



**Education in Norfolk County  
Survey Results**

**--- APPENDIX ---**

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Note: The Education in Norfolk County Survey Results is a separate document from the Appendix. Copies of all reports are available at:

<http://www.norfolkcounty.ca/business/schools/>

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## Appendix

### Respondent Community - Other

#### What community do you live in or live closest to?

##### Other:

Brant	Guelph	Toronto
Brantford	Guelph	Townsend
Brantford	hometown port dover	Turkey Point
Brantford	Kitchener	Turkey Point
Brantford now, grew up in	Kitchener	Turkey Point
Port Dover	Mount Hope, but split	Turkey Point
Burks Falls	time in Port Dover	Vancouver
Calgary Alberta	Otterville	Vittoria
Charlottetown	Peterborough	Vittoria
Clear Creek	Port Ryerse	Vittoria
Cornwall	Sarnia	Vittoria
Courtland	South Walsingham	Vittoria
Courtland	St. Catharines	Vittoria
Courtland	Teeterville	Vittoria
Flamborough	Teeterville	Walsh
from Dover, temporarily	Toronto	Walsh
in Simcoe	Toronto	Winnipeg MB

## Respondent High School Affiliation – Other

**Which high school are you affiliated with? (e.g. your child attends it, you attend it, you graduated there, you work there, you live in that town, etc.)**

**Other or more than one (please explain):**

A former teacher at three schools (WDHS, DDSS & SCS) & four children of which went to SCS & WDHS  
Attended Port Dover and Simcoe  
Children go to Simcoe; I went Port Dover and Simcoe Composite Schools  
Daughter to attend HT, I attended PDCS, Husband attended WDHS  
Delhi or Waterford are closest BUT I want my kids to go to FRENCH high school to go with their French elementary education  
Do not yet have children  
Elmira  
GEDSB staff  
graduate PDCS, children PDCS/SCS, teach DDSS  
I graduated from SCS my son graduated from PDCS  
I graduated from Hagersville, my husband from Waterford and my kids will go to Delhi.  
I graduated from PDCS. I live in the town where SCS resides.  
I taught at SCS from 1968-1971 and PDCS from 1981 to 2001.  
I teach at both Delhi and Valley Heights  
in another community  
my children attended Simcoe but I live near PDCS  
My kids go to HT, I went to SCS and PDCS  
None  
None - no children  
None. I'm just interested as a community (smart growth) activist  
Outside of the region  
Part of a percussion troop that teaches the science of sound to students, Tribal Thunder  
Peterborough Collegiate and Vocational School  
Port Dover and Simcoe...husband works in Simcoe, youngest goes to elementary in Dover!  
Port Dover, Simcoe (move)  
Pt Dover-Attended, Pt Dover/Simcoe-Children attend/attended, Delhi-Spouse teacher  
Ridley college, St. Catherine's  
Simcoe, Delhi, Valley Heights, Holy Trinity  
St. John's (moved here after)  
Turning Point through Port Dover Composite School  
Went to Delhi Secondary school, I now live in Dover  
went to Simcoe lived & lives in Port Dover  
Why does my age and high school affiliation matter?

## Focused School – Other Ideas

If your high school were to become a focused school, please PICK up to 3 of the following focuses that your support.

### Other (different from any of above):

Adult Education Center

Close one High School in Simcoe

Close the Catholic School and support the Public Schools

DO NOT SUPPORT

do not support focus

Don't support this idea

Ecology, Environmental Studies, Wildlife Education

Education focus-combine elementary, secondary & adult

Environmental education/ media studies

Environmental studies or Carolinian-based nature studies

Future High School French Immersion Program for Norfolk County

General labour skills

I don't like the Idea

I support BROAD education, not focused.

I would like to see gr 7 & 8 specialty classes in GEDSB - an arts focused class, enrichment, tech, etc to help raise kids' commitment to their learning and give them a choice

I would like to see HT left as a general school and the other 5 each specialize in a different field. Of the choices above, send kids to HT for Technology; then each of the remaining schools could specialize. I do not support year round schooling.

international baccalaureate programmed

International Baccalaureate Program (high academic!) not same as International

It should offer a complete education ready for university or college

keep as regular school but broaden subjects-arts, tech, international program

Keep PDCS Open!

Lake studies, or environment

Law

Law/ Justice/ Community Studies

Leave PDCS alone. Don't close a school everyone loves!

mechanics and other shop subjects

Natural history or environmental studies

no focus needed

none of the above

not a good idea because a child may end up in a school that doesn't offer what they want and have to travel longer on the bus

preparatory school "pre-university"

Religion

Retail Specialties

skilled trades

Skilled Trades; after all, it was built as a "Composite" school which offered same.

sustainable living course,pdcs needs more courses

That would not be the answer

The focus in high school should be a good general education including the sciences, arts, business, and philosophy in a diverse learning situation.

trade school

Trades - Electricians, Plumbers, Carpenters

Trades/Mechanical/Electrical/  
Plumbing/Millwright

Water conservation

## Focused School – Potential Partners

### Which organizations or businesses in your community could contribute assistance, expertise or funds to make the focused school idea work?

a focused school sounds OK in theory...do we bus students in from other counties to boost eligible attendance numbers to satisfy the school board...what would be the added cost...what about the other schools that are sending their students to PDCS...now they have declining registration ???????

Affiliate the school with universities allowing students to focus on specific studies (ie preparation for studies in medicine/health field, or agricultural sciences etc.) expertise and funds through connections with universities (ie Western/McMaster (health) Guelph (agriculture)

all

All

PS: I am a retired senior

All of them

All small businesses, churches, service clubs, power plants, steel mills, Board of Trade, fishing industry, theatre, real estate companies, medical community, trade unions, probus clubs.

All the local restaurants and LFT

Almost everyone!

any businesses that have a common ground with the specific type of courses being offered. ie. sports, athletics --- port dover health and fitness centre, culinary arts--- a local restaurant

Any former (retired), or current "expert" in any of these fields could mentor and/or speak to students on a regular basis. There are many retirees out there sitting on years of experience in a multitude of areas of expertise.

Any trades or theatre groups

Appropriate businesses could provide on site experiences (co-op).

arena, skateboard park, tennis courts, track, theatre, nursing home, physiotherapy

Backus and Long Point Conservations, Farmers, Forestry Station, Mennonite Brethren Church

BIA, County Heritage, County Marketing, Big Boxes, Toyatetsu Canada, Wine makers

Bia, Commerce, Churches,

Bird Studies Canada, Norfolk Field Naturalists, Norfolk Arts Association

Bird Studies Canada/ Norfolk Field Naturalists/ Norfolk Arts association

Board of Trade

Boo

Both Port Rowan and Port Dover have a number of extremely qualified senior communities within them. I know of several senior executive people within these communities that may offer some expertise in branding programs in the school systems. perhaps some communications with these groups could find some extremely valuable resources in the educational field. These resources may include national and international connections and experience. As far as industry goes if you put the programs together then they may wish to contribute skills and or financing.

Business Improvement Areas

Canada Employment Centre, Fanshawe College, Norfolk General Hospital, Norfolk County Govt., Ontario Works, GEDSB, Apprenticeship -Provincial and Federal Govts., Banks,

Chambers of commerce, business people in community, artists in community,

Contractors, Health Care

David's - Culinary training co-op; Tom Sartor (Chiropractor) - sports medicine/kinesiology/chiropractic co-op; US Steel - skilled trades; Imperial Oil - technology/engineering/skilled trades co-op; Lighthouse Festival Theatre - Arts/Theatre/Theatre Technician co-op; Norfolk General Hospital - health sciences/aging population co-op; Kenny Hill - business/entrepreneurship mentoring; Jack Robillard - business/entrepreneurship mentoring; Shawn Swarts - legal mentoring. There are many talented and successful people in and around Port Dover (Mike Fletcher, John Wells, Christie Wardell, Blair Snow, Robyn Laing, Louis DeBono, Liz Campbell, etc) who would make fabulous mentors to students wanting to explore different careers, trades and opportunities.

Deb , lions, etc.

Don't know

don't know

Don't support this idea

Eva Brook Donly Museum, Lighthouse Festival Theatre

Eva brook Donly Museum/Lynwood Arts Centre/Lighthouse Theatre/Theatre Norfolk, Retail business/The Banks/The real Estate & Insurance Brokers/ Restaurants, Fair Board/ Kernals/Picards/ Forms such as Emres and Culvers/Junior farmers Org.

family business eatery and mechanical individuals who have built the business from the ground up

Fanshawe College, BIA's, Simcoe Research Centre, TDAB

Fanshawe College, University of Guelph Research Station, OMAFRA, Norfolk County

Fanshawe, University of Guelph

financial institutions {banks} farmers, retailers, norfolk tourism, travel agencies,

Fleming College, Women's' Business Network

Funds- that's what our taxes are for, Expertise and Assist, keeping the teachers who specialize in these areas, as well as Lighthouse Theatre staff

Funds? Don't we pay taxes for funding ?

Good question

government, health unit, runners den, boykos source for sports, serafinas,

Have experts volunteer their time to teach specific classes that would only require a minimal amount of their time. For example, have someone from a nursing home come in to teach 1 class a day, have a successful business owner come teach 1 class a day - this way you get an expert to teach what they know and it isn't taking up much of their time - they get to give back to their community and the kids get the best of the best - it's a win win situation.

heritage canada, norman patterson school of international affaires, department of foreign affairs, norfolk county, laurier university,

Hydro, us steel , local restaurants, lighthouse theatre, Dover cliffs, lower lakes, esso

I am not aware of any businesses willing to invest in a high risk organization that may not fly! Businesses are struggling enough now.

I am not sure...

I AM SURE THE LION'S & KINSMEN CLUBS AND ALL BUSINESS COULD CONTRIBUTE IN SOME WAY TO KEEP OUR SCHOOL OPEN.

I believe that all funds that would be used towards creating the "focused school" should be used to save the school and left the way it is. Kids in Port Dover and Waterford need a High school within their own town. I personally believe that many kids wouldn't even attend school if there isn't one within their own community.

I don't like this idea. The correct solution is put boundaries back between regions and begin enforcing catchment areas. If other regions can successfully do this, our board should be able to as well.

I don't think the focused school idea could work.

I don't think there are enough businesses to help

I suspect businesses in this area are struggling themselves and have little to invest.

i think in the broader picture, to continue in the post secondary, math and English are most important... anything to support these area would be beneficial., I'm sure that lots of them could, but I'll let someone who supports the idea speak to that.

Imperial Oil, US Steel, OPG, LFT

Independent retailers/Insurance and Real Estate Brokers/Travel Agencies/Hotels, Dentists/Doctors/The Service Clubs - I would think any one living and working in this community has a vested interest in seeing our youth educated well and would assist in anything that would help keep our youth here or want to return here - it's our Community!

It all has to do with trade work and being able to travel to do work.

jhrter

Keep PDCS Open!

Kernal Peanuts have always been a leader in agriculture, entrepreneurship and tourism.

knectals, schneiders, wells, etc.

Law firms, theatre groups, etc.

lawyers, chartered accountants, nursing homes, etc.could offer 1. apprenticeship programs of 6 weeks and 2. have a Bursary for student who excels in their program - would also tell the student if their choice of occupation is The" one for them.

LFT, restaurants, local artists, Marina, sailing club, local mechanics

Lft, us steel, esso, opg, local businesses, board of trade, norfolk county, norfolk tourism, nfa, ofa, toby barrett,

Liaison, Area Restaurants, Lighthouse Theatre, Banks, Travel Agencies, Local Farmers, LPRCA, Norfolk County Tourism dept, Lawyers, Local immigrants, Area entrepreneurs, Chamber of Commerce

Light House Theater

Light House Theatre

light house theatre , satars chiropractor, suprins , port dover gym, lees automotive, lower lakes, dover electric , norfolk power , restaurants knechtals , erie beach, jasminesn etc.....

Light House Theatre, Davids Restaurant and all the amazing artists in our community

light house theatre, service clubs

Light House Theatre.

Light house theatre. Erie beach

Lighthouse Festival Theater, every restaurant in town, Port Dover Lions, Port Dover Kinsmen, every Business in town

Lighthouse Festival Theater, Norfolk Association for Community Living, Lions Club, Kinsmen Club, Rotary Club

Lighthouse Festival Theater, Pt. Dover Board of Trade

Lighthouse Festival Theatre

lighthouse festival theatre

Lighthouse Festival Theatre , Lynwood Arts Centre, Maureen Dodd Arts Foundation

lighthouse festival theatre or good idea theatre in Port Dover

Lighthouse Festival Theatre, all service organizations

Lighthouse Festival Theatre, Area Restaurants

Lighthouse festival theatre, Backstage Capital theatre, community theatre groups; Omafra, Vandebusse Irrigation, Seed Companies, Chemical Companies, Cargil, Norfolk Fruit Growers, Norfolk Agricultural Society, Culinary Tourism Establishments, Sports Medicine and Chiropractic Businesses, Physiotherapy clinics, Bike Association, Private Gyms and Fitness Establishments, Nature Enthusiasts.....

Lighthouse Festival Theatre, Dovercliff Nursing Home, many restaurants for students to apprentice in, 2 medical centres, Board of Trade for training in tourism, farm markets in the farming community, Silver Lake Market, Silver Lake Artists for mentorship in production and sales.

Lighthouse Festival Theatre, Erie Beach, Maureen Dodd Foundation, U.S. Steel, OPG ...

Lighthouse Festival Theatre, Hobo Shop.

Lighthouse Festival Theatre, Mings, Doctors Office, Library

Lighthouse Festival Theatre, Norfolk County Tourism, Farm Credit Canada, OMAFRA, University of Guelph-AG dept, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, sheridan College arts, Shaw Festival, Stratford Festival

Lighthouse Festival Theatre, Port Dover Lions Club

Lighthouse Festival Theatre, Port Dover Yacht Club, Bridge Yachts

Lighthouse Festival Theatre, restaurants, nursing homes, museum

Lighthouse Festival Theatre, Simcoe Little Theatre, Many of the local restaurants and tourist businesses, Mummery Bros. Fishing, Lower Lakes Towing, Local Farmers, Fanshawe College...there are so many community businesses and "experts" that I believe this would be a FANTASTIC and UNIQUE idea!!!!

Lighthouse festival Theatre, The school ran a successful International program, The town is a tourist destination.

Lighthouse Festive Theatre

Lighthouse Theatre, International Students ( more federal money just announced),; US Steel, Esso trade education many others

Lighthouse Theater

LIGHTHOUSE THEATER, LIONS PD13

lighthouse theater, local trades

Lighthouse Theater, Runners Den, Twisted fish, dance academy, local artists

Lighthouse theatre

Lighthouse Theatre

Lighthouse Theatre

Lighthouse Theatre and other various artsy businesses in town.

Lighthouse Theatre, artisan networks, local restaurants, newspapers, garages, car dealerships, bakeries, museums, Port Dover Enhancement group, service clubs, Maureen Dodd Foundation, Church groups, local artists, Community Foundation, Legion, and many more.

Lighthouse Theatre, Board of Trade

Lighthouse Theatre, Board of Trade, Lions, Kinsmen,

Lighthouse theatre, Devlins restaurant, , Port Dover board of trade,

Lighthouse Theatre, Erie Beach Hotel (culinary, so all restaurants could assist), automotive and boat focused businesses for apprenticeships, tourism focused businesses for entrepreneurship.

Lighthouse Theatre, Haldimand Norfolk Health Dept., Runners Den

Lighthouse theatre, Hotels and restaurants, County tourism dept

Lighthouse Theatre, Lynwood Arts Centre, Maureen Dodd Arts Foundation, Erie Music, Hobo

Lighthouse Theatre, Maureen Dodd Association,

Lighthouse theatre, nursing home.

Lighthouse Theatre, Port Dover Harbour Museum, Board of Trade, local restaurants and wineries

lighthouse theatre, us steel, lions club, kinsmen club

Lighthouse theatre, Lower Lakes towing

lighthouse theatre. port dover restaurants

lions club kinsman club

Lions Club,

Lions Club, Kinsmen Club

Lions club, Kinsmen Club, Ontario Power Generation, US Steel Lake Erie Works, Imperial Oil Esso., Knechtels Restaurants, Erie Beach Hotel, Lower Lakes Towing Ltd, Lighthouse Festival theater

Lions Club, Kinsmen, many local businesses

Lions Club, Kinsmen's Club - Churches (there are 4 Protestant, 1 Catholic, Lighthouse Theatre, Port Dover Board of Trade, PDCS SOS, Doverwood PTA

Lions Club, Lighthouse Theatre, Board of Trade

Lions Club, Norfolk General Hospital, Government, College and Universities,

Lions Club, Rotary Club, Trillium Foundation

Lions Club, Friends of Port Dover, Kinsmen, Churches

Lions, Kinsmen, Friends of Port Dover, Churches

Lions, Kinsmen, Rotary

Lions, Kinsmen, US Steel, Lighthouse Festival Theatre, Port Dover Board of Trade, SOS, All Restaurants, Marina, Port Dover Yacht Club

Local artisans and cultural business organizations. Like in Ottawa, Canterbury High School was converted into a school for the Arts and is very successful

local businesses - Lighthouse Theatre, OPG

Local Farmers, Local Factories (millwrights, welders,) Norfolk County Community Services, Local Doctors and hospitals, local business owners

Local municipal offices, sport organizations, health services, restaurants, any business organization willing to teach would be a valuable asset

Local restaurants, Tourism Norfolk, Norfolk General Hospital/Nursing Home, REACH/CAS, local chapter of federation of agriculture, Lighthouse Theatre, Simcoe Little Theatre

Local travel agencies, hotels and restaurants could perhaps contribute towards teaching in the travel/tourism/hospitality focus.

OPG could perhaps contribute monetarily or offer co-op opportunities.

Local yoga centres, theatre, restaurants, fishing and shipping industries

Lower Lakes Towing & Shipping, Board of Trade, Port Dover Harbour Museum, Harbour Authority, wineries, lavender, Norfolk County Tourism, Entrepreneurs discussion from speaker in the area

Lower Lakes Towing, Callahan's, Erie Beach, Lighthouse Festival Theatre

Ludwig Transport Limited

Lumber Stores, Unions

Many

Many should.

Mfg,

most of them contribute and volunteer now

N/A

no frills, maple leaf paper, any thiung in dover

none

None, there's no point to this school....

None. That's ridiculous and totally unrealistic for this area.

Norfolk General Hospital

Norfolk General Hospital - free nursing students while attending nursing education in Port Dover.; Lighthouse Theatre - acting /musical/dancing programs.; Culinary Arts taught by local chefs.; (all programs to keep young students in the area rather than leaving to the larger centres for their college education)

Norfolk General Hospital and the separate school board

not sure

Not sure

Not sure

not sure about bushiness but as for sports there are some good facilities that should be used more

not sure I like the focused school idea so I can't comment here

Nursing Homes, Live Theatre, Cooking school and local chefs

obviously the Theatre which has already advised they would support, there are 3 vehicle service centres in town which could be asked to contribute, it is a tourist town so again, lots of options for assistance here, entrepreneur opportunities abound here

OMAFRA

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, catchment Universities (UWO, Mac, Brock, Laurier, UWaterloo), Stelco, Texaco, Little Theatre, Norfolk Tourism, Slow Food, Cami, Toyota,

OPG

OPG Lighthouse Theatre Norfolk Pros

OPG or any of the large corporations

Perhaps the Service Clubs/small businesses if all contributed something equally

Pharmacies and Doctors local hospitals

Port Dover Board of Trade, Lighthouse Festival Theatre

Port Dover Board of Trade, Lions Club, Kinsmen, etc.

Port Dover has an active Theatre. It is the centre of Norfolk County Tourism. It had a successful International Program until a few years ago.

Port Dover Lions Club, Lady Lions, Kinsmen, Kinettes, All businesses, Churches

Port Dover Lions, Port Dover Kinsmen, Many Businesses, Fanshawe College, Property Taxes, US Steel, Nanticoke ESSO

Port Dover theatre

re-instate the international program

Restaurants, Theatre, Insurance offices, newspaper, pharmacies, u.s.steel, ontario hydro, Esso. plumbrers electricians etc.

Rotary

Rotary/Lions/Kinsmen; Marlin/Featherstones/CAA/Carlson Wagonlit; TSC/BIA/McKie&Farrar

School board

Seniors that have the experiences to share with the specialties in each school that could work as mentors.

Simcoe Gliders Gymnastics Club; Hockey Association; Baseball Association; Soccer Club

Tap into the PDCS alumni network...There are many successful graduates around the world that could help with contributing assistance.

that is for you to figure out. You will do so anyway. Government politicians \$\$\$\$\$\$ spend spend spend; The poor get poorer and the government employees keep getting the best pay \$\$\$\$

That is your job not mine

The general aging population in Port Dover is a possible asset in Health Sciences.

The Legion, The sports teams, etc.

The lighthouse festival theatre

The Lighthouse Festival Theatre, has been more than vocal about their willingness to help in any way that they can. And I'm sure if you asked around town, you could find many, many people willing to help.

the Lighthouse Theater.

The lions club, rotary club.

The Long Point World Biosphere Reserve foundation (along with other conservation programs in the county) could contribute assistance and expertise as per their mandate under the UNESCO program

The provincial government needs to be involved in changing the whole system across the province - the present system is obsolete and we are tinkering with something that needs to be reinvented for the 21st century. We currently can support the right education system with tax payer money - no amount of money from other sources will make it work.

THEATRE RESTAURANTS STELCO OPG CGC

Theatre, artistic community

theatre, artists, musicians  
track, skate park, tennis courts, arena close to PDCS

theatre, artists, restaurants

theatre, artists, restaurants, citizens

Theatre, Food establishments, sports amenities next to school including track, tourist industry

Theatre, restaurants, hospital

theatre, yacht club, restaurants

Theatres in area, arts groups, museums, qualified chefs in area, fishermen, teachers, successful businesses. ;  
Business Development groups, Norfolk farmers, Tourist industry. Real estates,

there are probably many who would come forward to offer support, leadership and guidance.

There have been families in this areas who have taken in International students in the past who attended PDCS, I being one of them. There are many kinds of agriculture in the surrounding areas that have lots of specialized people who might be willing to help plus the Agricultural Experimental Farm on the Blue Line Road outside of Simcoe with people with lots of expertise on Agriculture.

featherstone Travel, Dental Practices, Bruce R Smith, Rassaun Steel

This is not an easy question to answer without doing some community support mining but the LFT is certainly a great choice for the arts.

To many to list! ref: all

Too many businesses and Industries too mention

United way, EI, Norfolk General Hospital, Municipal and Provincial and Federal government, Board of Education

US Steel

US Steel, OPG, Esso, Norfolk County, Norfolk General Hospital

Us steel, scotia and royal bank,

We have Lighthouse Festival Theatre, Norfolk Theatre, simcoe little theatre, and children's theatres. We have a whole host of fabulous restaurants, PDCS has already started the internation program. Let's build on what currently exists.

What about a language school? ESL If there are people willing to billet, their are children to attend these types of schools from around the world; Consider what will happen with the French immersion program as the children grow older. What program will there be for them in High School?

?

?

?

## Central High School – Suggested Locations

### If a central high school were built, where should it be located?

?	Blue Line Road	Does not really matter as no matter where you put at least one community will lose.
?	blue line road and hwy 3	
#3 and Blue Line	Blueline around Simcoe half way between Dover and Waterford	don't build it
a central location, Blueline area	central location	Don't build it!
a new site that is neither in Simcoe, Port Dover, or Waterford. Somewhere with lots of space and easy access from all three communities.	Central to all communities	Don't know
A rural location	Central to all schools	don't build one waste of money
Anywhere is east Norfolk, central for the three areas.	central to the 3 high schools it would replace	dover!!!
around Renton	central to the three communities	East of Simcoe
At the hort. station.	Central would suggest Simcoe	EQUIDISTANT FROM SIMCOE, PD AND WATERFORD
Between Dover and Waterford	centrally located which would probably be Simcoe	Fairly to everyone?
Between Port Dover and Simcoe	Centrally to County	ff
Between Port Dover and Simcoe	Corner of Blue Line and #3	Geographically between all areas. Hwy #3 area?
between simcoe & dover make facilities available!	Corner of Blueline Rd and Hwy. 3	halfway between Simcoe, Port Dover, and Waterford.
between Simcoe and Port Dover	Corner of Hwy #3 & Blueline Rd	hillcrest, or queensway
between simcoe, dover and waterford	corner of hwy 3 and blue line	Hwy #3 east of Simcoe
Blue Line	Corner of HWY 3 and Blueline Rd.	hwy 24 & blue line rd.
Blue Line and #3 Hwy	Delhi	hwy 3 and Blue line
Blue Line and Hwy 3	do not do this	Hwy 3 East
Blue Line Rd & #3	DO NOT SUPPORT THIS - N/A	hyw 3 east of simcoe
		I don't care. Don't do it. I do not want a huge school full of Simcoe kids.
		I don't know



port dover	Renton or Port Dover	Simcoe
port dover	Simcoe	Simcoe
port dover because there is only one right now	Simcoe	Simcoe
	Simcoe	Simcoe
Port dover, simcoe has many schools already	Simcoe	Simcoe
PORT DOVER!!!!	Simcoe	Simcoe
Port Dover. It has the space to expand, has hockey arena and outdoor park are within a block of the school. Also, being a tourist town it provides valuable after school work and programs for teenagers.	Simcoe	Simcoe
	Simcoe	Simcoe
	Simcoe	Simcoe
Probably Simcoe	simcoe	Simcoe
Probably Simcoe	Simcoe	Simcoe
Queensway @ Blueline Rd	Simcoe	Simcoe
Queensway East	Simcoe	Simcoe
Renton	Simcoe	Simcoe
Renton	Simcoe	Simcoe
Renton	Simcoe	Simcoe
Renton (in between Dover, Simcoe and Waterford)	simcoe	Simcoe
Renton Area	Simcoe	Simcoe
Renton area	simcoe	Simcoe
	Simcoe	Simcoe

Simcoe	Simcoe if PDCS, WDHS & SCS were combined.	The community with the largest # of students attending
Simcoe		
Simcoe	Simcoe is the central area, so would be the closest travel wise	The middle of Lake Erie.
simcoe		Too difficult to decide.
Simcoe	Simcoe is the largest and most central	Undecided. Simcoe doesn't need two high schools.
Simcoe	Simcoe Ontario	unsure
Simcoe	simcoe rural	Up Your ***
Simcoe	Simcoe seems to be the most centered place	Waterford
Simcoe		Waterford
Simcoe	simcoe to compete with HT	waterford
Simcoe	Simcoe, duh!?	Waterford or Port Dover, not Simcoe
Simcoe - it is in the middle of Waterford and Port Dover	simcoe, it is in the core of Norfolk	Whatever the actual middle geographical location is.
Simcoe - it's the largest community	Simcoe, Queensway East	Where ever it is least expensive to upgrade to accommodate students.
Simcoe - largest population	Simcoe, the central location, and location of the Catholic Board High School	where the largest population of students are.
Simcoe - the central hub of Norfolk County	simcoe?	where the majority of the student population live
simcoe and dover	Somewhere along the Blue Line Road	where there is cheap land and existing utilities
Simcoe area	Somewhere between Port Dover and Simcoe.	Within a 30 km radius of Port Dover/Simcoe/Waterford
Simcoe as it is central to both Waterford and Port Dover	Somewhere on the west end of Simcoe maybe right outside of the west end of town. Simcoe is central to Waterford, Port Dover, and Delhi.	You only need one high school per town
Simcoe as it is centrally located in Norfolk		
Simcoe as largest urban area and centrally located	Teeterville	
Simcoe because it is central!		
Simcoe because it's in between dover and waterford	Terrible idea	

## Central High School – Other Thoughts

### What other thoughts do you have on the idea of a central high school?

- close one of the Simcoe high schools...schools located in the smaller communities is vital for business, town growth and attracting higher educated people to our area that can ultimately create a more diversified hi-tech, hi-skilled innovative job base that can help eliminate the outward migration of our youth

- I think centralization is not a good option as population demographics change, as county 'hot spots' change, and as School Boards change rules, a central facility is not nimble to change focus, just BIG. I boarder on not being supportive here but I certainly don't have all the information surrounding the proposal. The idea of neighbourhood and community are lost in large schools and that is a cornerstone of education that seems lost in the conversation of numbers, catchments, etc. It's hard to measure and make convincing graphs but it is a real phenomenon community....once it's gone however, there is no simple way to turn back around.

?

A central high school is just more money blown on something that already exists but simply in more than one location.

A central high school will have the enrollment to run a variety of courses which will enable all students to acquire the skill sets they need to carry on in post-secondary education

A CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL WILL STILL NEED BUSSING AND PROBABLY MORE SO.

A central highschool is a horrible idea. There are many advantages to having smaller highschools in local towns- helping to support local economies!

a good idea, if the logistics work

A school is part of the culture specific to its locale. It would be a huge loss of community identity, etc. to have one central high school.

Bad for area - centralisation would cause most students to travel. larger class sizes would not allow closer work with students

Bad Idea, less sense of identity for kids from those towns.

BAD IDEA!

barf

Bigger is not better!

Bigger is not better.

buildings in current locations are part of community , closing one to build another is not a good option

Busing of kids after school eliminates after school sports/activities. Also kids have to leave so early to get on bus. Travel time is a waste.

Bussing is an antiquated option ie. pollution, rising fuel costs etc.

Can't SCS accommodate all the students from PDCS and WDHS?

Central high school is not fair for many students. There is a simple solution to this. CLOSE HOLY TRINITY. There is no need for two high-schools to be in Simcoe. Turn Holy Trinity into a community centre and get it out of the GEDSB. If the catholics want a school for themselves they should do it without public funding. Not all students want to take a religion class and forcing that on them merely to receive the use of publicly funded facilities....

Central high school would have to be huge to accommodate all high school students.

Central high schools involve too much time for students on a bus

Central Public would be okay; Leave separate schools as is; Two systems give choices, encourages striving for excellence, one system would lead to complacency and lack of healthy competition.

choose an area that needs revitalization and locate school there... it may be difficult to draw students in as a new school could pose as potential competition for other schools

Close 1 of Simcoes 2 highschools. Make kids go to the highschool that they are suppose to stop paying to bus them all over the county!!!

Close ALL of the inefficient schools and make Simcoe a super-school. This would also allow the Board to get rid of deadwood staff and hire better qualified educators.

close one of the high schools in Simcoe, you only need one per town. Big schools are not better for teens, they need that individual attention

Close Valley Heights and Delhi too

Closing schools in Dover and Waterford will take valuable business away from both of those centres.

Comprehensive course selection in all areas....aka...Holy Trinity.

Consider transportation costs and travel time for students being bused in to attend; Loss of 'sense of community'

Consolidated schools can mean more options for students. I went to Port Dover Composite years ago, and was basically restricted to core courses. The opportunities just weren't there.

Cost prohibitive--new building, transportation. Difficult to sell current buildings

Disadvantage of size

do not do it

DO NOT DO IT AT ALL!!!! A TERRIBLE IDEA

DO NOT HAVE THE SPACE TO BUILD A PROPER SCHOOL CENTRAL TO ALL SCHOOLS INVOLVED

doesnt sound like a good idea to me

Don't build it!

Don't include Simcoe in a central high school. There are too many conflicts that would start. They have HT and SCS.

don't want a central high school

dont do it, just keep PDCS open and tell the school board to stop supporting all of the other schools and leaving PDCS out

Dumb

Every community needs it's own school.

Excessive costs to tax payers. Port Dover has the building and the acreage already.

extended bus rides don't increase education; look at the effect of mega school Holy Trinity and the abuse of photos distributed

Face it, a community is built around the young people. Port Dover thrives because of the young students that work at the local businesses after school and on weekends. To take them away with a central school would remove a large part of the "student worker" population. High School is a wonderful and exciting time in a teens life and by closing a high school and not having a local one available is taking this away. There is something to be said about small town schools. After graduating 13 years ago, I am still friends with almost all of my friends from high school!!! KEEP PDCS AFLOAT!!!!!!

ff

firstly, they need to do away with our dual system of Roman Catholic and Public School - United we stand and divided we fall - the system is antiquated and divisive - costly and inappropriate in this day and age!

Giant schools are not good for providing the human touch

Good idea

Good idea, close the schools that need lots of renos, and have excess funds from sale to put to cost of new school....and less town rivalry

great idea level playing field with ht.

Great way to compete with HT

Hopefully the opportunity to explore greater science and technology programs.

how do the sports teams work? It will be ridiculous. Parties will be hard to have.

How much would it cost to build and transportation issues. After school programs etc.

I am concerned that the larger school population would prevent many needy students from making comfortably the transition from a young teen ( 13-14 ) to an older more "savvy" teen. The masses would rob students of the chance for a more intimate, supportive environment. It would affect staff the same way.

I believe in community-based schooling. Where students can walk to school and interact with the community they are from. Preferably with educators who come from that community.

I believe local schools give and become part of the community and communities "die" without them

I believe that small schools create a better environment for the kids to grow up in. They seem to turn out better than the students who go to massive schools.

I came from a high school that was 12500 students it did not help my education or help me know my pees?. In fact i knew less than 20%; Good school no involvement by out of area students except football player, basketball etc

i do not like the idea because i don't think that there would be enough room for all those kids

I do not support this idea.

I feel you would loose the community spirit built at smaller schools and dump the students into one huge faceless institution. Students would become a number. Local communities would suffer.

I hate the fact that students have to spend their time on a bus rather than participating in sports/arts etc. That is the advantage of having a school in the town you are living in - it becomes part of the student and hence the parents and community.

I honestly could care less. PDCS sucks

I like the idea because the students starting kindergarden would know that is their school from day one- and no one would be the outsider!!!

I like the idea of smaller locations. It allows the teachers to develop more relationships and be a leader in the kids' lives. I want my child to be more than just a number.

I like the smaller schools and like our Norfolk County students can pick which type of school they attend.

I love this idea! I honestly think it is the only sustainable option to solve the issue of school closures in GEDSB. The other options are good for the short term, but I feel that in five/ten years time we will again be facing the same challenges - rising enrollment in some schools and declining enrollment in others. The board needs to encourage our communities and schools to work together to find a long term solution rather than fight against each other. This way we will see successful and outstanding schools restored to Norfolk County that we are all proud of.

I personally would hate the idea of attending a central high school, and I know the majority of students feel the same way because this subject has been discussed a lot.

I sort of think that it would be too big, students would fall through the cracks, and there would be a lost sense of community. Keep it under 2000.

i thing the IB is the only way to go. It will draw from as far as Burlington - international trade and languages for our global economy and pacific rim candidates an excellent way to go - also a perfect marriage would be an international exchange with students from Beijing or any other pan pacific school

I think in the long run it is the most cost effective and would offer the best programming for all students

I think it would be a major school tax increase for the people in the community and we don't need any more taxes! Keep the highschools open. These communities have attended these schools for a long time and they want to continue to attend a school in their own district. I attended SCS for 3 years and PDCS for 2 years back

in the 60's and my kids attended SCS, and WDHS in the 80's. I want my grandchildren to be able to attend these schools as well. Population may be dwindling but you get that hometown friendliness in these schools!!!

I think it would cost a lot of money to build a new High School when the whole discussion of closures is down to money.

I think it'd be a horrible Idea, we wouldn't have sports teams to play against which would make a huge impact on everyone. As a student I know how the rivalry is between schools, so therefore putting everyone together would be a day to day war. If they put all Norfolk county schools together, who would we compete with at fair for everything? Norfolk County wouldn't be the same at all

I think its un reasonable, to much money, to many kids. Just stupidity

I think that the closing of 2 schools to build a new one is completely ridiculous.

I think the board is exploring this option because it has been spending \$\$ foolishly ever since it "came together". Teachers are earning more & our kids (in some cases) don't have the materials (like txt books) needed to complete their home work.

I think this would affect students opportunities to be involved with sports and teams. I do not think this is a good idea. I think it would be more beneficial to make all the schools in Norfolk Focus Schools this way students can focus their education on their future. Port Dover would be a great location to focus on business and tourism since this area has a lot of growth and tourism during the summer.

I think we would bring back students if there was a new school. Look at Holy Trinity the kids all wanted to go there because it is new or newer. I think by combining to a central school it would give strength within the Grand Erie School Board

I think you get a better education in a small school. Students are known to their teachers.

I would change systems or put my child in a private school rather than a central high school. If the GEDSB required students to go to their community schools, as is required in EVERY OTHER board in Ontario, we would not be having the issue we are presented with vis a vis declining school populations in certain communities (Port Dover). All students should attend their community school - and not be bussed to schools outside of their community. In essence, by allowing this, GEDSB has allowed the community of Norfolk to kill their own smaller schools! My sons will NOT go to a large, central school.

I would only support this option if the school had a vast array of options/programs for the students, not just a carbon copy of SCS.

I'd rather have a small school

If any one school has to be closed than it is the only fair and honest option to close them all and create a super school.

if it is the financially viable answer it needs to be explored - a school in each community is preferred; The Board should merge SCS and Holy Trinity - that would up the student population.

If that is the only fiscal possibility it needs to be explored.

If the lack of students supports the need for this - it should be explored. also the location should be chosen based on the number of students in the area.

if there were only one school, make it superb, with state of the art facilities and programs. This would not hurt small towns because people would not be pressured to live only in ONE town, because all the kids of every town would have equal access to the same school no matter in which town the family lives

If we have the money to build a super school then we have money to fix the problem with the existing schools. Dover could thrive if we had busing issues fixed!!

If we wanted a giant high school, we would have moved to a city.

If you go ahead, make sure it has a very good standard of education for children who have different abilities, so people want their children to attend. It's all in the respect it acquires..

Increased transportation poses safety risks to students, has an impact on the environment and will increase expenses for some parents/students.

Instead of a new building - use the current PDCS building - spend money on repairs instead of new building - Port Dover has so much to offer

Instead of one high school in Simcoe how about one in the north end of Norfolk County and one in the south end of Norfolk County.

It becomes a super school. What does that do to the smaller schools left. Sports would take a dramatic hit. Students would get lost in the system.

It can be done. It works for Holy Trinity. Kids are bussed from across the region. Our kids deserve a broad base of courses that can only be offered with numbers of students. Our kids deserve equal opportunities with city schools. When I went to university, other kids in my phys ed class came from schools with a pool. They couldn't believe we didn't have those resources. I was embarrassed to say that we could only offer Gr. 13 physics every other year!

It could be good. Trinity has a large catchment area and it's doors are bursting. Increasing the catchment area for a public high school could be equally successful, and draw students of different strengths to make a very dynamic learning environment.

It is a great idea!

it is a terrible idea that has no benefit for any community in the county

It is a waste of buildings to build a completely new school, why not repurpose one of the schools you are proposing to shut down?

It is a waste of money considering we already have the existing infrastructure. It would make more sense to renovate and add to what we already have.

It removes youth from their communities, which doesn't encourage them to care about their communities. We need to encourage youth and their connection to the communities they live in. Encourage them to be active and contributing citizens through participation and volunteerism.

it should be broken up into different buildings so more classes could be provided with smaller numbers of students so they have more opportunities to learn. It is way easier to learn in a class with 10-20 kids than one with 21-30.

It spells disaster. your taking way to many kids from to many backgrounds and cramming them in one school, disaster! The ones who don't fit in will be picked on more and I personally know my son does not do good in huge groups.

It sucks. Just keep PDCS open, problems solved.

it takes the kids out of their community,

It would be ok but not the greatest idea.

It would be overcrowded and more costly

It would be overcrowded, and the quality of education would suffer.

It would destroy any sense of "belonging"; of coming from a "place". Having a school in your home town is a very strong need; a touchstone for adolescents.

it would drive more kids to holy trinity

It would have to be fair and not favour Simcoe. If the decision is between closing only Port Dover or all of them, I say all of them and make a central high school. It is the only fair and decent option. Anything else is political favouritism, plain and simple.

It would obliterate sports or create such a hindrance due to travel that it would decrease participation greatly. Kids need to be able to do sports, get their school work done and have jobs all in the same day. Extra travel time is counter productive.

It would take the board at least 10 years to even agree to the idea.

It would take the individuality out of students that they have at each school

It's a good idea, but since class size would most likely be larger there is a chance that students will miss the important one-on-one time with teachers that we get so often at smaller schools.

its a completely stupid idea.

keep PDCS open.

its a stupid idea it would cost too much and with that many kids in one place there will definitely be big problems besides it would ruin the athletics of the schools and there wouldn't be as much excitement at the fair and a lot of kids who want to be on teams won't be able to because there will be too many people trying out for the same team

Its stupid

Its stupid. There would be way to many people and there would be small enough classes. And even if a huge building was made to get from one end of the school to the other would be impossible.

Just do not do it. The school board needs to think about what the children want more than anything. Yes, that includes money. There are alternatives to a central highschool.

keeping schools open in all communities is preferred - I am not in favour of kids having to spend their time on busses - that being said if there is not enough support/students to maintain all a Central High School seems to have some merit.

Kids spend enough time being taken from one location to another. Moving 3 towns into 1 school would mean that the kids would have to spend more time driving/riding & waiting to get to this "central" location.

kills community and buses are costly and the people that run schools need some other forms of use

Large schools may not be in tune with the social dynamics of life in rural communities.

larger school population equals more innovative and creative course opportunities and specialist teachers

last resort for public schooling and they better be budgeting for buses, early and late so kids can take part in sports and other after school activities that make our communities so good and is why many of us moved here in the first place...my kids have graduated but I still care about the kids up and coming and they deserve the education they moved here for or stayed in this town for

Leave our schools alone we are fine

let's change this to a central school board...combine the separate and public school boards...use the savings from the "fat cat" superintendents and put it back in the school system

Lots of bussing. Gas isn't cheap!! And not close for all parents with kids who do extracurricular activities! You think parents want to travel 20 to 40 mins to pick up kids after football practice!! Give your head a shake

Make it work with in your community. English and math are the building blocks! everything else is through post secondary. Give the students an opportunity to feel the self confidence they need to proceed in a larger community! That is the key! Encourage them while young they can do it!!!!They will take the intended post secondary and figure out what is right for them.

making SCS your preferred school lacks forward thinking, there is NO room for growth outside of the building to support arts, sports and etc.

mixed feelings still

Multimedia classrooms

Must be late busses for kids in sports/ after school activities

My biggest concern would be the amount of time students would be spending on the bus everyday. Also, if students are being shipped all over the county, how will this affect their ability to participate in extra-curricular activities? The board always says they are looking out for the best interest of the kids and the educational experience is not just about academics.

Name - South Coast Secondary School

needs to make sense financially

NO

No no no

None

none

None really

NOT A GOOD IDEA

Not a good idea.

not acceptable

Not good

not needed, too large smaller schools can meet the needs of students .in a central school you are a number lost in the crowd ,not enough personal contact with teachers.

Not the greatest option, but better than just closing PDCS and forcing the students to go to Simcoe (or other) high schools.

offer full range of programs

one highschool for all

Only as a long term solution. Use current buildings until they no longer needed or serve

Our towns are so very close, but yet people are so scared of working together, so proud of their town and history, which is great, but yet we need to all work together there are not enough kids to financially run each high school independently. The other option, more political, is to return the Catholic schools to being private!!

Perhaps Delhi needs to be closed too for the central high school idea to be viable.

Port Dover major's industry is tourism, the students are needed to work. A central school would have to be in Port Dover. PDCS has the track and field area, the international students, and the theatre.

Providing our youth with an exceptional education will foster moral and professional individuals who will contribute to the betterment of society. I feel that the school system as a whole requires a thorough examination. Catchment areas need to be defined and adhered to (notwithstanding there will be legitimate circumstances for a transfer); separate versus public school funding needs to be addressed appropriately (my son is currently enrolled in catholic grade school but my point is why keep 2 schools open in one area when 1 would support the masses); and, enrolment numbers need to be forecasted. Once these areas have been critically evaluated, unbiased solutions can come forward ie., the need to close schools in certain locations; the condition of the remaining schools, what they have to offer and location; and, finally the option of creating a central school should be explored.

Providing the best possible education for our youth is the most important issue. A state of the art facility that can provide all desired curriculum is important for our youth

Public system should have state of the art school to make it equal to the the facilities that Holy Trinity has. This is disgusting and extremely unfair. SO build a new one to serve all of our kids equally.

Really like the idea. Part of the draw for students is that it is a new school, it looks good compared to schools such as PDCS which hasn't had funds applied for updating in a long time (we really noticed the disrepair when doing the school open house). First impressions are a big factor for kids, very modern, up-to-date esp. technology at Holy Trinity. I feel if any of the 3 schools in question looked as appealing to the students they would gladly stay in public sector. SCS has had some good reno's but PDCS is really depressing in comparison. This may sound shallow but kids don't always scratch beneath the surface. If many kids get courtesy busing already, doing a central school wouldn't matter to them in terms of travel time each day. I think kids would be really excited to have a big, new school with up-to-date facilities & more to offer them because of the enrollment. It's pretty sad PDCS doesn't even have a football team, cheerleading anymore. It's hit & miss if there are enough kids trying out for sports teams like basketball. Aside from academic credit, kids should have all the same opportunities for getting involved in their school & participating in events between other schools (like sports competition).

Reinventing the wheel will not get our children anywhere different than more stressed.

Research into Reasons for Higher Graduation Rates at Smaller High Schools; "Smaller schools provide a safer and more challenging school environment that leads to higher academic achievement and graduation rates, fewer disciplinary problems, and greater satisfaction for families, students, and teachers." A summary of research on 22 public schools in 11 States. Smaller, Safer, Saner Successful Schools.

<http://www.ncef.org/pubs/saneschools.pdf> - Nathan, J. Thao, S. (National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities, Washington, DC and Center for School Change, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota. 2007).

Ridiculous idea. I don't want my children to be only numbers. I want them in a close knit community where people know who they are and what they are capable of. A central high school eliminates access to extracurricular activities to students whose parents work and who depend on busing.

Ridiculous. Let's waste money building a new school? NO. Keep the schools open. It encourages camaraderie within the school, and healthy competition outside of it.

School population way too high in a centralized school, loss of identification with a specific community, too much bussing of students

school sport teams would be eliminated, therefore school spirit diminished, large population and some students will get lost in the cracks, bussing cost will rise even higher,

SCS is central enough to accommodate Port Dover, Waterford & possibly Delhi though a central school for the west end of Norfolk would be another option so we end up with two public high schools. We should look at the programs offered at Trinity in Simcoe because a number of non catholic students are attending there to get the subjects they want.

seems wasteful

Should be built near a post secondary educational facility

Should be some satellite schools as well

Should have done this when Holy Trinity was built

Stupid idea!

Such a waste with the existing buildings.

TAXES,COST,LENGTH OF TIME ON BUSES--LOOK AT RESEARCH--CHILDREN DO BETTER IN A SMALLER SETTING WHERE THERE ARE FEW UNKNOWNNS.

Teenagers need to be part of their local community in a facility small enough for them to feel ownership and the responsibility to behave in a positive way.

Terrible idea, sports teams would be less fun because of the lack of opposing teams.

Terrible idea!

Terrible idea.

The closing of any schools at any level takes away a major resource within any community and over time tends to restrict the growth of that community. Sometimes it is wiser to eat the costs and allow the community to grow properly.

the expense to build a new school and for the extra bussing could be used to provide enough text books and equipment for proper education in the existing schools

the kids going to this central school would all have to be bused in. I am sure that some of the students would spend a large amount of time on the bus. This is not the greatest way to spend a day. This would also reduce the high school students from taking part time jobs doing babysitting for example as they would not be able to meet up with the little kids when their school day is done.

The reason for near Simcoe is because that is where most county municipal, provincial, federal offices and services are. Students need easy access to these offices and services.

The school would be too big and overwhelming for kids coming from small, rural, public schools. I'm not talking about the size of the school. I'm referring to the volume of students. Psychologically and psychosocially, it would be a disaster.

The taxpayers of Norfolk can only afford to fund so many schools. Unless the population were to be made up of more younger people with school aged children we just cannot continue to afford to have a school in every community. Until there is an increased tax base supported by business and industry (where people have work and an income) we just cannot accommodate the personal wishes of every Tom, Dick, Harry, Sally, Mary and Jane.

There are perfectly good schools that only need a bit of a face lift, why build a brand new school?!

There is usually drama between all the highschoools because Simcoe kids hate Dover and vice versa.

there would be a lot of fights between students that don't like each other at the other schools.

There would have to be caps on class size to keep the small school atmosphere - no kids lost in the crowd ( poss around 25 students per class. There should be intramural sports so everyone has an opportunity to play and more of a United Nations feel to the student council to creat options for more students. It would have to accommodate more kids but provide the opportunities to all kids that small town schools do. Plan for a roomy school right from the beginning.

There wouldn't be sports teams to play

They should have done it when they built HT. it's too late now.

This idea is insane. Way too many students in one location.

This idea means more than one community would be without a highschool

This is an awful idea. One of the things that defines the education experience in Norfolk County is the small school sizes that allow students to feel as though they are part of a close-knit community rather than an anonymous face in a sea of students. Three separate schools allows for all the sports/clubs and opportunities to be spread out instead of having 2000 students compete to be on the volleyball team or students council. One of the things that helped me get into university was the diversity of activities I could join because there was ample room in all the clubs and teams; many of my friends from larger schools in the city only had the opportunity to do one or two things each year because of the number of students that had to be accommodated. A megaschool would also wreck the balance of sports teams in the county/board and disadvantage the smaller schools who would have to compete with the talent from three communities. Lastly, it would throw off the balance in the grandstands at the Norfolk County Fair - an institution that is a critical binding experience for all the students in Norfolk County. This is just a horrible idea, period.

This is by far the worst idea proposed. Creating a mega-school flies in the face of prevailing research which suggests smaller schools and classes provide the best opportunities for learning.

This is the option that may attract students back to the public system at the secondary level in Norfolk County. As well, a central high school, newly built, will be built with the future learning of students in mind - most recent technology, innovations, etc.

this is the way to go when small town grow, cutting on management and property management saving money to get more teachers in smaller classes

This make the most business sense as 2 of the 3 buildings are very old and in need of major capital investments. This also gives all the communities a fresh start w/o alienating anyone while retooling for the future educational needs of all three areas.

This must be examined to meet expectations of efficiency, a well rounded program with extensive options for students (not just mandatory course offerings) sustainability for years to come which will enhance public confidence in GEDSB's long term vision rather than short term decision making.

To much work and cost

too big , waste of money... when there are already schools., cost of everyone being bused, kids getting lost in the crowd

Too big. Too long of daily travel on bus. Not in favour of central high school.

Too big. Kids get lost in the system.

Too costly to build. Students "get lost" in the masses when there are so many students - they are unable to build relationships with teachers/mentors and these are essential to successful high school experience and education

too expensive

too expensive, what would happen to existing buildings? increased transportation costs

Too many kids would be lost in the shuffle. Large schools tend to lose the sense of community.

Too much money is being wasted busing kids from Dover to Simcoe. At least 5 buses morning and afternoon. If students don't want to attend PDCS it should be a cost absorbed by parents to get them to Simcoe not the taxpayers.

Too much travel for students.

transportation is already spread too thin for students; they need more time at home with families not more time on the buses

Use Port Dover High School.

use the money to help pdcs instead of giving all our science lab funds away to other schools and give us our exchange students

Use the new " green " ideas that other schools have in place. Make the school able to compete with the separate school board's super schools

Valley Heights was built in the 1970s to stop the two hour long trek to Delhi or Tillsonburg for High School. Kids dropped out, weren't able to get involved in extracurricular activities, and were detached from their communities. A central high school would be a regression and a failure to provide adequate education to rural areas. There must be a better solution. As we know, education isn't a quantitative science, but a qualitative one.

very expensive, what would we do with the other infrastructure

waste of our money once again. Port Dover is the second youngest school in Grand Erie and look what you are doing. While Brantford schools get millions to renovate. Prejudices in your school system. Try going to a Board meeting. Evident for sure.

Wasting money we already have schools why waste money on new one. Put the ones we have to better use.

We already have 2 High Schools in Simcoe we don't need to spend more money. Holy Trinity is brand new and SCS has a brand new addition.

We already have high schools why do we need to spend more money on more schools, when they sit empty and look like a dump.

We have a school! Why build a new one? Improve the one we have and don't allow kids to be bused out of Dover to other schools!

We have already had 2 doctors rethink their plan to move to Port Dover because the secondary school system is in a state of flux.

We have sufficient space available ..do not build..it will only add to our tax dollars! Use your brains. Strategy counts!

What are the savings for tax payers

What is the capacity of SCS? Could everyone not be accommodated there?

What would happen to the 3 existing school buildings? Not likely this would ever be a new school, I have a feeling it would be close 2 and move them into 1 existing.

When studying sociology many years ago (the 1970's) it was accepted that the ideal design for Canada's municipalities, businesses and social organization was to pursue decentralization and all that has happened since then has been centralization. What happened that I don't know about? Are we out to destroy small communities which might develop some revolutionary thought? Who's running this show, because it's clearly not the people?

Why can we afford to BUILD a school but we can't afford to maintain a current school - that makes NO sense to me at all.

Why on EARTH would anyone even THINK of closing a bunch of schools and then spend millions of dollars building a new one? It's a ridiculous idea! One massive, central school is a terrible idea. The so-called "super schools" have so many problems with fights and bullying and the quality of education is no better. In fact, it often decreases and kids are more of a number than a real person.

Why waste money to replace a quality facility like SCS where students are getting an excellent education?

Why waste money? Already have schools where they need to be!!!!

Why wouldn't you upgrade SCS in this scenario?

Work out a system where Catholic and secular systems are not in competition. That's the entire nub of the problem. Share facilities, without interference with any Catholic religious studies or observances.

Works for the Catholic school board, with Holly Trinity

Would make for less staffing for sure.

Would need more information to make an informed decision.

Wouldn't work.

wow, not a good idea. extremely long bus rides and not just simply not a functional or practical idea all around.

YOU GUYS DO NOT GET IT ....STOP THE BUSING TO SCS....RETURN THE KIDS TO THEIR HOME SCHOOLS (NORMAL CATCHMENT AREA)....CLOSE SCS OR VHSS.

your not just killing of schools here, your killing of any kind of pride in towns. If you wanted to get rid of fair day as well this would do it! Port Dover pays the highest taxes of everyone in this area and you want to close their school down???

## Time spent by Students on Buses – Other Thoughts

### What do you think about the amount of time students spend on buses?

#### Other (please explain):

a lot of buses are over filled. 3 to a seat is too many. drivers not able to keep watch of that many kids and bullying is happening. some sort of camera system, no matter the cost, needs to be implemented to protect our children!!

Allow kids to bring friends on busses.

any time on a bus for kids is too much time

Bus riding can be a social or study time, not onerous...our kids did it.

Bus service should only be provided within catchment area, eliminating long-time durations

bus students as little as possible

Bus travel should be limited - ie prefer not town to town

Buses should go to the school in the area, not the next town!

busing for rural students keep community schools open

busing is a waste of time

busing is fine and expected for our wonderful farmers, etc but those who chose to live in town near their school will not be happy having to bus and not every household can afford two cars, thus why they live in town closer to conveniences, including their school

Busing needs to be revamped. Take a good look at the system.

Bussing affects ability to do extracurricular activities. Board should NOT provide courtesy bussing but enforce catchment areas.

Bussing has always been a fact of life in rural areas but this should not limit students from being involved in extracurriculars at their schools. Many other jurisdictions have "late" busses so students can participate in sports and clubs after school.

Bussing is always an issue. Those who live in rural areas have no alternative but private transportation if available. Community groups could possibly sponsor individual teams, clubs etc, but might run into insurance issues. One or two dedicated "special" buses could work on off hours for teams; all others would bus or walk at regular school times.

Bussing is an issue but manageable for now, with my daughter already spending 50 minutes each way on a bus. Anymore would be ridiculous.

Bussing is bad for the environment and should only be done as a last resort

Bussing is needed for 2 situations: to bring rural students to the H.S. in their catchment area and to transport students to and from significant events e.g., sports, arts.

Bussing kids should only happen as a necessity to get them to the closest school. They should not be adding to expenses to get to what ever school they want.

Bussing may be a "fact of life" but why should kids "get used to waiting" - Parents may or may not be in the ideal position of transporting their children - but if it is for the child to attend something outside of what the community provides - so be it - on their heads!

Bussing to your catchment area high school is appropriate - parents should be responsible for transportation outside of this.

Children should be bussed only to their community school. If they want to attend another school, then the parents can get them there.

Children should have to walk in town to school and buses should not deliver students all over the County but only to the closest school in their area

closing schools is making rides too long  
Cost & potential safety risks make busing kids to other towns for schooling unreasonable

Courtesy bussing is the worst idea i have ever heard. Bus kids to their own towns, like is suggested legally and environmentally. To do anything else is more bad then good. You have to be silly not to see this.

Courtesy bussing to other schools should be stopped

cut back on busing by use correct boundary areas

don't support busing for under 1.5 miles to school; don't support kids being on buses for more than 30 minutes each way

each school should have boundaries and separate bussing.  
 Get rid of all bussing as soon as Possible.  
 hopefully, kids are bussed in the most efficient way  
 I agree with none of these. making schools accessible to students by not bussing them more than 40minutes one way should be the norm. You cannot participate in extracurricular activities if you live in a different community, and your parents don't drive or have to work.  
 I am very against almost all busing, except where distance makes walking almost impossible. Walking is healthy and in a time when our kids are not getting enough exercise, it's especially important that they don't spend so much time sitting on a bus.  
 I believe buses were at their prime a few years ago. Also, if kids or their parents want them to attend a school outside of their own town then they should be responsible for their own transportation.  
 I don't know how much time kids spend on buses so it's hard to answer this question. I do know that if public transportation was supported by Norfolk County Council, kids could take advantage of Ride Norfolk.  
 I feel riding a bus is a fact of life; however, quality of life should also be explored. Speaking from experience, too much time spend on a bus is not healthy and children lose out on a lot of extracurricular and studying time.  
 I guess a combination of options 2, 3, 4  
 I know at several schools student are ALWAYS coming in late due to buses!  
 I made a choice to live somewhere so my child would not have to ride a bus to school.  
 I moved to a town with a school nearby so wouldn't need bus  
 I selected the "Direct" thing, \*if necessary\* - I do think kids spend too much time on buses, but that wasn't an option.  
 I think a certain amount of time on bus is a "fact of life" in rural communities. However I am not in favour of supporting bussing outside of students school catchment.  
 i think it is ridiculous that I live just on the outskirts of town and can almost see the school from here, yet my children have a 40 minute ride each way!!!!!!  
 I think students should attend schools closer to where they live.

I think that the bussing system is ridiculous. I don't understand why we have to transfer at Doverwood, it wastes too much time.  
 I think the buses should only bus children to their own high school located in their community  
 I think there are much worse issues to address than kids sitting on buses.  
 I WOULD AGREE WITH YOUR FIRST STATEMENT, BUT DON'T BELIEVE THAT "KIDS WILL GET USED TO WAITING". CHILDREN HAVE BEEN RIDING THE BUS FOR YEARS & MAKING OUT FINE.  
 I would hope that bussing is done in the most efficient manner  
 I wouldn't want to spend that much time on a bus, why are we expecting our children to do this?  
 if kids choose to go out of town for school they they should pay the extra cost of transport  
 If my friend wants to take a bus to her home, it takes an hour and twenty minutes. If she walks, it takes 25. There is something wrong with that. Also, another friend of mine takes an hour and forty minutes to get from simcoe to port dover, but if she wanted to go to valley heights(which is further) her bus ride would be an hour and fifteen minutes.  
 If some kids needs to take buses, they all should. Anything else is privilege.  
 In a rural community buses are a fact...  
 It is certainly a factor when considering where to send a child to school. I want my kids to attend afterschool activities but I don't want to be driving them if they are at a far away school  
 IT IS ILLEGAL TO BUS KIDS FROM PORT DOVER TO SCS. LET'S STOP IT NOW. THE SCHOOL BOARD DOES IT TO DESTROY PDCS AND SAVE SCS.  
 Keep kids in their own area  
 keep students in the closest school and minimize bussing. Walking should be encouraged, and riding bikes. The price of fuel, both in terms of money and damage to the atmosphere will become increasingly prohibitive.  
 keep time spent on buses to minimum  
 Kids can walk/bike to school if they go to school in the town they live in  
 kids don't like taking the bus but most parents work.  
 Kids on buses miss out on activities and therefore at a disadvantage for applying to universities and scholarships.  
 kids should attend school closest to home  
 Kids should be able to walk to school in this area

KIDS SHOULD BE BUSSED TO THEIR NEAREST SCHOOL ONLY

Kids spend too much valuable time on buses.  
This teaches them to be commuters later in life leading to a habit that in turn takes them from their own family time and putting that on the next generation. Busing is also bad for the environment and for the health of upcoming generations. At a time when we are promoting the 100 mile diet we are putting on unnecessary miles for work and for school.  
leave kids in catchment areas reduce busing  
less busing; children need more down time at home with families  
Long bus rides are a waste of time and expensive environmentally. Better to close some school rooms and/or turn those rooms over to other purposes, not high school related.  
longer bus rides are worth it if you are offering the student better choices  
Making secondary students ride the bus with smaller children is just an accident waiting to happen.  
Minimise bussing by utilizing local schools do not bus out of area  
minimize buses  
Minimize busing and focus on community.  
More Eco-friendly transportation routes must be a possibility  
My dad used to hitchhike from tillsonburg to houghton so that he could play football. Let's not go back  
My kids don't ride. too long on bus. 50 mins from school in town  
none of these options made sense.  
none of this seems agreeable  
Not a problem if students attend closest school. parents should want to send kids to closest school to minimize time on buses  
people commute all over the world for things that are important to them or their futures  
proper planning needed  
Public Transit would make it easier for kids who live in the town  
Recognize CATCHMENT AREAS  
Riding a bus for an hour to another community is too long on a bus twice daily.  
Riding a bus or in a car is a fact of life in modern society. There is no need to start commuting when we have enough young people in each catchment area for one holistic school focused on what we share in common and not on what separates us as different.  
run bus routes as they were done in the 60's and 70's

SAD BUT a fact with rural life  
safety issues - no seat belts, rural roads  
schools need to provide transportation for teams etc  
Should try to reduce the need for buses.  
Some buses will always be necessary but we are not obligated to bus students all over the county. Make all our schools competitive and we will not lose them to Holy Trinity.  
Son currently in SCS even though we live in Port Dover, the wait for the bus is not that long and he doesn't mind it  
Stop bussing Port Dover students to Simcoe  
Students should be bused ONLY to the school in their catchment area. If they (or their parents) want to attend a different school, the transportation should be THEIR OWN RESPONSIBILITY.  
Students should be bused in their catchment area only  
Students should be on the bus for the shortest time possible. Local Schools make parents pickup and delivery more possible.  
Parents/friends/ school direction is possible  
That is the nice thing about schools being in a community - most of the kids don't have to spend their time on a bus - they can walk to school, take part in extra curricular activities etc.  
The old way was better  
There is nothing good about bussing kids to school  
there should be a user fee if a student wants to take a bus outside of their community  
They spend enough time on buses as things are. It could get worse if schools are closed.  
they spend far too much time on the bus- ideally they should all be able to walk to school....the direct express bus would wok for town kids but not the rural kids - parents may have to get involved  
This is a strange set of possible answers for this question.  
this system is in need of serious refocussing  
Time should be limited to maximum of 60 minutes. Norfolk is a large area geographically  
Too much time is spent on buses.  
unnecessary- schools should be open in all communities. we should promote environmental cautiousness.  
waste of time  
we spend way to much time on the busses driving across town 3 times and passing my destination 3 times before finally arriving, waste of money and time.

## International Students – Benefits to Norfolk Students

### How beneficial would it be for Norfolk students to interact with International students?

#### Other (please specify):

A very small impact on most students

As I mentioned earlier in the survey, our world today is global. It is beneficial to start introducing children to our global world right from the getgo!

Asia is the new Economy - what a benefit our youth would have connecting with persons from these economies - learning their culture and language.

better to expose them when they are young. Their co-workers will no doubt be from other countries

I believe it's mostly the visiting student who benefits.

International students have been coming to Port Dover for a number of years. Your Board closed them down!! memo's, rumours and jealousy in Brantford among your board caused this. Fact

it depends on how many come and what school the go to

It was extremely beneficial. I had made friends from Hong Kong that I still keep in touch with. We are all extremely disappointed that GEDSB let this go down the drain.

It was very beneficial. When I attended PDCS this program was in effect and it was amazing.

It would be extremely beneficial! I was friends with many of the exchange students at PDCS and I still talk to many of them. I loved them and I believe every student benefits from befriending someone of another culture.

It's always a benefit to meet and interact with those of different cultures. Why not send 7's and 8's to high schools and use Doverwood and other Public Elementary Schools to set up one or two classrooms for International Students and their curricula?

It's great! You get to meet new people and learn more about other cultures. That was one great thing about PDCS!

Meeting and learning from and with other cultures is an education in itself.

students benefit from getting used to other cultures

THE SCHOOL BOARD RAISED THE FEES SO HIGH THAT THEY WILL NOT ATTEND PDCS. THIS IS THE MISSION OF THE BOARD: DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS AT PDCS AND CLOSE THE SCHOOL.

This is a very beneficial program for Norfolk County students because of the homogeneous nature of the population in the county. It helps expose students to different cultures and I think Norfolk county has very supportive communities and schools that would be welcoming to international students, not treating them just as cash cows.

Very beneficial - we learn from other cultures - travel is an education in itself.

When I went to high school, students from China stuck together, and did not interact with local students.

Who would come here for what reason?

## Provincial Government System Reconsideration – Other Ideas

**Faith-based funding is a contentious issue. The United Nations has called on Canada to "adopt steps in order to eliminate discrimination on the basis of religion in the funding of schools in Ontario". If the Provincial Government were to reconsider how it runs the education system, which option do you support? Your idea:**

anyone who has an objection to a public school can pay their own way.

change the funding formula

Don't know enough about the issue.

education system should be set up separate my taxes should go to a public system and if you are of another religion with a school in the area then your taxes should fund that system

Encourage the Catholic Board to open another High School in Norfolk

fund only a public system

Fund Public schools ONLY

funding for public education system only, no other funds to separate school systems (ie. catholic)

get out the brant system

Go back 20 years and get rid of all the new things they have done to change education. Get rid of the streaming. Have less choices for electives. Take college out of High School.

go back to kids going to school in their own area, and tuition being paid for separate HS

have one school board...look at the salaries these "fat cat" superintendents are making...put this savings back into the schools for innovation and technology

I have little respect for the Catholic Schools in our area, I have heard many parents tell me they only send their child there to uphold a status among friends. It's not for the faith-based curriculum. And now we find ourselves in a time where Public Schooling is in jeopardy!!! Public School Enrolment could be up if people thought differently and didn't try to "keep up with the Jones"

If a kid were to join a school of a certain religion, then that kid should not complain because they knew what they were getting into. However, I believe we should have a wider variety of different religions explored in the area's schools. A school that explores all religions would be cool.

If one faith is allowed, they must ALL be allowed. however, this could cause more controversy amongst students...

If you are not Catholic you should have to pay to go to a Catholic School. That was how it was done in the past and it kept more people in the public high schools they are supposed to be in.

if you're not catholic, you don't attend a catholic school.

Ignore the UN. This is Canada, not the country of bring your problems here and we will accommodate you.

It always did bother me how Holy Trinity had a constant stream of cash and they have many extremely extravagant things that other schools wouldn't dream of having. It's never fair that Holy Trinity students are playing on the newest and unnecessary Macs and at PDCS there aren't even enough computers that still work for our classes.

It would be great to have a single school system but I think it is a very unlikely alternative and we shouldn't waste time on it.

it's something that should be looked at, but not sure how the merge would look

Keep existing public and separate systems

Keep public school, stop funding Religion based schools.

Keep religion out of schools, there should be no separate funding for Catholics

Keep them separate and stop funding separate school boards

kids go to the schools in their home town... set up virtual classrooms in school one teacher teaching kids at the same time by computer link everyone gets the program.. put an EA in each room.... less bussing expense, less teachers, more consistent, my own daughter did her geography online.... lets get a head of the curve... think 10 years ahead.

Make any religious based school a private system, one that people have to pay to send their kids to if they want that option....we did in Manitoba!!

make one mandatory credit for all students about religion - it isn't forcing a belief upon them rather exploring and learning about diversity throughout the world by learning about various faiths - similar to the Catholic Systems grade 11 world religions course - offer it in grade 10.

merge both systems into one...that would eliminate one system of "fat cat" salaries

Merge public and separate systems and Joreen into smaller boards bigger than your original county boundaries.

Merge the systems and determine sound and supported geographic areas (based on travel time and enrolment numbers). Education is universal and municipal boundaries should not be barriers in determining catchment areas. Taxes/funding can be divided accordingly.

merge the two school systems and teach religious tolerance

Merge the two systems with one board

Merge them - education should not be based on religion

Need more information

Need more thought on this.

No answer

no idea==don't have info to base choice on

no opinion

No separate school board-- one system for all

Not sure

Not sure about this

not sure what the best option is without further research

Not sure, people should have a choice.

One public board tax-paid system; any other board system runs fee-for-service

One school system where ALL religions are taught in an "information" format. At a time where the world is becoming smaller and our kids are spreading out farther I think they should be educated in all cultures and religions around the world for their own well being. It is not fair that one main religion should be taught in a public system - we took the Lord's Prayer out and now some people are suggesting that we invite the Catholic religion in? If we do that then we invite in other religions as well. Equality for all I guess if you are going to look at it that way - Baptist, United, Protestant. O don't know where you would draw the line - at all traditional Canadian religions - a possibility?

Only fund public schools all religious schools should be run as private schools and treated equally, this should have been one of the options to choose from!

Only fund public schools and no others

our gov't should not fund faith based education

Public funding should go to public schools. Keep religion out of school. Catholic schools should stop receiving funding and in fact they should be closed down.

Public schools only. Faith based school should be private.

Pull out funding for separate systems.

Put education back into educator's hands not Gov't

religious schools should not be funded

Remove Religion from all schools it is an out dated idea that dose not work for the majority.

replace board with people who possess a "moral compass", You do not understand how a small town functions unless you live in one. some do not even street lights or sidewalks

Separate from Brant Board. They created this problem by taking all the money from our area to fix old schools in Brantford.

Separate school boards should pay for themselves! Don't tax payers have a choice as to where their school tax dollars are going? If you want to send your child to a "nonpublic" school, why should the general public pay for it?

Separate boards should become a private enterprise with those choosing to attend there directing their taxes in the same way we do now.

Should abolish separate schools all together!! There should be no religion in school. Religion is the reason we have war and racism in the first place!

Students should have to attend the school in their community, and if they choose to attend an outside school, they should pay a registration fee.

The system wit Brnt is not working - 5 million and ongoing for oen high school in Brantford not supportable. Ont Government down loading charge without explanation not supportable. the system is not working not only for Norfolk but for Ontario, enough!

The UN's mandate calls for an abolition of faith based funding OR funding for all faith based systems = we simply CAN"T afford multiple education systems!!!!

THere is absolutely no need for that separate school board if it is publicly funded it will be run for the public. We only need one school board. The system as it is is extremely discriminatory. The boards should be merged into one public school board.

This Canada, not the UN...Existing two systems give choices, encourages striving for excellence, one system would lead to complacency and lack of healthy competition. Careful what you wish for....

This is a much bigger issue than just Norfolk county or the GEDSB. However, I would support merging the public and separate systems and making Norfolk its own school board again - we lost a lot (money, authority and control) when we were forced to amalgamate with haldimand and brant and the decisions made about norfolk schools started to be taken in Brantford by people who could seemingly care less about our rural area.

TIM HUDAK TRIED IT IN A PAST ELECTION...WHERE DID IT GET HIM????

Times are changing. I think kids should be able to learn all types of religion. Freedom of choice.

what discrimination, in Norfolk County you don't have to be Catholic to attend a Catholic school. There is something wrong with that picture!!!!

## Benefits of Merging Public and Separate School Systems – Other Thoughts

**How do you think a merger of the public and separate systems would benefit communities and students?**

**Other (please specify):**

-would eliminate some duplication & reduce administrative overhead

??no idea how funding works--probably screwy! I think I read at one time that the govt granted \$\$ for new schools but not renos---how would that work if we treated our homes that way/

A combo of 1 and 2: Merging the systems would address funding only if school closures were required.

Although Port Dover has had both public elementary and separate elementary schools, weren't the students always merged anyway when it came to attending high school in Port Dover? What is wrong with that?

bring jobs back to these areas and families will come back!!!

bussing is already merged

Could have benefits in some locations, but ultimately demographics drives things...may still require schools to close

don't know

Duplication of systems means duplication of costs. Merge the systems and rid us of the outdated promotion of religious sects.

encourage inclusive society, equalize funding to all students

Equality for everyone under the name of earth !

eventually it will bring all the cultures/religions together as is often a world issue constantly battled, and since we cannot afford to support a school for every faith I dont think we should discriminate and provide for one faith only (let Catholic schools run privately just like other Christian schools have to if they want that)

I agree with option 1 - however, the question more basic to me, one publicly funded system OR ALL faith-based schools receive government support (and there better be a lot of faith-based teaching/practices occurring in the system to qualify as faith-based.)

I believe it would free up greater funding and catchment in areas, one could see that it wold normalize number across the county and potentially reduce bussing. Our schools are the only place where we practice religious segregation, it had no place in modern Canada.

I believe we need one public system to promote tolerance and diversity.

I don't know if it would be a benefit

I guess I don't know enough about this issue to make a decision

I suspect a lot of funds would be freed up if the systems were merged - which I agree with..whether we would still have to close schools is unknown to me.

idk

Keep public school, stop funding Religion based schools.

merge systems and still close smaller schools and use the savings to offer better and more programs

Merger could work, benefit students by removing 'separate' stigma, but would require effective management.

Merging the systems is the best route to go - if schools still need to be closed, so be it, but maintaining two systems seems idiotic in this situation..

Merging the systems would focus the discussion and increase alternative opportunities

Merging the systems would free up funds to keep a high school open in all communities. But more importantly, these merged high schools would build understanding, collaboration and better prepare young people for the real world of today and tomorrow.

Merging the systems would possibly stop the closures but would the Catholic system be willing to bend to meet us HALF WAY?? I doubt it and it would HAVE to. We would not hand them the rest of our students. Period.

Merging would allow for our schools to be more efficient.

Need more information

Need more thought on this subject.

No answer

NO POLITICIAN IN ONTARIO WILL TOUCH THIS...BLAME BILL DAVIS FOR DOING IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.

Not "merging", rather dropping one from tax-paid system

not informed enough to make a stmt

not sure

Not sure

not sure

One school board

reduce the amount of schools with more money for those left

religion does not belong in schools. get out of bed and take you family to church if you was religion

sdfsdf

See above

Separate funding should have been abolished years ago.

seriously. How would I know the answer to this without a full background on the funding structure?

the kids go to catholic school regardless of religion and are allowed so merge the systems

The only way that merging the systems could be good, is if it eliminated religiously focused schools.

the systems should be merged - I totally disagree with faith based education and funding - the closing of schools should be done only if there are not enough students living in a particular community to support a school, otherwise I am against closing any local schools in any community.

Too much government - merge boards - tax less - do more -

Too vague a question

treats everyone equally

tuition for separate HS to keep public schools strong for the majority (I am a Catholic, and went to public high school with religion classes provided by the church one evening a week.)

Undecided

unsure

We have Public/Separate systems this is not the problem the problem is how they are financed>

We should respect the all human rights and stop funding any faith based school!

## Student Questions – Job Hopes

### What do you want to do as a job when you graduate?

?	I'm not 100% sure, but I'm leaning towards an
A nurse	addictions counsellor or just a counsellor in
Addictions counselling.	general.
an accountant	I'm a correctional officer
an elementary/ high school teacher	Journalist
Architect, technology	Journalist
baseball	kn c
Child and Youth Worker	Lawyer
Doctor	Lawyer, Clinical Psychologist, Social Psychologist
Don't know	Mechanic
Don't know.	medical
editor	Not sure
Electrician	not sure yet
electrician	Paramedic
Engineer	Pastry Chef
Engineer	Pediatric Nurse
Engineering	Physicist/Chemist, Web Developer, Programmer
Eventually I would like to become a bestselling	physiotherapy
author. Before this I plan to become an editor, or	Policing
work for a magazine.	psychologist
Hair stylist	Public Relations Sporting Agency
Hairdresser	Robotics
Hairstylist	Set Design
hbh	Social service worker in schools
horticulture	Social work
Humanitarian Aid worker	Some kind of Doctor
I am in school to become a teacher	Something in Advertising, Graphics Design or
I don't know yet	Journalism
I graduated and went to the University of Guelph for	Something in the medical field.
a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences	Special education teacher
Program	Speech and Language Pathologist
I want to be a child and youth worker.	Stock Broker
I want to be a teacher	surgeon
I want to be an accountant.	Teacher
I want to become a Journalist	Teacher
I would like to be a singer in a band and tour. Or I	Therapist
would like to become a concert pianist, or a pianist	undecided, something in Politics.
in an orchestra.	Vet
I would like to get into psychology or law. So I need	When I graduate I would love to become a lawyer
very basic courses, with the great teachers and	work in marketing / communications
programs already set in place at PDCS.	Work in the community
	Work with a Missionary or Charity organization
	work with disabled children

## **Student Questions – Suggestions to make Community better place for Youth**

### **What could your community do to make it a better place for young people?**

Allow us to be more involved in Crime Stoppers or stuff

Be more liberal?

Close Holy Trinity or stop publicly funding it, that way public schools such as PDCS and SCS can receive more funding which would benefit the public more than stuffing Holy Trinity full while closing all other schools...

community pool, less old people, be able to pier jump, not wonder if we are going to have a school, have winter activities and not have just summer things to do. have more jobs so that family can work here and bring kids and not just build houses for old people.

Create more outside of the school activities for young adults

get more courses

give us more things to do on our spare time

have a high school

Have more activities outside school for them to do

Have more activities and events that the younger high schoolers and elementary students would want to be involved in, because the older students are leaving so the focus should be more on the students who still have a lot of time to spend in the school.

Have more opportunities for students to be attracted to the school

Have something for kids to do instead of focus on all the old people. No wonder you are forcing the younger generations out of this town and to other schools. Everyone is focusing on the seniors.

Have things such as a movie theatre. Places to keep us entertained during the winter when it's really boring.

Have winter activities

Help update the school and create more programs and opportunity.

hh

I don't think closing the local schools would be beneficial.

I think that it is just fine as it is. Have more kids in our high school by cutting off busing to other schools, getting more classes and better teachers

I want it to be a safe environment for my boys. I want the drugs off the streets. I love that there are events in the community for them to be involved in.

If the school was better and had more school teams and clubs.

Invest money and effort into schools with high potential and quality educational facilities rather than wasting resources on sub-par schools (Port Dover). Rather than spread resources thinly among so many schools, we should focus on the schools with the most potential for high quality education.

Keep our high school open

Keep our high school open, and stop all rumours and threats that it is going to close.

Keep our school open.

Keep our schools open

Keep PDCS alive in our community.

keep PDCS open and fund it to become a better school

Keep PDCS Open.

Keep schooling local

Keep the high school open

Keep the high school open

Keep the school open (namely Port Dover Composite).

Keep the schools open

Make additions to the high school, and bring more teen-related businesses to the community.

More activities outdoors

more activities targeted at the mainstream (more than just arts and sports)

More activities.

more after school activities

more attractions = more people = more classes offered = more opportunities

More fun kid related things

More fun things for teenagers to do

More help for students transitioning into university from high school

more programs and workshops to get teens involved in the community.

more sports programs

More stuff for kids to do.

My community is fairly well for the young people, but I feel as though it would be a better place if we were treated equally and with more respect. I feel as though the young people are seen most often as "hooligans" or trouble makers even though many are very respectful young adults.

Nicer tables at the park to hang out at

nkcas

Not close PDCS - I don't attend there but I do love the school.

nothing

Nothing

Nothing

Nothing Dover's better than anything all the time. People need to pull there heads out of their \*\*\*\*\*.

Nothing. Port Dover is great!

Our community already is a great place for young people. We are all very close together, and can walk to and from school, so I can get to my job, or hang out with friends because we don't have to take the same bus. Many businesses, including the one in which I work at, would go out of business if it wasn't accessible for the students to work at. For instance, if we had to take a bus from Simcoe before we could get there. It is small town, and we have a small school, which is good for me because i suffer from social anxiety disorder, which means I cannot function in large crowds, or in large classrooms, without more of my expensive medication. It is safe, non-threatening, and I've known it and been here all my life. The only thing that could be done better is if the school board would pay more positive attention, to the beautiful environment, and the heart of our town, Port Dover Composite School.

provide more jobs  
more recreational facilities  
transportation to connect our rural community

Put more money into the school

Stop all of this nonsense about closing down the school and place someone in charge who is actually capable of holding a role as a leader.

Stop trying to take down our school!

The community could make it possible for more fundraising for our schools

the community could make the health systems better and faster by encouraging to have more doctors.

The main factor our community should focus on is our school staying strong and open. Port Dover is already a great place for young people. The new skate park/tennis court is beautiful and one of the nicest around. Our town has programs and classes for young people and all ages from pottery-making, yoga, theater/acting, dance, running groups, and so much more. It goes without saying that everyone in Port Dover is friendly and welcoming to everyone and there are so many bonds within the community. New students who transfer to Port Dover Composite School have an easier time fitting it than at other schools, and I have been told this by many friends who were comfortable very quickly when moving here recently.

They could allow more bussing stops, keep PDCS open, and provide PDCS with more courses, working and SAFER science labs, working computers, and up to date textbooks so my education wouldn't be on the line.

Thinking of us first. Not their businesses.

## Business Respondents – Other Kinds of Businesses

What kind of business do you operate? Other (please specify):

Academic Tutoring Service	Golf Course	private service Ontario outlet
accommodation	Golf Course	Professional Services
Agriculture	hair salon	Programmed Services
automotive repair	hair salon/ barbershop	real estate
automotive sector	HAIRSALON	real estate
Blueberry grower	health care	Recreation
carpentry	health service	recreation & retail
Charter Business	healthcare	Recreational
Childcare	healthcare	Registered Massage Therapy
computers	Home Builder	Sawmill
concrete installation at private	home construction	school bus driver
residents	How does this relate to	self employed
Construction	keeping PDCS open?	self employed musician
consulting	ice manufacturing	Service
contract cleaning	Innovation	SERVICE
Corporate	law office	service
Dairy	Lighting	Service
Dairy Farm	machinery dealership	Service Business
electrical	management	service Ontario outlet
Electronics/software	manufacturing	Studio
entertainment	Marina	support
environmental consulting	marine brokerage	Tech
esthetics	Marketing/Design Firm	The Greenkeepers/Garden
Events	media	Specialist
Executive Director	medical	Tourism
Farm	Medical Practice	Tourism Business Service
farm	Medical Professional	Provider
farm	Mobile Chair Massage	Trades
Farm / Trucking	Museum	Transportation
Farm Business	Museum	travel consultant from home
farming	Museum	travelling midway
farming	musician	Trucking/Landscape
farming	n/a	warehouse
farming business	no	Web design
Financial Services	non-profit sport organization	Wedding
Fitness	painting services	Yoga
fitness	photography	
For Hire Transportation	pottery	
& CMV Repair	printing	

## All Respondents - Additional Comments

### If you have additional comments, please add them here:

- good work with the survey - well thought out and without immense bias which is nice to see - keep up the good work

10 years ago when this issue was on the table they should have closed 2 schools, Delhi and P. Dover and built 3 strong public high schools, in Simcoe at Valley Heights and Waterford. Kids would have take a bus. Not all communities need a high school to be viable. In Northern Ontario, not all communities have a high school. P. Dover is becoming a retirement community. Kids have been going to Simcoe for years to get the courses they need and were not available at the smaller high schools. The smaller high school did not have the enrolment to offer the courses and forcing the students to stay at the small school is not a solution.

A complete review of how the school board is operated. If Simcoe HS has the least number of students why is it not being considered for closure? Contrary to the school board's opinion Simcoe is not the centre of the universe and it already has a huge separate school.

All the schools should work together and and not be so separate as they are all part of Norfolk County and need to work as a community.

As a graduate of high school in Norfolk county, I found the sense of community and support of local organizations to provide a strong foundation for future success in education. This is an important factor in these considerations.

boards need inovation and commitment to our schools not just closing.Use budget for common sense

Bussing children out of one town to another to attend highschool was the worst thing the board could have done. When the new Catholic school opened in Simcoe I bet there was a dramatic decrease in enrollment in surrounding towns.

Canada has allowed some of our best hi-tech, innovative and value-added companies to be bought up by outside countries gaining our knowledge, patents etc. then closing these companies and relocating them outside the country eliminating high paying jobs and lost tax base.

Close all the Norfolk high schools except Valley Heights & SCS. Make Simcoe a super school, and send the majority of students there. The balance in the west end of the county can go to Valley Heights. Do something with the logistics of busing ... the current model is archaic and only slightly more efficient than the days of stage coaches.

close scs and send those students to Delhi, Waterford and Port Dover.

Closing the high school in Port Dover will piss people off. With good reason.

Conduct a County/Municipal plebiscite to allow individuals to vote on the issue; presenting the final 5 options as agreed by the community.

Decidion makers and parents need to put the needs of our youth and their education first. Being able to receive a quality education is the most important issue. Youth are resilient and can adopt to changing schools.

Demographics don't lie. Let's get it done and move on. Magnet schools work in cities, not in rural areas where the net has to be so wide the bus rides become horrendous.

Don't close PDCS.

Dragging out this process is negatively affecting the students currently attending PDCS. Leaving PDCS to get the required courses has been challenging for these students (not able to play sports for a year, regrets about leaving friends). The students who have chosen to remain at PDCS are faced with taking several online courses. This is not what high school is about. It's about attending a class, class discussions, presentations, group work etc. Nobody is benefitting from dragging out this process. Families are going to look at the indecision of the GEDSB and send their children to the Catholic system.

Faith based education is a mistake - all have a right to worship as they please but it does not have a place in education.

Focus school will only work if parents feel it will be an advantage or "get" their child ahead in university admissions etc. People send kids to HT because (for some reason) they think they will get a better education there. Can't offer focus at all schools or it will be competition again. Dover, to survive needs to be the only "focus" school. Check out -- International Baccalaureate Program <http://www.ibo.org/> High academic program offered at schools world wide. There is one in Waterloo.

Following the logic that appears to be coming from this committee 50 years from now children will be bussed to Winsor, London, Kitchener, Toronto, Kingston, North Bay and Thunder Bay, while 100 years will see Schools in Halifax, Moncton, Montreal Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary and Vancouver. All other locations would be closed. The best method for educating the youth is to do it in the community in which they reside. If there are not enough students then develop the community to the point that there are sufficient students.

Freedom to worship as you choose is a given in my opinion. However it should not have anything to do with the educational system. Putting in a separate school and board was a huge mistake - as any faith based education would be - and I can only hope it will be rectified.

GEDSB needs to be more innovative in their thought process and place the same importance on the former board as it seems to with the Brantford schools, and apply the same rules in respect to catchment areas as it does follow in Brantford, GEDSB has opened a can of worms by not just allowing kids to vacate their catchment area but pretty much promoting causing the state that PDCS is in at the moment - sabotage is apparent here by GEDSB, sadly will ultimately bite them in their own butt

Get rid of religious back schooling and keep the local schools open. Bus only when necessary.

Get rid of the Grand Erie District School Board. Get Norfolk County away from Brantford 100%. If that wouldn't happen, fire a bunch of people who have made some horrible decisions that have affected the enrollments in all Norfolk schools ie. bussing, not enforcing catchment areas

Get the kids off those smelly polluting buses, a central super school or sending all of Norfolk kids to Brantford is pure insanity.

GO LAKERS GO!!

Great survey. Keep up the good work!

Having completed high school in the separate system, I feel that faith-based education is valuable and it would be a shame to lose it. I do, however, have an appreciation for the public system as well, and think it would be a shame to close schools altogether. It is a fact of the community, however, that the population to fill ALL schools is not there. It seems to be a 'catch 22' with providing enough academic security in the public stream. Students who can't get the courses they need must leave the school in search of their prerequisite courses, in turn dragging down the enrolment numbers. Something must be done, and either attracting more students or merging schools is the best solution, in my opinion.

Hopefully the information gain through this interview will be a real consideration by the review committee on making decisions about our schools.

How can you possibly merge public and separate schools when the public system has basically adopted an atheist outlook? At least you can still mention God in separate and other religious schools!

I am convinced that small schools are better for our kids. I pay a substantial amount of taxes and I expect value for my dollar. Education is so important that I don't accept "skimping" on dollars in this area. I will not hand the public school system to the catholic system to save a few dollars. I would share if the Catholic system would meet half way but I don't think that is realistic. I think Norfolk County and the school board has an opportunity to be forerunners in the education field if they can figure out a way to make small schools work in today's world. What is happening in Dover now does not work for its students but neither will sending them to Simcoe. That hurts not only the student but the community as well. A family and a community is made of a BLEND of ages, of a multitude of generations. We look after each other and benefit each other in many ways and the student is an integral part of that system. The school board needs to attend this matter now!! We need board members who are looking to the future but who also value what worked in the past. Ingenuity, creativity, think outside the box. The grade 7-8's as part of the highschool was a great idea. As a lunch monitor and parent of 3 kids who have been a part of that I saw how well it worked but I also saw how the system was bound by past rules and regulations - maybe its time to rethink some of them. For example - I thought how great it would be to have access to a highschool music program - not for 4 years but for 6 only to find that they could not share the same teacher due to different boards. Therefore the gr 7-8 students had no music instruments while the music room sat unused. What a wasted opportunity. Especially for kids who might not have that opportunity until its offered to them in school. If you are going to put them in the highschools give them all the opportunities that go with it. Time to review rules and policies. Yes it is time for change but keep what worked in the past - kids need to have access to all the technology that is in the world today but they still need close, caring and individual attention that only small schools can provide. One of my children is a musician who regularly had music club in grade 7 & 8 and played at her grade 8 grad with her peers. This year at Dover she was invited to play and sing at the Remembrance Day assembly in Dover. Two of her musician friends chose to go to Simcoe. When we saw her friend and were discussing how school was going her friend asked about her music in Dover. When she was told that Jess has played at the assembly she said "See. That's the only thing about school in Simcoe. Its such a big school and there are so many students that you are just another student and there are no opportunities like that." That says it all to me. That said, I have one going to Simcoe next year for grade 9 as there are now not enough kids for Jr. boys sports and his attitude is that at least there you have a chance. If there are no teams then you have no chance at all. Bring in the international students. I would much rather bring the world here then send them out in it not educated about it at all. The mandarin program was a wonderful program. My oldest enjoyed it immensely and I felt that she was really learning something relevant in todays world. It did not make sense to cancel it when we have 2 (!) teachers available to teach it. The kids fought for that program! Languages are certainly an overlooked area for the school board at all the schools. The world is a small place today due to technology and I think we are failing our kids miserably with what we teaching them now. Dover and Norfolk maybe small town and

rural area but it CAN reach the whole world and our kids will need to know how to navigate THE WHOLE WORLD. Thanks to today's technology we can bring it to them but still keep them close to home until they are ready to do that. All board employees need to earn their salaries by being educated in today's technologies, world events and being creative, forward, inventive thinkers. Time to rework the past system to fit what was the best of it - small schools geared to educate caring community minded citizens - for a changing, fast moving world.

I am in favour of keeping high schools open in their own community. It is extremely important for the student. All schools should be equally provided for in terms of subjects availability. There are options that could support this. Large schools lose quieter students and have a hard time adapting to needs and support they would get in smaller schools. Families are busy with two jobs and kids, and need to work together with the school. Please keep schools in their community Open and Supported.

I applaud the work being done to try and keep PDCS open in a way that will best serve the community and students. I have grave doubts about relying solely on statistics as they can be skewed to support just about any argument. Ontario needs to take a good hard look at our education system and make some tough decisions or our economy will continue to fall behind. Merging school boards should be something that happened long ago; religious education takes place in the home, churches, cathedrals, mosques etc.

I believe every individual has the right/freedom to worship in any way they choose. I do not believe that religion should have any bearing on our educational system. Having two systems is certainly caused part of the problem our Public school system is now facing. I suspect the majority of the teachers and students teaching and attending in the separate school system are not of that religion - but are there because the school is newer - and has the latest technology - \$\$\$'s do talk. Opening our schools to International students also opens the minds of our youth to other cultures, beliefs and hopefully builds tolerance and understanding. We should also have a committee or Group or Organization focusing on what can be provided to our Youth locally - we need and want them to stay here/or return here and only by knowing what they need/want and helping them meet their goals will that happen.

I believe that closing schools in our communities is a horrible idea. Kids need to be in schools close to their homes. I also believe that closing schools, for example PDCS, will hurt the community greatly. Please keep PDCS open. I, as well as many others, do not want to be bused to another community to attend school. PDCS is a great school, and closing it is not the answer!

I believe that PDCS of any of the Norfolk Schools should be the one to close for a few reasons. First, although Port Dover is growing as a community, it is growing as a senior/retirement community. As such, PDCS would be better, repurposed as a hub for community health care organizations, community centre for educating the public on health care issues, and/or a new site for the Public Library. There is a beautiful gymnasium that could be used by Norfolk County to run recreation programs for seniors during the day and youth during the evening. Another option maybe to lease the building to as a satellite campus for a community college to train our young people in skilled trades and/or health care areas or other areas which Norfolk County may deem as a necessity in our county, thus keeping our youth in our community to continue their education. We know that the costs associated to higher education are growing and if our young people could stay within the community they live while attending college, they may be more inclined to stay in our community post-college. Another suggestion would be to look at leasing/selling the building to Norfolk County as they are looking for a building in order to house all their departments under one roof. PDCS would be a facility where all departments could be housed and likely have room for other facilities such as the Public Library as well as some community health organizations. I realized having gone through the process in other areas of the county with school closures that it is not an easy decision to make, however I hope that the ARC committee

will look carefully not only at the dollars and cents of closing high schools in Norfolk County but also the economic impact such a decision would have on our economic growth and development. Farming has taken a huge economic hit over the past years ~ that was the bread and butter of this very unique South Coast community. With high schools and elementary schools slotted to close, how are we as a community expected to sustain, grow and attract new business and development in this region without the most basic of needs for people looking to move to our communities? We have a HUGE doctor shortage in this area and for potential doctors to move here, they will be looking for some basic needs in order to do so. Moving to an area where their children can grow and thrive would, I believe, be a priority. With elementary and secondary schools closing in this area, it is very prohibitive to the types of professionals and businesses we are trying to attract to our area. This decision is far greater than just looking at population and square footage of excess space in a building. We need to look at the bigger picture and work with Norfolk County's Economic Development Department to see where we as a community want to be in 10, 20, 50 years from now and start working together to achieve that goal.

I believe the GEDSB has a hidden agenda. The ARC process proves this beyond a shadow of a doubt. The main issue is program delivery is wholly suspect for not only Norfolk co

I believe the perception that the GESB has acted in deliberate bad faith, undermining PDCHS over the past ten years, should have an official airing via the Ministry of Education

I do hope this survey was created by a neutral

I do not understand why we - the tax payers - are paying for all day junior kindergarden - I don't believe there is any additional educational benefit to this program. I feel it is a total waste of money!! Teen students need the the educational dollars much more at their level, and even more at the post graduate level!!!

I endorse the closure of PDCS. I went there as a teen, and will miss it as a high school. But it is no longer a viable option. Enrollment is down in the Public and Separate school boards. It is not a case of "cachment areas" being encroached on that is hurting PDCS. It is a retirement community now with less kids than ever. Closing the school also means getting the 7 and 8 students out of the high school, which is a situation that completely mortifies me. It would also mean the JK\_8 students would have a state of the art school. Doverwood could be sold off at a profit as the land is prime real estate with a lake view. Please do not keep PDCS open so that those who want their kids to go to the same school as they did are happy. Do the right thing. Close PDCS.

I feel as if something needs to be done in regards to PDCS. Students are going to other schools because of the programs offered. If you get rid of the busing to other schools, parents will drive their kids to the school they wish to attend. They want the best for their children, and to be successful. It will take to long to get the programs that teenagers want at PDCS, and get the funding.

I feel that the Lake Erie School Board, the Governors and the Trustees have let down the children and the community of Port Dover very badly. They are incapable of coming up with ideas on how to keep the schools open and have blatantly allowed students to leave their catchment areas. I wonder how they sleep at night and justify their wage packet.

I feel the smaller communities need to keep their high school students in town so they feel a part of the community. Port Dover has built so much around it's high school, arena, skate park, track, all within easy walking distance and is ideally located in the town. It would be short sighted to close this school as Port Dover has the fastest growing population in Norfolk County.

I FEEL THE THE YOUTH OF PORT DOVER ARE VERY SPECIAL AND UNIQUE AS IS OUR COMMUNITY. MEETING THEM ON THE STREET THEY ARE FRIDNDLY,COURTIOUS AND RESPECTFUL..QUALITIES LOST IN MANY OF THE YOUTH TODAY.

I found the survey a bit bias. When rating the best and worse options, most of them involve closing PDCS, and never the option of closing SCC and moving those students elsewhere, which could be highly beneficial. Nor did it include the option of keeping the schools open and not busing students from one town to another. Some of the options were equally bad, but that the survey did not allow that to be choosen, so it forced one to choose one being worse than the other, when I think they were not.

I found this survey to be very biased, mainly when it asks you to place the ideas in rank from 1-6. You should be able to say 2 different ideas are both rank 6 (worst option) because without this now we are forced to say that another option, one we may not like, would be the best solution.

I have been in PDCS recently as my kids are very involved in sporting activities and they hosted one. I feel if a school has to close this is the best option. It is very old and would need a pile of money spent on it to make it look new again. Also Port Dover has become a retirement community, so is having a high school really necessary there, probably not.

I have children attending Doverwood - a great school and I want them to continue their eductation in Port Dover, close to home, to take part in extracurricular activities and when old enough, have a part time job. All this might not be possible if 2 - 3 hours a day is spent on a bus to attend school in Simcoe.

I have two young children and want to live in Port Dover. If the high school is closed, I will seriously consider leaving Port Dover and Norfolk County. I will take closing the local high school as a clear sign that my children do not count in Norfolk County. It smacks of political privilege. Norfolk will continue to become retirement community if young families perceive that they have no future here.

I really support the creative ideas put forward to save PDCS, especially turning it into a special arts-focused school. It frustrates me that the issue of closing schools keeps coming up because it is short sighted and counterproductive for the county. In order for people to want to live in a community there needs to be adequate schooling for their children, it's more important than health care and other services. Education is the binding force that keeps our nation and our communities together. I live across the country but still take great pride and interest in Norfolk County exactly because I had such a powerful experience in my formative years at Valley Heights.

I think in my opinion we should do what they do in Hamilton and big cities ! Children go to the school in their district. Holy Trinity is the reason why our schools aren't full because children from all over the county go to HT. If you live in Delhi go to Delhi unless Catholic. If you live in Dover go to Port Dover or make boundary lines to where you have to live there or you can't go to HT simple !

I think that education tax dollars should stay in the area of the taxpayers' resident community, in support of public education rather than being sucked into a "city centre" model; this includes bussing to schools outside of the community or funding two boards of education.

I think that the government should keep all the high schools open and not even think of closing any of them.

I think that this whole accommodation review board stuff is crap. I think that they are already decided to take PDCS down. I think that we have to get the town to go higher the joke of the school board and demand that we get a say.

I think this is a great process to foster awareness to what is going on with our education system. I feel it goes well beyond our community and needs to be seriously and adequately addressed.

I think when the government made equal funding is where the problem started. I don't believe Non-catholic students should attend a catholic school. I wonder if there has ever been a study showing how many of these non-catholic students, have become catholic from attending a catholic highschool???? I can understand that Holy Trinity attracts young people because of their newer equipment, but if students went to the designated highschool in which they are entitled, then the other schools would have more funding as per population. Just my opinion and my children are catholic. I live in Simcoe and I will give them the choice as to what school they want to attend. I think the kids of today have lost all home town spirit.....they need to support the town in which they live.

I truly hope a solution can be found that actually makes sense. The only option I see is to merge the school boards or just do away with the separate school board. Why is one type of faith given priority over others? If people want to send their children to faith based schools, they should be able to do so at their own expense - have faith based schools become private tuition schools and have just ONE public school board.

I was bussed to Simcoe High School .I was unable to take part in any after school events as the only way home was by the bus or walk from Simcoe.My Children were able to go to Port Dover High School and take part in all the activities available. I feel that every town should have its own high school.

I went through the IB programme. A definite win win for all. Standards are international - a great marriage for international studies as well

I went to PDCS. It was in decline then. Lets put the students first and give them the best possible chance for a future,

I'm 110% for the improvement of PDCS, but if that's not possible, then I'm for its closure because regardless of how it effects the town, no student should have a subpar education.

I'm extremely offended and hurt by the actions and words of the School Board. It is nearly emotional harassment the way you are making the students of Port Dover feel stupid, and below human. Your visit to my school was very sneaky, and sly. As well as telling my friend his question was "not intelligent enough to be a question" or telling another girl that she was incapable of understanding your answer (which was just a difficultly reworded statement of her own question), you made at least two students cry. This is unacceptable. Why weren't my parents notified, so that they could be there to protect me? Why did my teacher tell me after that he was glad we were asking questions because if they spoke they would get fired? Please tell me, and the rest of my community, why we are being treated so poorly, why we are being picked on and bullied by the people who are supposed to support "anti-bullying" programs. When the adults, teachers, those in charge of our education, people we are supposed to trust the most start harassing us, where should we go?

I'm not necessarily blaming the Trustees. I'm blaming the Provincial Government EDUCATION they say it is a local Trustee problem but do NOT finance equally the areas needed. Provincial MMP have to be more responsive to the public about education. \Enough of political sorry but bull\*\*\*\*. We have to have a High School in Port Dover if we want to grow above a retirement village which we are not look at growth of US Steel, Esso. ONt Powe whether or not wind, Gas whatever. We are the pave to be!

If PDCS does close I would like the ARC committee to have in it's recommendation that additional buses be allocated early in the morning and later in the afternoon to allow for Dover kids to have access to transportation so they have access to after/before school extracurricular activities. It will be bad enough to be

leaving your home school for actual classes but if it means not being able to participate in sports or clubs too it will be devastating!

In the ranking question-the data will be unreliable since I had no choice to eliminate any plan--just rank those choices from best to worst--no ties!

It is time to face some additional hard facts that: a) PDCS can no longer attract students nor course specific qualified teachers. b) The decline in enrollment = a decline in everything from services to building maintenance. c) The Board is required by law to be practical. You can't please everyone, even at the buffet! d) If Businesses want to keep a Quality High School here for their own benefits (labourers), then those businesses should fund it. e) Expecting the Board to place a "focused" school in a sparsely (youth) populated area such as Port Dover, isn't practical without private funding.

it seems to be to be ridiculous that students are allowed to go to the Holy Trinity despite never going to a catholic school before . To save the cost keep students within their local boundaries STOP bussing students on the tax payers dime to schools in other towns.... there is no reason for this - put the money back where it belongs! At the local school - It would be better to have 4 properly funded schools than have 5 underfunded schools - its all about the quality of education the children get, that's it - community strength and identity is all BS, that is selfish talk, does it matter if it would ruin

KEEP PDCS AFLOAT - PDCS has a track, tennis court, students have jobs - Port Dover needs to be able to attract doctors and young families - we need PDCS and Doverwood. The playground at Doverwood is always full of happy children - in fact an extra kindergarten had to be opened - think of the future, not just the past and present. GO SOS GO!

KEEP PDCS OPEN!!!!!! We shouldn't have to bus all the way to simcoe because he school board is ignorant!

KEEP PORT DOVER COMPOSITE SCHOOL OPEN!!!!

Leave our mother \*\*\*ing school

Many Gr 7-8's are not engaged in their learning. We need to help them. I think they need the power of choice and the ability to choose an area to learn where their interest lies. Look into Limestone DSB's intermediate focus programs. They are a great idea for the 7-8's and might offer PDCS a way to focus their location.

Mega schools do not work, they are powder kegs. you'll destroy all/any pride in our areas if you start closing schools.

merging the boards might not provide more funds but students would be more apt to stay in their community and thus keep schools open

My children (23 & 25) were in the first group of Walsh Public School students who were able/had the option to attend SCS by transferring from home buses at Walsh School to the SCS bus. We are glad they were not forced/had the option of attending our traditional home high schools of PDCS,VHSS,DDSS or SCS. Because SCS was bigger we feel they had more senior level course options,more resource opportunities,easier access to government offices and services and more after school student job opportunities. Both went on to college and graduated into full time jobs because of the options they had available to them. Forcing students to attend PDCS to keep it open is not the best option for everybody - especially ones who do not live in Pt. Dover.

My Parents attended Port Dover Composite High School, I attended PDCS, and I want my future kids to attend PDCS. We were called the Miracle school for a reason! I don't understand why all of our accomplishments

have been overlooked. The students of PDCS are doing everything they can to keep the school open. I've seen so many people in tears the possibility of the school closing.

My professional background is in the area of strategic planning & organizational development. I have had the opportunity to work in a truly diverse work environment where we celebrate our differences such as holidays, food and customs together rather than artificial seasonal parties etc. This has created an appreciative approach to others at a deep emotional level. We are now living in a global world and we have a responsibility to provide a global education where people of all faiths, cultures, and backgrounds come together around a common focus (learning).

Need balance of efficient and cost savings

One suggestion no one ever puts forth. Close SIMCOE, bus their students to Delhi, Waterford and Dover. Schools are full and every town has a school

Our board is the source of this issue. All members should be re-evaluated and if unable to do their positions beyond public speaking, should be immediately replaced. This is all nonsense. These people are unadaptable and do not care for anything more than turning a profit. They disgust me.

Our high schools are a viable part of our community. Bigger is not always better. Look at the mess created with the joining of three school boards. The smaller boards lost their local identity to Brantford. Someone must think about our kids not making things bigger. Everyone's voice should count from small areas to urban areas.

PDCS had enough kids from areas such as Port Dover, Walsh, Vittoria to stay open when I was there and should still have enough kids to stay open when my son goes there.

PDCS should stay open, period. The bussing system is stupid and pointless. Why do students that live in Dover have the option to go to SCS or HT? It's stupid. If you live in Dover, you should go to PDCS. If you live in Simcoe, go to SCS. If you are Catholic and live in Simcoe, go to HT. Plain and simple. The busses should not transport students from Dover to HT and SCS. If you are going to be idiots and keep the bussing the same, then you should bus kids from, lets say, Jarvis to Dover. There is no bussing from other schools to PDCS, yet you let whoever go from Dover to other schools. Is there something wrong with Dover? Why is everything turned against us. What have we done that has made you want to turn students and families away from us? It's all stupid and PDCS should stay open, no questions asked.

Please provide me with a list of the countries where rural schools are being closed. I would be very interested in learning more about this- it is the first I have heard of it. Also, it is important to note that rural schools are an essential part of the economy of rural areas. Although it might be an added expense to the government- it is the right of students living in rural communities to have the same opportunities as every other child in the country. Clearly there are many options that have been thought of to keep these schools open and more should be sought. If we care about the economic and social future of Norfolk County we will keep our high schools open and accessible to everyone.

Please stop fighting to keep Port Dover High School open. Think about our kids education first. Kids need a broad base of subjects to choose from. I went to Waterford High School. Nothing wrong with WDHS - except that it cannot provide for the needs of college or university students. Offering courses every other year is not an option. How many kids from Waterford are already being bussed to Simcoe for course selection reasons? My nephew is. I choose to send my kids to Trinity. Numbers determine what courses can be offered. Courses determine what our kids have exposure to and contribute to their opportunities in the future. It is our kids

futures we are talking about here, which in turn will determine our communities futures. Let's not see Norfolk turn into a 'retirement only' community.

Port Dover is growing faster than any other community in Norfolk County - We must keep our schools!

Port Dover is the fastest growing community in Norfolk County - our schools are needed to attract young families, doctors, etc. Why should Simcoe have 2 high schools at the expense of Port Dover? Maybe bring SCS students to PDCS!!!! Consider the future of the youngsters presently attending Doverwood and the 7's & 8's at PDSC.

Port Dover needs PDCS

Port Dover regards itself as a "No Frills" town. Many old-timers repeat constantly that they do not want "change". Well, a town or a school is like a house - it takes constant maintenance and upgrading to keep it going. "Build it and they will come". If the town does not offer exceptional services, people will not come here. For example, if we had built a Fortino's instead of a No Frills, all of Norfolk would shop here. If our restaurants offered something other than deep-fried, people would come and spend money on healthy meals. If we had hotels, tourists would stay more than one day. If our high school offered exceptional programming, students would line up to come here. If the Council would give Port Dover underground wiring, our town could become the little gem it should be. The problem is that too many people in town think "small" and as a result, we end up with a town that is slowly stagnating.

Process requires much more proactive and creative discussion and participation by all school supporters in all areas within Norfolk to encourage integrated solutions which will more effectively reflect the nature and requirements of each area within Norfolk.

realize the potential you have in small communities.

Schools are about education. Unfortunately this issue has been derailed by a vocal minority with bad ideas, such as business influence, scare mongering with property values and by attacking the the process instead of focusing on the ball. That being the quality of our kids education and we aren't getting it at PDCS anymore. Everything else is irrelevant

Since the entire problem is created by the Simcoe school and it's inability to compete with Holy Trinity, I would suggest that if any of the more rural schools are closed to draw more students to SCS that the affected community rally and switch thier school support property tax to the separate board. When any educational board (elementary, secondary, college or university) look at funding from the provincial government it is based entirely on "funding units" thier term for students. It is all a numbers game and has nothing to do with the students themselves.

Small schools in Norfolk County are working. Yes, some have gotten too small -- but that problem started when the GEDSB permitted students to attend any school in the County, and provided free bussing. School boundaries should be enforced at the secondary system as they are in the elementary system. NO FREE BUSSING to schools out of the student's community area!! Also, redistribute the school boundaries so that students in the Scotland / Mount Pleasant area are permitted to come to WDHS. The GEDSB has KILLED small schools by NOT enforcing school boundaries -- and allowing parents to send their students to other communities. Go to your home school -- unless your parents bring you to another school for their own reasons!!!

Smaller schools keep kids in school and help them graduate. These schools are very beneficial for those kids that find school challenging. With smaller classroom sizes, teachers have the time to help them. Also in a smaller school environment students all get along better. With a smaller student body there is less of a chance for cliques to form, thus less confrontation between students. Large schools are overwhelming for some students, no one has the time to help them, they get lost in system, frustrated and they drop out. If we want to keep kids in schools we should be building more smaller schools, not closing them and dumping everyone into one huge school just to save money. It's sad that the all mighty buck has become more important than our children.

So called accommodation reviews are conducted by large organizations that have never even set foot in the county, and thus makes them totally unqualified to judge whether a school is redundant. Their facts and figures are also based on outdated census data. Why is good money spent on these surveys, when this money could be split amongst the schools in the district for student use!!!

some of the questions in this survey don't have all options available to select as an answer. seems like the information which will be gathered and be used for or against a desired outcome.

SOS PDCS

Stop threatening closure of norfolk schools, every community needs a school. If dover's population does increase as predicted, i think the closure of pdcs would be highly regretted.

thanks for putting this up. we need to do the same here in Peterborough

THE ARC COMMITTEE HAS WORKED VERY HARD BUT THEY HAVE NOT GOT A CLUE ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON. THEY SHOULD BE DEMANDING THE IMMEDIATE STOPPING OF THE ILLEGAL BUSING TO SCS FROM PDCS. AS A TAXPAYER THIS IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. ALSO, THE CATCHMENT AREA THAT IS TRADITIONAL FOR PDCS NEEDS TO BE RESTORED IMMEDIATELY. LOWER THE FEES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SO THEY WILL RETURN TO PDCS. OTHERWISE, GOODBYE PDCS. THE ARC COMMITTEE IS TOO POLITE TO THE BOARD: IF YOU REALLY BELIEVE IN KEEPING PDCS OPEN THEN THE COMMITTEE HAD BETTER SPEAK OPENLY AND FORCEFULLY ABOUT HOW UNDERHANDED THE SCHOOL BOARD HAS BEEN TOWARDS PDCS.

The biggest problem in Port Dover is the people that live in that town. Most homes in that town are not owned by young families that will need the schools now and in the future. I lived in Port Dover for 15 yrs and left to move to Simcoe because there is nothing for young families to do. Anyways my children are in the catholic school there when we lived there and now in Simcoe. Port Dover is known as the retirement town so its going to be a problem for years to come. Sorry thats just the facts. Leave the schools as they are. If children decide to go to other schools that isn't something that we can't change. When I was in high school you went to the school in your town unless you needed special ed then you went to Waterford. Maybe that is what needs to be done again.

The board has gone through heroic efforts to keep SCS and BCI intact, structurally, with no regard to small schools. Our schools are just as important as those schools. If proper boundary rules were followed it would be SCS with lower attendance. The Port Dover community has taken a loss in that Port Dover PS was lost. WE are a thriving community that is unique, quirky, and we embrace these traits. The community will rally behind this school. The location, the amenities and the population will make this work. Unfortunately our biggest hurdle is the powers that be, that will do anything to keep SCS open. It may be time to make SCS a smaller school, by designating a portion of the SCS as a HS, and repurposing the other portions of the school. Let the natural population of SCS enjoy SCS, and those youth that are PDCS students, send them to PDCS.

The elimination of faith based funding would solve all the problems. It just doesn't make sense in today's world.

The new busing is ridiculous and PDCS should have its own busing and should stay open. There should not be complimentary busing to other schools

The problem regarding school closures will not be solved by simply enforcing catchment areas or stopping the buses running to other high schools. The answer is quality. I attended PDCS for 3 of my 4 years of high school, and chose to attend SCS for my final year, and as I look back, I wish I had attended SCS for all 4 years. The quality of education at PDCS is terrible - all schools are not created equal. Teachers are teaching subjects that they are not qualified to be instructing, several different courses are merged into one classroom due to lack of students, and courses are being cut, also due to a lack of students. These are all things I personally experienced while at PDCS, and I could go on and on about the lack of quality. People are not willing to send their children to a substandard school, and this is what PDCS is. For the futures of these children, this school MUST be closed.

The reality is that the student pop is declining, but that small high schools are best for education and for supporting all students. Their size allows all students who want it a chance to be involved. They encourage the development of young citizens involved in their community.

The school boards might as well be merged, as there does not seem to be any criteria for attending a religious school. We also do not need two secondary schools in Simcoe. If one was closed then each town could have a secondary school. We should also not be busing kids to Hamilton to attend a French speaking secondary school. If students want to attend a special school, let them find their own transportation. I am sure some money could be saved by looking at the whole transportation issue.

The school systems will no longer work...we can move to a better plan for everyone have a look at Khan-Academy it allows students to move at their own personal speed and develops skills better than or teaching methods can .

The whole issue here is Holy Trinity. You cannot build a brand new high school in Simcoe with almost 1200 students and expect it not to have an impact. On top of that they are attracting kids based on new facilities and equipment. Ontario needs to eliminate the 2 systems, it is unfair and costly. That being said, we need a new Public High School for students. One that offers the same facilities and funding that the Catholics enjoy.

this is a difficult issue and a lot of reversing of "bad blood" is needed and many folks have to step back and look at what is good for kids development and telling them their community isn't worth it, is wrong and it all started when some were allowed to go to school elsewhere without good reason...that damage is done and those who allowed it need to admit that error that caused such bad blood and move on with best solution for long run---kids take pride and ownership in their community school when they are guided properly and I believe become better members of society (worker and volunteers alike) and not just another unimportant statistic

This is complete non-sense.

this is happening all over to rural schools. My high school in Niagara on the Lake has had the same fate. Everyone wants to be where the action is and it isn't in the rural areas. Many of the smaller communities on the shores of any of the great lakes have become the retirement areas because the older taxpayers want to go back to the way it was for them growing up. It is forcing anything related to youth out of the area and into the urban areas. They don't want any distractions such as children around their perfect little world in the small

towns. They have the money but they don't want to put it into our area they want to still spend their money in the larger communities from where they come from.

This survey is very skewed. The possible answers are leading and key areas where suggestions could be helpful have no suggestion area. Why is the Simcoe high school not being considered for closure? There are two high schools here. I really think we need to look at the convoluted bussing issue as well. Each student should be bussed to their local school only. If they choose to go to a school outside of their area, they should find alternative transportation on their own.

This whole discussion is moot. There is a simple solution that no one has thought of. The root of the problem with Norfolk County School system has not been diagnosed. Holy Trinity is the root of the problem. Instead of removing schools from the public and forcing students to travel longer schools, it's simple look at the distribution of students. Minimize their travel time, maximize their learning potential by providing equal opportunities to all schools. By closing PDCS, WDHS, or any public school not only are you preventing students from getting equal opportunities your are destroying a piece of history. There was no problem with the school system prior to Holy Trinity's arrival, and instead of building that school that money should have gone into the other school to keep them up to date, and to keep the public schools afloat.

Unlike when I attended, PDCS has turned into a school in which many staff are of poor quality and have little desire to assist in extracurricular activities. Their facilities are sadly lacking in equipment and the typed of classes are greatly limited. Money cannot be thrown at this list cause. It would be cruel and shameful to expect a child to get a decent, well-rounded education there. I pulled my kids out of there when I experienced the apathetic staff and environment.

We are not Catholic, yet both our children chose to go to Holy Trinity (totally their decision) while the vast majority of their friends went to SCS. They made this decision based solely on the programs available at HT in light of what they want to do career-wise after university. The computer tech courses are vastly superior to anywhere else locally and there is a much wider range of courses available. I do not believe busing kids all the way to Brantford is a viable option. I believe that it will draw our youth away from the area and few will return. They won't be able to have after school jobs as they will be arriving home so late. Increased time on the bus will allow less time for homework and leisure activities. More traffic on the roads will impact the environment (increased traffic = more pollution), cost extra money for gas and increase risk of kids being injured or killed in accidents--especially in poor weather. I went to PDCS for 2 years and although I had a terrible experience there and hated every minute of my time there, I do not support closing it. Having a high school in the community is good for the town. They also have a great track for hosting track and field events. SCS has the new gym and Roulston's has poured thousands of dollars into the science labs, therefore it doesn't make good economic sense to close it either. In terms of geography, I believe that, if any school should be closed, it should be Delhi (although I do not support that decision either, having already stated that having a high school in town enhances the community at large and increases profits at local businesses) as students there have the option of going to Tillsonburg, Valley Heights, SCS or HT.

We have to become more capitalistic like the USA. If it is decided that we become a focused school (not arts/culture...nice but do not normally provide well paying jobs), I believe a business school (US students are exposed at an early age) is the way to go. The program would involve hi-tech, innovation, language etc. incorporating the international student program and a business incubator model that would be affiliated with e.g. Queen's School of Business. The start-up businesses would act as a mentorship and co-op program for all students and provide the business with cheap labor thus everyone working together to help eliminate youth outward migration. The school could also house an immigrant meeting place for newcomers to help acquaint them with government programs and educational upgrading opportunities.

When I moved here 13 years ago, my kids were not in the school system. Now, my oldest will be making a decision as to which high school he will attend in one year. I am disappointed with our options, or better yet, the lack of them! I strongly believe that the GEDSB has let this community, Norfolk County, down. The education system in this area is sub par to any large centre. I feel that my kids are not going to be prepared for University at the same level as children who attend a larger centre. Our children are being left behind. I wish we had more options other than a Catholic school or a public school. I don't have the answers, but I have to say I am disappointed with the options.

When you close a school in a community, it's like removing one of the body's major organs. All the other parts of the body must somehow work harder to compensate for the missing component. A school is one of the major components, when one thinks of the the idea of a complete community. It makes no sense to send our children to another town's schools; it's cutting our nose off to spite our face. Our focus as a community must be how to invest in OUR community; how to set a curricula that challenges, educates and excites kids, and how to teach our youth the valuable lesson that their school is just that - theirs. Don't bus all your resources away; you're throwing out the babies with the bath water! If you build it, they will come...

Why is it that the board is looking at closing a school that needs the least amount repair & want keep the school that is the oldest & most expensive to repair ,open? Plus why isn't Elgin Ave. Public School looked at to be closed? It is NOT wheel chair accessible, plus I wouldn't be surprized that there is asbestos in the school. maybe it should be looked at. The board didn't think twice about closing the old public school in Port Dover because of that problem.

You're doing a great job! This is not an easy task and you're doing everything you can to give everyone a voice and see all sides of the issue. Keep up the great work!

## Links

Grand Erie District School Board: <http://www.granderie.ca>

SOS Port Dover Committee: <http://www.facebook.com/savePDCS>

Norfolk County: <http://www.norfolkcounty.ca/business/schools/>