

**Name: Claire Lewis**

**Brief summary of issue or topic of discussion:**

Dear Board of Directors and Trustees,

We are writing as concerned parents of [REDACTED] in grade 2 at Connaught Public School to oppose the proposed elementary school boundary changes put forth as part of the OCDSB Elementary Program Review. This plan tears apart strong, established school communities in central Ottawa, separating students from friends and forcing many into different neighborhoods despite the board's goal of community-based education.

Connaught is already a thriving, community-based school where families are engaged, relationships are strong, and students feel a deep sense of belonging. Our child, who has spent four years at Connaught, will lose almost all of her friend group, will break the established deep connections with her educators, face a significantly longer commute, and be forced into a new after school program. This will cause unnecessary stress, disrupt her learning, and make daily routines much harder for our family.

With the new boundaries, our commute would increase significantly—from just 350 meters to 1100 meters, tripling our commute. The round trip, which currently takes 10 minutes, would stretch to 30 minutes. Currently, we walk to and from school everyday. This change may force us to drive on some days. In these new boundaries, we would also need to explore the after care options as we currently benefit from Connaught's Extended Day Care program from 3-5pm each evening as we finish work.

More significantly, our daughter would be separated from nearly her entire group of friends, as very few peers in the current grade 2 would be moved. As an only child, the friendships she's formed at school and within our community have been vital to her wellbeing and development. Similarly, the relationships we've built with other parents have been essential for us as well. Disrupting these connections would have a negative impact not only on our daughter but also on us as a family. Beyond individual impacts, this plan weakens the fabric of an already well-established community.

Our Request:

- We call for a more thoughtful approach to these boundary changes, including:
- Meaningful consultation with families, over a longer period of time



OTTAWA-CARLETON  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## Delegation 6.17.a

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- A transition plan that puts students first
- A grandparenting policy allowing current students to remain at Connaught

We urge you to work with families to find a solution that truly supports community based education for everyone.

Sincerely,

Claire Lewis  
Grade 2 Parent and community member of Connaught