

Closing Warren Public School would be a huge mistake. I absolutely disagree with this recommendation. It would be a great loss to the community and to our children, the students of Warren Public School.

I have a B.Sc. from the University of Guelph and attended The Radiation Therapy School at Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto and am now a radiation therapist at the cancer centre. I have been a student long enough to say with conviction that these students in the primary grades at Warren Public School are getting the best possible education. To say that these students would get a better education at Markstay Public School is completely inaccurate. I say to the school board that if these were your children going to Warren Public School you would never close it. In what other school would you have this friendly, safe, nurturing environment with one on one interaction between students and teachers? You don't get the same attention in the larger schools and that is exactly what students at this age need. These students are not missing out on anything and what they are gaining from a small school far outweighs anything they would receive in a larger school. These students are getting top education from excellent teachers in all subjects. They have better activities and school trips than many other schools. The school promotes socialization skills and excellent physical education even without a gym. Warren Public School also has the Warren Public Library in the same building giving access to any reading material to the students. Many of the parents are actively involved with the school creating a family atmosphere unique to this school.

I am appalled that we have a perfectly good school close to our home and the board is considering closing it. Closing Warren Public School would subject our children to extremely long and potentially dangerous bus rides to a different school where our children will be put in large, possibly over crowded, classes without the same attention and instruction that they are thriving in now.

If the school board is determined to close our school because of the expensive repairs to our building without the large student numbers to support these costs, will the board support and accept the recommendation for our school to co-habitate with the French school in Warren if the French school board is in agreement to us using part of their building? Wouldn't this be a favourable solution for all involved?

I am asking the school board to please do the right thing. Please listen to us and keep Warren Public School open.