

From: Ashley DeActis

Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 6:24 PM

To: PEC <pec@london.ca>; Squire, Phil <psquire@london.ca>; Lehman, Steve <slehman@london.ca>; Hopkins, Anna <ahopkins@london.ca>; Lewis, Shawn <slewis@london.ca>; Hillier, Steven <shillier@london.ca>; Morgan, Josh <joshmorgan@london.ca>

Subject: New school - Northwest London

Hello PEC,

I am writhing this letter to support the proposal put forth from Josh Morgan is regards to speeding up the time line for the new TVDSB in North west London. Please include my email in the agenda on Monday September 27,2021.

As a parent of 2 children, soon to be 3 next year that attend SAC (Sir Arthur Currie) I am in support of speeding up the process of getting a new school built. My daughter is in grade 4 and is in one of the 22 portables. Her portable is located in the PARKING LOT. This is not acceptable to me. I myself am a teacher and can not believe that this has passed as an acceptable learning environment for children. On top of being located in the parking lot. The children are having to use a porta potty also located in the parking lot. These children do not only not have a classroom to learn in they are being forced to use a washroom that is outside. What happens come winter???. They have to use the porta potty in the freezing cold at -20. My daughter will not use the porta potty and will hold it until they are out at recess (only twice in a day) when she is ALoud to use the bathroom in the school. She said she has to wait 10-20min in line to even use the washroom in the school and will miss out on her whole recess just to use the bathroom. She is afraid of the porta potty and has said she doesn't feel comfortable in them. She is unsure and confused of how to flush the toilet, wash her hands and lock the door as she is not used to this type of washroom. And I use the word washroom loosely. The other day a girl was locked in the porta potty for I don't know how long screaming and crying because she couldn't get out. No one could hear her as it was the end of the day and the parking lot and outside the school was so busy with parents, students and busses. Fortunately for this poor traumatized girl a parent heard her screams and was able to get help. This is NOT acceptable. I am so glad the child was ok but that is very scary for a 9 year old. Something needs to be done fast. Our problems don't stop there. My son is in grade 1. When he started in JK there were 37 kids in his class the first 2 weeks of school. He was then moved out of the classroom and placed in the small activity room. It was NOT a classroom it was a small gymnasium. He did not have access to a bathroom in his class he needed to walk down the hall to the bathroom that was the same washrooms that grade 7 and 8 children would use. Think of how scary that would be for a 4 year old. So not only was he moved out of a classroom into the gym he then had to forgo another move only a few short months later into yet again not a real classroom. The room he was moved into is attached to the library and called the maker space. It is a VERY small room with lots of windows into the hall and library. Very distracting for children to focus on learning when there is a constant stream of students walking by the windows all day long. And agin no bathroom in the room. The following year, his SK year we were hopeful that he would get to experience a real classroom. We were wrong again. He was now put into the music room. Again no bathroom and not a real classroom. He is now in grade 1 and the thing he was most looking forward to this year was to get to be upstairs in a "real" classroom. That's pretty sad when a 6 year old is excited about a "real" classroom. The kids at SAC have no climber to play on at recess time, the yard is SO SMALL there is hardly any room for them to run and play tag at recess. The overcrowding at the school is outrageous.

This school was built for 533 kids and the school is at 1000 kids. That's double it's capacity. This new school needs to be build ASAP. My youngest son is expected to start Sept 2022, he will be 3 when he attends school. Even to think about my ONLY 3 year old going to a school with 1000 children brings lots of fear and anxiety to me. I'm afraid of the unknown. Will he get to be in a "real" classroom??? At this point we are never surprised about what will happen next at SAC. 22 portables is outrageous. Emily Carr is only a few blocks away and they have what ONLY 3 portables! As you can see there are problems with the over population at SAC. This is just the experiences from one family. This has gone on from day 1 of SAC being open. Before the school was even finished being built they were over capacity. Please help our children and provide them with the learning environment they so need and deserve. Northwest London NEEDS a new school and we can't wait 4 years. We need it now! Thank you for your time.

Ashley DeActis