



Thames Valley
District School Board

**Southeast London
Elementary Panel
Attendance Area Review**

Written Public Input

tvdsb.ca



Southeast London Written Public Input

1. Student's that were from the 4 feeder School's will be attending their 3 school if moved, without ever moving. This affects children's emotional well-being and development socially.
2. -As a parent, I am quite disappointed with the outcome of the review. It feels that much of what we asked for was not meaningfully considered. I feel like the school board could do better for our kids. From the start and throughout all meetings with the planning committee, I felt a sense that the primary goal was to fill the new school. I understand the need to appease the ministry and fill the new school. I can also understand that there are fiscal concerns that need to be considered as I am hearing that buses are expensive. However, at no point has the planning committee said: "what is actually in the best interests of the kids?". It's all about filling a school and keeping costs as low as possible. I think we can do better in trying to keep costs low, fill the new school and do what's best for the kids that are impacted by the continuous moves. -I still think Option 3 by splitting the school attendance area down Jackson road still be considered. We are a very fast-growing area. Given how much construction is occurring in the attendance area of the new school, I think projections in the new school will be higher than 53%. If Jackson Road is not an option that the planning committee will consider, then I really do appreciate how you are asking and ensuring that the city is involved to ensure that that road has safety features for the children to cross and have crossing guards etc. Vehicles travel down that road at very fast speeds, and I've heard one too many incidents in our province and city about vehicles not stopping for buses and children as a result getting injured. I do not want this happening to our children. -I am aware that approximately 160 kids who would be forced to move for a 3rd time to this new school. Some great bonds have been made between the students and the staff at that school. For many, it would be in their best interest to stay instead of being forced to move for a 3rd time. Therefore, I am respectfully requesting the following consideration: allow the students who would have been forced to move for a 3rd time, the choice to remain at Summerside or transfer to the new school. Some of these children will have siblings therefore I'm asking that siblings do not get separated in this move. I understand that buses are expensive. However, I am also strongly advocating that busing be provided to those students and siblings who choose to stay. I ask that we consider doing a survey and asking families if they would consider staying or transferring if busing was provided. As a working parent, I can tell you that I would not be able to keep my children at Summerside if busing was not provided. My employment does not permit me to work around child care, pickups and drop-offs. We all know our economy is not looking great and none of us are safe in our jobs. If a parent were to lose a job, they would want as much flexibility as possible to be able to find new employment. Having to work around pickup



and drop-off of the child's school schedule will limit employment choices and these are things families have to consider during these economic times. I understand busing is expensive, but I think we should look at how many students this impacts and what the cost would be.

3. I would like to make sure that those entering grade 8 are able to continue to remain at Summerside PS and they receive bussing for the one year. I had read that an option would be to save money by not offering bussing to them which I feel is thinking of the board and not of the child. It would take our son 30 minutes to walk and across a busy road with no sidewalks for his grade 8 year. We appreciate the cost saving suggestion but don't feel this is an appropriate place to use that. We want him to graduate with his friends at Summerside so are happy this was included in the suggested proposals but want make sure it is approved with transportation. Thank you