

ARC Public Meeting – June 15, 2010  
Natalie Korczak, Long Lake Public School

During this accommodation review, a group of parents, community members, teachers, and the principal at Long Lake Public School came together to brainstorm options for surplus space in our school that would support the ARC options in which the school is left open. I am here today to present one of the ideas: the integration of an Intensive Support Program into the spare classroom at Long Lake.

We heard from many parents at the April 28th public meeting how Long Lake is a welcoming, respectful, supportive, community-minded school with an emphasis on character development. We heard Mike Gribbons' firsthand account of how his special needs daughter, Jade, benefited from her years in the small-school environment at Long Lake. We feel that environment is perfect to introduce an Intensive Support Program, or ISP.

What is an ISP? An Intensive Support Program classroom is a self-contained classroom that provides educational programming for exceptional learners. The special education ISP teacher is responsible for the development and implementation of the Individual Education Plan. They also plan integration opportunities in collaboration with regular classroom teachers. Programming in the ISP classroom is a collaborative effort between the teacher, support staff, family and community agencies.

Why Long Lake? Long Lake has a classroom available that could be dedicated to ISP, eliminating the surplus space in the school. Integrating special needs students into the existing school community serves to enrich the experience of both groups of students, teaching valuable lessons in diversity, inclusion and mentoring. Long Lake Public School has proven itself to be a tolerant, respectful community, and the smaller scale allows for a welcoming, personal feel for the new students. We feel an ISP program at our school would be an asset to the school and to the Board and that it is a viable option in support of keeping Long Lake Public School open. Thank you.