

Presentation to the Regina Board of Education
Susanne Arndt
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My name is Susanne Arndt and I am a resident of the Cathedral Community. I sit on the SCC of Ecole Connaught School. I am also a participant in the "Save our Connaught" and the "Coalition of Connaught" organizations.

I am here to present a short video on the importance that Ecole Connaught School in the community and our petition.

Firstly I would like to acknowledge what the board is going to do for Lakeview school in regards to its repairs and what was done for Davin School when it was initially deemed structurally and financially prohibitive to repair it. The school board, Davin's SCC and the parents worked co-operatively to come to a solution that was acceptable to all. New information was entertained and Davin School remains standing as a shiny example of how great team work can save the day. Our own Roughriders are also outstanding in this way.

This is Our Petition. It reads:

“We are asking the Regina Public Board to work in cooperation with the Save Our Connaught Heritage Committee, on the behalf of the community members, to develop a sound, affordable renovation plan that will support the current Ecole Connaught Community School building as a 21st Century learning environment, while respecting community values and preserving the heritage value of this nationally recognized historic school.”

The petition was not collected aggressively. We did not go door to door in the community. Signatures were collected at public venues and at businesses in the community for a total of over 1560.

The residents of the Cathedral area have chosen to live there for many reasons. It is a walk able neighborhood. It has mature landscapes with character homes and historical architecture. We feel safe in our hundred-year-old homes and if a problem arises, we fix them. We appreciate that our neighborhood is not for everyone. However, many that do not live in Cathedral appreciate its uniqueness and signed the petition in support. In fact, two thirds (2/3) of those that signed the petition happen to live outside the Cathedral area.

Members of the board have stated that they are not sleeping well at night worrying about the children in an unsafe building. We are not

worried about the safety of the building or we would not have our children in it. There has not been enough corroborative evidence to convince us. This is the scientific principal. A hypothesis is only valid if reproducible. We can appreciate, though, the lack of sleep due to worry as our community is not sleeping well either. We are not sleeping because every time there has been a public consultation on what the community wants and needs, it has been ignored. Were these consultations just for show?

I have lived in the community for over 26 years. I specifically moved to the community for its character, historical value and its walkability. I did not grow up in the area but was attracted to it for its charm and its appreciation of heritage.

I have been a Family Physician for 28 years and have not had a malpractice suit against me in all that time. I attribute this to my non-paternalistic method of practicing, open communication, good listening skills and employing sound scientific evidence. I am open to new information that may be presented to me which could very well change my diagnosis. I also am aware of my limitations. I am a generalist, not a specialist. If someone presented with a headache, there could be many causes. I would need to do a thorough history and physical exam. After completely this, if I thought the headache was due to a

brain tumor, I would not just give this diagnosis and send them home to put their affairs in order. I would want to be absolutely sure and would order further testing. If this initial testing confirmed my initial diagnosis, I would not say “you have a brain tumor, I can do nothing for you, go home and put your affairs in order.” Just because I could not do something about the tumor does not mean someone else couldn’t. I would send them to a specialist, a neurosurgeon, who could. Even this specialist would order more specialized testing to make sure the tumor was cancerous before delivering a diagnosis of terminality. Terminal or not, the treatment still would be up for negotiation. It would depend upon the needs and wants of the patient, the patient’s family and the confidence in the surgeon. Even with confidence in the surgeon, it would be entirely appropriate to have a second specialist opinion. There is no harm done with extra knowledge just without it. We need a second opinion. We deserve a second specialist opinion.

Thank you.

Petition given to the board.