

HWDSB

Todd White
 Chair of the Board
 Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
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August 16, 2018

Mayor and City Councillors – City of Hamilton
 71 Main Street West
 Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Delivered by electronic mail.

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and City Councillors,

I am writing to you today in response to a motion that was passed on Monday, August 13, 2018 at the General Issues Committee in respect to the Ancaster Secondary School property (green space) and a possible Heritage Status designation. The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board trustees value our partnership with the City of Hamilton and as partners, we would like to continue investing in partnership projects.

Our school board has been working to revitalize all of our facilities and we have worked diligently to find creative solutions to ensure our students needs are being met in buildings which offer the best learning environments. Through this work, we have attracted over \$100 million from the province in terms of funding for various revitalization projects.

We have been very responsive and flexible to the concerns of both City Councillors and residents that have come forward with regards to projects such as, Riverdale/Lake Avenue Community Hub, Sir John A. Macdonald property Community Hub, Millgrove, Hill Park, New North Secondary, Beverly Central, Greenville, and it is vital that we continue to build on our collective success.

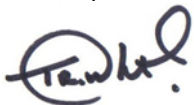
A heritage designation for the Ancaster Secondary site would be detrimental to our school renewal plans for a number of schools, but especially the much needed work on the Ancaster High Secondary School and is not a creative solution regarding property dispositions to which school boards must adhere. Our school renewal plans hinge on the sale of parts or whole properties to reinvest in renewal projects. A heritage designation appears as a block to our severance application and will have a lasting impact on all of our school communities. We have shown restraint and offered to the City a unique deferred property payment opportunity to consider, should you wish to purchase property, and will continue to take this and similar approaches in all of our decision making.

We believe that use of a heritage policy to address our collective dislike of provincial property disposition rules is misplaced.

We want Hamilton students to have the best learning environments available to them, however, a motion seeking the possibility of a heritage designation for the Ancaster site will not allow this to happen. I would ask that City Councillors reconsider their direction in asking staff to explore the heritage designation process and allow the land severance for the Ancaster property to move forward within the application process.

We value our partnership with the City and the great strides that have been taken to work together on a number of projects referenced throughout this letter, however this type of direction and approach could set us back.

Sincerely,



Todd White
 Chair of the Board
 Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board