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# Parents may withdraw Ctk children over busing issue

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"My kid's future depends not on religious belief. My child's future depends on their safety in getting to school nine months out of the year," she said. Kase does not agree with the argument that continued bus service to the Stewart's Mill area shows favouritism, noting that other cities have other options.

"In Oakville they have public transportation, in Burlington they have public transportation, in Georgetown we don't have any," she said.

Stewart's Mill resident Anna Milando, whose son attends Ctk, and daughter will be in 2008, is so upset busing is being cancelled in their area she said she would consider taking them out of the Catholic system.

"I'm really disappointed that our voices were not heard and that our trustee was not able to deliver the message to the other trustees," said Milando. "How can these people make a decision on our children's lives? This really is a safety issue."

Halton Hills Trustee Rosanna Palmieri, who put forward the unsuccessful motion calling for the busing to remain as a policy exception in the affected areas for another year, felt she did her best.

"I can't force the hands of all the other trustees," said Palmieri. "I did my best explaining what the areas were and some of them (other trustees) even drove here. In light of the fact that the public board discontinued bus service (in the area for Georgetown District High School students beginning next year) there wasn't much left to stand on."

Milando believes the trustees have "some sort of hidden agenda" and she is frustrated



Christ the King student Alexandra Bazinet (right) and her mother Nicole Kase are not pleased with the recent Halton Catholic District School Board decision to eliminate busing service for Ctk students who live in the Stewart's Mill and Arbor Glen subdivisions, and Moore Park Cr. area beginning next September. Bazinet will have to walk nearly 4 km each way to and from school.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

she wasn't allowed to speak at the meeting. She also said the impacted families did not have enough time to rally support.

"They base their decision on how the crow flies. My children will not be flying across the ravine," said Milando. "My children are going to a school environment where they are supposed to be learning. What will encourage them to learn after they have walked an hour in inclement weather?"

Palmieri, who was calling for the board to re-examine its transportation policy, and take into consideration the fact there is no public transit in Halton Hills, said the families in the affected areas have now been "dealt these cards."

"I think walking is probably one of the best forms of exercise," said Palmieri.

—With files from Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

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