

Name: Shelley Petersen-Quesnel

Brief summary of issue or topic of discussion:

I have reviewed the proposed boundary amendments by the school board and am unfortunately one of the few families in OPS this would negatively effect.

My son will be entering grade 5 the year this is proposed to take place. I have spoken to all of the parents in grade 3 French immersion who he would have been in school with for 7 years at the time of this change, and none of his friends are affected by this rezoning. While all of them will be going to castor valley in grade 7, none of them will be forced into this transition alone in grade 5 after spending their time with all the same teachers and kids for 7 years of their school life (all of their school life). This means that out of all the kids he has been going to school with for his life, he will be the only one torn away and sent to a new school.

Additionally, my son goes to Osgoode youth association everyday for after school care. They not only provide care, but help with homework, and are a big youth mental health resource. If he was no longer to be attending Osgoode, he would loose not only his school, his friends, but also this great resource, and our after school care.

Thirdly, the rezoning would place him in a school that does not fall into any of his sport zones boundaries. Currently my son goes to school with everyone he plays hockey or soccer or any sport he plays with. He would now go to a school with no one even on his extra curricular sports teams.

Fourth, we moved in 2021 and bought our house solely on the fact we would remain in the school zone. I have posted in the Osgoode parents Facebook group and know now that I am not the only one who this negatively impacts their kids or that has boughten a home solely to stay in this school zone.

Fifth, Osgoode public is an under populated school so I am not sure why their boundary is being proposed to be so minimally adjusted. This minimal adjustment will have such a major impact on the students that it makes no sense.

After the COVID years of school, things are finally getting back to normal, now the board is proposing ripping kids away from everything they know and love - this is just setting them up for failure if you ask me. I completely oppose this proposal.

Main Submission:

I find there are no words to express the impacts this change will have on several families, but I have decided to stick to my own story for the purpose of this submission.

The board has stated its goals are to provide dual track learning in all schools and get kids back into their own communities. The proposed plan does not alter any educational offerings at Osgoode Public School (OPS) since it is already a dual tracked school, and minimal boundary amendments are being proposed. My family is one of the few families at OPS this would negatively effect.

In 2016, at the age of 25, my husband tragically passed away in a snowmobile accident. We lived in an old farmhouse that was very hard for me to maintain on my own. Our community - which the board is now proposing to rezone us out of, was all we had at that time to get us through. They supported us more then we could ever imagine. If you google my name, you will see everything I endured, and how my community (Osgoode) supported us through it all. My late husband graduated from OPS and it is very deep in our hearts for his son to be attending and graduating there as well - even with some of the same teachers who knew his dad! My son's parent teacher interviews consist of stories of his Dad when he attended school there. It took us 5 years after his passing, to finally find a house that I could afford and manage on my own solely because of it needing to be in OPS zoning to keep my son and I in our community. I am on the parent council, and I am the school treasurer.

The proposed boundary changes do not even align with sports zones which would at least allow kids to move with fellow team mates. My son plays for the Osgoode Senators and his sport zoning includes Osgoode, Manotick, Kars, and North Gower – not Greely. My son has 5 teammates currently in his class, he would have 0 at CVES. Additionally, my son attends Osgoode Youth Association (OYA) everyday for after school care. They not only provide care, but help with homework, and are a big youth mental health resource, which he really benefits from given everything our family has been through.

I have since remarried and my current husband and I own a successful Tire Shop in the community. I am now able to give back to our community and support them, after they supported me. We attend and sponsor all our community events where all proceeds go directly back to

Osgoode (OVCA, OYA, and OPS specifically). Only 7% of OPS kids are effected with this zoning change (23 in total). In the March 5 meeting, it was stated that kids were being moved as cohorts to minimize the impact on them switching schools. This is not the case for OPS. Of the 23 kids being moved, my son is the ONLY kid in his class. This means he would be forced to move alone in gr. 5, when his graduating year is gr. 6 – after 8 years (his entire school life) with the same teachers, peers, and support systems he knows and loves. He would loose his after care and mental health support, and be sent to a school where he doesn't know anyone from sports even. Additionally, CVES has a 160% capacity whereas OPS has 93% so why are kids being taken out of an underpopulated school into a overpopulated one? Not to mention, most families effected by this, including us, will have to literally drive past OPS, to get to CVES. CVES is actually the 4th furthest public school from our home.

██████████, so offensively stated that community can be defined just as much as where you go to the LCBO as it can sports zoning – from my examples above, it is clear this is not the case. Furthermore, rural families always pick our local stores when possible, because we support and give back to people we personally know. She also stated that the reasoning for OPS boundary change was that it is not currently appealing to the eye on a map which is why it is being trimmed down to a rectangle shape as it looks nicer? Not realizing or caring the detrimental effects it will have on the kids cut out of it. Is the board really going to support this irrational justification? Parents have not asked for the board to stop its plans - we have asked for an interim measure. The board states that this is a 10-20 year plan, if that is the case, then grandfathering in the children who want to stay in the school and community they know and love, will not effect this plan to be rolled out in their timeframe. I am not the only one with a tragic story, I am not the only one who purchased a home solely to stay in a school zone, I am not the only one fighting to keep my kid in their actual community. Everyone you are negatively effecting has their own story, this is just my own.