



Name: Erica Mitchell

Brief summary of issue or topic of discussion:

Elementary Program Review

I am writing as a parent of a student in Grade 2, at Connaught Public School, to express my deep concern over the proposed boundary changes in the OCDSB Elementary Program Review (EPR). These changes will negatively impact my child and many others.

- Double the commute for most Connaught families that are impacted
- Divide our local community, separate siblings
- Disrupt social and support networks for our kids
- Adversely affect student learning and well-being
- Contradict the OCDSB's commitment to community schools

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Connaught is our Community

Connaught is already a thriving dual-track community-based school. This plan doubles commute times for most families affected and weakens the fabric of an already well-established community. Families have worked hard to build a supportive environment that extends beyond the classroom. Many of these relationships started since the beginning of childcare at the neighbourhood pre-school centres and lifelong friendships will be ripped apart for children and parental support networks weakened. Splitting up students across different schools will dismantle years of effort put into fostering a strong, inclusive, and engaged school culture. Moreover, the EPR conflicts with the OCDSB's 2014 Near West Accommodation Review, which recognized the need for a dual-track school at Connaught. A decade long investment by both the Board and families have built a strong school community-this plan would dismantle it.



A practical solution for Connaught

If the boundary changes proceed, we urge the Board to Grandparent current families, allowing them to choose to remain at Connaught. The school is currently at 92% enrollment and will drop to 82% under the proposal-leaving ample room for existing students to stay with their peers.

City-Wide Considerations

Beyond our school, these changes will affect families across Ottawa, increasing commutes, separating siblings, and severing established connections. A longer and more meaningful consultation process with affected families is needed to understand the impact this is having on families and ensure changes will truly deliver on the promise of community based education.

Our Request

We call for a more thoughtful approach to these boundary changes, including:

- Meaningful consultation with families, over a longer period of time to shape the boundary proposal
- A transparent and costed transition plan that puts students first
- A grand parenting policy allowing current students to opt-in to remain at Connaught

Sincerely, Erica Mitchell