

My name is Garth Goodhew and I have ties with each of the three secondary schools whose futures are currently under consideration. I began my career in North Bay as a VP at WSS when it opened, I then became Principal of ACS and then I opened WFSS in 1971 and after 10 years as Principal of West Ferris I was transferred to CSS as Principal ‘

I want to thank the members of the ARC for their efforts and for their recommendations supporting a 3-2 solution for dealing with our current educational issues at the secondary level. Their recommendation that one secondary school remain in the north end of the city and the second one to remain in the south end, if implemented, will go a long way to serve the real needs of the students and the needs of our community. Now I am also encouraged with the final report of senior staff to the trustees which also supports a 3-2 solution without identifying a particular site in the north end.

I know that the final decision lies with the trustees and that some trustees are deeply wedded to the notion of closing all of the 3 schools and building a super school holding 2000 plus students. To these trustees I respectfully ask one question--Where are you going to build it? Surely you would not build it on the Chippewa site with its current twice daily horrendous traffic congestion. I invite all trustees and especially the 5 of the 9 trustees who do not live in North Bay to do what I did a couple of weeks ago. I went to the Chippewa area about 8:15 am and parked at the Troy Armoury parking lot. I could not believe what I saw. The number of vehicles of all kinds was beyond belief. I then tried to imagine what it would be like if a super school was built there with its planned capacity three times that of the current Chippewa student body. If not Chippewa then maybe it could be built on the Widdifield site--the smallest of the 3 sites--not enough land and too close to residential areas. Then what about the site of WFSS--the largest of 3 sites? There would be a few problems. This site is in the centre of a huge residential area and are you really going to bus at least 75% of our students to the south end of town to the one remaining high school. I suggest to you that within the urban boundaries of North Bay there is not

one acceptable site for a super school. I want to refer to a personal experience here at West Ferris. One June we had 1300 students . In Sept. we had 1500. The whole nature of the school changed. There was more pushing in the halls, The cafeteria was overcrowded. Teachers and students became short tempered. My two VPS and I became peace keepers.

I now want to address the needs of our students. I have been told that I am old, out of touch and that schools are not like what they used to be. I would agree with some of that. However I know what has not changed and that is that we still send our adolescents to our high schools and that these students still have the fears, the hopes, the uncertainties and the dreams that teenagers have always had. They want to fit in, to identify with something meaningful, to be safe and to be valued. All research shows that these real needs are better met in smaller schools--not in schools of over 1500. All the research tells us that more students fall through cracks, fewer students graduate, there is more absenteeism and that the special needs of exceptional students are less well met in super schools. I also believe that the needs of students are even more severe at the present time because of social media, the pace of change and current economic uncertainty.

To the trustees I wish you well in your decision making. You have been elected to represent the views of your voters and to make the best educational decisions possible. In my experience in life, in my professional career and in politics I have learned that most decisions are not absolutely right or absolutely wrong. Our responsibility is to make the best possible decisions based on the best information we have in this moment of time. I respectfully submit that the best possible decision at this time for our students and our community is the 3 to 2 solution . Thank you



