



**ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC**  
**DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
*Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey*

## **REPORT**

**SUBJECT:** **ST. HELEN SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW  
SURVEY RESULTS**

**SUBMITTED TO:** **ST. HELEN SCHOOL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**DATE OF MEETING:** **October 1, 2002**

**PREPARED BY:** **George Cyrenne, Consultant**

**PRESENTED BY:** **George Cyrenne, Consultant**

## **BACKGROUND:**

Board policy 7.4 requires that a report be made that outlines the results of a parent and community survey concerning the accommodation issues for St. Helen School.

## **RESULTS OF SURVEY:**

Attached are the following:

- a) a summary of St Helen School survey results
- b) survey results including comments
- c) letter to catholic school supporters
- d) survey

## **GENERAL OVERVIEW:**

- 852 surveys were distributed, 396 returned or 46%.
- St. Helen School parents returned 65%, others from other schools & the parishes returned 41%.
- If St. Helen School closes, only 21% of respondents from St. Helen are in favour of moving students to other North Sarnia schools. Overall, 35% are in favour.
- 76% of St. Helen School respondents said they would consider sending their children to a public school. 29% of the others who responded said they would also consider this alternative.
- 91% of those who responded from St Helen said that their children would be inconvenienced by not having the ability to walk to school, come home for lunch or walk with parents to & from school. About 65% of the others agreed with this statement.
- 92% of the St. Helen School respondents felt that their children would suffer in the loss of the school's community participation. Overall, 72% agreed.
- 87% of the respondents from St. Helen School felt the community would lose its economic viability and property values would decrease. 56% of the others feel this would occur.
- 29% of St. Helen parents who responded were concerned that, if the school does not close, fewer resources would be available to all students in the system. About 47% of all others expressed a similar concern.

**SUMMARY OF ST. HELEN SCHOOL REVIEW COMMITTEE SURVEY RESULTS**

	<u>St. Helen</u>	<u>G.Hogan</u>	<u>St. Anne</u>	<u>S. Heart</u>	<u>St.Michael</u>	<u>St.Eliz.</u>	<u>St.Ben.Ch.</u>	<u>St. Pet.Ch.</u>	<u>S.Heart Ch.</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
DISTRIBUTED	184	170	200	178	20	20	20	20	20	20	852
RESPONDED	119	56	77	73	12	15	17	10	12	5	396
% RESPONDED	65%	33%	39%	41%	60%	75%	85%	50%	60%	25%	46%

**2a If the School Board decides to close St. Helen School, students would likely be moved to St. Anne School, Gregory A. Hogan School or Sacred Heart School. Is this acceptable to you?**

YES	21%	54%	36%	53%	17%	60%	6%	30%	0%	60%	35%
NO	72%	41%	57%	38%	58%	7%	53%	70%	75%	20%	54%
N/A	7%	5%	6%	8%	25%	33%	41%	0%	25%	20%	10%

**2b Would you consider sending your child to a nearby public school?**

YES	76%	30%	23%	34%	58%	27%	24%	30%	17%	0%	43%
NO	24%	66%	73%	59%	8%	47%	29%	70%	25%	0%	47%
N/A	0%	4%	4%	7%	33%	27%	47%	0%	58%	100%	10%

**3 If the School Board decides to close St. Helen School, many of the students now attending St. Helen School would require bussing. Your comments on bussing students to the other schools are requested.****4 Do you feel that the children would be inconvenienced by not having the ability to walk to school, come home for lunch, or walk with you to and from school?**

YES	91%	71%	51%	62%	92%	40%	82%	90%	100%	60%	72%
NO	8%	16%	32%	29%	0%	33%	0%	10%	0%	0%	18%
N/A	1%	13%	17%	10%	8%	27%	18%	0%	0%	40%	10%

**5 Do you feel that the children will suffer in the loss of the school's community participation such as school programs that are centrally located and within walking distance that would impair their overall social and spiritual development?**

YES	92%	66%	56%	63%	92%	33%	88%	90%	75%	20%	72%
NO	7%	23%	30%	23%	8%	47%	6%	10%	8%	20%	18%
N/A	1%	11%	14%	14%	0%	20%	6%	0%	17%	60%	9%

**6 Do you feel that the community would lose its economic viability and that property values would decrease should St. Helen School be closed?**

YES	87%	55%	55%	49%	67%	47%	71%	60%	83%	40%	65%
NO	6%	29%	32%	30%	17%	27%	12%	30%	0%	0%	20%
N/A	7%	16%	13%	21%	17%	27%	18%	10%	17%	60%	14%

**7 If St. Helen School remains open, the Board will be required to maintain and operate more floor space than they receive funding for. This will have the effect of spreading the resources more thinly and will hinder the opportunities to effectively operate and maintain the schools across the system at large. It is estimated that if St. Helen School is closed the Board would save about \$100,000 in operating expenses annually and also forego spending for capital improvements. These savings would then be used to improve the opportunities to serve all students in the entire school district. Does it concern you that fewer resources would be available for all pupils if St. Helen School does not close?**

YES	29%	46%	44%	53%	58%	67%	35%	20%	17%	80%	41%
NO	68%	38%	40%	25%	42%	7%	29%	80%	42%	0%	44%
N/A	3%	16%	16%	22%	0%	27%	35%	0%	42%	20%	14%

**8 Please feel free to make any additional comments that you wish.**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
7	<b>ST. HELEN SCHOOL REVIEW COMMITTEE SURVEY RESULTS</b>											Sept.26/02			
8															
9	2a	<b>If the School Board decides to close St. Helen School, students would likely be moved to St. Anne School, Gregory A. Hogan School or Sacred Heart School. Is this acceptable to you?</b>													
10															
11															
12			<u>St. Helen</u>	<u>G.Hogan</u>	<u>St. Anne</u>	<u>S. Heart</u>	<u>St.Michael</u>	<u>St.Eliz.</u>	<u>St.Ben.Ch.</u>	<u>St. Pet.Ch.</u>	<u>S.Heart Ch.</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>		
13	DISTRIBUTED	184	170	200	178	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	852		
14	RESPONDED	119	56	77	73	12	15	17	10	12	5	396			
15															
16		YES	25	30	28	39	2	9	1	3	0	3	140		
17		NO	86	23	44	28	7	1	9	7	9	1	215		
18		N/A	8	3	5	6	3	5	7	0	3	1	41		
19															
20	COMMENTS:	St. Helen	Sacred Heart only, if not then Rosedale or Errol.												
21		St. Helen	Depends on where they will be bussed.												
22		St. Helen	This would create overcrowding at these schools which is detrimental to learning & social interaction.												
23		St. Helen	We chose St. Helen before we chose our home & prior to starting a family.												
24		St. Helen	We believe in neighbourhood schools & the Catholic system.												
25		St. Helen	It is totally ridiculous to bus my child to one of the above schools when she can walk to Rosedale if St. Helen's closes.												
26		St. Helen	We moved to this area specifically so our children could walk to and from school.												
27		St. Helen	I don't want them facing over crowding in another school or be bumped again when St. Anne's area grows.												
28		St. Helen	Would prefer a north end school especially at St. Anne's since I would have 2 at St. Christopher's.												
29		St. Helen	We bought our house only for one reason - perfect neighbouring location for St. Helen's school.												
30		St. Helen	We bought in the neighbourhood so our children wouldn't have to be bussed.												
31		St. Helen	We have enjoyed being part of a neighbourhood school with all it's benefits.												
32		St. Helen	Rosedale is too convenient for us. With St. Helen at 96% full, there's no guarantee the above schools will remain open.												
33		St. Helen	I transferred by child from St. Joseph's School Sarnia which is now closed.												
34		St. Helen	My children want to be with their friends, that is the most important thing to them & therefore to me.												
35		St. Helen	If the school closes I want the grade 8 class to be able to choose the school they wish to attend.												
36		St. Helen	I do not feel they should be in portables & there is not enough room at schools.												
37		St. Helen	I do not want to lose music program, computer labs, excellent library & large playground.												
38		St. Helen	The Board has not identified the boundaries & are known to not adhere to them anyways.												
39		St. Helen	Show us the boundaries with the expected dispersion of St. Helen's students.												
40		St. Helen	We will definitely move to Errol Rd. or Rosedale School.												
41		St. Helen	The school is 96% full & I will not put my child and future 3 other kids on a bus.												
42		St. Helen	No guarantee kids won't be moved again. How is that good for the interest of the child?												
43		St. Helen	We would be very apprehensive of sending to these schools for fear of additional school closures.												
44		St. Helen	If it does close I should be able to choose the school my child attends.												
45		St. Helen	Because we live nearby St. Helen's we hope it won't close.												
46		St. Helen	I find all 3 choices less than acceptable because they all are so far from my children's home.												
47		St. Helen	There's no reason to close this school.												
48		St. Helen	If St. Helen's is closed my son will be subjected to over crowded at whatever school he is transferred to.												
49		St. Helen	They currently walk & have the option to walk home for lunch.												
50		St. Helen	It is only acceptable in that these schools are fairly close & I would want him to go with his friends.												
51		St. Helen	I would hope they would be moved to St. Anne's school as it is not likely to close.												
52		St. Helen	When I moved to my neighbourhood I took into consideration of having a Catholic school close to me.												
53		St. Helen	My fear is that my children will be going to school without their close friends, security net of friends is very important.												
54		St. Helen	Can't say it is acceptable until we know how much time she will be on the bus.												
55		St. Helen	Don't know yet, possibly Sarnia Christian School.												
56		St. Helen	Walking distance to school is extremely important to us. Do not want children bussed.												
57		St. Helen	Other schools cannot accommodate our children without losing music, computer programs & library space.												
58		St. Helen	I feel portables will have to be used.												
59		St. Helen	Will not have my children bussed when the Board closes a viable school. Moving to Public School system if it closes.												
60		St. Helen	Broken relationships, more strain on families.												
61		St. Helen	We don't believe there are enough spaces to accommodate all our children.												
62		St. Helen	We moved to this area in the city because I attended St. Helen's as a child & want my children to do so also.												
63		St. Helen	Splitting up life long friends & uprooting families can hardly be described as acceptable.												
64		St. Helen	I wish for my children to have a Catholic education however I am not willing to bus them.												
65		St. Helen	Why would it be acceptable to bus a whole school away from a school that is fully functional?												
66		St. Helen	Why move from a large environment to a smaller environment with more children?												
67		St. Helen	Why move from a peace garden, new school equipment & tar mac?												
68		St. Helen	St. Anne's school is at 95% full, Greg Hogan is 101% full & Sacred Heart is 82% full.												
69		St. Helen	Close the Board, save the school.												
70		St. Helen	Not when my kids will be on a bus for such a long time.												
71		St. Helen	This will be the end of his Catholic teaching.												
72		St. Helen	The listed schools are at capacity & are not in a position to accommodate more students without adding portables.												
73		St. Helen	With too many in the classroom the quality of teaching is reduced.												
74		St. Helen	We are almost as close to Gregory Hogan as we are to St. Helen's.												
75		St. Helen	These schools are near capacity already. My children will not attend these schools.												
76		St. Helen	Home schooling of our 5 children would be an option.												
77		St. Helen	Depends on which school he is moved to.												
78		St. Helen	If the Catholic Board cannot look after their money I will move the children to the Public system.												
79		St. Helen	Bussing is the main issue. These options are a step backwards to us.												
80		St. Helen	The school next door is looking more & more appealing.												
81		St. Helen	No, however I would likely surrender to that notion.												
82		St. Helen	This is not acceptable to me because I am concerned about larger class sizes & over crowding of schools.												
83		St. Helen	Why is St. Helen's picked on if all school enrolment is down?												
84		St. Helen	Out of the question. Absolutely not. It's a good thing two great public schools are in walking distance.												
85		St. Helen	The subdivision at St. Anne's will result in redefining of boundaries which is bad for our children.												
86		G. Hogan	Closing one school & overcrowding another makes no sense.												
87		G. Hogan	I do not want my daughter to be in a large class & overcrowded school.												
88		G. Hogan	I am concerned with the displacement of children from their existing schools once the boundaries are changed.												
89		G. Hogan	I do not feel that a school that is at 95% capacity should be considered for closure.												

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
90			G. Hogan	Movement of students will increase class sizes, unless the board is planning to increase staff.											
91			G. Hogan	Yes, however I want to make sure that my child does not need to move.											
92			G. Hogan	No matter how you slice it, the result is a dilution in the time our children receive.											
93			G. Hogan	Gregory Hogan is at near capacity with some classes with 30 students which is too many.											
94			G. Hogan	I sincerely feel sorry for those students especially with 2 excellent schools in their own neighbourhood.											
95			G. Hogan	Classrooms are almost at max. now. What are you actually gaining?											
96			G. Hogan	The more students to the school, the better, not bigger classes though.											
97			G. Hogan	Gregory Hogan is not large enough to absorb an entire school.											
98			G. Hogan	Boundary changes would affect our children in the future & cause unnecessary relocation of schools without our consent.											
99			G. Hogan	Transfer is acceptable as long as it is only some kids not all.											
100			G. Hogan	I approve of the cost cutting - painful perhaps in the short term but healthy in the long term.											
101			G. Hogan	It is not acceptable if class sizes exceed 28-30, if portables are used & if computer labs are lost.											
102			G. Hogan	I would prefer the kids go to Sacred Heart & St. Anne's since I like a small school like Gregory Hogan.											
103			G. Hogan	Would extra teaching staff come with students to maintain student/teacher ratio at a good rate?											
104			G. Hogan	Boundary changes & additional bumping rights are a great concern.											
105			G. Hogan	It seems irresponsible to bus that many children to different schools when there is a functional school already available.											
106			G. Hogan	Will ensure that these other 3 north end schools are more efficient.											
107			St. Anne	I feel that students attending these schools will be displaced & relocated to other schools.											
108			St. Anne	All classrooms are presently being utilized, the portable situation is a very undesirable one.											
109			St. Anne	This is not acceptable to me if it would affect my children's enrolment at St. Anne.											
110			St. Anne	St. Anne has an average class size of 25 students in Grades 1 to 8. Larger class sizes would be unacceptable.											
111			St. Anne	More students mean that more friendships could develop as well as more teachers & resources.											
112			St. Anne	Moved from Greg Hogan to St. Anne & concerned that they will be moved again.											
113			St. Anne	If #'s go up at St. Anne then boundaries will change, therefore affecting my children & their peers.											
114			St. Anne	So long as no students currently at those schools are moved & no changes made to existing boundaries.											
115			St. Anne	Why is G Hogan which has less pupils not up for discussion? St. Helen is 95% full, hardly bussed & in a viable condition.											
116			St. Anne	Are you closing St. Helen's for political reasons? i.e. Money won on decision between Clarke & Lakeroad closing.											
117			St. Anne	St. Anne has room for some students but that room will quickly be filled with nearby housing growth.											
118			St. Anne	It is acceptable because I would want these displaced students to stay within the Catholic system.											
119			St. Anne	St. Anne's now has too many children in the grades 1 - 6 & we now have split grades which I do not agree with.											
120			St. Anne	More acceptable would be to allow students to still be close enough to walk.											
121			St. Anne	Enrolment is up this year at St. Anne's with a pending building boom on the horizon.											
122			St. Anne	Every classroom including the science lab, storage room is used for classes.											
123			St. Anne	Maybe it would be wise to wait another year or two to see how much growth there is around St. Anne's.											
124			St. Anne	Most emphatically no, since my children will once again be bumped.											
125			St. Anne	Acceptable provided the class numbers stay below 30 students & there was at least one E.A. in each class.											
126			S. Heart	For the children's emotional concerns, they are being split up into too many schools.											
127			S. Heart	St. Anne has new development around it, why over crowd it now & then reduce boundaries later.											
128			S. Heart	Sacred Heart would love to have the St. Helen's students.											
129			S. Heart	Yes, but only if children currently attending these schools are not displaced.											
130			S. Heart	Additional resources are needed for additional students & classes would have to stay within Ministry guidelines.											
131			S. Heart	Sacred Heart can not support 302 students & receive the same level of instruction.											
132			S. Heart	Class sizes would increase too high for Sacred Heart school if students were moved here.											
133			S. Heart	I don't want my children in over crowded schools.											
134			S. Heart	Moving is not only a physical change but emotional, spiritual & social change.											
135			S. Heart	Why can't we keep something stable such as where children will be brought up & educated?											
136			S. Heart	Cannot say yes until a review/data is provided as to boundaries.											
137			S. Heart	I like the small class sizes at Sacred Heart.											
138			S. Heart	Yes, however if I lived in the St. Helen's district I would be extremely upset.											
139			S. Heart	Schools are not overcrowded now so I don't see a problem.											
140			S. Heart	Both grades 3 & 6 are too large and have split classes.											
141			S. Heart	It is not acceptable to move the St. Helen's kids to other nearby schools because it puts my child at a slight disadvantage.											
142			S. Heart	Yes, provided the cost of reopening a new school in 4 - 5 years has been considered.											
143			S. Heart	As long as the computer lab is not used to house the extra students.											
144			S. Heart	I strongly believe there is no acceptable reasoning why St. Helen's is closing. Sacred Heart does not need more students.											
145			S. Heart	If this board chooses to close St. Helen's they should be replaced immediately by an appointed government superintendent.											
146			S. Heart	With the school at such a high occupancy it is unacceptable to close it.											
147			S. Heart	As long as it doesn't decrease the quality of education our children are receiving now.											
148			S. Heart	We are told that the computer room & other areas would have to be shut down to accommodate the kids from St. Helen's.											
149			S. Heart	How many families have children in other different schools because of poor decisions made at Board level?											
150			S. Heart	Class sizes would increase therefore less attention is given on an individual basis.											
151			S. Heart	Sacred Heart enrolment has dropped significantly & there is space for more students.											
152			S. Heart	My children are currently in a school where it's mere size allows the teachers to know all the kids.											
153			S. Heart	As long as no portable classrooms are used, nor the class sizes increased.											
154			St. Michael	Why not select a school with bussing? St. Helen's has only one bus & other students walk.											
155			St. Michael	I feel the board is closing schools in order to fill the capacity of St. Anne's, which should not have been built.											
156			St. Michael	Why bus kids when they can walk?											
157			St. Michael	No, this is not an ideal situation since it would impact other schools.											
158			St. Michael	If St. Helen's is closed I'd hope room would be made at other Catholic Schools to handle the displaced students.											
159			St. Michael	It would be extremely difficult for St. Helen's students to be separated among 3 different schools.											
160			St. Eliz.	A similar situation has occurred in Wallaceburg with a closing of Our Lady of Help School.											
161			St. Eliz.	These children seem to have adjusted well and most seem to attend the Catholic school by bus.											
162			St. Eliz.	The other schools can accommodate the children. Let's not spread the money too thin so that everyone loses.											
163			St. Ben. Ch.	Another step towards the total loss of our Catholic Schools. Less high price superv. & admin staff, leave the children alone.											
164			St. Ben. Ch.	St. Helen is in a great location, no need for bussing the children.											
165			St. Ben. Ch.	This divides an existing St. Helen's community & uproots them into another community.											
166			St. Ben. Ch.	They lose their purpose and identity and become disjointed and second class coming from outside the existing area.											
167			St. Ben. Ch.	Two of the schools are over capacity & the other 2 would only have 82 spaces. What happens to the other 213 students?											
168			St. Pet. Ch.	The school closings have to stop.											
169			St. Pet. Ch.	I feel they will go to the public school next door.											
170			St. Pet. Ch.	The ability to lunch at home or have comfort from a parent when ill & exercise.											
171			St. Pet. Ch.	If it is closed, the students should be moved to the next closest school to their homes.											
172			St. Pet. Ch.	I am concerned about possible bumping of students from the other schools.											

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
173			St.Pet.Ch.	All those schools are excellent but are not community schools like St. Helen where most pupils can walk to school.											
174			St.Pet.Ch.	Students have their friends & don't like to be separated by going to different schools.											
175			St.Pet.Ch.	We have no children in school, however if this will create a financial savings, it is a good move.											
176			St.Pet.Ch.	St. Helen should not be under review.											
177			St.Pet.Ch.	Because it is a huge disruption in a child's life, their sense of community & spirit is radically changed.											
178			S.Heart.Ch.	Not if it means raising the students in these schools above the acceptable numbers.											
179			S.Heart.Ch.	I understand there are not enough spaces to accommodate these children. This will cause overcrowding at other schools.											
180			S.Heart.Ch.	This is not about what is acceptable to individuals & families but it's about funding our gov't. process.											
181			S.Heart.Ch.	The school is 95% full so it should not close.											
182			S.Heart.Ch.	Because this would make the classes too large, the children would not get the best education.											
183			S.Heart.Ch.	You are closing a community school that will always be an area of young families.											
184			Staff	High quality schools, good facilities, excellent academic reputations.											
185															
186	<b>2b</b>	<b>Would you consider sending your child to a nearby public school?</b>													
187															
188															
189			<b>DISTRIBUTED</b>	<b>St. Helen</b>	<b>G.Hogan</b>	<b>St. Anne</b>	<b>S. Heart</b>	<b>St.Michael</b>	<b>St.Eliz.</b>	<b>St.Ben.Ch.</b>	<b>St. Pet.Ch.</b>	<b>S.Heart Ch.</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	
190			<b>RESPONDED</b>	184	170	200	178	20	20	20	20	20	20	852	
191				119	56	77	73	12	15	17	10	12	5	396	
192			<b>YES</b>	91	17	18	25	7	4	4	3	2	0	171	
193			<b>NO</b>	28	37	56	43	1	7	5	7	3	0	187	
194			<b>N/A</b>	0	2	3	5	4	4	8	0	7	5	38	
195															
196			<b>COMMENTS:</b>	St. Helen	If the Catholic Board fails to maintain its education standards, it will be a future choice.										
197				St. Helen	Definitely move to Rosedale Public.										
198				St. Helen	It will be decided by my child if she wishes to attend Rosedale.										
199				St. Helen	Maybe yes, if there's no room at another school.										
200				St. Helen	My child was baptized Catholic & I expect my child to be raised & taught in a Catholic system.										
201				St. Helen	Within walking distance, just as good an education system.										
202				St. Helen	I would absolutely send my children to Rosedale school.										
203				St. Helen	My children would proceed to a Public high school following graduation from elementary school.										
204				St. Helen	Errol Rd. P.S. is only a few houses down the road. They would be able to walk to school & come home for lunch.										
205				St. Helen	Yes, the choice would be simple.										
206				St. Helen	I want my children to attend school within walking distance.										
207				St. Helen	If St. Helen's closes I would definitely pull her out of this money stricken system.										
208				St. Helen	The next closest school in my neighbourhood is Public & if need be my children will attend that school.										
209				St. Helen	We practice our faith in our home & church & would continue to do so if forced to pull our kids from Catholic system.										
210				St. Helen	Convenience & safety are my issues.										
211				St. Helen	I would hate to do it but I don't see much responsible governing or planning with the R.C. Board.										
212				St. Helen	Would give it consideration, especially lately with lots of dissatisfaction on Board decisions.										
213				St. Helen	We are the Catholics & want to give our daughter Catholic education & more discipline.										
214				St. Helen	I don't want them to attend a school where they don't have God as part of their every day life.										
215				St. Helen	We made a decision in the best interest of our children because of the Catholic values taught at St. Helen's school.										
216				St. Helen	We are practicing Catholics & our faith is very important to us.										
217				St. Helen	I feel the trustees & administration have lost sight of their mission.										
218				St. Helen	They are not working with all stakeholders & they are not putting best interest of children first.										
219				St. Helen	I would accept the challenge of teaching my children the sacraments outside of their school.										
220				St. Helen	I have 3 choices, Rosedale, Les Rapids, or St. Thomas.										
221				St. Helen	We can share spiritual values at home or at church.										
222				St. Helen	Absolutely not, I want my boys in a Catholic school.										
223				St. Helen	I don't want my kids jumping from school to school & bussed all over the city.										
224				St. Helen	I believe the trustees have lost sight of the significance to the system, I will choose the best interest of my child.										
225				St. Helen	If a full school with no obvious structural flaws is closed, it is the system that has left us.										
226				St. Helen	If my son is happy, moving him to a school where his friends are would make sense.										
227				St. Helen	I much prefer the Separate School system & would not send my child to Rosedale.										
228				St. Helen	I am worried that another Catholic school would be closed & she would be moved again.										
229				St. Helen	This would be a last resort after home schooling.										
230				St. Helen	Will do whatever it takes to maintain child walking to school.										
231				St. Helen	School board obviously is not thinking of the childrens well being, we do not need air conditioning for our school.										
232				St. Helen	Difficult to distinguish between the two systems because of dissent on church teachings, we would choose another option.										
233				St. Helen	I purchased my home with the option of them walking to school, I am not moving.										
234				St. Helen	If St. Helen's closes the Board is not facing their decision in the best interest of children but in best interest of the Board.										
235				St. Helen	My children will be moved to Rosedale school as of March 16/03 if decision is made to close St. Helen's.										
236				St. Helen	I will also make every attempt to convince other families to do the same.										
237				St. Helen	I love my faith & am proud of it and want my children to be brought up in the Catholic teachings.										
238				St. Helen	My son will be in grade 8 if the closure is 2003 - 2004 so he will have input.										
239				St. Helen	We do not want other students uprooted to make room for our children.										
240				St. Helen	We don't want our children moved repeatedly.										
241				St. Helen	We cannot over look the fact there are 2 Public schools in our neighbourhood within walking distance.										
242				St. Helen	We don't trust our Boards long term plan & are afraid our children will be moved again.										
243				St. Helen	I have yet to hear one voice concern from the Board on how a closure would have on spirituality.										
244				St. Helen	If the Board is not considering spirituality as a main concern, what's the difference between the Public & R.C. systems?										
245				St. Helen	As a public school teacher I have complete faith in my colleagues to deliver a sound educational program for my children.										
246				G. Hogan	I want my children to graduate at Hogan where they started and where we support .										
247				G. Hogan	If my child were presently at St. Helen then I would consider sending her to a nearby public school.										
248				G. Hogan	My children attend a Catholic school because of our faith.										
249				G. Hogan	I prefer that Catholicism play an integral part of my daughter's education.										
250				G. Hogan	If they were forced to take the bus to another school, the Public school would certainly be a consideration.										
251				G. Hogan	If the Board continues to close schools, I would not hesitate to switch to the Public system.										
252				G. Hogan	If it came down to crowded classrooms, loss of current programs, and if boundaries change requiring bussing-definitely.										
253				G. Hogan	We are a seven minute walk to a public school. I would not consider bussing for any length of time.										
254				G. Hogan	With the public school right next door, who would bus to another school?										
255				G. Hogan	Never. No comparison to a Catholic education.										







	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
422			S. Heart	It doesn't really matter what we think, you're still going to bus students.											
423			S. Heart	I feel children should be bussed.											
424			S. Heart	It would be terrible to lose the St. Helen's students to the Public system.											
425			S. Heart	Sacred Heart is already busy with busses.											
426			S. Heart	This is not family oriented as many children enjoy the option of family lunch.											
427			S. Heart	Are we not using the money for bussing that is supposedly saved for closing the schools?											
428			S. Heart	Would be ashamed to see children taking the bus when they can be walking & getting exercise.											
429			S. Heart	Many disadvantages to bussing, lack of exercise, less time for breakfast, social misconducts & bullying.											
430			S. Heart	There's no reason not to provide boundary scenarios immediately.											
431			S. Heart	Over 80 % of Sacred Heart students are bussed, so this is not an issue.											
432			S. Heart	Is it cost effective?											
433			S. Heart	Bussing can be a safer alternative to walking but not in favour of early or long rides.											
434			S. Heart	I believe safety is an issue, especially for younger students.											
435			S. Heart	I think the School Board should reduce bussing & fund only the school.											
436			S. Heart	More busses on the road would be required which means more drivers & more money to cover the busses.											
437			S. Heart	I can see many parents sending their children to the Public School & this will reroute taxes to the Public School system.											
438			S. Heart	Bussing is not an issue, the schools are close & each ride would be short.											
439			S. Heart	Being a parent whose kids have always been bussed, it sucks, especially when there are not enough seats for all the kids.											
440			S. Heart	Bussing is not as healthy for students. The increase in bussing costs would be less than the savings of closing St. Helen's.											
441			S. Heart	Children have to be on the bus longer when travelling to another school area.											
442			S. Heart	Bussing students takes them away from the community & isolates them.											
443			S. Heart	Schools that form part of the community are healthier for the child development.											
444			S. Heart	Additional bussing would only create more chaos for the bussing routes & times.											
445			S. Heart	The school day is long enough for learning, adding an additional hour or so is not fair to the children.											
446			S. Heart	95% of the St. Helen children walk & bussing these children is unnecessary.											
447			S. Heart	I would be concerned about double bumping for students who now are within walking distance.											
448			S. Heart	Bussing diminishes children's free time, any chance to "just be a kid" should not be minimized.											
449			S. Heart	Without any data it is difficult to make any sensible comments - how many children? What ages? How far? Etc.											
450			St.Michael	St. Helen's is walking distance for a lot of children & they would have to be bussed 45 min. to 1 hour to a different school.											
451			St.Michael	It makes no sense to increase bussing in a school community where a majority of students walk.											
452			St.Michael	We are only contributing to increased pollution & unhealthy lifestyle of our children.											
453			St.Michael	Only if you don't have to bus past another Separate School to get there.											
454			St.Michael	Being able to walk & to be in the immediate area of your school has several intangible bonuses.											
455			St.Michael	Bussing can be very hard on some students, especially the younger ones as they would arrive already tired to school.											
456			St.Michael	Although bussing is safe, you have to consider the time spent on the bus & the age of the child.											
457			St. Eliz.	From what I have read the school is at 95% capacity and most of those children walk.											
458			St. Eliz.	As long as the ride one way does not exceed thirty minutes in total bus riding time.											
459			St. Eliz.	Bussing doesn't hurt anyone. Children have been doing it for years.											
460			St. Eliz.	Bussing children to other Catholic Schools would be much more acceptable than sending them to Public School.											
461			St. Eliz.	Must be convenient for the students and families.											
462			St. Eliz.	Too long and uncomfortable rides would cause some children to enrol in closer Public Schools.											
463			St. Eliz.	No problems as long as the children are not on the bus for forty-five minutes at one time.											
464			St.Ben.Ch.	Unnecessary expense, waste of time. Unnecessary to put children on a bus when they can walk.											
465			St.Ben.Ch.	Children are on bus much too long & requires them to be up & ready for school too early.											
466			St.Ben.Ch.	I feel there is greater danger in bussing students than having them walk.											
467			St.Ben.Ch.	Schools should be within walking distance for Grades 1 to 8. People buy homes in school areas.											
468			St.Ben.Ch.	Bussing children is not healthy physically & emotionally.											
469			St.Ben.Ch.	Children should be getting fresh air & exercise by walking, not by bussing or riding in cars.											
470			St.Ben.Ch.	Small children should not spend up to an hour on the bus going to and from school.											
471			St.Ben.Ch.	No savings in dollars as bus contracts are expensive also.											
472			St.Ben.Ch.	Bussing takes time and children are separated from friends and neighbourhood. This is not acceptable.											
473			St.Ben.Ch.	How can bussing children be a savings?											
474			St.Pet.Ch.	Bussing is always the worst scenario unless it is absolutely necessary.											
475			St.Pet.Ch.	You need to try & keep as many schools open for kids to walk to school - important for the community.											
476			St.Pet.Ch.	Am particularly concerned about young children spending a long time on the bus instead of getting exercise walking.											
477			St.Pet.Ch.	The times would probably impact the parents work schedules.											
478			St.Pet.Ch.	Our grandchildren walk to St. Helen's, a better option than physically less demanding ride on the bus.											
479			St.Pet.Ch.	Bussing the children to another school increases the cost per student & some children are on the bus too long.											
480			St.Pet.Ch.	School children have been bussed for years & it should be accepted by the parents.											
481			St.Pet.Ch.	If the Board is trying to save why would you want to increase the cost of bussing.											
482			St.Pet.Ch.	Dr. Rankin pointed out in his letter that bussing is bad for your health.											
483			S.Heart.Ch.	I believe it's healthier to walk & more convenient for after school activities. I found bussing very frustrating.											
484			S.Heart.Ch.	I do not consider it in the best interest of young children to be bussed to other areas of the city.											
485			S.Heart.Ch.	I feel this is absolutely unnecessary since the majority of students at St. Helen's walk to school.											
486			S.Heart.Ch.	Bussing students who could walk to school operating at a near capacity does not make sense.											
487			S.Heart.Ch.	The additional time added to their school day that bussing requires can be difficult for younger children.											
488			S.Heart.Ch.	Bussing tends to make the child lazy, a lazy body helps develop a lazy mind.											
489			S.Heart.Ch.	To mix primary students with intermediate & senior students is poor.											
490			Staff	Families purchase homes near schools to avoid putting children on buses & the stress that it causes.											
491			Staff	It is regrettable but necessary action. Try & be as accommodating as possible.											
492			Staff	Try not to bus children past schools to get to other schools - boundary issue.											
493			Staff	Bussing is a poor option for many students. Often there are too many kids in too confined space for too long.											
494			Staff	My children have always been bussed - it is not a problem.											

496	4	<b><u>Do you feel that the children would be inconvenienced by not having the ability to walk to school, come home for lunch, or walk with you to and from school?</u></b>													
497															
498															
499			<b>St. Helen</b>	<b>G.Hogan</b>	<b>St. Anne</b>	<b>S. Heart</b>	<b>St.Michael</b>	<b>St.Eliz.</b>	<b>St.Ben.Ch.</b>	<b>St. Pet.Ch.</b>	<b>S.Heart Ch.</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		
500		<b>DISTRIBUTED</b>	184	170	200	178	20	20	20	20	20	20	852		
501		<b>RESPONDED</b>	119	56	77	73	12	15	17	10	12	5	396		
502															
503		<b>YES</b>	108	40	39	45	11	6	14	9	12	3	287		
504		<b>NO</b>	10	9	25	21	0	5	0	1	0	0	71		

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
505		N/A	1	7	13	7	1	4	3	0	0	2	38		
506															
507		<b>COMMENTS:</b>	St. Helen	We enjoy that time as an opportunity to get out as a family.											
508			St. Helen	No, don't think it would be an inconvenience, but I'd like my child to walk for exercise.											
509			St. Helen	This is why we moved to the area.											
510			St. Helen	My children enjoy being close to home for lunch & after school activities, like basketball.											
511			St. Helen	I will refuse to put my children on a bus to "commute" to school when they can easily walk to St. Helen's.											
512			St. Helen	This would be especially inconvenient for us, if one of our children got ill or injured at school.											
513			St. Helen	It will be a drastic change for many who have to leave early to catch a bus.											
514			St. Helen	Walking to and from school is part of their education, bussing has no positive impacts on kids.											
515			St. Helen	How do they get home after basketball or volleyball practices?											
516			St. Helen	If children are bussed to a school & get sick one of the parents must leave work to give child a ride home.											
517			St. Helen	Walking to and from school gives children a chance to relax & spend time conversing & bonding with each other.											
518			St. Helen	Yes, it's all a part of a child's life.											
519			St. Helen	Being able to walk builds independence in children & teaches them rules of the road.											
520			St. Helen	Fresh air & brisk walk is the healthier choice.											
521			St. Helen	Getting on a noisy bus first thing in the morning or after a long day is not what we wish for our children.											
522			St. Helen	They would once again be in the position of being "tied" to the bus schedule.											
523			St. Helen	Morning walking to school is one more physical exercise & nice pleasure.											
524			St. Helen	If my asthmatic son needs his meds I can be there immediately.											
525			St. Helen	The children are able to participate in after school activities & walk home with parents.											
526			St. Helen	I walk with my children to school & we enjoy it as a time to chat and pray together.											
527			St. Helen	Abuse and violence is usually done during recesses and after school.											
528			St. Helen	Coming home for lunch and walking with parents from school greatly minimizes the risks.											
529			St. Helen	Children of same families may have activities after school and one may have to stay longer than the other.											
530			St. Helen	My wife gave up the opportunity to work outside the home in order to be present with the kids at lunch & walk to school.											
531			St. Helen	It tears at the fabric of family and community.											
532			St. Helen	I cannot imagine the stress that you will add to the households by eliminating this option.											
533			St. Helen	You should survey children who have walked & been bussed and ask them if it's inconvenient.											
534			St. Helen	Walking is great exercise & it wakes you up before you get to school.											
535			St. Helen	Young children especially are intimidated by bussing unless they have someone to go with.											
536			St. Helen	Walking to school with mom is security, older children are nervous about bussing.											
537			St. Helen	It is hard enough to keep my child active, at least I know he has 40 minutes of exercise a day.											
538			St. Helen	Extra curricular activities are possible when walking, working parents.											
539			St. Helen	Children are used to this in a neighbourhood school. Unfortunate adults don't realize this.											
540			St. Helen	We have a system. It works for my children, myself & my employer.											
541			St. Helen	This is all social time & a chance to be away from learning so they can recharge and start over.											
542			St. Helen	Would you be inconvenienced if you had to take a bus to work everyday? I think so.											
543			St. Helen	These activities are all very important in the development of our children.											
544			St. Helen	Walking/biking is a time for our children to learn independence, responsibility and safety.											
545			St. Helen	Having a late bus is going to be an expensive venture considering there are games & practices all year for various sports.											
546			St. Helen	It's not just the inconvenience, the school is part of our community, a vital part of our way of life.											
547			St. Helen	Friends are important, single family homes count on											
548			St. Helen	What do you think? Do you really care?											
549			G. Hogan	Proximity to school is important to me. Bussing creates a whole new set of problems for parents.											
550			G. Hogan	I consider our school an integral part of my community.											
551			G. Hogan	Walking promotes getting to know the staff of the school, as well as other parents, neighbours & students.											
552			G. Hogan	I think the majority stay for lunch and a short bus ride shouldn't inconvenience many.											
553			G. Hogan	My children have benefited from attending a local school and have benefited from coming home for lunch.											
554			G. Hogan	Of course that's why people move to areas close to schools.											
555			G. Hogan	It's a change, but not sure it's an inconvenience.											
556			G. Hogan	Definitely, this would mean that our children would get less exercise on a daily basis.											
557			G. Hogan	Definitely a disadvantage, riding buses is very time consuming and boring for kids.											
558			G. Hogan	There is greater flexibility and responsibility when children are able to walk.											
559			G. Hogan	Not ideal, but certainly workable.											
560			G. Hogan	Definitely, we all fear of the recent plague of overweight children. Walking to school is a benefit.											
561			G. Hogan	Over time, older children wouldn't be inconvenienced perhaps.											
562			G. Hogan	It helps establish better family ties.											
563			G. Hogan	Many kids take a lunch and stay at school & this gives them a chance to hang out and play together.											
564			G. Hogan	My children have always been bussed and I think it will be an adjustment, but not a harmful one.											
565			G. Hogan	The sense of community is lost; Older children should learn the independence of coming home at lunch.											
566			G. Hogan	My children come home for lunch and walk to and from school.											
567			G. Hogan	How would my children get home if they stay after school for activities, etc.											
568			G. Hogan	Walking or riding bikes to school with friends and family is part of the total school experience for many children.											
569			G. Hogan	Some children need a break from the school environment by going home for lunch.											
570			G. Hogan	It is extra time spent together and the children enjoy it.											
571			G. Hogan	Because a lot of parents both work, I don't know how much it would occur.											
572			St. Anne	Children desperately need the daily exercise & chance to spend quality time with family members.											
573			St. Anne	Increased bussing & numbers of children having lunch at school requires additional supervision.											
574			St. Anne	I am a working parent & I am not home for lunch.											
575			St. Anne	Having experienced bussing & walking students, my kids preferred coming home for lunch & the walk provided exercise.											
576			St. Anne	Most kids eat lunch at school anyway.											
577			St. Anne	So long as the driver maintains order & assures good behaviour, bussing can be a good time for the kids.											
578			St. Anne	Staying at school for lunch just increases the bond between classmates & the bond to the school.											
579			St. Anne	Many parents spent their hard earned money to live in the neighbourhood precisely for those reasons.											
580			St. Anne	Since most students do not play at recess, this is the only exercise a student gets.											
581			St. Anne	Being close to home is always a good thing, being safe, lunches at home help kids & parents to bond & stay close.											
582			St. Anne	Children adapt well.											
583			St. Anne	In my opinion bussing is just as convenient.											
584			St. Anne	I would have preferred by children having this opportunity but would not want to deny it to others.											
585			St. Anne	Inconvenience arises when students participate in sports after school & therefore need a ride home.											
586			St. Anne	Yard supervision is rarely satisfactory, especially at St. Anne's where a high school student supervises lunch.											
587			St. Anne	I think eating lunch at school allows for a shorter lunch hour & a shorter day.											

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
588			S. Heart	Unfortunately, I think those days are long gone, most families have two parents working.											
589			S. Heart	They would be inconvenienced by not being able to walk to & from school.											
590			S. Heart	Yes, community schools should be a priority for society.											
591			S. Heart	Moving children to a new school may be very stressful to some children.											
592			S. Heart	Please refer to Sarnia This Week by Dr. Rankin.											
593			S. Heart	It is important for some parents & children to have them home for lunch.											
594			S. Heart	Not just an inconvenience but detriment to their being.											
595			S. Heart	They are some what inconvenienced but that is today's reality.											
596			S. Heart	My children are already not able to walk home at lunch due to time restraints & we live in the Sacred Heart area.											
597			S. Heart	Currently my child is bussed & alternate transportation is required with after school activities.											
598			S. Heart	They would need to adjust.											
599			S. Heart	I feel my children are safe with me taking them to and from school.											
600			S. Heart	There are many advantages, exercise, time with children & the security knowing they are not far from home.											
601			S. Heart	In most communities this is not realistic or possible.											
602			S. Heart	For some people this is very important, they have arranged their life style & housing choices to be able to do this.											
603			S. Heart	I feel kids spend enough time at school & are not supervised enough.											
604			S. Heart	I feel those that who choose to do sports must get alternate transportation.											
605			S. Heart	My children have difficulty with school & need the break to come home for lunch.											
606			S. Heart	This place is more a burden for supervision in the yard, more on custodial staff to clean, etc.											
607			S. Heart	Absolutely, potential increased cost for pre and post school day care.											
608			S. Heart	Children benefit from having hot lunches.											
609			S. Heart	Some will, some won't.											
610			S. Heart	I think this speaks to the whole notion of community & neighbourhood schools being eroded.											
611			S. Heart	The ability to participate in after school programs is made more difficult for the parents as we do the extra driving.											
612			St.Michael	These alternate schools are quite a distance from the St. Helen's district.											
613			St.Michael	Do you really think anyone will check no? How ridiculous.											
614			St.Michael	Yes, but they will get used to it in time.											
615			St.Michael	Children will be forced to make an unhealthy choice.											
616			St.Michael	Being close has many advantages & parents are willing to switch systems in order to maintain them.											
617			St.Michael	It takes away from being a part of your own community.											
618			St.Michael	I don't see having to eat lunch at school an inconvenience since children would have more time socialize with their friends.											
619			St. Eliz.	Regular bus children do not have that option now so why are we stressing about those who walk now?											
620			St. Eliz.	Parents need to get involved in the new school community.											
621			St. Eliz.	I'd love to have my children come home on their nutrition break and I'm able to walk them to and from school.											
622			St. Eliz.	This is a big part of our valuable family time and an important part of the children's day/life.											
623			St. Eliz.	A little inconvenience almost always comes with change and that is unfortunate.											
624			St.Ben.Ch.	This is an excellent time to stimulate bonding time with parents, siblings, & best friends.											
625			St.Ben.Ch.	Schools and homes close to school are definitely an asset to the children.											
626			St.Ben.Ch.	Walking with friends is important. Waiting for a bus and hoping to sit next to a friend is not right.											
627			St.Ben.Ch.	Are you so money oriented that the child's welfare has not been considered?											
628			St.Pet.Ch.	Being able to come home for lunch is the best for all.											
629			St.Pet.Ch.	It is not that it is an inconvenience, it is taking away a part of their community.											
630			St.Pet.Ch.	Especially in winter.											
631			St.Pet.Ch.	As a volunteer I walk and talk with children. We are a community.											
632			St.Pet.Ch.	Our son bought his house close to St. Helen's so that his children could walk to his house or ours & back.											
633			St.Pet.Ch.	As grandparents we would miss having contact with our grandchildren.											
634			St.Pet.Ch.	If a grandchild had an emergency we could be at St. Helen's in three minutes.											
635			St.Pet.Ch.	Ask the children that used to be walkers at other schools.. OLM, St. Joes, see what they think of the bussing.											
636			St.Pet.Ch.	If they want the exercise, they can walk home after school.											
637			S.Heart.Ch.	I feel blessed that our children were able to walk to school & come home for lunch.											
638			S.Heart.Ch.	It will be taking a lot away from them including loss of quality time with their friends.											
639			S.Heart.Ch.	The whole emotional adjustment will be hard for some children.											
640			S.Heart.Ch.	This is a huge change in the children's outlook on school & travelling back & forth is more than an inconvenience.											
641			S.Heart.Ch.	Walking for students is very important in the development of positive school spirit & parent involvement.											
642			S.Heart.Ch.	Yes, after school activities are not available to bus students.											
643			Staff	Impacts on extracurricular activities, practice schedules etc, however current reality at most schools.											
644			Staff	Older students who walk to & from school are getting some exercise compared to standing around a school yard.											
645															
646															
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654															
655	5			<b><u>Do you feel that the children will suffer in the loss of the school's community participation such as school programs that are centrally located and within walking distance that would impair their overall social and spiritual development?</u></b>											
656															
657															
658				<u>St. Helen</u>	<u>G.Hogan</u>	<u>St. Anne</u>	<u>S. Heart</u>	<u>St.Michael</u>	<u>St.Eliz.</u>	<u>St.Ben.Ch.</u>	<u>St. Pet.Ch.</u>	<u>S.Heart Ch.</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	
659			DISTRIBUTED	184	170	200	178	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	852
660			RESPONDED	119	56	77	73	12	15	17	10	12	5	396	
661															
662			YES	110	37	43	46	11	5	15	9	9	1	286	
663			NO	8	13	23	17	1	7	1	1	1	1	73	
664			N/A	1	6	11	10	0	3	1	0	2	3	37	
665															
666			COMMENTS:	St. Helen	They are independent if they can walk & they can attend to things that are important to them.										
667				St. Helen	Her Girl Guides, friends.										
668				St. Helen	If they are bussed they will not be able to partake in after school events.										
669				St. Helen	Of course, that's one of the best parts of going to school, developing a close school community.										
670				St. Helen	My kids do not want to leave this school.										

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
671			St. Helen	A larger school creates many outdoor problems, a smaller school gives some kids a chance to be on school teams, etc.											
672			St. Helen	Friendships especially, also YMCA after school programs located at Rosedale.											
673			St. Helen	The school playground is a place to meet with their friends after school & on weekends.											
674			St. Helen	Closing of the school would not allow my children to do certain activities they now enjoy.											
675			St. Helen	The children may have to sever ties with friends from the neighbouring community.											
676			St. Helen	Their new school peers would come from different neighbourhoods making it inconvenient to spend extra time with them.											
677			St. Helen	It is already a concern that our children spend too much time communicating with their peers through internet chat rooms.											
678			St. Helen	Main objection to bussing is the Board will not guarantee that the move to another Catholic school could be changed again.											
679			St. Helen	They put a lot of effort into the garden project, only to see it lost.											
680			St. Helen	My daughter has known many children since J.K. to establish herself at a new place she will need time & spiritual power.											
681			St. Helen	They lose the continuity of the community of St. Helen's and the after hours of sports.											
682			St. Helen	Due to the warmth, social, spiritual development & feeling of community I a non Catholic was brought to the Catholic faith.											
683			St. Helen	I am very disheartened by the Catholic school's lack & withdrawal of community service.											
684			St. Helen	Many children would not be able to attend after school programs if they had to be picked up.											
685			St. Helen	There are implications for working parents requiring before & after school care outside of their neighbourhoods.											
686			St. Helen	No spiritually. Revolving door education is not good for child or family.											
687			St. Helen	They are upset about this closing, all their friends in the neighbourhood are effected as well.											
688			St. Helen	All four of my daughters have participated in after school programs where they were able to walk home with their friends.											
689			St. Helen	For any family that chooses to leave the Catholic school system, there will truly be children that suffer.											
690			St. Helen	Being with your friends, having the priest & church fellowship is very special & doesn't compare to just attending church.											
691			St. Helen	Whichever route our family takes, there will be more negative than positive results.											
692			St. Helen	When the boundaries are changed, then the children's social & spiritual development will definitely be impaired.											
693			St. Helen	It will be difficult for our parish priest who will probably have to set up programs for kids in the Public board.											
694			St. Helen	Guides is no longer held at St. Helen's. Why?											
695			St. Helen	My children would no longer get their spiritual religion at school. This could effect their development later.											
696			St. Helen	Yes, especially with the message we are sending them, money is more important than your needs. Not Christian.											
697			St. Helen	St. Helen's school offers an Instrumental music program, sports teams & cross country after school.											
698			St. Helen	Many parents will not have the privilege of allowing their kids to support these programs due to the safety of their lives.											
699			St. Helen	Community programs such as neighbourhood clean up gives our children a chance to get to know a variety of people.											
700			St. Helen	Until the past couple of years my children couldn't participate due to our distance from St. Helen's.											
701			St. Helen	How does taking away their neighbourhood school improve their social & spiritual development?											
702			St. Helen	The two local Public schools will make up for that.											
703			St. Helen	Our current neighbourhood atmosphere & physical closeness to homes greatly enhances the school community.											
704			St. Helen	Loss of community is hastened by making after hours use of schools so costly. (egg. Guides, hoops, basketball)											
705			St. Helen	Your pamphlet advocates school community & tears it down by doing this.											
706			St. Helen	Non profit organizations such as Girl Guides & Brownies have been pulled this year.											
707			St. Helen	These groups built self esteem and self worth within our school children.											
708			St. Helen	Sounds like the other schools will be crowded with more pressure on teachers.											
709			St. Helen	What a ridiculous question. We have a thriving very involved & committed school community.											
710			St. Helen	We have a great ability to fundraise for school necessities. This will all be destroyed with the dissolution of our community.											
711			G. Hogan	Splitting classes & sending these children off into many different schools effects their socialization.											
712			G. Hogan	Large part of these students will be bussed & that may interfere with their ability to participate in after school activities.											
713			G. Hogan	Any time you break up a community there is going to be adverse effects.											
714			G. Hogan	It will take some students time to adjust in a new educational environment as well.											
715			G. Hogan	Sacred Heart, G A Hogan & St. Anne are quite close together.											
716			G. Hogan	It would depend greatly on parents availability on transportation, car pooling, etc.											
717			G. Hogan	Children should attend school in their own neighbourhood whenever possible.											
718			G. Hogan	Don't see how this is an issue unless you mean after school activities.											
719			G. Hogan	Playgrounds are a centre of the community.											
720			G. Hogan	Children are very resilient and will still participate as long as their parents are able to help with the transportation.											
721			G. Hogan	Children's well being should not be impacted, the children come first not what's good for the board.											
722			G. Hogan	I think this could all be managed when a child takes the bus. Many children have been bussed even 25 years ago.											
723			G. Hogan	Social & spiritual developments are personal aspirations regardless of where you reside.											
724			G. Hogan	More effort needs to be given in preparing & taking advantage of programs but overall it should be okay for those involved.											
725			G. Hogan	Do the children that are currently bussed suffer -- no.											
726			G. Hogan	Classmates will be split up.											
727			G. Hogan	Walking, bussing distance has no effect on social, spiritual development.											
728			G. Hogan	School is not just about academics, it's about being part of a small community working together.											
729			G. Hogan	Makes school competition for teams more difficult and programs not as feasible.											
730			St. Anne	The community neighbourhood would be split up because no one school will be able to accommodate the entire school.											
731			St. Anne	Absolutely, the greater the numbers the more difficult it becomes to be an individualist.											
732			St. Anne	Distance from programs would definitely inhibit participation.											
733			St. Anne	We are also in the bussing zones & our children are not suffering.											
734			St. Anne	Has there ever been any research done on the children that have been forced to change schools?											
735			St. Anne	All St. Anne's students face this difficulty & I feel it's always been an issue for any students being bussed.											
736			St. Anne	Any new kids immediately become part of the new school community.											
737			St. Anne	For all kids, when they are split up from their friends, this is an impact on their school development.											
738			St. Anne	Many parents cannot drive after school due to work commitments. Kids will not be able to participate in programs.											
739			St. Anne	We drive our son to St. Anne's but feel very disconnected & would love to have a school within walking distance.											
740			St. Anne	There will be a slight period of readjustment but all the receiving schools have excellent reputations so kids will adjust.											
741			St. Anne	Just the fact that home is a safe haven & if it's within walking distance that's a comfort.											
742			St. Anne	This is the biggest concern. Most parents would really sacrifice some computer time & other frills for spiritual well being.											
743			St. Anne	It's much more convenient to walk to & from school activities, sport practices, etc.											
744			St. Anne	You can not keep switching kids from school to school & expect them to be part of a community.											
745			St. Anne	Any disruption to students is bad.											
746			S. Heart	With all the working parents these days after school activities far from home are even more inconvenient.											
747			S. Heart	Perhaps initially but eventually they would be assimilated into new school community.											
748			S. Heart	They are already part of Sacred Heart church, going to Sacred Heart school is a natural choice.											
749			S. Heart	Community schools are key to rooting and centering of children in this fast paced world.											
750			S. Heart	It's difficult for some kids to be selected for school teams, public speaking, etc., never mind adding another 302 kids.											
751			S. Heart	I feel it is important for children to be close to & involved in their school community.											
752			S. Heart	You not only close the school but the communities involvement with the school as well.											
753			S. Heart	If this question means will some children miss out on after school activities because of transportation problems, then yes.											

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
754			S. Heart	Parents are usually willing to car pool & we are not looking at long distances.											
755			S. Heart	Children that attend a common school & live in a common neighbourhood have a social & spiritual bond.											
756			S. Heart	Many parents work & cannot pick their children up.											
757			S. Heart	Strong communities make strong family plus strong children to continue to grow within that community.											
758			S. Heart	Children could attend the programs offered by the other schools but they may not be able to be with their friends.											
759			S. Heart	The social benefits of being part of school teams is an important experience which may be lost.											
760			S. Heart	Children adapt to new environments & I feel Sacred Heart has great community participation.											
761			S. Heart	A loss of school community can have detrimental effects on social, emotional aspects of their childhood.											
762			S. Heart	School days are stressful enough at times without all this moving.											
763			S. Heart	Parents are losing faith in the Catholic School system which the children are feeling.											
764			S. Heart	This is a very leading question but it will impact their emotional growth & their feelings of security.											
765			S. Heart	Sacred Heart offers the finest programs & will accept these children with open arms.											
766			S. Heart	What percentage age of the school population walks?											
767			S. Heart	How much is this school used outside of school hours?											
768			S. Heart	Our children are able to try out for team sports after school & can still walk home.											
769			St.Michael	Any time you move children from a set routine is disruptive.											
770			St.Michael	If children are bussed outside their community they will be less likely to participate in after school activity programs.											
771			St.Michael	Parents would be less likely to encourage involvement in after school programs if they have to drive them further.											
772			St.Michael	As our school populations increase many of our children & teachers are lost in the numbers.											
773			St.Michael	A sense of community is fostered to a large extent by close proximity.											
774			St.Michael	Parents would be less inclined to volunteer or take part in special event evenings.											
775			St.Michael	A child may not be able to participate in after school activities because a parent may not be able to pick him/her up.											
776			St.Michael	Shutting St. Helen's down would be like pulling the rug from under them.											
777			St. Eliz.	Any programs that don't run within the bussing schedule often have volunteers that could arrange for transportation, etc.											
778			St. Eliz.	Bussing would not be convenient for after school activities, such as youth group.											
779			St. Eliz.	You would also miss out on parents social communication meetings before and after school.											
780			St. Eliz.	More so for spiritual because outlets for spiritual growth are so few and far between in today's society.											
781			St. Eliz.	I'm sure St.Anne, Hogan & Sacred Heart have maintained them throughout the years.											
782			St. Eliz.	Numerous children do not live close to their school. Every family adapts to their situation.											
783			St. Eliz.	Get involved in their new school and do not allow such a move to impair spiritual development.											
784			St. Eliz.	It's been my experience that general public don't attend school programs or functions, only parents & grandparents do.											
785			St. Eliz.	Regardless of where your child attends, you're going to become part of that schools community.											
786			St.Ben.Ch.	If the school board has to use 2 busses to accommodate the students after school this'll cost the taxpayer more money.											
787			St.Ben.Ch.	The close community spirit is lost when children are spread throughout other communities programs, sports, etc.											
788			St.Ben.Ch.	Some children may not be able to participate due to lack of accessibility.											
789			St.Ben.Ch.	I feel all these things are necessary for the child's welfare.											
790			St.Ben.Ch.	Children will go to the Public Schools & a lot of families will lose their faith & not bring up their children in the Catholic faith.											
791			St.Ben.Ch.	Children will have to go to unfamiliar areas and be the unknowns of the area, possible social differences.											
792			St.Ben.Ch.	Parents get to know one another & create school community, this effects children.											
793			St.Ben.Ch.	As a high school student I travel by car & felt I lost both socially & spiritually in the school community.											
794			St.Ben.Ch.	If school programs are lost, children will lose interest & not participate in other school programs.											
795			St.Pet.Ch.	They will participate in programs in whatever school they will attend.											
796			St.Pet.Ch.	Yes because St. Helen was noted for such a strong sense of community & spirit.											
797			St.Pet.Ch.	Bus leaves at certain times & students can no longer participate in certain sports or after school events.											
798			St.Pet.Ch.	Closing another Catholic school would certainly influence marginal Catholics & thus affect church attendance.											
799			St.Pet.Ch.	They will miss, the feeling for their own neighbourhood & playing with the kids in their community & church.											
800			St.Pet.Ch.	Gradually the Catholic church will be gone & this will be part of the reason.											
801			S.Heart.Ch.	I believe the schools should be a community centre for after school programs & community events.											
802			S.Heart.Ch.	This centralization takes away from the community feeling.											
803			S.Heart.Ch.	Your action will split the cohesion totally.											
804			S.Heart.Ch.	They all need community participation & acceptance in any social & spiritual development.											
805			Staff	No attached parish. Other schools in same basic geographic area.											
806			Staff	I can't think of any programs that are offered at St. Helen that will be affected.											
807															
808															
809															
810															
811															
812															
813															
814															
815															
816															
817	6			<b><u>Do you feel that the community would lose its economic viability and that property values would decrease should St. Helen School be closed?</u></b>											
818															
819															
820					<b><u>St. Helen</u></b>	<b><u>G.Hogan</u></b>	<b><u>St. Anne</u></b>	<b><u>S. Heart</u></b>	<b><u>St.Michael</u></b>	<b><u>St.Eliz.</u></b>	<b><u>St.Ben.Ch.</u></b>	<b><u>St. Pet.Ch.</u></b>	<b><u>S.Heart Ch.</u></b>	<b><u>Staff</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
821			<b>DISTRIBUTED</b>	184	170	200	178	20	20	20	20	10	20	20	852
822			<b>RESPONDED</b>	119	56	77	73	12	15	17	10	12	5	396	
823															
824			<b>YES</b>	104	31	42	36	8	7	12	6	10	2	258	
825			<b>NO</b>	7	16	25	22	2	4	2	3	0	0	81	
826			<b>N/A</b>	8	9	10	15	2	4	3	1	2	3	57	
827															
828			<b>COMMENTS:</b>	St. Helen	Most families will choose their homes based on the school being of walking distance for the children.										
829			St. Helen	Neighbourhood schools are a factor in real estate sales & choices. Closure will most likely depress our property values.											
830			St. Helen	Very much so. It is something I have discussed with realtors. It adds financial injury to this emotional injury.											
831			St. Helen	People raising children want schools close to where they locate their home to ensure the safety of their kids.											
832			St. Helen	I'm sure the Board is aware of the property value of the land that St. Helen's sits on.											
833			St. Helen	Since I moved here four years ago, 5 other families with children have moved on to the street.											
834			St. Helen	You are taking away the reason a lot of people moved into this area.											
835			St. Helen	A lot of real estate agents use the pitch that St. Helen's is in the vicinity.											
836			St. Helen	We bought our home because we wanted our children to be close enough to walk to school.											



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
920			St.Ben.Ch.	Most families buy homes close to schools so that children do not have to ride busses.											
921			St.Ben.Ch.	I really feel that a community loses its economic viability if the school closes.											
922			St.Ben.Ch.	The land that St. Helen's sits on, 9 1/2 acres is prime land.											
923			St.Pet.Ch.	Parents of children will buy property more often if there is a school close by.											
924			St.Pet.Ch.	Because there is a public school next door, their enrolment will go up.											
925			St.Pet.Ch.	This area has always been popular because of its proximity to St. Helen School.											
926			St.Pet.Ch.	Closure of school would make living here less desirable for young families.											
927			St.Pet.Ch.	Catholic buyers would consider other areas. Public school buyers might make up the difference.											
928			St.Pet.Ch.	People see it more of an attack on the spirit of the community than an economic one.											
929			St.Pet.Ch.	Do not think that property values would be affected what ever. Worked in real estate some years ago.											
930			St.Pet.Ch.	Definitely a big factor.											
931			S.Heart.Ch.	St. Helen's area has good family houses & the proximity of a school in walking distance is a good selling feature.											
932			S.Heart.Ch.	You will profit by selling the land for home development.											
933			S.Heart.Ch.	If the school sits idle and boarded up it will definitely lower property values.											
934			S.Heart.Ch.	Parents of young children would be less inclined to buy homes because of the lack of an accessible school.											
935			S.Heart.Ch.	Families with young children pay special attention to the availability of good local schools when purchasing a home.											
936			Staff	If the school becomes an eye sore, yes. If the property becomes part of the new bldg. venture off Rosedale, no.											
937			Staff	On a temporary basis... St. Helen has been a drawing card for this area.											

938

939 **If St. Helen School remains open, the Board will be required to maintain and operate more floor space than they receive funding for. This will have the effect of spreading the resources more thinly and will hinder the opportunities to effectively operate and maintain the schools across the system at large. It is estimated that if St. Helen School is closed the Board would save about \$100,000 in operating expenses annually and also forego spending for capital improvements. These savings would then be used to improve the opportunities to serve all students in the entire school district. Does it concern you that fewer resources would be available for all pupils if St. Helen School does not close?**

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		St. Helen	G.Hogan	St. Anne	S. Heart	St.Michael	St.Eliz.	St.Ben.Ch.	St. Pet.Ch.	S.Heart Ch.	Staff	TOTAL
946												
947	DISTRIBUTED	184	170	200	178	20	20	20	20	20	20	852
948	RESPONDED	119	56	77	73	12	15	17	10	12	5	396
949												
950	YES	34	26	34	39	7	10	6	2	2	4	164
951	NO	81	21	31	18	5	1	5	8	5	0	175
952	N/A	4	9	12	16	0	4	6	0	5	1	57

953

954 **COMMENTS:** St. Helen If our school is full, how can that be?

955 St. Helen We would rather have less people on the School Board. We could save on their salaries & benefits.

956 St. Helen St. Helen's has been a part of this community for many years & the students have enjoyed their programs & learning.

957 St. Helen Does closing schools significantly surpass the resulting emotional, social & spiritual economic consequences of families?

958 St. Helen Would be willing to pay for any extra supplies needed.

959 St. Helen Not if school class sizes increase therefore teachers will have less time to focus on individual students.

960 St. Helen \$100,000 is peanuts in a huge budget.

961 St. Helen The Catholic School Board will lose money to the Public system for each child that leaves the Catholic system.

962 St. Helen We want the best possible education for our system.

963 St. Helen Concerns me Board should not have bought & sold land at a loss or built new schools in an area where there is no housing.

964 St. Helen I think you should re look at your assessments.

965 St. Helen If our children move to another school, wouldn't it effect the cost of running those schools & create crowded classrooms?

966 St. Helen We are being misinformed about this issue & have suspicions about numbers being quoted.

967 St. Helen Over crowded schools, significant travel time out weigh potential gains in "resources".

968 St. Helen Closing schools that are 95% full, no bussing requirement is not the answer. Pressure the government.

969 St. Helen \$100,000 is 1/10 of a percent of your total budget.

970 St. Helen Kids in the other schools will never experience an improvement in their education as a result in this cost cutting measure.

971 St. Helen Perhaps the school near Modeland Road were ill conceived & you are asking the St. Helen's community to pay the price.

972 St. Helen I believe capital improvements are not funded from operating expenses, but payments from the Ministry for Capital projects?

973 St. Helen All the Catholic schools in Sarnia need to be reviewed as closing St. Helen's isn't going to save much.

974 St. Helen You're closing the wrong school, close St. Anne's.

975 St. Helen The parents will find a way to make up for the fewer resources.

976 St. Helen Cry me a river.

977 St. Helen The term is called "Fund Raise", to assist in raising needed monies.

978 St. Helen This is conjecture, no one knows what the feasibility funding from the Government report will contain.

979 St. Helen The so called savings would then have to be used for bussing 300 children on a daily basis.

980 St. Helen If schools need to be closed, close the schools where there aren't enough pupils to justify their existence.

981 St. Helen The children's social & spiritual development is being over looked. Dollars are not the only issue here.

982 St. Helen Resources are already unavailable to students if they are going to be housed in over crowded schools.

983 St. Helen As long as all the schools face the same thing.

984 St. Helen I'm willing to pay more out of pocket or even lay off a Board member or two.

985 St. Helen St. Helen does not bear the responsibility for this.

986 St. Helen "Goodwill" is on the books yet it is not a tangible asset but it surely has value.

987 St. Helen Resources are already low. There are other schools with less capacity that should be looked at first.

988 St. Helen Putting 283 kids on busses & filling three other schools does not sound like saving funds in the end to me.

989 St. Helen Capital does not come directly out of the Boards annual expenses.

990 St. Helen The Board may save \$100,000/yr., but forecasts show about 100 students will leave the system or \$700,000/yr lost.

991 St. Helen In addition \$150,000/yr bus leasing costs, \$300,000 to \$400,000 for new portables.

992 St. Helen If I can not afford my garage, should I spend more money to knock it down to plant grass seed? I don't think so.

993 St. Helen Catholic board is at risk of losing funding they expect to receive if part of St. Helen's population migrates to Public board.

994 St. Helen Don't waste money on luxury when our children's education is on the line.

995 St. Helen For years our school has rec'd exceptional funding from the Parent Council that have provided us with many items.

996 St. Helen The Board makes poor spending decisions. \$100,000 could be cut easily, try giving up your Palm Pilots.

997 St. Helen I see so much waste & silly spending that I'm not convinced these savings would benefit the students or system at large.

998 St. Helen I do not believe the above statement. Advertising expense \$60,000, therefore only \$40,000 would be saved.

999 St. Helen If 1/3 Catholic schools in Sarnia would be closed maybe Board should cut own budget too.

1000 St. Helen I would like to be advised of the improved opportunities that have fallen upon the system at large by the closure of schools.

1001 St. Helen Let individual schools participate in fund raising activities to help support the resource needs.

1002 St. Helen They will lose tax dollars if families choose Public system over Catholic.







	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1169			S.Heart.Ch.	Fewer resources are already extended to students on such things as the hiring of an expensive Public Relations Person.											
1170			S.Heart.Ch.	If board members would apologize for past foolish building then maybe Catholic rate payers would be more open.											
1171			S.Heart.Ch.	This is an emotional blackmail statement. Sarnia Catholic parents have always found a way to augment programs.											
1172			Staff	I find this comment hard to believe.											
1173			Staff	If St. Helen does not close, it would appear that another school must to maintain quality education throughout the system.											
1174			Staff	I understand this is a Board wide problem & I think people are trying hard to make the right decisions.											
1175			Staff	There have been too many cuts now to allow further reduction of resources elsewhere.											
1176															
1177	8	<b>Please feel free to make any additional comments that you wish.</b>													
1178															
1179					<u>St. Helen</u>	<u>G.Hogan</u>	<u>St. Anne</u>	<u>S. Heart</u>	<u>St.Michael</u>	<u>St.Eliz.</u>	<u>St.Ben.Ch.</u>	<u>St. Pet.Ch.</u>	<u>S.Heart Ch.</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1180		<b>DISTRIBUTED</b>		184	170	200	178	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	852
1181		<b>RESPONDED</b>		119	56	77	73	12	15	17	10	12	5	396	
1182															
1183		<b>COMMENTS:</b>	St. Helen	No newly refurbished school will bring back what the children are losing.											
1184			St. Helen	With all the development taking place in the north end, I believe it would be a big mistake deciding to close the school.											
1185			St. Helen	By changing the stability of the school, we are only going to create more problems with the growing youth in our society.											
1186			St. Helen	Less children in Catholic schools means less Gov't. revenue, plain & simple.											
1187			St. Helen	We are creating a so so education for our children instead of the quality it once was stated to be.											
1188			St. Helen	I feel this is a useless piece of information because even in the rare case my responses are read, they won't be considered.											
1189			St. Helen	Do not waste my time unless you are willing to work on behalf of the children.											
1190			St. Helen	If the School Board closes St. Helen's I will not vote for any of the existing trustees again.											
1191			St. Helen	I feel the School Board has already made up their mind & this is a waste of time. Hopefully you will prove me wrong.											
1192			St. Helen	School is an extended family of friends to my children. It has become a safe ground with daily routine & programs.											
1193			St. Helen	With every school closure the Board seems to change the closing criteria to fit their needs, not the children.											
1194			St. Helen	It is time to stop the closures & take time to evaluate the system. The system is failing our children.											
1195			St. Helen	Innovative ideas are necessary to keep doors open and studies that would be more productive & less divisive.											
1196			St. Helen	The emotional, physical, mental anguish these children will go through is not worth sacrificing.											
1197			St. Helen	By closing our school you will be hurting neighbourhoods, communities, friends, families & mostly the Board.											
1198			St. Helen	I wish the trustees would listen with their hearts & support keeping St. Helen's open.											
1199			St. Helen	God be with you when you go to sleep at night.											
1200			St. Helen	Every classroom will be overcrowded, teacher aids will have to be hired to help with the larger class sizes.											
1201			St. Helen	Every request ever made of the families of St. Helen's school has been met with unqualified success.											
1202			St. Helen	Rather than telling this community you are taking their school away, why not ask what the community can do to save it.											
1203			St. Helen	I believe withdrawing students to the Public system is the only way closings will be stopped.											
1204			St. Helen	Hard to attract new customers with negative publicity & to retain students with narrow minded solutions.											
1205			St. Helen	As a Catholic family in St. Helen's community I am appalled at what the Board calls criteria for the reviewed process.											
1206			St. Helen	Before we put blame on Queen's Park, perhaps we should review how our School Board is managing our dollars.											
1207			St. Helen	The current funding formula provides additional funds for schools troubled by over crowding.											
1208			St. Helen	We find it unacceptable that the School Board is creating that very condition to receive additional funding.											
1209			St. Helen	How far has the enrolment been projected & what happens when the population increases again?											
1210			St. Helen	It's hard to reopen a school that no longer exists. I'm sure there are many problems that arise when building a new school.											
1211			St. Helen	Fed up with current School Board. Losing total faith & trust.											
1212			St. Helen	The Board & the unions must get creative & reduce costs without closures.											
1213			St. Helen	You & I both know the more Catholic schools are being closed the more people have switched to Public.											
1214			St. Helen	Why do we have a Board if they refuse to listen to anything the people selecting them have to say?											
1215			St. Helen	The Ministry of Education statistics prove that our enrolment is not declining at the projected rate the Board says.											
1216			St. Helen	Sarnia's population is increasing not decreasing. Enrolment is not declining in Sarnia's north end schools.											
1217			St. Helen	Sacred Heart Parish raised approx. \$70,000 for World Youth Day alone, imagine the power of the entire Catholic system.											
1218			St. Helen	We need to encourage people to seek Catholic education with all its benefits, values & sense of community.											
1219			St. Helen	This school is staffed by dedicated teachers, who spend their own time & money to teach these children.											
1220			St. Helen	Even the custodian coaches teams on his off time, all unpaid.											
1221			St. Helen	If St. Helen's closes we will continue to attend Sacred Heart but will probably become Public School supporters.											
1222			St. Helen	We feel the Board is acting on a financial agenda. We are acting on our concern for our childrens well being & education.											
1223			St. Helen	The trustees must be informed. The fate of our school is in their hands.											
1224			St. Helen	All libraries, music programs, etc. are going to suffer at the other schools in order to make room for the St. Helen's kids.											
1225			St. Helen	If the Board cannot budget for and administer costs & expenses, then it needs to look at other ideas/areas.											
1226			St. Helen	Are we still trying to pay for past Board mistakes?											
1227			St. Helen	The children worked hard building their garden project. Shame on you for considering this school for closing.											
1228			St. Helen	Why don't you keep the school open & sell some of the land, that way everyone wins.											
1229			St. Helen	\$100,000 in the context of taxes seems like an amount we could swallow, \$200 per house.											
1230			St. Helen	My oldest is very shy at making new friends & I'm very concerned they will not adjust well.											
1231			St. Helen	We're going to have tired, over crowded students who won't be able to participate in school community projects.											
1232			St. Helen	Decisions like these only lead to confusion, mistrust trust & makes one wonder if the Public school system is an alternative.											
1233			St. Helen	If all St. Helen needs is air conditioning I'm sure the parents could raise the money, unless the land is already sold.											
1234			St. Helen	Do the Boards projections include persons converting to the Catholic faith & persons who will be raising children Catholic?											
1235			St. Helen	Since when did Canada become a third world country that it can't afford to keep full schools open?											
1236			St. Helen	The accommodation review process is a farce.											
1237			St. Helen	If the trustees would like to obtain Public office in future elections, they would be wise to listen to their electorate.											
1238			St. Helen	Do not allow the Administration of the Board to close schools as a means of cost reduction. It would be unacceptable.											
1239			St. Helen	It could be we will see an amalgamation of the Separate & Public school boards sooner than we think.											
1240			St. Helen	We have lost faith in the credibility & integrity of the Board. There must be open door accountability & communication.											
1241			St. Helen	My kids will continue to walk & receive a Catholic upbringing from their parents & receive the sacraments from the Church.											
1242			St. Helen	With all the closures that are taking place, you are destroying the security we felt with the Catholic school system.											
1243			St. Helen	A low budget private school runs in the basement of the church often produces superior scholars due to a good teacher.											
1244			St. Helen	I think it's time you were out in the world to see what is happening.											
1245			St. Helen	Look at Fr. Gerald LaBelle in Corunna sitting empty soon after the new school in Corunna was built.											
1246			St. Helen	This survey is not data driven & plays on the emotions & feelings of parents.											
1247			St. Helen	There is much speculation that your reasons for targeting our school is due to the property value.											
1248			St. Helen	If sold, I would guess 20 houses built at \$160,000 to \$180,000 would be a great help in balancing the budget.											
1249			St. Helen	I have no confidence in the Board that you are "lighting the way" for our children.											
1250			St. Helen	I would be willing to move close to a Catholic school but have no guarantee the next school they attend would remain open.											
1251			St. Helen	The cost incurred by revamping the building in Wallaceburg was another careless, mismanagement of money.											







**ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

September 6th, 2002

Dear Catholic School Supporters,

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board is in the process of reviewing the enrolment, facilities, educational programs and finances of St. Helen School, Sarnia for possible closure by September 2003. The committee members who are responsible for this review intend to submit their report to the Board before the end of November 2002.

The provincial government has placed most school boards, including our Board, in a difficult financial position with respect to school accommodations. With the continued decline of student numbers for September 2003, the Board projects that there will be space available at Gregory A. Hogan, St. Anne and Sacred Heart schools to accommodate all the students from St. Helen School.

With the possible closure of St. Helen School, the Board anticipates savings in the expenditure categories of plant operation, maintenance, capital projects, principal, secretarial, office and library.

In an effort to get as much input as possible from Catholic School supporters who might have an interest in the proposed closure of St. Helen School, a survey is attached for your response. This survey is to be completed by either parent with children in Catholic schools or by Catholic school supporters who have no children in school.

Please understand that no decisions have been made regarding the closure of St. Helen School, and your views are needed. Please return your completed survey, in the envelope provided, to your child's school as soon as possible but **not later than Thursday, September 19th, 2002.**

Thank you for your attention and interest in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Dan Barry  
Chairperson, Accommodation Review Committee

## St Helen School Accommodation Review Committee Survey

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School Child Attends: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Parish Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ *Please respond only to the questions that pertain to you.*

1. Please check the appropriate information regarding you.

I am a (Check one only)

- (a) parent/guardian with children in St Helen School
- (b) parent/guardian with children in other Catholic schools in Sarnia
- (c) parent/guardian with children in other Catholic schools outside of Sarnia
- (d) other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

2a. If the School Board decides to close St Helen School, students would likely be moved to St Anne School, Gregory A. Hogan School or Sacred Heart School. Is this acceptable to you?

- YES  NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2b. Would you consider sending your child to a nearby public school?

- YES  NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. If the School Board decides to close St Helen School, many of the students now attending St Helen School would require bussing.

Your comments on bussing students to the other schools are requested.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you feel that the children would be inconvenienced by not having the ability to walk to school, come home for lunch, or walk with you to and from school?

- YES  NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you feel that the children will suffer in the loss of the school's community participation such as school programs that are centrally located and within walking that would impair their overall social and spiritual development?

- YES  NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you feel that the community would lose its economic viability and that property values would decrease should St Helen School be closed?

YES

NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. If St Helen School remains open, the Board will be required to maintain and operate more floor space than they receive funding for. This will have the effect of spreading the resources more thinly and will hinder the opportunities to effectively operate and maintain the schools across the system at large. It is estimated that if St Helen School is closed the Board could save at least \$100,000 in operating expenses annually and also forego spending for capital improvements. These savings would then be used to improve the opportunities to serve all students in the entire school district. Does it concern you that fewer resources would be available for all pupils if St Helen School does not close?

YES

NO

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Please feel free to make any additional comments that you wish.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Please return it in the envelope provided to your child's school **as soon as possible but not later than Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2002.**