks, the Splash Pad, Young Theatre Players, Eva Brook Donly Museum, Early Years' Centre, Meadow Lynn Farms and the E.M.S and Fire station. We have a strong affiliation with the

Simcoe Branch of the Norfolk County Public Library which is located close to the homes of many of our students. The public library programs are promoted at school and during March Break we created a contest that encouraged students to visit the library downtown. Last year we were adopted by Coles in the Simcoe Town Centre and this partnership has resulted in not only close to \$3000 of new books for our library, but also a very exciting shopping event attended by many of our families. The mall management, in conjunction with our students' council held an event that involved face painting, snacks, contests and costumed characters, a truly exciting event for a mid-week evening at the mall. Our students walk to the Annaleise Carr Aquatic Centre for swimming lessons and we could have walked our four choirs and bell choir to the Norfolk Musical Arts Festival at St. James United Church this year, but we opted to take a bus on that blustery February day.

We know that all schools could recite long lists of the awesome opportunities they provide for their students. We just want to assure you that opportunities for current and future students will not be limited by our location at the south end of town.

4) Bussing-The population around Elgin is very concentrated, while the West Lynn population is more spread out. Bussing current West Lynn students out of their home community to Lakewood would necessitate very long bus rides for several students, and might actually prove to be more costly and complicated than bussing the Elgin students from their more densely populated neighbourhood. This route would be shorter and have group pick up areas as opposed to individual stops. Currently West Lynn students from Decou Road and further south share their bus with students who are heading into Simcoe to St.Joe's. If they were to attend Lakewood perhaps there would be buses travelling in opposite directions past the same houses.

5) Minimizing Disruption during Transition from Five Schools to Four-Of key concern to every single student, parent and teacher involved from all schools is the unavoidable disruption during transition. Elgin requires extensive demolition, followed by rebuilding and renovation. During the last meeting it was agreed that this certainly could not happen within the time limitations of summer holidays. It was stated that students would have to be relocated during this revamping

process. For Elgin students this would mean moving out of Elgin for a period of time. Currently West Lynn does not have room to house portables or provide sufficient playground space for Elgin students during the construction period. However, if West Lynn were chosen as the site of the future combined school the main changes would take the form of an addition. Demolition and renovation would be much less extensive. To the best of our knowledge West Lynn is structurally sound. It is newer and more recently renovated than Elgin. If the majority of the renovations were made during the summer it may be possible that current West Lynn students could remain at West Lynn during the addition process. All the other schools could remain running as normal during this time period, eliminating the cost of portables and confusion of dividing up other school communities.

6) Future Land Use-We are well aware of the challenges of declining enrollment. Conversely we must also consider the challenges at the opposite end of the spectrum, our aging population. Elgin sits on the ideal piece of property for a hospital expansion or the addition of an extended nursing home. It could also be developed into a retirement community by an outside investor. This development would be located next to the hospital, close to downtown and the Simcoe Town Centre as well as the library, county offices etc. Often schools that are no longer in use take a long time to sell. Elgin sits on a very desirable piece of property. West Lynn currently sits on a relatively small piece of land without these enticing connections for resale.

7) Financial Considerations-None of these ideas are relevant if the plan does not add up financially. West Lynn is a newer school. Our original building was opened in 1953 with an expansion in 2002 that added 7 classrooms and made our gym and new gym floor the largest of the original elementary schools under consideration. Elgin was built in 1947 with its most recent addition in 1968. If the parcel of land behind West Lynn could be obtained at a reasonable price, bussing costs were comparable, and the appropriate additions and changes to the current building could be made in a cost effective manner, it is possible that keeping West Lynn open is a viable option.

Thank you in advance for considering all options.

Dear South East Norfolk Elementary Accommodation Review Committee:

Deputation: Jennifer & Matt Carrier, Pam & Greg Mabee, Liz Jolly & Frank Yalaksa, Doug & Heidi Smith, Mark Goulet & Alissa Lingaitis, Samantha & Paul Schram, Jen Norman, Ted & Jamie Knowles, Donna Fletcher, Paul & Jenn Koster, Jennifer & Jonathan Wu, Nicole & Brent Thompson, Steve & Tori Braun: French Immersion Parents

We would like to introduce ourselves as French Immersion Parents whose children are currently in Grades 4,3 & 2,1, SK respectively.

When we decided to register our children into the French Immersion program being offered at Walsh Public School, there were many factors that went into the decision making process

1. Walsh is a country school, that has a great reputation for teaching excellence, a strong and well respected administration, and a warm, open environment. We felt that this country school would be easily adaptable and tolerant of our children who would coming to the school from outside of the catchment area.
2. We were promised that the French Immersion program would continue to be offered for our children up to Grade 8. That it would be a guaranteed program so that there would be no concerns of it being cancelled part way through their elementary years. We also are aware that currently there is no offer of high school education for our children in French language and what options do exist are located in Brantford (a lengthy bus ride) or to switch to the Catholic School system in order to take French language core classes. That the only alternative in the public school system may be to hire a tutor at our own expense to keep the French skills up.
3. We knew that this could mean long bus times for our children, that some of our littlest kids get on the bus at 7:10- 7:15 and do not arrive at school until 8:45. That is some serious commitment from the French Immersion community. We accept this.
4. We also knew that based on French Immersion interest there would be portables at the school. This year only French Immersion children are in the portables. What i find exceptionally disturbing is that, while the school is locked against intrusions during the day, the portables remain wide open. If this is an acceptable risk for our French immersion children, why shouldn't the school be left unlocked as well, or at a minimum some equality with respect to allocation of space. Portable students are required to take their lunch inside and join in with another classroom. Currently these extra classrooms at Walsh are full, the portable children then eat at stations or any where they can squeeze in. They have to spend time with winter clothing,

- footwear etc. using precious eating minutes to re-enter the school, and settle before they commence their lunch which other students are already enjoying.
5. We are also prepared to accept that extra French resources are significantly less in comparison to the regular programming. That the allocation of French library books requires time and money to acquire and that the process would be slow. That supply teachers are often English speaking and that translates into less hours of French instruction per child. That one day a week of an English supply teacher translates into 20% less French per week. If that is over a term that can mean significant time lost in French instruction. This too is something we accept.

When we enrolled our children into Walsh Public School and into French Immersion, we enrolled so that they would receive the best education we felt possible. We accepted many things. What I cannot accept is that French Immersion program is considered the flavour of the month. This program is not a passing thought, it is my child's education. We are an integral part of Walsh Public School as parents, volunteers, committee members. We are invested in Walsh, it is our home school.

We would like to see French immersion remain all together, not to be divided into two schools. The existing program offers better grade support, instead of constant need for split grades. Currently the Grades 3 and 4 programs are very small, they were the first group of French Immersion to start in the program, splitting them up between 2 schools would make as few as 6 children in one grade. This would require split teaching for the entire elementary school duration. The lower grades have increased attendance due to the popularity and the strength of the French immersion program.

Another reason to keep the French Immersion group together at one school is for resources. Especially library, and educational supports. As the numbers of French immersion students increase so does the opportunity for French assemblies, French announcements, French library books, French signage inside the school. A true integration would honour both streams, currently the French Immersion stream is secondary and does not have equal representation inside the school. Which may be in part due to the infancy of the program. If the students were to stay together at one school then there would be increased opportunity to have a fully immersive experience rather than being the minority.

Also, with in the documentation support by the Board, it shows that if the French immersion program was to split in half, and keeping half at Walsh, the school would be over the 85% capacity targets over the 10 year projection.

Walsh Enrolment Summary - All

Enrolment History Programs

Delegation 12 - French Immersion Group

Year	JK	SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total		
2011	39	27	32	33	32	27	30	23	32	32	307		
2012	45	36	34	32	34	31	27	34	28	33	334		
2013	40	56	39	34	33	35	33	28	36	31	365		
2014	57	40	65	41	36	33	36	30	27	37	402		
2015	71	65	37	64	42	35	35	50	27	14	440		

Projected Enrolment

Year	JK	SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total	Remove Lakewood FI Children	Students At Walsh
2016	59	71	65	37	64	42	35	35	50	27	485	100	385
2017	55	59	71	65	37	64	42	35	35	50	513	122	391
2018	50	55	59	71	65	37	64	42	35	35	513	140	373
2019	50	50	55	59	71	65	37	64	42	35	528	158	370
2020	50	50	50	55	59	71	65	37	64	42	543	168	375
2021	50	50	50	50	55	59	71	65	37	64	551	178	373
2022	50	50	50	50	50	55	59	71	65	37	537	180	354
2023	50	50	50	50	50	50	55	59	71	65	550	189	361
2024	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	55	59	71	535	185	350
2025	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	55	59	514	172	342

School Capacity 404

This second proposal of splitting the French Immersion program into two schools would require portables, and stretches the capacity beyond the parameters of the intended accommodation. It makes little sense to consider making changes to the boundaries and not review the long term impact. If the numbers would push you over the target of 85% then that is not a viable solution. In this model 85% is 343 students. It would take until 2025 to reach the target, long after our children have graduated. An alternate proposal is required, one that keeps the French Immersion program together.

Keeping the French Immersion students at one facility is paramount to the program, together they have a stronger voice, a larger presence, the chance to have resources and opportunity for growth in French and feel that they are welcome and equal in their school, and currently Walsh is their school, the only school that they have ever known. Thank you for your time.

I would first like to thank the school board and trustees for being so open in this process and for answering, to the best of their ability, all the questions that have been proposed. I would also like to thank the many parents who took the time to discuss their concerns and voice their opinions. The issues we are faced with have many layers and affect many families. It can be very hard to face change, especially in terms of our daily routines. I can appreciate the big picture and envision that the schools remaining will be well funded by proper enrolment numbers. I can also appreciate the concerns from parents in regards to closing schools and relocating children. In realizing that fiscally this has to be the best possible decision, I hope the school board does not lose sight that it should also be the best overall decision for the education of students.

In regard to the proposal to close West Lynn School and move students to a renovated Elgin School and Lakewood School, I share concerns with other parents that Elgin School has been in poor condition for a long time. Would a renovation end up be more costly than building a new school? How can a school that was deemed "too far gone" publicly a few years ago now be considered for the site of such an undertaking? I also would like to express concerns with the accessibility of the location of Elgin School - parents are voicing that currently, with only 227 students at the school, there is congestion during pick up/drop off times. This proposal would almost double the number of students. I would like to encourage the board to look further into purchasing the parcel of land behind West Lynn school, rezoning the land, and building a new school on that location. Bus access could be diverted directly from HWY 24. This would keep students living in Simcoe attending a school within their home community. Building a new school on the site of West Lynn School would also allow the students of both West Lynn and Elgin Schools to remain at their current locations until the new school was complete.

The proposal to change the boundary of Walsh School has been met with much resistance and criticism. The parents of the children who would be moved to Lakewood School and renovated Elgin School feel as though they are being pushed out of their home school due to the French Immersion program. This has unfortunately caused a divide among parents at Walsh School. Parents who have chosen to live in rural communities are not comfortable with their children being bused to other towns for schooling. It presents issues with: before and after school care; work hours for parents and students; taking from a student's family time that will now be spent on a bus. Many French Immersion students currently have extended bus trip times, but their families were aware that would be the case when they elected to enter the program. These English parents are not being given a choice. Prior to the ARC proposal, I personally found Walsh School to be a very welcoming environment to English and French Immersion parents alike. I would like to point out that at the time the French Immersion program began at Walsh, five years ago, Walsh School was facing low enrolment. The French program was introduced to boost enrolment numbers and prevent the school from consideration for closure. Had it not been implemented, the role of Walsh in this ARC could have been very different.

No one could have predicted how popular French Immersion would become. It is growing faster than the board can determine what infrastructure will follow to support it. As a result, the GEDSB has decided to place a temporary cap for JK students.

The proposal to split the French Immersion program between two schools seems like a good solution. Walsh School would not be required to change their boundary. English program students would not have to be moved.

I understand the French Immersion program would remain at Walsh for students within the boundary, and that a second location, Lakewood School, would also host a French Immersion

program. This proposal would decrease bus ride times for many students who are currently in the French Program.

The projected numbers that were supplied by the school board for the French Immersion split seem very low: 13 JK students per year at Walsh, 12 JK students per year at Lakewood. That is well below the board enforced temporary cap of 26 JK students per year, per location. With these low estimated enrolment numbers, it would be easy to split all FI classes from JK to 8, which would require less space within either school. I am not convinced this is a realistic solution.

If the popularity of the French Immersion remains, will Walsh School and Lakewood School be able to host the programs with out disruption to other students? Are we headed for the same space issues that currently face Walsh School at two locations? Does French Immersion needs it's own dedicated location to facilitate the number of students it will host? I ask the board to revisit these projected enrolment numbers with a total of 26 JK students per year at each location to determine if splitting French Immersion between two locations is feasible.

I would also like to express concerns in terms of funding to start a new French Immersion program at Lakewood School. I am aware the Ministry of Education does not provide any additional funding for the creation of a new location. Will the students attending Lakewood School French Immersion have the same material and resources as the already well established program at Walsh School? How can this be ensured?

With the assurance that space and resources won't be of issue, I support splitting French Immersion and allowing the boundary of Walsh to remain as it currently stands for English families.

What ever choices are made, I plead with the school board and trustees to weigh the fiscal responsibility they face against the ease of accessibity and overall experience of students.

Thank you all for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the parents of Walsh Public School.

Spokesperson: Jenny Smith

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We understand the need to consolidate student spaces in Norfolk and to maximise the budget so that it is a benefit to all the students of Norfolk.

We would like to suggest an alternative plan and some explanation:

It looks from the numbers you present that it would be impossible to run a dual-track school at Walsh beyond 2017 when you reach full implementation and the initially small cohorts graduate.

Given this information, it looks that the English program will eventually have to be phased out of Walsh, impacting families in a large way.

Proposal

Close Elgin School and have students displaced to West Lynn and Lynndale Schools, allowing all students to remain in their community and utilizing school capacity. If property is available for purchase behind West Lynn School, we suggest the board purchase this property and conduct renovations on West Lynn School opposed to renovating Elgin School.

We suggest creating new boundaries for the French Immersion program at Walsh. This option would allow these students currently in the Walsh area to remain in the French Immersion Program currently offered there. This would mean currently a total of approximately 60 students would stay at the school. This number does not reflect new enrollment into kindergarten French immersion and English programs. By keeping this local group of children in the French immersion program at Walsh it will keep their bussing time to a minimum and allow them to stay within their community.

This option would mean the remaining 104 French immersion students from the Simcoe, Waterford and Port Dover areas could attend a new French Immersion program at Lakewood Public School in Port Dover. Creating this new program will not only allow these students to be closer to home, but also cut down the amount of time they are being transported to and from school and also cutting down on transportation costs. This option allows all students to stay within their home community.

In agreement with proposal:

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I address you today, as a mom both proud, and grateful to be a part of West Lynn Public School. I know that we have stood before you, on a number of occasions now, and told you how great our small, but mighty little school is, but I believe that it is a uniquely special atmosphere that you can't quite appreciate unless you've experienced it for yourself.

Throughout this process, I have been blown away by the number of parents who I have spoken with, who shared an experience very similar to what I felt when we were first introduced to West Lynn. There is an indescribable feeling that you get from this school, that it will truly offer your children a home away from home. Having only been a part of the West Lynn family for three years, I can attest to it's welcoming and nurturing nature. While we have experienced nothing but greatness at any previous schools, there is something special here that has been unmatched by any other school dynamic I have ever experienced. Both community and family volunteers, an incredible staff team, a principal who knows you and your children by name, parents and peers all united by an invested interest in this school community. The sort of superior dynamic that draws everyone in and brings out the best in them. Somewhere that parents, extended family, staff, the neighbourhood and as a result, the students, WANT to be a part of this community, WANT to give it everything they can offer, strive to make it the best it can be, are inspired to do, and be, even better. What better way to motivate children, to make them feel important, to inspire them to value themselves, their relationships, and their education? This school not only offers them a place to learn and grow, but a place to feel nurtured while doing so.

While I strongly feel that the exceptional school family created at West Lynn is unparalleled, I also believe that every one of these five schools involved in the review, has their own school community that is uniquely important to each student and family that is a part of it.

The original proposed plan to close West Lynn, and make multiple boundary changes to the existing schools, not only proposed to eliminate the incredible school environment offered at West Lynn, but also threatens many other successful school communities at these other affected schools, in some cases, simply excluding a number of students from their established school family. It is my opinion, that another option, that keeps these school communities intact, would greatly benefit ALL of the students involved in this review.

This could be achieved by keeping West Lynn open, expanding the school with the purchase of the available lot behind it, and welcoming the entire Elgin community to join us. This would preserve both of these school families, while uniting them, by eliminating the proposed boundary change that sends Simcoe area students to Lakewood, allowing all West Lynn students to remain a part of their school, as well as lessen the affect of a move for Elgin students, as they take this step together with their peers, leaving no one behind. This would eliminate the large quantity of vacant student spaces currently at Elgin. To rectify the vacancies at Lakewood, and overpopulation at Walsh, the French immersion program could be offered at both of these sites. This would allow a number of student spaces to become available again, and eliminate the need for the proposed boundary change that forced some Walsh area students to Lakewood, which would then allow them to remain a part of both their geographical community, as well as their well established school family. The French immersion program could then be expanded in one of two ways, introducing either geographical school boundaries that direct students from junior kindergarten through to grade eight, to the location nearest their home; or the other option would be to offer junior kindergarten to grade three at one location, and grade four to grade eight at the other, allowing students to continue to have the opportunity to grow together with the same group of peers from JK to grade 8, with very little disruption to their current program and their

established school community. This option preserves the school community of each student involved in this review.

While no solution is likely to please absolutely everyone, this option resolves the enrollment issues that prompted this review, while disrupting all students involved, in the least significant way. I am of the belief that the buildings themselves are not what need to be "saved", but the thriving school families that exist within them. This option achieves that for all.

Simcoe, the once vibrant and flourishing community, the hub of Norfolk County is now suffering, as our population ages and our industries diminish. With this in mind we need to create new ways to bring families to our area. Understanding that our population is aging, the need for new and improved elderly care is a must.

West Lynn is a much beloved school within our community. In 2013, West Lynn was adopted by Sobey's, to participate in a fundraising project, which was loved and appreciated by the community. Sobey's supplied West Lynn with all the food and drinks as well as equipment, venue and entertainment, so together we could raise funds for the school. The event started with a private visit to the school by Canadian NASCAR star DJ Kennington, where he performed dough nuts in our playground. This was an amazing opportunity for our students. Later in the evening, Sobey's provided us with use of their parking lot, to host a public meet and greet with Mr. Kennington, they also supplied an endless stream of hot dogs, buns, condiments, and beverages to sell. All told, Sobey's donated over \$1000 to West Lynn. Because we are a school worth saving.

In 2014, our local Coles store, adopted West Lynn for the Indigo's Adopt-a-school program. Schools across Canada were adopted and everyone was invited to visit their website and adopt or donate to their school, to raise money for the libraries. In 2015 we were also selected to participate, but due to the job action we were unable to advertise. We did not win for the most adopted school, but we did manage to bring in over \$3000 worth of new books for our library over the two years.

Every year, the Kinsmen and Kinettes have supplied our school with Turkey and Ham, as well as all their hard work, so West Lynn students are able to enjoy a wonderful Turkey dinner in the holiday season. As a parent volunteer that helps with every dinner, I will vouch for this being no easy task. These dinners take months of hard work and organizing. We ask our families for donations of stuffing, potatoes and corn, and every year our donation boxes are overflowing with the generosity. Without the help of our Kinsmen, it would not be possible to offer this wonderful family-like event for a minimal cost, and keep a tradition that has been a part of West Lynn for 30 + years.

Our most recent gift of generosity came just a month ago, during our Spring Fundraising event. Our students sold tulips to raise money for our Lego club. Sheryl and Raymond Oosterveld of Jarja Floral International waved the cost of the flowers and donated the entire amount of \$2,352 to West Lynn. This allowed the school council to provide a very large amount of Lego blocks and storage containers to the Lego Club.

Sobey's, Coles, The Oosterveld family and The Kinsmen, are only a few members of our community that support West Lynn, but they believe that we are a school worth working for. These acts of generosity have touched all of our hearts, and in turn we would love to give back to the community.

To close West Lynn would leave a large piece of land close to the edge of Simcoe town limits. This land would possibly be turned into yet another subdivision. The building of new homes is always promising, but the problem I see is where will these people work? Would it be possible to build industry on the property, or will the home owners in the area put a stop to that. It's a beautiful neighbourhood, and the thought of unsightly industrial buildings would be an eye sore.

With the proposed closure of Elgin, Norfolk General Hospital would be able to fulfill their need to expand the current Nursing Home. This helps our community in its current state. Norfolk County's population is aging, and to be able to offer our seniors care that is central to our hospital will open many opportunities to our community. An expansion to the nursing home will offer more jobs, the ministry will allot funding for more nurses, personal support workers and physio therapists which are all integral parts of the care required by our seniors. As well as creating more positions in maintenance and janitorial staff. The extra land could not only be used to solve the major parking issue for Norfolk General Hospital, but also offer a beautiful green space to the residents and their families to enjoy. This will be one step closer to helping our community to achieve the much publicized goal of cleaning up our downtown.

West Lynn is already in excellent condition, which is one level and completely accessible and would require little work to the existing building. The possible purchase of the land behind West Lynn, would allow for an addition, and offer more green space for our children to play and learn. With help from our students and school council we would be willing to increase the efforts used to make this school a more wonderful learning environment. The added land could offer school vegetable gardens, outdoor class rooms, and more play equipment, as well as appropriate parking and ideal drop off and pick up areas which all would be provided with the hard work and determination of our very eager school council.

Elgin, requires extensive upgrades to meet the accessibility standards, and the estimated cost of \$5.5 million is not a cost point many of our community members would like to see spent on this project. A large number of our community members are finding it hard to put food on the table for their families, and have to skimp on many of our necessities to pay our ever increasing bills. It would seem frivolous to our community to spend an excessive amount of money on a school that requires so much work to shine again.

As for the French Immersion program, it would be nice to see the current program offered at Walsh divided between Port Dover and Walsh. Having two locations would make the program more accessible to new families entering school, also helping to solve the overcapacity issues currently at Walsh. However, as a parent not involved in the French Immersion program I cannot definitively say what the best point of action for this problem is. I can say, that if I were to enroll my children in a French Immersion program I would expect that as this is a voluntary decision that there would be some transportation required, and the school wouldn't be offered in my own back yard.

I believe that closing Elgin would be the best decision for our community offering more jobs and promoting an acceptance and involvement for our aging population. A school closure could be an advantage to our community as a whole. As co-chair of the West Lynn School Council the only guarantee that I can make is that we will do whatever it takes to welcome Elgin students into our family with open arms, making the transition as seamless as possible, and offering our current West Lynn standards of education to our new students. There is absolutely no denying the overwhelming feeling of

family when you walk into our doors, and we will keep that same feeling opening our school to new students.

Tonight I am here representing a group of students from West Lynn Public School. With so many adults deciding the fate of our school we felt it was important for you to hear from the students your decision directly affects. The following sections I am sharing were prepared by a variety of students.

The first part was written by Aurora a Grade 3 student

I do not want West Lynn to close because the teachers will get split up to a new school and we will get split up from our friends. Another thing is that the new school might have a whole different perspective possibly the opposite from that of our current teachers. I do not think the teachers should not be separated because they work well together and try to be on the same page.

Part 2 was prepared by Kaitlyn a Grade 4 student

If the school closure of West Lynn proceeds as in the original plan, I am going to be separated from almost all of my friends. I will be separated from most of my teachers. I will be separated from a significant number of the important people in my life.

If you decide that closing West-Lynn Public School is for certain, please note that about 20 students, and me, will be separated from the rest of the school. I am not saying that I am pleased with the school closing down at all. But if it does happen, because of the boundaries, I will be separated from my friends, and teachers.

I would be going to Lakewood. I am sure that Lakewood is a very nice school! But me, my siblings, and only about 18 more kids are being sent to Lakewood. While the other 250+ kids will be sent to Elgin.

I dance in Simcoe, my brother plays hockey in Simcoe, we play piano in Simcoe. But in a couple years I might not go to school in Simcoe. School is one of the most important things in a child's life. What if they go to school in Port Dover and do everything else in Simcoe. It's just not very balanced.

All I am saying, is that if you close the school, why not change the boundaries? It doesn't even have to be that much! Just enough that the students who are currently attending West Lynn all go to the same same school together.

West-Lynn is where I have gone to school since junior kindergarten. Most of my friends have been there with me, since we were only 5. As of now all except one or two of them, will be sent to Elgin.

That is how I will be separated from a lot of the people in my life.

This next part was written by Riley a grade 6 student

Why is closing West Lynn the idea the ARC committee is leaning towards? Why not think of anything else? The idea of only looking at closing West Lynn is just like saying: let's go eat at Wendy's for the rest of our lives and nowhere else. There are plenty of other options which I think are much better. Here's one. Close down Elgin, sell the lot to the hospital, then the hospital can tear some of it down and turn it into a nursing home by maybe expanding the gym into a cafeteria and dividing each classroom into an apartment. This would be crucial because we all know our number of elderly people is increasing faster than it's decreasing. Or the hospital could just tear it down and start fresh. Or if the hospital doesn't want the property, maybe another person would like to buy the property and build the retirement home.

With all the money we'll gain from selling Elgin we can use that to expand a room or two on each school and buy the lot behind West Lynn to expand the school and have more playground. We can fan out the teachers into the new classrooms at new schools so they keep their teaching jobs. We know the French Immersion program in Walsh is overflowing so we'll make a new French Immersion program at Lakewood and move some of the available students there.

Or if that is not an option, just build a new school, wherever would work best. For example, just sacrifice a piece of flat land in a big open area or find a new area for the new school.

Some of my favourite reasons for being at West Lynn are: the teachers are top quality, are nice and know a way into a child's heart; the students are friendly and bubbly and everybody knows each other and are a great big group of friends. West Lynn has a Student's Council which chooses activities and fun days for our school that are always fun and never a fail. West Lynn has great teams and sportsmanship, we always try hard and it doesn't matter if we win or lose. The teachers are proud of us and congratulate us with a pizza party to celebrate.

This final section was written by grade 8 student and Student's Council Representative Sean

West Lynn has been like a second home to me. I have grown up there, from kindergarten to grade 8. Many other kids are on the same journey, some just started, others almost ending. The school may be shutting down soon, and cut their journey short. Shutting down the school would be like closing down mine and many other people's second homes, it would be devastating. Not only would it be devastating to us, but parents, teachers, and the economy.

If West Lynn gets closed down, kids will be sent to other schools like Lakewood and Elgin. The way kids get to school would have to change, whether it's bussing,

walking or driving; it could be massively inconvenient for people. Kids could also be split up. Kids who have been together for every year for almost their whole life, friends. What if you had your best friend, someone who you have known your whole life, who you've seen every day, talked to everyday, be taken away from you, put in a different school? That would be terrible. You'd go from seeing them almost every day to maybe once a week.

In addition to that, teachers could possibly lose jobs. West Lynn employs many people. Many well educated, kind, loving people. They have dedicated years and years of their lives to helping hundreds and hundreds of students learn and grow. If the school gets closed down, are these amazing people going to lose their jobs? Are their years of education and sacrifice going to go unappreciated? I don't think they should, but if the school get closed down, that is a real possibility.

So I really hope our delegation will persuade anyone's opinion on the matter of West Lynn Public school closing. If it does, I only believe there will be negative effects. West Lynn is a place of learning and growing which has made me the person I am today and many other people the people they are today. So I hope this school's legacy does not get cut short, and it continues on for years and years.

Good Evening,

Thank you for listening to our questions, giving us answers and Hearing us. Since your proposal was announced we have heard and seen many concerned parents come together and try to find a better alternative to closing West Lynn. A fair amount of families took time, researched and purchased homes near the school that they chose best fit them. Hearing from other local parents or even local businesses how well represented this school is, definitely shocked the families anticipating their children who are yet to get to experience this.

The children take such pride in their school, growing up in the military I can assure you it is a rare thing to see all the kids being so respectful and supportive to West Lynn. And that can only be taught by example. The teachers and staff at our school go beyond all expectations. Their communication with parents and parents group are one of their best assets. Being a volunteer is such a privilege at West Lynn. These teachers do not only educate our children, they go beyond what is asked of them and support families not just the child. They listen and communicate daily or more if you need without hesitation.

I have 3 children in West Lynn and in September 1 more. My third child started to have issues at school, what we had been diagnosed with seemed wrong. My child had no issues at home, and the school helped me daily to find ways to help him. The staff never gave up on my child, they offered more. A staff member who had left even still kept in touch offering help. Once my child got to a point where I had done everything I could, the school became my rock. They worked with me and my child tried SO many different programs and eventually figured out what my child needed. Had we not been in this school I know my child would not have the life he has today. They believed we would find him the help he needed and never gave up. During this rough time they made my other two children in school feel like they were at home. My oldest made a speech about her siblings struggles and the school gave her time to say it in an assembly. The compassion and understanding these kids have at this school are remarkable. The teachers do an amazing job imparting these skills daily. It is not just our family that has received this exceptional care, many West Lynn families would agree. It is experiences like these that West Lynn has such a reputation. Not because it is a small school, but because the TEAM that runs it.

My husband was born and raised in Norfolk, and I came to town at the age of 16. We both went to Simcoe Composite School. When we graduated, we followed the work and had to leave town for 9 years. After having our first child, we decided to move back home to be with our families and live “the small town life”. Many of our high school friends and classmates have also moved back to Simcoe and have found work in the area. Six of our classmates work as teachers at West Lynn School. I’m sure you can imagine the closeness and community that we have created for ourselves; and the fear and frustration we have that we will be separated and how many teachers in our area will be losing their jobs and may need to re-locate and be away from the families we moved home to be with!

Having lived in a larger city center, and having come back to Simcoe, there are certain similarities between the two. Cities and towns are divided into neighbourhoods, communities or centers if you will. Each community draws a certain demographic. This plan will be a huge disruption to these established communities. To have Elgin pushed into other schools or portables while the renovations are taking place; and then push the other schools into Elgin after the renovations seems very disruptive. We as a community have a unique opportunity to start a new in this venture. Taking a look at what we have done in the past in our schools and work out the kinks that have arisen over the years and work them out. Just as when you go through a junk drawer or an old closet you need to go through everything carefully and decide what works and is useful and what is junk and needs to be tossed. I believe more conversation is needed as to how this amalgamation of established communities is going to go. How does the board plan on dealing with any issues that will arise as students, teachers and volunteers adjust to a new dynamic? Does the board plan on having extra counselling and teaching staff on hand to help students and teachers cope with the amalgamation of schools and established communities?

The kids of Norfolk County deserve the best most healthy and nurturing environment we can offer them. They don’t deserve a project that was pushed through because government is breathing down your necks. How much of the budget is going to clean up, and repair Elgin School? Will the building be a healthy one, able to be maintained at healthy level for many years to come? Our kids, staff and volunteers are spending 6 to 8 hours a day in this building. If we are going to change schools, it should be to the best school we can give our kids and staff of Norfolk County complete with all the bells and whistles attached to the project. Not just classrooms, electrical and “cosmetics” as you stated in the last meeting. It should have healthy lighting, refillable water bottle water fountains and clean air exchange units etc... This project should be a five year one instead of a 2 year one. If we, as a community, have to raise funds to make it shiny and new, I’m sure we can figure that out.

So what are the options available to us? Expanding Elgin should be scrapped! Expansion of West Lynn and Lynndale Heights should be considered as these are the two newer buildings available to us. I am aware that the board would have to purchase land at both sites, but it’s an investment in our children’s futures. Just last week we had the agriculture minister here in Norfolk County talking about our youth in rural communities and how to invest in them. We invest in them by showing that we care about their well being in the places we house, and educate, our children. Norfolk has wonderful green

spaces and is Ontario's garden. This should be reflected in the buildings and playgrounds our youth of Norfolk work and play in. Making sure that kids can walk to school and aren't spending an hour on bus each way in a city that it only takes 10 minutes to get anywhere! If we are going to do this then let's do it, and do it right the first time! As a community not a committee!

Elgin Avenue PS Delegation

Thank you for this opportunity to speak tonight on behalf of, Elgin Ave Public School.

Marie Curie once said:

*“Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood.
Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.”*

Tonight, we would like to take this opportunity to provide everyone a better understanding of Elgin Ave Public School.

➔ to slide 2

Elgin Today ...

We are a dedicated group of families, students, teachers and support staff, and our community extends out to bus drivers, neighbours, crossing guards, local businesses and organizations.

➔ to slide 3

Elgin Ave PS is centrally located in Simcoe and was built for growth and although our numbers may not be as plentiful in past years, we are anything but small. We are strong in spirit, with big hearts and our hope for the future is immeasurable.

➔ to slide 4

The heart of the school is diversity and inclusiveness which we are most grateful for. Our school is the home of grades JK to Grade 8, and our Special Education Classes, ASD – Autism Spectrum Disorder Class, ME – Mixed Exceptionalities Class and the Norfolk Enrichment Campus which services students from across Norfolk County.

➔ to slide 5

At our school, no accomplishment is too small, we celebrate everyone. Every day is a new day and our children understand and support one another and are respectful and accepting of each other. The staff at Elgin is hard working, passionate and compassionate; many of our teachers have dedicated most of their careers to Elgin.

➔ to slide 6

We asked the children - Why do you like being a student at Elgin?

Having fun – Sophie, Kindergarten

Playing with all my friends – Kaidence, Kindergarten

It's fun – George, Grade 1

We get to do arts and crafts – Jennah, Grade 2

Because it's fun, lots of activities like math and games – Brooklyn, Grade 3

Lots of classrooms, big yard, lots of instruments – Tessa, Enrichment

Easier to be a student because of all the nice teachers – Anthony, Grade 4

It's a big school – Bryce, A.S.D. Class

Good place for people to come to – Hayden, Grade 5

Teachers, nice students – Carson M.E. Class

I like the sports – Meghan, Grade 6

Because you get to do a lot of fun things – Kate, Grade 7

Great teachers, very caring people and good community – Maggie, Grade 7

➔ *to slide 7*

Places to Go ...

Centrally located, Elgin offers many options for affordable classroom outings that are all within walking distance. Sidewalks and alternate routes are plentiful to allow safe passage and walking promotes healthy activity.

➔ *to slide 8*

Here are many of the places to go ...

Norfolk General Hospital and Nursing Home – 3 minutes

Food Basics Grocery Store – 8 minutes

Talbot Gardens, First Baptist Church – 10 minutes

Simcoe Splash Pad, Kinsmen Park and Pavilion – 12 minutes

Strand Theatre, Norfolk County Public Library Simcoe Branch, Simcoe Panorama – 11 minutes

Annalise Carr Aquatic Centre, Simcoe Recreation Arena and Simcoe Farmers Market – 14

minutes

Norfolk Arts Centre - 15 minutes

Eva Brook Donly Museum, Young Theatre Players and Fire Station – 17 minutes

Simcoe Composite School – 18 minutes

Memorial Park for Cross Country – 23 minutes

Lion's Park and White Horse Bowling – 32 minutes via Lynn Valley Trail

➔ *to slide 9*

The Future

At almost 70 years young, Elgin Avenue Public School has been a foundation for generations in our community, my father was one of our school's first students and every day while dropping off and picking up my kids, he sees that the brand new school of his youth is still full of joy, laughter and dreams of the future.

Imagine what a renewed Elgin would be able to offer ... a brand new gymnasium that would be used for so many things, refreshed classrooms filled with old and new friends alike and an opportunity to finally have a school that is accessible to all.

➔ *to slide 10*

The hope for our school's future is to be a school for everyone – a centre for excellence, where our children will thrive, develop, make lifelong friends and have fun in an inclusive, compassionate and safe environment.

In closing, we hope that you leave here tonight with a better understanding of the Elgin Ave Public School of today and the potential for the future for everyone.

We are not defined by opinions based on fear or an outdated reputation.

The beginning is always today.

➔ *to slide 11*

Thank you for your time, we leave you with one last thought ...

*The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old,
but on building the new.*

South East Norfolk Elementary ARC Delegation



Elgin Today ...



Inclusiveness Awards





Play,
Learn
and
Grow...
Together!

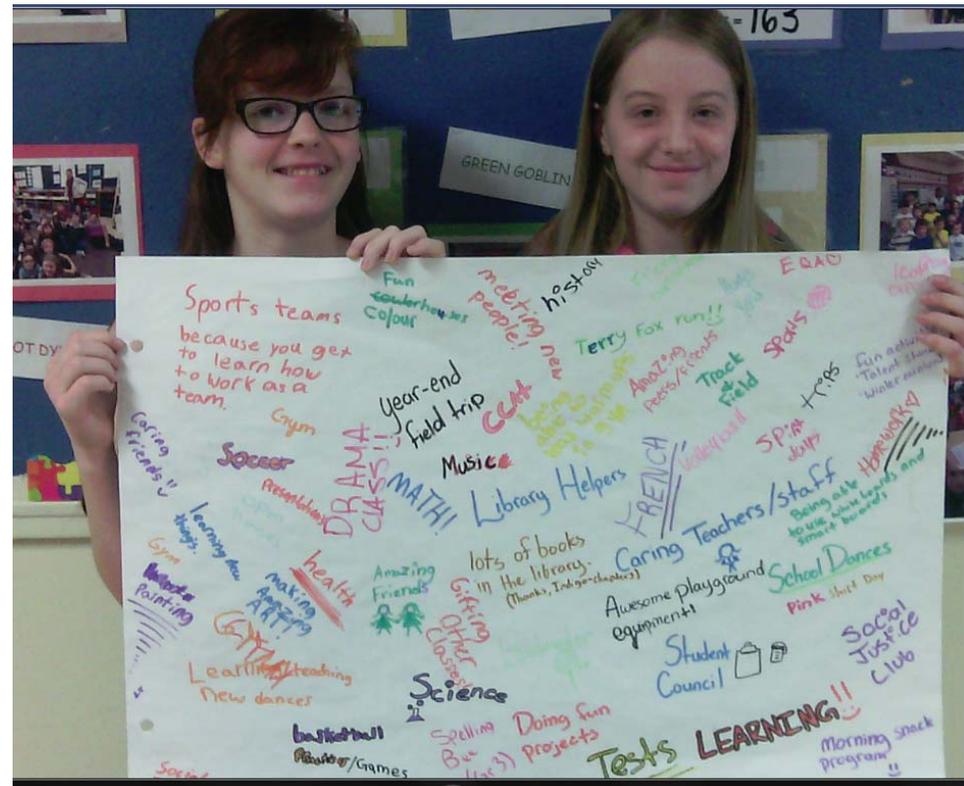




The Snoezelen room assists ASD children and those with other developmental disabilities to help them cope with the stresses of everyday life at school.

Why We Elgin

Norfolk Public School Athletic Association Intermediate (Grade 7-8) Boys Basketball Tournament Champs



Why do you like being a student at Elgin?

Having fun – Sophie, Kindergarten

Playing with all my friends – Kaidence, Kindergarten

It's fun – George, Grade 1

We get to do arts and crafts – Jennah, Grade 2

Because it's fun, lots of activities like math and games – Brooklyn, Grade 3

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Good place for people to come to – Hayden, Grade 5

Teachers, nice students – Carson M.E. Class

I like the sports – Meghan, Grade 6

Because you get to do a lot of fun things – Kate, Grade 7

Great teachers, very caring people and good community – Maggie, Grade 7

Places to Go ...

Christmas Dinner
at First Baptist Church



Class trips to see our fellow students
perform at Young Theatre Players



ELGIN AVENUE
PUBLIC SCHOOL





Places to Go ...



Norfolk General Hospital and Nursing Home – 3 minutes

Talbot Gardens, First Baptist Church – 10 minutes

Norfolk Arts Centre - 15 minutes

Eva Brook Donly Museum,
Young Theatre Players and Fire
Station – 17 minutes

Simcoe Splash Pad, Kinsmen Park and
Pavilion – 12 minutes

Simcoe Composite School – 18 minutes

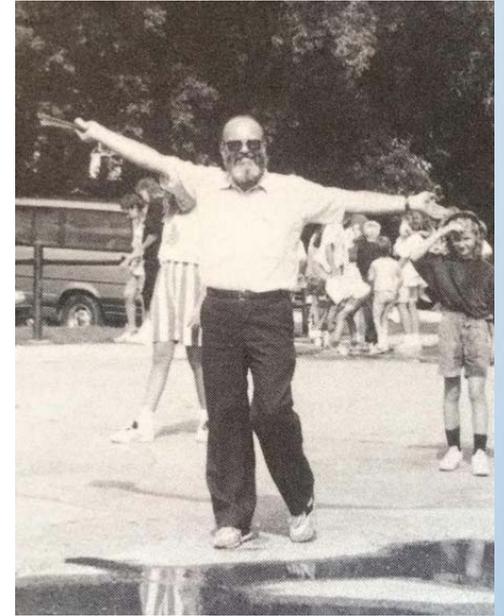
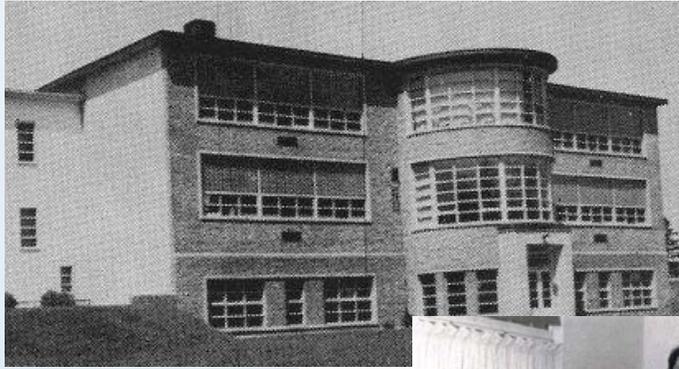
Annaleise Carr Aquatic Centre, Simcoe Recreation
Arena and Simcoe Farmers Market – 14 minutes

Memorial Park for Cross Country – 23
minutes

Food Basics Grocery Store – 8 minutes

Strand Theatre, Norfolk County Public Library Simcoe
Branch, Simcoe Panorama – 11 minutes

Lion's Park and White Horse Bowling – 32 minutes
via Lynn Valley Trail





“The Secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new.”

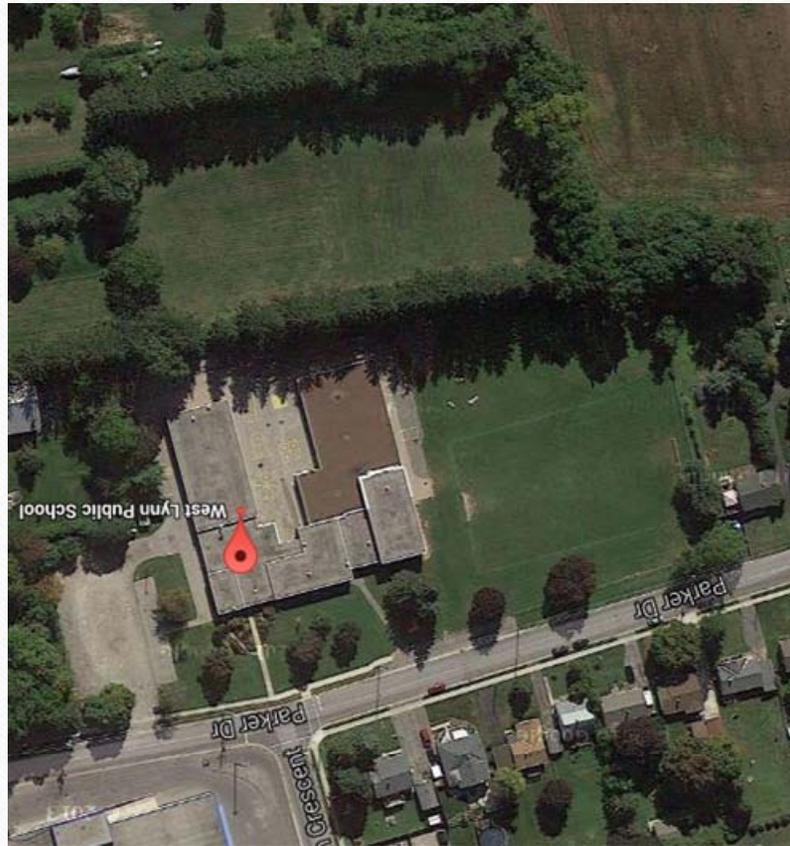
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CONCEPT PLAN

ADDITION / RENOVATION TO WEST LYNN OPTION

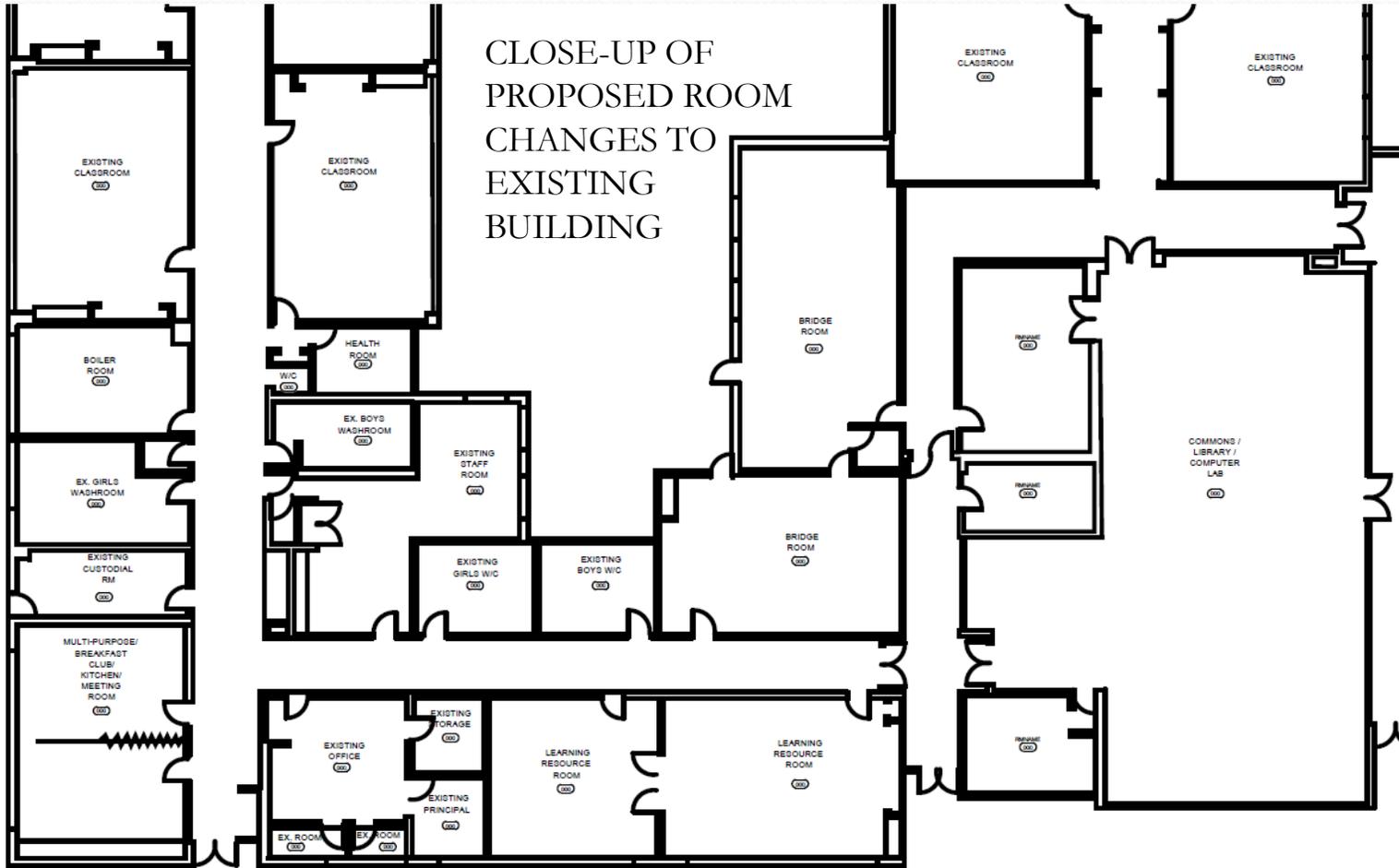
WITH PURCHASE OF PARCEL OF LAND

PRESENTED BY: RAMEE CYR, PRINCIPAL OF R.DESIGN

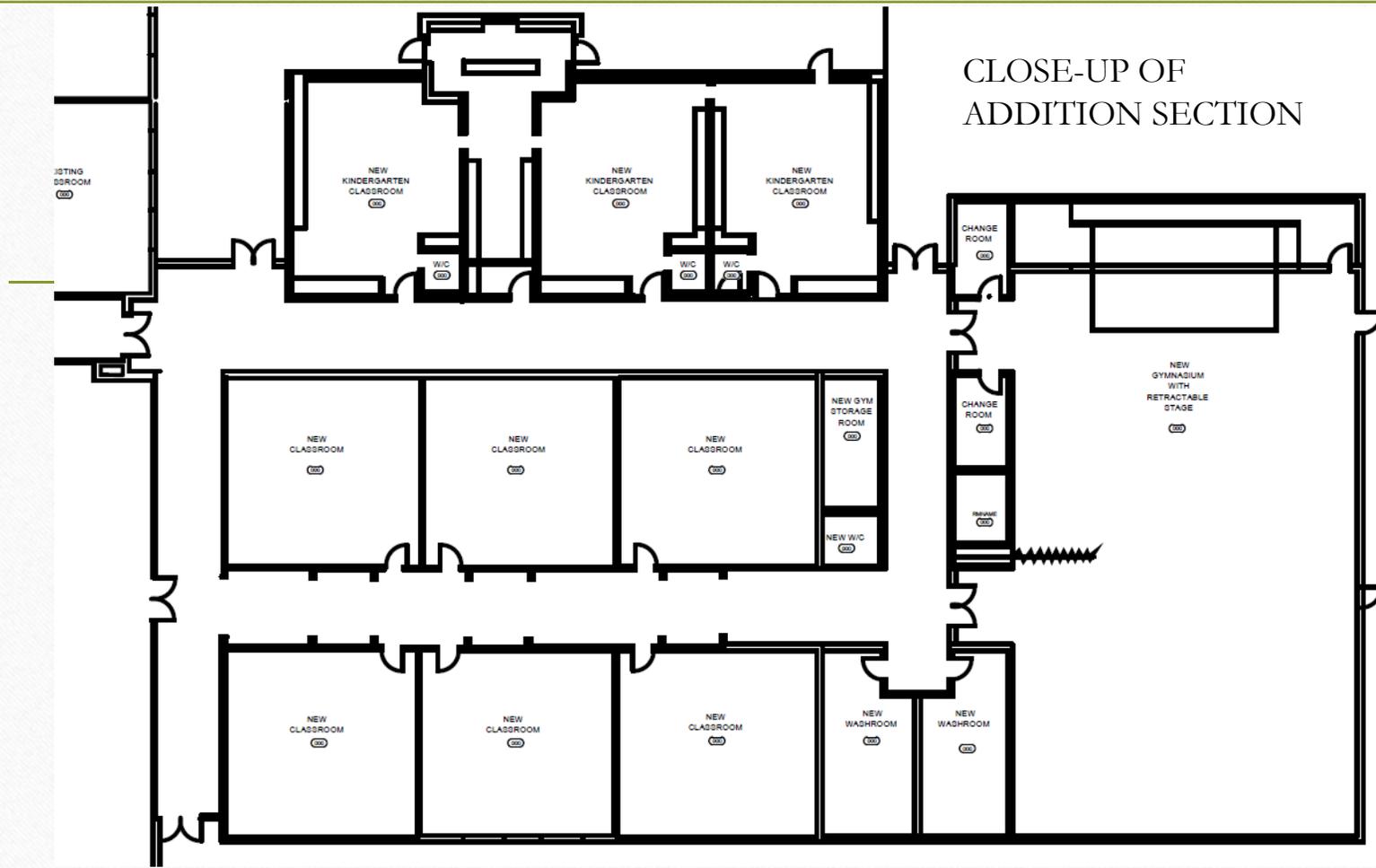


EXISTING PLAN OF WEST LYNN

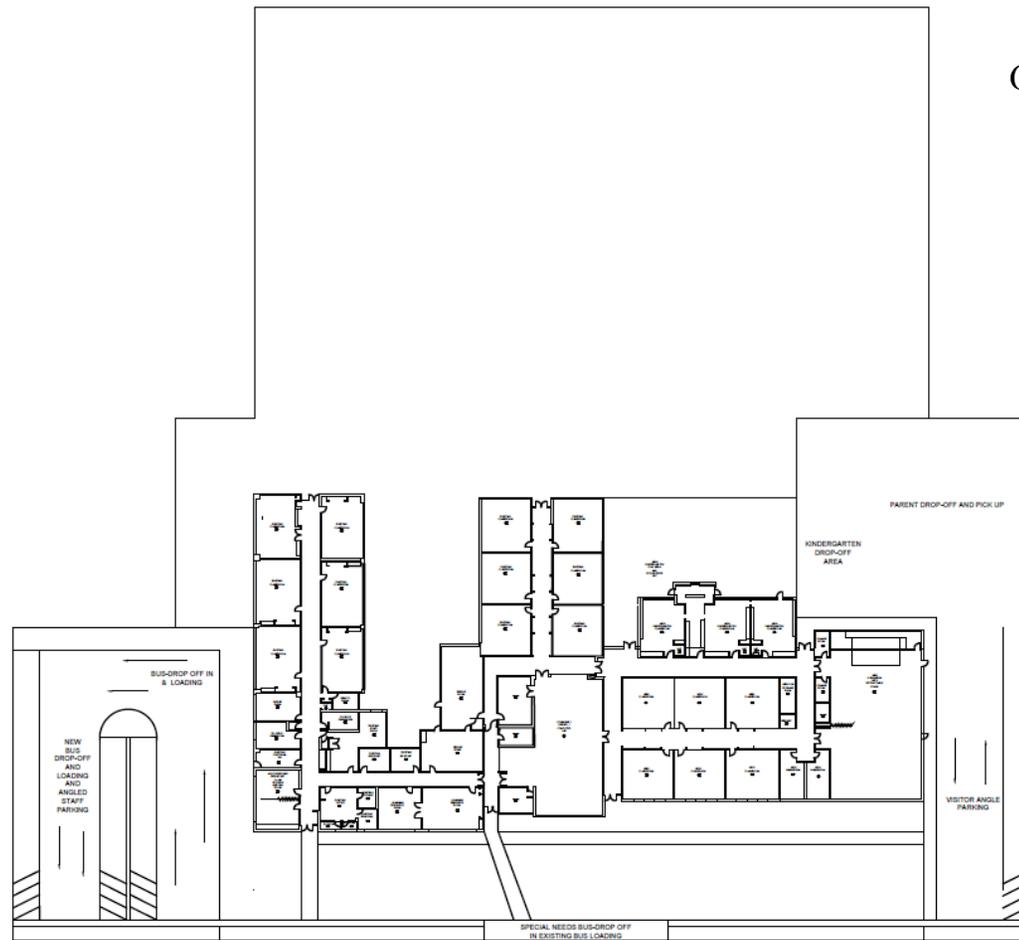
CLOSE-UP OF
PROPOSED ROOM
CHANGES TO
EXISTING
BUILDING



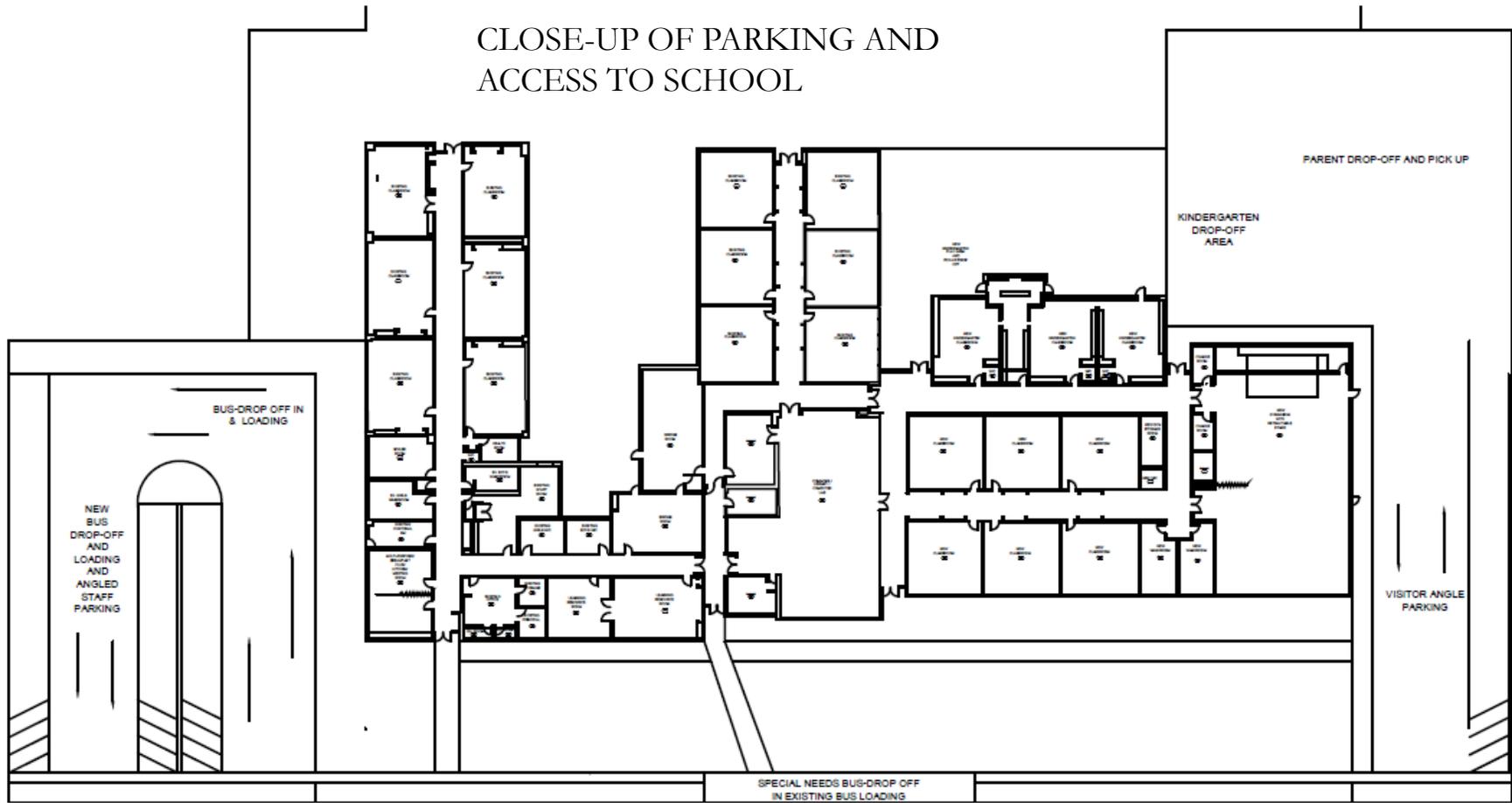
CLOSE-UP OF
ADDITION SECTION



CONCEPT SITE PLAN



CLOSE-UP OF PARKING AND ACCESS TO SCHOOL



PROS TO PUTTING AN ADDITION TO WEST LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOL COMPARED TO ELGIN PUBLIC

- Newer building, single storey with more cost-effective construction costs, no asbestos abatement or elevator required
- Lower operating and maintenance costs, and capability for air conditioning during renovation or at a later date
- Can remain open for west lynn students during addition construction, and can phase new student entry with a planned transition period. Some creative planning only required for the existing gym transformation, but feasible.
- Separate entry kindergarten section with direct drop-off and pick-up zone & play area

PROS TO PUTTING AN ADDITION TO WEST LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOL COMPARED TO ELGIN PUBLIC

- Putting the board's investment dollars and operating costs into a growing and invested community where homeowners and families chose to be in the West Lynn's school area
- Better solution options to deal with traffic, parking, bus and parent drop-off and pick-up zones
- With a less expensive construction budget can potentially add some healthy/green facility and efficiency improvements; such as water bottle filling stations, solar panels, lighting control systems, retrofit existing lighting, update plumbing fixtures for water usage. The money saved from lower energy bills can help schools pay for building upgrades that enhance the health and quality of the students' learning environment

Thank you for your time.

Ramee Cyr, Business Owner and Proud Parent of 2 West
Lynn Warriors

I would like to submit a Delegation for the upcoming Accommodation Review Committee.

I am proposing to present a concept plan of West Lynn Public School with a cost-effective addition and simple upgrades that can be made with the proposed idea of purchasing the parcel of land, and how that would better accommodate the needs of the board and the schools instead of renovating Elgin Public School.

It will show how some of the existing rooms can be simply upgraded to accommodate new needs, and how adding onto the structure will not require abatement as we would not be touching the primary hall structure, and would be working with the existing exit doors as transitions to the new addition. I am also showing how staff parking, visitor parking, bus drop off/loading, and parent drop off/pick-up can be better addressed. A new Kindergarten section, a new Gymnasium, and 6 new classrooms, and the existing Kindergarten classes become special needs classrooms. The existing Library/Computer Lab becomes the new Learning Resource rooms with a Sensory Room, and the existing Learning Resource Room can be renovated to better suit the Multi-Purpose Staff Meeting/Lounge, Breakfast Club with Full Kitchen, and additional areas for meetings. More details on these and more will be illustrated and discussed at the Committee Meeting with a Floor Plan and Site Plan.

Thank you very much,

Ramee Cyr

Principal Designer

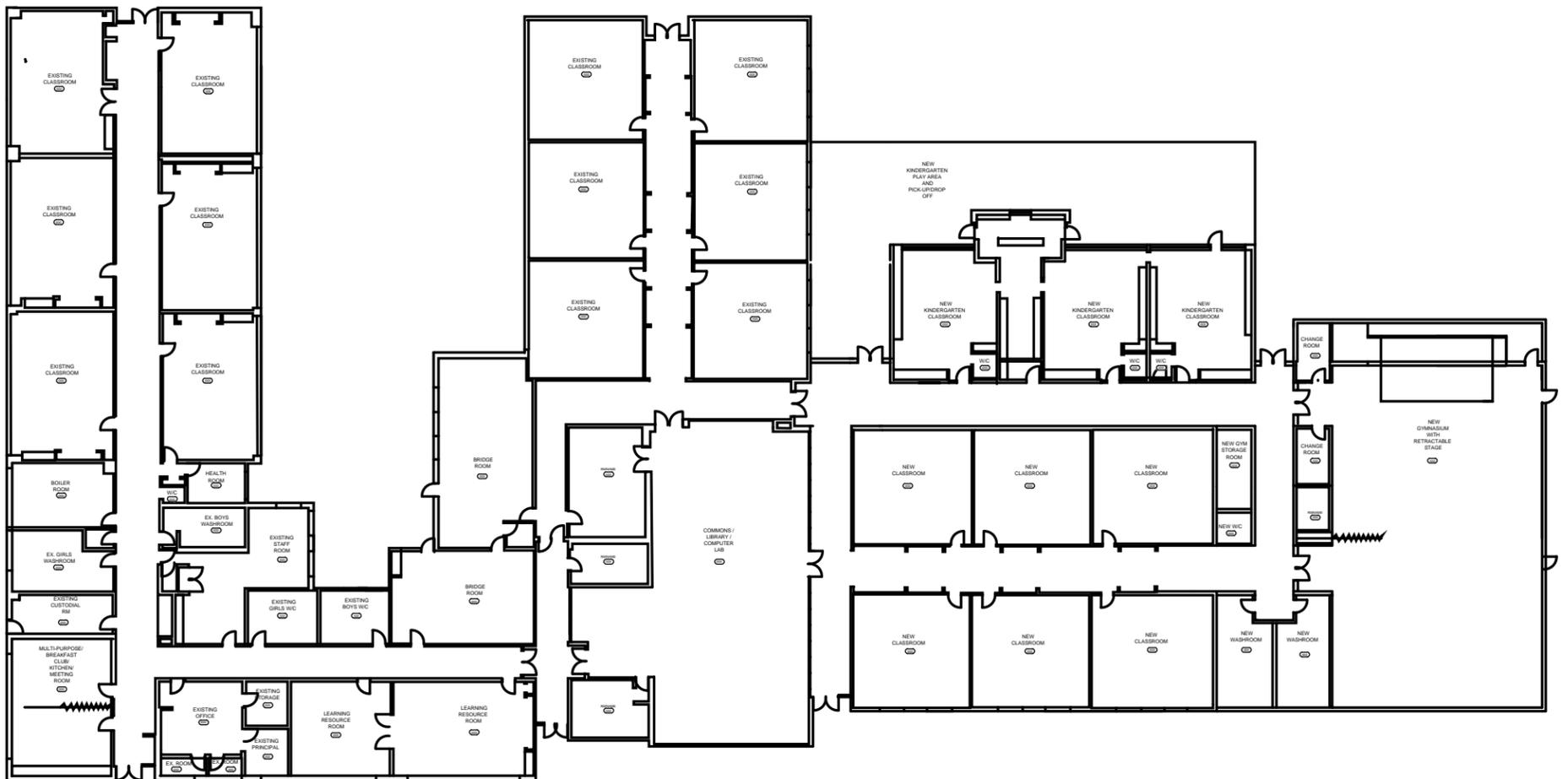


Ra-me Interior Design

25 Cherry Street | Simcoe, ON. | N3Y 1B3

t: 519.426.2258 | m: 519.718-2025

e: ramee@rdesign.com | w. www.rdesign.com



PROPOSED ADDITION/RENOVATION TO WEST LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOL

(WITH PROPOSED PARCEL OF LAND)

-STAFF PARKING AND BUS LOOP IN EXISTING PARKING LOT, WITH ANGLED PARKING TO THE REAR PLAY YARD AREA

-NEW PARENT DROP-OFF TO THE RIGHT OF THE BUILDING

-SEPARATE ENTRANCE AND BUS LOADING FOR SPECIAL NEEDS IN EXISTING BUS AREA

RAMEE CYR
 DESIGNER, R.DESIGN
 519-426-2258
 www.rdesign.com
 Prent of 2 West Lynn students.

Good evening,

Thank you so much for listening to our concerns and answering our questions. I do have some lingering concerns with the proposal to renovate and expand Elgin Ave school. Please know that I do not hold anything against Elgin Ave school personally my concern is with the layout of the building.

The multi level school vs. one level regarding safety. In the event of a school evacuation like a routine fire drill or a real emergency situation or every day fire safety ect. will this be considered in the decision?

In a multi level school when students of all ages and sizes are on the stairs at the same time older larger students in higher grades often don't notice younger smaller slower children on the stairs. Children can easily get pushed or trampled on the stairs there is a higher risk of injury and falls on the stairs. It only gets worse in an emergency panic situation.

I realize the multi levels have always worked but I feel with a higher student population there could be increased risks.

In the case of an evacuation it takes longer to evacuate a multi level building there are less exits. Does adding an elevator to a multi level building really make the building accessible, in the case of a fire you can not use an elevator. How would special needs students evacuate the building in the case of a fire? What would these students do in the case of the elevator needing to be repaired and out of commission? These are significant concerns I have also heard from other parents.

West Lynn is a one level school so I feel it is has an advantage safety wise. At West Lynn older bigger students are separated from younger smaller students with two separate hallways one for primary and one for intermediate. These two hallways also help to give students a small school atmosphere that could be maintained if this would still be the layout just added onto in an expansion.

I feel that West Lynn has a friendly and safe atmosphere that goes way beyond the layout of the building. My son and I have experienced first hand the family like school community that I believe will easily be maintained in the event of an expansion. West Lynn has strong support from our parent council that I know will welcome new families to the school with open arms.

Thank you for your time.

Cheri Worth

West Lynn parent and parent council member

I would like to present at the delegation on wed April 27. On behalf of the parents at Walsh Public School I would like to present our support for creating 2 french immersion programs instead of changing the overall boundary for Walsh Public. Changing the overall boundary for Walsh Public only affects local english students, moving them farther from home while busing in out of area french students. Our position, is that by creating a second french immersion program closer to simcoe/port dover, we are allowing the english students local to walsh public to remain in their home school, while also allowing french immersion students to go to a school closer to their home. This also allows for the expansion of the french immersion program, and reduces transportation time and cost. Of course this also achieves the boards goal of reducing the student numbers at Walsh Public.

We have created a petition to represent the support for this change. At this moment we have gathered 119 signatures in support of a second french immersion program in norfolk, vs changing the overall boundaries for Walsh Public. There are also some comments from these supporters which may be shared.

The petition can be found at:

<https://www.change.org/p/accomodation-review-committee-through-delegation-changes-to-french-immersion-boundaries-for-norfolk-elementary-schools>

Please let me know if you require more information from me.

Thanks,
Rebecca Spencer-Knight