

October 23, 2015

To the Mayor and Councilors of the City of Barrie,

We are writing you at this time to express our concern with the report presented to you as part of the deferral of Council's decision regarding the 'Bump Up' of the South Barrie secondary school project.

We do appreciate the time and efforts of City staff to meet with SCDSB staff regarding the circumstances surrounding our project to build the South Barrie secondary school at the property known as 225 Prince William Way, located in the annexed lands of the Hewitt's Creek Secondary Plan. Staff from our respective organizations attended six (6) meetings following the deferral of a decision by Council on September 21<sup>st</sup>. We've had very good conversations and, hopefully, better understandings of both the position of the City and the position of the SCDSB with regard to this project.

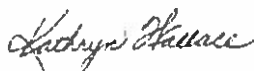
Today you have received a report (D11-1691) that we believe does not accurately reflect the conversations we've had with City staff. For the most part, the City staff report does fairly and accurately describe the content of the meetings. However, in the presentation of information about a shared use library on a proposed school located at the northern area of the site, we disagree both on the detail of that conversation and the presentation in the report of two sketches [pages 15, and 16 of 35]. These sketches were never shared with, nor were they ever provided to SCDSB staff, at any point of time.

The concept of a shared library on a north sited school was raised by CAO Ladd at one meeting [Barrie Public Library, September 30, 2015] and it was answered by Director of Education Wallace that the SCDSB would certainly entertain a partnership of this nature, but not on a north site, because of the cost concerns of a north site and, more importantly, our safety concerns would not be addressed with this concept. At no time were the drawings you have received in your packages as Appendices "4A" and "4B" provided to the SCDSB for our records.

Although it may have come up in very brief conversation at a subsequent meeting, the proposal of a shared library was not discussed in any detail. During the final two meetings, the discussion revolved solely around the evolution and development of the proposed compromise solution. Should the City wish to have a library to be part of the education facility massed on the northwest corner of the site, the board would certainly consider this opportunity.

We trust that the Mayor and Council recognize that, although the compromise solution is not the City's preferred solution, it is also not the school board's preferred solution. It is a compromise solution that board staff were led to believe was acceptable to City staff. This is an unfortunate circumstance that we collectively find ourselves in after six meetings of very favourable conversations. We know Council will give this additional information its due consideration when evaluating the compromise solution at City Council on Monday evening.

Regards,



Kathryn Wallace  
Director of Education



John Dance  
Superintendent of Facility Services



Brian Jeffs  
Superintendent of Business  
Services

c. Simcoe County District School Board Trustees