

Name: Bill Salminen

Brief summary of issue or topic of discussion:

Effect of the Elementary Program Review on a student from Rockcliffe Park Public School who is currently in Grade 6, and should the proposed boundaries be approved, will have to change schools three times over the next three years.

Below is a letter from my daughter that she would like to present to the Board. She is in her last year at Rockcliffe Park Public School (grade 6). Under the current system, to remain in the EFI program she would attend Queen Elizabeth school for the next two years before moving to a new school for grade 9. With the proposed boundary changes, our daughter would attend Queen Elizabeth for grade 7 then have to move to York Street for grade 8 and change schools again for grade 9. Thank you for your consideration, Bill Salminen.

Hello, my name is [REDACTED] This letter has been written by me, with grammatical corrections from my parents. I'm 11 and in the early French immersion program, Grade 6 at Rockcliffe Park. I'm one of the students who will be affected by the boundary change. I'm writing this letter to address my concerns and propose the idea of grandfathering.

As you are well aware, Rockcliffe Park is currently a K to 6 school. But the boundaries for early French immersion are planned to change. The boundary change will not be implemented until those who are currently in Grade 6, like me, are in Grade 8. The boundary change will affect those in my area who are in early French immersion. It will uproot us out of Queen Elizabeth and place us in York Street School.

This change, as harmless as it may seem to the school board, will cause me stress, sadness and anger. While it may seem like it will only affect a small number of students, that small group may be larger than you think. This change will affect me both mentally and emotionally. I have been at the same school for over 7 years and since RPPS only goes to Grade 6, I will have to change schools in Grade 7. Which is a large change for me. Then, because of the boundary changes and proposed new elementary program. I will have to change again in Grade 8 and again in Grade 9 to go to high school. This is an emotional burden to any student, and it is unreasonable to have a student who is going through puberty have to attend 4 schools in 4 years. This type of change will



take away the stability and comfort that is especially needed at this time in my life. I will have to make new friends, learn how to work with my new teachers and understand how they teach. Which, as simple as it may sound, is not an easy task. every teacher teaches a slightly different way.

My elementary experience was great, but it also was affected by the pandemic. Causing me to miss a lot of fundamental learning in Grade 1 and 2. The pandemic impacted friendships and socializing causing more kids to become lonely and isolated. This change will again cause that effect. It may in fact be larger because now I know I will have to be the new kid at a new school three times for 3 years.

The proposed option of grandfathering would let me simply stay at Queen Elizabeth for both Grade 7 school, and 8. Potentially not accepting this decision might lead many parents withdrawing their children from the school board. But, accepting the proposed idea of grandfather will lift a great burden that has been laid upon me and many others.

So In conclusion accepting this idea will help many students including me, so I ask that you please consider this letter before you make your final decision.