

# **Public Presentation**

Board of Trustees and Board members, Eastern School District

Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011  
Hazelwood Elementary

Good evening ladies and gentlemen,

My name is Dean Menchions and I am the current Chair of the St. Matthew's School Council. I would first like to thank you all for your time.

My submission this evening will be brief:

We learned on March 9<sup>th</sup> that the original motion to make St. Matthew's a K-7 school for one year had been deferred and an amended motion had been proposed. This new motion was to make St. Matthew's a permanent K-7.

Normally, St. Matthew's School Council meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month. We had deferred our meeting until after the Board meeting of March 9<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, we met on Tuesday March 15<sup>th</sup>.

At that time, we were joined by Ford Rice, Mary Purchase and Jim Sinnott from the board. They explained that the funding for the Beaconsfield extension had not been granted and the new motion was to make St. Matthew's a K-7.

They had with them a pamphlet that explained the mechanics of the change. This was distributed, along with the new motion to all parents of St. Matthew's the very next day. We asked for feedback and to ensure the message got out; we also did a Synervoice message home.

Although it was a tight time frame, the response was overwhelming. We had 28 emails. To place this in perspective, an Angus Reid Pollster could only dream about this amount of feedback from a group consisting of a few hundred parents.

21 of the 28 emails were in support of the new motion. That is 75% in favor. The concerns and objections of the remaining parents were noted and taken seriously. Fortunately, there were no new concerns over those expressed by parents during the last round of feedback we received. I say this because the board has addressed these issues on at least three different occasions. Council has accepted that the concerns will be addressed. These legitimate concerns included:

- Missed Opportunity for Students to socialize and be mentored by older children.
- Participation in Junior high clubs and sports teams
- Qualified subject based teachers
- Mirror programming such as science classes.

Therefore, it is my pleasure to inform you that the St. Matthew's School Council has endorsed the new board motion.

Thank you.