



Frazier Fathers <campaign@frazierfathers.ca>

Marlborough School's Future

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To: Frazier Fathers <campaign@frazierfathers.ca>

Thu, Sep 10, 2026 at 5:36 PM

Mr. Fathers;

I am writing in response to your inquiry regarding the Marlborough School.

Regarding my position, I think it would be fair to say that, at this time, I don't have one. You're just making me aware at this moment of the issue, and I will promise to stick my nose in over the next few days, and reply with a more nuanced response.

In the immediate term, what I can say is that I believe that historic institutional buildings should, whenever possible, be preserved in public ownership. The value of these heritage properties exist not just in the space they provide for their intended services, like education, but in providing architectural and historical lynch pins to communities.

I attended University of Windsor for a double in History and Political Science. While there, I did campaign unsuccessfully in my last year for a role on the student council, and my main concern, what I spoke about to students, was the sad state of repair that Dillon Hall was in at the time, and how, with a significant number of the student body being in Liberal Arts programs, but massive spending being done primarily for the Business Department facilities, there was an imbalance in infrastructure supports that needed to be addressed.

Clearly, that isn't related to this issue, and I share it just to indicate that I'm generally well disposed toward saving and maintaining historic properties when and where possible.

And that is where my investigations will have to focus before I give a solid answer.

Never is it cheaper, in the short term, to build a new building, rather than keep up an old one. That said, it is the continuing costs of upkeep that can potentially outweigh the cost of a new build in the long term. So the questions I'll be asking are as follows;

- 1.) what is the present cost of maintaining existing facilities and services within the Marlborough School, and how does this compare to other schools in the same age, size, and service range in all of the Wards.
- 2.) what would be required to update facilities to meet the demands of the modern education standards, and what would the cost estimates be, individually, to add those updates.
- 3.) What is being proposed for the student body if the school is closed? Especially since school transport has become dramatically more expensive due to the U.S./Iran War, and other international issues.
- 4.) If the forward vision is a new facility altogether, what is the estimated cost of that project? What is the timeline? What would the estimated lifespan of the proposed new facility be?

I firmly believe in taking an analytical approach in cases like this. One of the factors that prompted me to action, in terms of putting my name forward as a nominee, was the fact we're at a critical junction in terms of the chronic and outright under-funding that has been facing our schools under the current provincial government. Not only have there been significant shortfalls in funding, but the Minister has been extremely happy to seize control of any Board that is running deficits it can't meet internally. I am very concerned about this centralization of control in the schools, as it removes local input AND oversight.

I do apologize for taking what, on its face, is a simple question, and dragging you down this labyrinth. However, being honest with you is my goal here, so I want you to understand the concerns that are guiding me. I want to see our community thrive. I want to ensure that funding is being done in a way that is equitable for every part of the city. I want to ensure that our School Board isn't taken over by people who seem to be hell bent on breaking it.

If it economically viable, I see no reason why a venerable school like Marlborough should be closed and/or sold off, unless the end costs dictate it is unavoidable. There are systemic concerns that you've highlighted that I'm definitely concerned about, more broadly, but regarding Marlborough School, specifically, I need to research a little bit before

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offering a solid position statement.

Your respectfully,

Todd Gervais

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