

Delegation from Kelly Begin:

Hi, my name is Kelly Begin and I'm a parent of 2 current Elgin Eagles. Elgin parents have been to each of the arc meetings and trust me, we have done our homework!! We have recently obtained more information that I feel is extremely important for you to see.

Elgin Ave PS is the only option to provide the most central location in the town of Simcoe and large enough for consideration to keep the current Special Education programs (Mixed Exceptionalities, Autism and Norfolk Enrichment Campus) at Elgin in tact – plus there is room to grow.

Please look at the Walking Web Map provided by GEDSB.

The blue paths are current Elgin students who walk and the green paths are the current West Lynn students who walk.

On the map where the green overlaps, the blue, those students could walk to both schools.

**If Elgin stays open only approximately 22-26 more West Lynn students would be bussed.**

**If Elgin closes – 200+ Elgin students would be bussed.** on top of the 130 West Lynn students already riding the bus – which means 70% of all the students will be bussed at the renovated West Lynn.

Many parents at the first delegation raised concerns for 22 new riders if West Lynn closed and cited lack of physical activity being lost to bus times ... I wonder what their views are now under the recommendation change and it's 200-225 children – 9x more?

Are you hearing their voices now? ... because you should.

Does the current recommendation align with Active School Travel? It has been proven that children who walk are more alert and ready to learn – you will be taking that away from over 200 children who live central to Simcoe, because they will be riding buses. Add to that, Many Elgin families do not have transportation or funds for extra curricular activities and sports. School teams are their only opportunity to be involved in organized sports. These children will now be riding buses home instead of possibly playing after school sports in their community.

Has consideration even been given for transportation costs, fuel emissions and carbon footprint, and additional resources needed by staff to manage the traffic for the possible 4-5 additional buses dropping children off at West Lynn.

The plan to renovate Elgin has already stated that moving West Lynn students to Elgin will NOT add any additional transportation costs to GEDSB. There has been no information published on how much bussing will cost should Elgin close.

The expanded West Lynn PS was quoted to have a 489 student capacity – if you put our 2 schools together today, all the children from both schools would not fit into the expanded West Lynn school. There most likely will be no further capacity for West Lynn to expand even with

the purchased land. Elgin sits on 7.9 acres, has room to grow after expansion and will utilize land more efficiently because it is multi-levelled.

The current recommendation to close Elgin, in 10 short years, puts Lakewood PS at 99% capacity and is totally dependant on enrolment between West Lynn and Elgin declining by 50 students.

If Elgin is expanded and renovated, the South East Norfolk area retains 41 seats more overall that would provide a utilization buffer in 10 years and offers BALANCED utilization across ALL schools.

Are we willing to risk our children's future on a plan that has no known/published financial information for expansion and bussing and puts certain schools at risk for capacity in 10 years?

Thank you. Kelly Begin