

# Parents will ask ministry to review moving students to Glad Park

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the move to Glad Park, saying students in the Wismer neighbourhood may be bused to other schools in future if the French Immersion program is moved there.

Parents say staff made the decision without taking their views into consideration and based it on bad information, including reports that the York Durham sewer trunk line wasn't to reach Stouffville before 2008. In fact, the big pipe will reach Stouffville in late 2002, paving the way for a massive 4,700-home decade of development.

Many parents believe that means Glad Park will reach its 600-student capacity much faster than the board predicts, despite the \$2.5 million addition to the Ninth Line-Elm Road school planned next year. They're worried about the safety of their children during construction and about the additional traffic on the dead-end street.

On Monday, some parents carried placards reading, "Pipe here next year" and "Research not Randev — Wismer, The Researched Choice."

Others signs, painting individual trustees in a more unflattering light, were banned from the board room.

After a motion from Whitchurch Stouffville trustee Bob Burrows, the board voted eight to four to allow two Glad Park parents to address it, although chair Bill Crothers — who chastised the crowd for its unsolicited remarks several times — pointed out there had been no formal request to the board for a delegation.

Pippa Gingras, a parent of two children at Glad Park, said superintendent Randev told parents during last week's information meeting that if the decision was based on misinformation, he would withdraw the recommendation. She asked Randev if that was correct.

"There is no request for staff to address those questions," Crothers jumped in. "We do not put our staff on trial."

The question was finally answered after Markham trustee Susan Lee-Pollack posed it.

"The next day I confirmed (the pipe in 2002) with the Town of Whitchurch Stouffville," Randev responded. "I called the planning department and asked if that in any way changes the projections and received an emphatic 'no'. I was told they had already taken into consideration the 344 new homes north of Glad Park."

"My fundamental concern is the lack



**BILL CROTHERS:** School board chair said 'staff not to be put on trial' at meeting Monday night.

of an appropriate consultation process, not just in this decision but all decisions made by the board," Burrows said. "We need a specific policy."

Thornhill trustee Alan Shefman agreed and seconded Burrows' motion to postpone the decision, which was defeated. In the final vote, Burrows and Shefman voted no. Lee-Pollack abstained.

Phil Harding, a member of the Dickson Hill school council, said parents will take their fight to the Ministry of Education and ask for a review of the decision.



STAFF PHOTOS/ERIN RILEY

Kathy Moyer (above) of Stouffville, who has a child in Grade 1 in at Dickson Hill, holds up a sign at the school board meeting Monday. David Moyer (left) had his own protest sign.

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