

Excerpt from Planning Committee Report 18-012, as approved by Council

Planning Committee
Report 18-012

August 14, 2018
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18. Ancaster High School, 374 Jerseyville Road West, Ancaster, to be considered for Heritage Designation (Item 9.4)

WHEREAS the Chair of the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) advised Council on June 20th that their intent was to sever 11 acres of land from the campus of Ancaster High School at 374 Jerseyville Road West;

WHEREAS the HWDSB has advised the City that they could purchase the 11 acres of land from the Board to keep it in public use for a price of "highest and best use" which means residential development or one to one and a half million dollars per acre or 11 to 13 million dollars;

WHEREAS in the June 28th Ancaster News story, the Board Chair states that "There is no threat to the use of this property", the same article quotes the local trustee as saying their desire is to get the property in the hands of the City and this means at highest and best use or residential development price, not the cost of parkland;

WHEREAS the City currently has an infrastructure deficit of \$3.5 billion dollars and therefore unlikely to afford to purchase the 11 acres at highest and best use prices or 11 to 13 million dollars;

WHEREAS the taxpayers of Ancaster have already paid for the site once;

WHEREAS the Town of Oakville recently put a heritage designation on Glen Abby Golf Club as it formed an integral part of the Town's Culture and Heritage;

WHEREAS in the 1950's the Ancaster High School Board, in conjunction with the Town of Ancaster, decided to jointly purchase the existing High School Campus with the novel idea that the school would use the site during the day and community would use the site in the evening and on weekends; and

WHEREAS the Ancaster High School with some 40 acres, form an integral part of the community for the past 60 years and the Town has invested in a pool at this site with the similar novel idea that the school would use it during the day and the community could use the pool in the evenings and on weekends;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That staff be directed to start the process of designating the campus of Ancaster High School site as a site of historical significance and report back to the Heritage Committee on providing the property with a Heritage designation.