

February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Willingdon Parents,

**RE: An open letter to the parents of Willingdon Students**

This is an open letter from all Willingdon teachers to the parents of Willingdon students.

Overcrowding and maximum enrollment are issues that affect us all. We, the teachers, are gravely concerned with our ability to deliver high quality education to our students. Looking ahead at future enrolment projections, we are concerned and alarmed at the idea of adding another 50-100 students to our already full and very busy school over the next two or three years.

We have been consulted by the Governing Board and the Administration about the concept of an expansion campus. We see challenges and risks but staying with status quo also has challenges and risks. For transparency, we held a special meeting of the teacher's council at Willingdon and had an open discussion (like the parent assembly) to discuss the risks and considerations. The outcome has been very positive. The teachers agree that a junior campus does not make sense given the logistical and facility characteristics of the St Ignatius school. We do not support that scenario.

However, we as the teaching body at Willingdon fully support the idea of creating a senior (Cycle 3) campus at the new site. Not only will this protect our specialist spaces and ease the pressures on our schoolyard it will also allow our cycle 3 students to have more creative and mature learning spaces where they can truly focus and develop their work habits and problem-solving skills in preparation for high school. We have voted unanimously to support this expansion proposal at our January Staff meeting and then through our Staff Council.

As educators we want the very best for the students of Willingdon and we feel strongly that the best option at this time is to take on the opportunity of expanding. We really see no other option other than status quo, which will result in overcrowding and a reduction of quality of teaching and school spaces.

We hope this gives all parents more feedback as to the view of the actual teachers at the school, and how this expansion will enable us to ultimately provide a better education to your kids.

Sincerely,

The Teachers of Willingdon School

Maryse Lanyon	H. Dove	Daniela Padulo
Sia Leone	Barbara Weiss	Heather Becken
Hilene Joly	<del>not signed</del>	Daniela De Marco
Julia Moore	Lise Tazumi	G. de Boer
Laurie Holcos	<del>not signed</del>	Suminta Paul
M. Watt	A. Shawrent	Vandini Kaur
Joelle	Imke Demslay	Shabazz
Adriana	<del>not signed</del>	Michelle Bellion
	LB	Pranta
		Nadia Tincelli