

January 18, 2017

Joyce Bennett, Trustee, TVDSB
1250 Dundas Street,
London, Ontario N6A 5L1

Dear Ms. Bennett;

As our Trustee for Byron Southwood Public School, we would like to make you aware of the ongoing challenges that the residents of Regis Avenue and Regis Place have experienced on their streets due to the high volume of vehicles parking and stopping to drop off or pick up students before class, after school and for special events. It has caused unnecessary congestion and consequential safety concerns. These two streets are small cul-de-sacs with Regis Place offering a narrow, inclined walkway connecting to school property. This area was never intended to be a main thoroughfare to the school but unfortunately, it now appears that this street is being used as a busy, alternate "parking lot" for the school.

We have a well established neighbourhood and the majority of residents have lived on Regis for many years. It is quite apparent that this school related traffic congestion is a fairly recent problem. It was disclosed that a former principal encouraged parents to find alternate locations to pick up and drop off their children rather than actually trying to resolve imminent congestion problems at the main school entrance. These issues still have not been resolved considering that one can witness parents stopping, blocking and illegally parking daily at the front of the school in the "fire route only" lanes. It is difficult to believe the school is comfortable with this but it does not appear that anyone is concerned with this unsanctioned violation of code. With this similar attitude, some parents are abusing our street access, seeking personal convenience rather than ensuring safety. Thus we would like to see a better solution to the school's drop off and pick up issue.

We have been informed that our streets are scheduled for sidewalk installation. There are only twenty- four homes on two short, dead end streets so perhaps the safe, walkability mandate can still be facilitated without adding sidewalks. A survey was conducted and one-hundred percent of the Regis residents, including those with children attending Byron Southwood are not in favour of the proposed sidewalks as we feel this does not truly address the root cause of the safety issues. Very few students actually walk via Regis. Almost all use a shorter, direct route using the west side entrance to the school. On Regis Place, it is actually the parents who drive their children to school who are exacerbating the safety problem.

As a committee speaking on behalf of the residents of Regis Avenue and Regis Place, we welcome the opportunity to help develop a plan more conducive to finding a positive solution to the Byron Southwood traffic concerns. We know, Ms. Bennett, that you have extensive experience working with the Board's Traffic and Community Safety Committees and trust you will help garner a positive solution.

Please find attached a copy of the petition, dated November 2017, that was forwarded to Anna Hopkins, City Councillor and to Karl Grabowski, Transportation Design Engineer, City of London. Our consensus is that the sidewalks are not wanted or necessary. The school needs to take ownership for an accessible, safe parking and drop off area for all students. This would help to ensure the school maintains a positive and healthy collaboration and partnership with its community. Thank you for your consideration of this letter. We look forward to hearing from you in regards to this matter.

Sincerely,

Regis Committee

Donna Jordan

Deborah Kleiber

Jennifer Cameron

Don and Mona Gray 5 Regis Pl., London N6K-2G6

cc: Jake Skinner, Trustee, TVDSB j.skinner@tvdsb.on.ca

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