

Queen City Eastview Community Association Inc.

Presentation to the Regina Public School Board

Good evening Madam Chairperson, Trustees and the Administration of the Regina Public Schools.

Thank you for allowing us to make this presentation to you. My name is Bill Gray and I am currently the Chairperson of the Queen City Eastview Community Association formerly known as Regina Eastview Community Association. With me is Crystal Kulscar, our community programmer and mother of three children attending Haultain. We were asked by the newly elected Board of Directors of QCECA to make a presentation that would be representative of the desires of our community to retain the presence of Haultain School in Eastview.

We had a chance to discuss some of the aspects of the proposed closure at our last Board Meeting which was held on September 8th. It was the unanimous consensus of our Board that losing Haultain in our community would be devastating to the long-range plan that is on the agenda of the QCECA Board of Directors regarding the longevity and sustainability of Eastview and her residents.

It is now our task to convince you, the Regina Public School Board Trustees and your Administration, that closing Haultain would not be in the best interests of the Trustees, the rate payers of Eastview and Regina Public Schools in general. We presently are in the preliminary stages of preparing sound rationale supporting our points which will hopefully convince each and every one of you to retain Haultain School; if we are not successful in that endeavour tonight, QCECA Board representatives are prepared to make presentations at future public consultative meetings.

The neighbourhood has been supporting Haultain, and Haultain has been supporting the neighbourhood since 1920. The enrolments of Haultain have always been a concern as we are an island in the midst of commercial and industrial entities. Eastview was created to support the GM factory on Winnipeg Street which was closed to make ammunitions for the 1st World War. The neighbourhood boundaries have not changed, but the housing certainly has. The City of Regina is offering a 5-year tax exemption on new housing starts which has provided a real boost to new home construction in the area. The 2006 Neighbourhood profile states that there were 25 new homes built in 2001 to 2006.

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that those numbers have risen dramatically, and since that count, there have been an additional 51 housing completions and starts in the neighbourhood. The vast majority of them are completed and homeowner-occupied. In addition to the new homes, there have also been 21 homes that have undergone major renovations which equates to a renewed interest in our community. Also, in our community, there are 32 condominium dwellings that house single parent families that all seem to have little ones that are either in school or ready to enter that phase of their lives in a very short timeframe. We are not sure just how those new homes relate to the enrolment of Haultain, but it can only help to increase the school's viability. We plan to glean those numbers more thoroughly and hopefully get a better idea of just what the forecasted enrolment numbers will be. Although we were not able to secure the current enrolment of Haultain, we are able to report that there is a Kindergarten class this year. We were able to gain this information because we are fortunate enough to have two of our Board Members, including Ms. Kuscsar sitting beside me, who are also on the School Community Council and have children in that Kindergarten Class. The Council has not met in this school semester but will be meeting later this month, so we should have better numbers after that. It does puzzle us that the enrolment of Haultain is unattainable in time for this presentation. I happen to live directly across the street from Haultain and I can tell you from personal experience that the school is alive and well, judging by the numbers of parents who turned out for the school's "Meet the Teacher Night". It looked very promising, I might add. Another great job by the school and their dedicated staff.

We do have questions about bussing and just what that means to the families whose children attend Haultain. Will they have door-to-school transportation or will they have to meet at a muster point in the community? What will happen to those students that may be late or have an appointment for that day? Do they then miss a whole day of school? What about after school activities in sporting or social aspects? Will the children be left out of those opportunities of development because they have to meet a return home bus schedule?

We read and were very impressed with the Learning Improvement Plan for Haultain Community School (2010-2011) and would like to congratulate you on its goals. What will happen with it if the school isn't there to monitor the progress?

In closing, the Board of Directors of the Queen City Eastview Community Association would like to thank you for the opportunity to address you this evening. We know that your decisions will not be easy and only wish that you will make them on a case-by-case basis.

Take care and May God Bless.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Gray – Chairperson

David Ramarine – Vice Chairperson

Nikki Bunneh – Secretary

Georgina Bright – Treasurer

Crystal Kulscar – Programmer

Christine Wollbaum – Programmer

Mary Numrich – Community Garden Coordinator

Scott Simpkins – Member at Large

Gerry Kulscar – Member at Large

Stan Cwynar - Member at Large

Michelle Lechner – Member at Large