



Councillor's Office

Tel. 905-683-4550

**TOWN OF
AJAX**

65 Harwood Avenue
South Ajax ON
L1S 2H9

January 18, 2024

Christine Thatcher
Durham District School Board Board of Directors, Chair

Dear Chair Thatcher,

RE: Educational Needs in Northeast Ajax

I am writing to you today to bring your attention to an important issue that affects the educational opportunities for the students of Northeast Ajax. The Castlefields neighbourhood is in dire need of new educational infrastructure, and I urge you to consider this matter with utmost seriousness.

The Castlefields neighbourhood located in the area of Audley Road and Rossland Road is home to many young families. Currently, approximately 280 students are bussed or driven by parents ten kilometres to Lincoln Alexander Public School every day. This poses a significant concern for the safety of the students and increases traffic congestion in the area.

With growth on the horizon for this neighbourhood, it is critical to plan for new educational infrastructure to keep pace with anticipated population increase. Medallion Corporation will begin construction on a new community of 2,400 hundred people at nearby Salem Road and Rossland Road. To keep pace with the anticipated population, increase, the Town of Ajax is funding the expansion of Rossland Road from Salem Road to Lake Ridge Road as part of the 2024 Budget. This includes new LED street lighting, multi-use trails and sidewalks, as well and intersection and drainage improvements.

Furthermore, I would like to highlight that The Town is currently undertaking a Publicly Owned Land Inventory project to identify lands owned by all levels of government and other public bodies to find future opportunities to develop housing and contribute to the affordable housing unit inventory in Ajax. Currently, the Durham District School Board owns a parcel of land in the Castlefields neighbourhood, around Rushworth Drive and Hollier Drive. On behalf of the residents of Ward 2, I would like to request information on the future plans for this site.

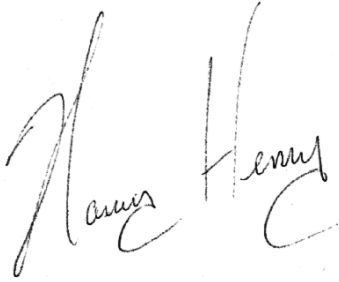
The process of building and planning for a new school is inherently lengthy and complex. Therefore, it is in the best interest of the Castlefields community that the planning for a new public school begins without delay.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request and the educational needs of Ajax residents. I welcome further conversation on the issue and invite you or your staff to meet and discuss.

Sincerely,

Nancy Henry

Local Councillor, Ward 2, Town of Ajax

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Henry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N" and "H".

CC/

Ajax Council

The Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education

Patrice Barnes, MPP for Ajax

Donna Edwards, DDSB Trustee elected from Ajax

Kelly Miller, DDSB Trustee elected from Ajax

Camille Williams-Taylor, DDSB Director of Education