

# **W.O. Mitchell Parents Meeting**

To discuss the OCDSB's plan to remove  
Grades 7 and 8 from our school

15 February 2012

Real Canadian Superstore  
760 Eagleson Rd  
Kanata

## **Did you know?**

**The Ottawa Carleton District School Board is on the verge of removing the grade 7 and 8 students from W.O. Mitchell and sending them to an over-crowded and under-resourced middle school at Glen Cairn.**

**The OCDSB plan would see 530 grade 7 and 8 students crammed into a facility designed to house 334.**

**What can we as parents do to stop this?**

# **BACKGROUND**

**•The Kanata South Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) worked for nearly two years to develop solutions to the overcrowding situation in some of our schools.**

**•On 31 January 2012 the OCDSB ignored our and ARC's concerns and tabled a proposal that calls for a grade 7/8 middle school at Glen Cairn - all grade 7 and 8 students from W.O. Mitchell would be forced to go to this school.**

**•As parents our primary opportunity to express our concerns to the elected Trustees is on 8 March 2012 at an OCDSB meeting - we must speak in support of W.O. Mitchell remaining a JK-8 school or else the OCDSB will assume we are happy with their recommendation.**

# **The Board's Plan – The Truth and The Faults**

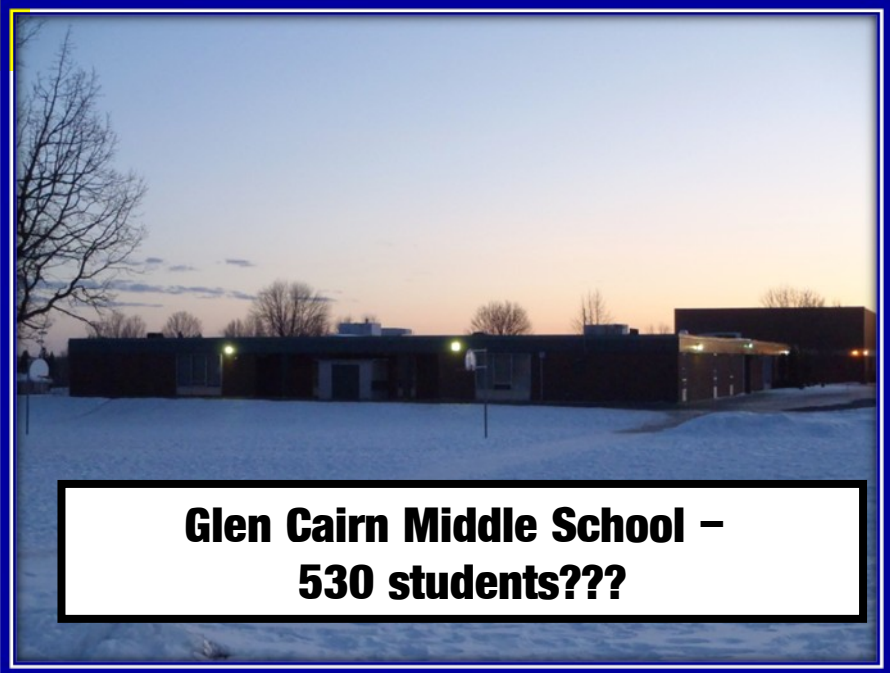
- Despite claims to the contrary, staff is recommending that a 7/8 middle school be established at Glen Cairn as an “annex” to A.Y. Jackson – this is not a 7-12 model.**
- OCDSB has not secured funding to upgrade the infrastructure at either location.**
- The recommendation would cram 530 grade 7/8s into a facility designed for 334 students.**
- We don't want our children to be used as pawns to put pressure on the Province to provide funds for capital projects.**
- The plan is incomplete – most details will be left to a “Transition Committee” to work out after the decision is made and then there will be no turning back:**
  - Lack of age-appropriate facilities at Glen Cairn**
  - Over-crowding at Glen Cairn and A.Y. Jackson**
  - Student safety**
  - Retrofits & upgrades to Glen Cairn – feasibility, timeline and costs**
  - Capital additions to A.Y. Jackson – timeline, funds from Province?**
  - Transportation arrangements & costs**
  - Type of programs – EFI and MFI “blended”?**

# Comparison Data - Glen Cairn Public School and W.O. Mitchell Elementary School

|                                     | Glen Cairn                       | W.O.M.   |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Year Built                          | 1967                             | 1998     |
| Size of permanent structure (sq.m.) | 3382                             | 6044     |
| playground area (sq.m.)             | 9848                             | 12401    |
| planning capacity                   | 334                              | 521      |
| enrolment - 2011/12                 | 208                              | 642      |
| enrolment - FTE - 2011/12           | 208                              | 602      |
| % utilization - 2011/12             | 62%                              | 116%     |
| enrolment - 2015/16                 | 530                              | 467      |
| % utilization - 2015/16             | 159%                             | 90%      |
| # of portables - current            | 0                                | 7        |
| # of portables - max                | 4                                | 12       |
| number of classrooms                | 17                               | 23       |
| gymnasium                           | shares w/Com. Centre double-size |          |
| number of parking spaces            | 41                               | 70       |
| number of students bussed           | 65                               | 70       |
| current trans cost                  | \$103,830                        | \$60,635 |

Glen Cairn is approx 1/2 the size of WO Mitchell

The staff recommendation puts more children in GC than WOM.



Glen Cairn Middle School – 530 students???

## Our Proposal – The Facts

- **Delay implementation of any plan until 2015 - just like Kanata North.**
- **If the grade 7-12 model must be implemented, then give us a TRUE 7-12 school at ONE facility – just like Kanata North.**
- **“Build it and we will come“ - show us the detailed plan for a 7-12 model and obtain the funding for its implementation before any vote. Build the facility before any move.**
- **If staff recommendations or the 7-12 model must be implemented then balance out enrolment and capacity issues by leaving the grade 7 & 8 program at WOM including Roch Carrier EFI as a feeder school. This will alleviate the significant over-crowding at Glen Cairn Middle School due to staff’s proposal.**

| Projected 2015/16 Enrolments if 7/8 Program Stays at WOM |                          |                             |  |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
|  | Glen Cairn Middle School | W.O.Mitchell (inc Roch EFI) |  |
| EFI 7/8 :  | 140                      | 162                         |  |
| Total 7/8:   | 318                      | 212                         |  |
| Total School:  | 318                      | 679                         |  |

## **Our Proposal – Benefits over Staff Recommendation**

- **Alleviates the significant over-crowding at GC Middle School**
- **Mitigates costs of staff recommendation - retrofits, transportation**
- **Fewer families negatively impacted**
- **Our 7/8s continue to have access to modern and properly equipped intermediate classrooms**
- **Continued mentoring and leadership opportunities for our children**
- **More opportunities for participating in our clubs (i.e. Reel Cool Productions)**
- **More opportunities/less competition for athletic teams & plays**
- **Balanced cohorts entering Grade 9 from WOM and Glen Cairn**
- **Less traffic in our neighbourhood and in Glen Cairn**
- **Maintains a stable enrolment at WOM**
- **Our children stay in their community**

# What Must We Do?

- **Phone and write to the Trustee for Kanata – Cathy Curry**
- **Write all the Trustees on the Board**
- **Write our MPP Jack MacLaren**
- **Write Allan Hubley the Councillor for Kanata South Ward at [allan.hubley@ottawa.ca](mailto:allan.hubley@ottawa.ca)**
- **Sign the Petition - in person or at <http://www.kanatasouthschools.com>**
- **Write to neighbouring MPP Lisa MacLeod – Education Critic**
- **Write to the Kanata Kourier**
- **Register and speak at the Board meeting on 8 March 2012**

**Every parent needs to speak up and tell the Board of Trustees that we are not happy with what they are proposing to do with our children. We do not support staff's recommendation.**

**Now is the time - don't wait until it's too late!**

# The Next Steps in the Process

- The Trustees received the ARC's recommendation report on December 15, 2011.
- Staff presented their recommendation report to Trustees on January 31, 2011.

**• March 8, 2012 – Trustees will receive delegations for Kanata South starting at 7:30 p.m., 133 Greenbank Road. The instructions for presenting as a delegation are listed on the Kanata South ARC website. The deadline for registration and submission of a written statement is 4 pm March 1, 2012.**

**• March 22, 2012 – additional date to receive delegations, if necessary, for Kanata North and/or Kanata South**

**• April 2, 2012 – Trustees to debate staff's recommendations for Kanata South starting at 9:00 p.m., 133 Greenbank Road (Board offices)**

**• April 5, 2012 – additional date to debate recommendations, if necessary, for Kanata North and/or Kanata South**

**• April 24, 2012 – Final decisions for implementation**

# Points of Contact

- Visit this website for more info and the opportunity to sign the petition: <http://www.kanatasouthschools.com>
- Go to the school council's website : [www.womschoolcouncil.com](http://www.womschoolcouncil.com)
- cc all e-mails to: [kanatasouthelemarc@ocdsb.ca](mailto:kanatasouthelemarc@ocdsb.ca)
- Contact individual trustees :
  - [cathy.curry@ocdsb.ca](mailto:cathy.curry@ocdsb.ca)
  - [lynn.scott@ocdsb.ca](mailto:lynn.scott@ocdsb.ca)
  - [donna.blackburn@ocdsb.ca](mailto:donna.blackburn@ocdsb.ca)
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  - [John.Shea@ocdsb.ca](mailto:John.Shea@ocdsb.ca)
- Contact our MPP Jack MacLaren at [www.jackmaclarenmpp.com](http://www.jackmaclarenmpp.com) or [jack.maclaren@ pc.ola.org](mailto:jack.maclaren@pc.ola.org)
- Register to speak on 08 March 2012 contact Maureen Strittmatter at [maureen.strittmatter@ocdsb.ca](mailto:maureen.strittmatter@ocdsb.ca) or at 613-596-8211 ext. 8641.
- You also need to provide her with a written statement on the issue before 4:00 pm on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

# **Questions / Discussion**