

ATTACHMENT "I"

Accommodation Review Committee
Presenters' Package

The Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board values public input from students, parents, and stakeholders during Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) meetings. Your assistance in providing the following information as part of your request to present to the ARC is appreciated. Your written application should be brief and should adhere to the following format.

1. PURPOSE

Please provide one or two statements outlining the topic of your presentation.

The attached letter outlines the historical and cultural importance of PCUS to students and the Peterborough community as a whole.

2. RATIONALE

Provide background facts and information which will assist the ARC with understanding the issue.

As a former trustee chair of PCBE, I understand the cultural & historic importance of PCUS to both students & the community. Cultural Downtown is where art is happening & so is important to the Integrated Arts Program. Closing the school will damage both students & the wider community. Historical history comes alive for PCUS students surrounded as the school is by historical buildings & two war memorials. Students join veterans every November to remember the fallen.

3. PRESENTATION CONTENT

See attached letter

4. AUTHORIZATION

Presenter: Isabel HENNINGER

Telephone: 705 245 3001

Address: 447 Hunter St. W, Peterborough
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Fax: _____

E-mail: ishegger@sympatico.ca

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, I understand that this completed document may be printed with the public meeting agenda, posted to the Board's website and made available to the media.

Please note that the signature of the parent/guardian is required for all presenters under the age of 18.

Signature: Isabel Henninger

Title: Mrs.

I am speaking as an individual

OR

I am speaking on behalf of : _____
Name of Organization

5. APPENDICES

Please provide any attachment to which you have referred in your report and which you would like the ARC to consider. These may include charts, tables, forms, lists or supporting documents.

Please return your completed Presenters' Package to:

Cheryl Gzik, Administrative Assistant
Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board
P.O. Box 719
1994 Fisher Drive
Peterborough Ontario K9J 7A1
Fax 705-742-7281
E-mail cheryl_gzik@kprdsb.ca

Isabel Henniger
487 Hunter St. W.
Peterborough
ON K9H 2M9

28 April 2011

Members of the ARC
Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board
Education Centre
1994 Fisher Drive
PO Box 7190
Peterborough, ON K9J 7A1

Dear Trustees,

As a former trustee and chair of the Peterborough County Board of Education, I know that you, as trustees of the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board, have a difficult and important decision to make. In deciding which of four high schools in the city to close, you will be considering financial, educational and personnel issues, among others. I would ask you also to consider the historical and cultural importance of Peterborough Collegiate and Vocational School to the students who attend the school and also to the city and its residents.

The City of Peterborough's Official Plan considers the central area of the city, in which PCVS lies, as the historic heart of the community. Students who attend PCVS are surrounded by the city's history. This high school, one of the oldest in Canada, accepted its first students in 1826, and moved into the present building in 1908. Next to the school is the 102 year-old Armory; across George Street is the former Carnegie Library building, opened in 1911; City Hall was built in 1951; and the old YMCA building on the corner of George and Murray Streets was begun in 1895. These buildings form a city square in the centre of which is Confederation Park. There Walter Allward, the famous sculptor of the Vimy Memorial, was commissioned to produce the city's celebrated War Memorial. That and the new Wall of Honour provide for the City of Peterborough a commemoration of the young people who lost their lives in World Wars I and II and the Korean War. Many of those fallen attended PCVS. Every Remembrance Day, PCVS students perform a dramatic presentation in the Auditorium for veterans, other students, staff and invited guests. The students then accompany the

veterans to the city Memorial Service in Confederation Park. For 21st century students attending high school surrounded by such artifacts, history becomes much more real and more teachable. For the residents of Peterborough, closing the school will leave a gaping hole in the historic centre of the city.

The city is developing its first municipal cultural plan, a necessity if the city is to access federal and provincial money, and its proceedings have noted that downtown is where art is happening. PCVS, which houses the Integrated Arts Program, connects students with theatres, dance and music studios, and art galleries in the centre of the city. In these days of high gasoline prices and little if any after-school busing, students will find it harder to take advantage of the many cultural opportunities available to them after school. Removing the students who attend PCVS from the heart of the city will not only damage their opportunities to take part in Peterborough's cultural life but also weaken the city's cultural core.

As the parent or grandparent of four graduates from PCVS, I know the strong cultural impact that the school and its situation have on students. I have enjoyed looking at many art exhibits on the school's walls, as well as attending concerts and plays in the auditorium, which incidentally has excellent acoustics. The school draws students from a number of areas of the county, and when I attend Commencement, which I frequently do, I am always impressed by the cohesiveness of a school whose students come from varied social and cultural backgrounds and are valued and respected by each other.

Long may PCVS educate students in a historic building in the centre of a city proud of its rich artistic heritage.

Yours sincerely



Isabel Henniger

cc. Mr. Don Blair, Ms Cheryl Gzik, Members of the ARC.