



John Tory
Mayor

September 14, 2016

Janet Griffiths-Maxymiw and Fred De Haan
Friends of Silver Creek School Committee
FriendsofSilverCreek@outlook.com

Dear Ms. Griffiths-Maxymiw and Mr. De Haan:

Thank you for your letter dated August 19, 2016, concerning Silver Creek School.

City Council has a strong interest in the outcome of TDSB's review of school sites under consideration for sale or closure as many school buildings and school yards represent important community assets. City Council has adopted several significant motions over the past few years that define the City's position on the sale of public schools and the value of schools as community assets. As Mayor, I have expressed my real concerns about the potential impact of losing valuable public infrastructure to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Education and the Director of the Toronto District School Board.

This spring, City staff reviewed and assessed municipal interest in 23 TDSB school properties. The purpose of this work was to provide Council with comprehensive information to respond effectively to the potential impact of school closures and dispositions across Toronto. As you know, Silver Creek School was reviewed as part of this analysis.

While reviewing Silver Creek School, City staff consulted with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, the Ministry of Education, the Provincial Community Hubs Secretariat, both the TDSB and TCDSB, and local councillors. In March, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services formally expressed its interest in the site for ongoing delivery of ministry-funded programming. In June, the TDSB declared Silver Creek surplus and agreed to pursue discussions with the Province on transfer of ownership of the site.

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At its July 2016 meeting, City Council, thanks to the work of Councillor Campbell, agreed that the best outcome for Silver Creek would be for the Government of Ontario to acquire ownership of the property to ensure ongoing services and continued public access to the green space. In August, City Manager Peter Wallace wrote to the Deputy Minister of Children and Youth Services, Alexander Bezzina, to convey this message strongly. The City will continue to meet with the Province and with the School Board during the Fall, and I will continue to work closely with Councillor Campbell and our provincial colleagues, in support of this outcome for Silver Creek. To date, the City has not received any indication that the ownership of the open space at Silver Creek would be considered separately from the buildings.

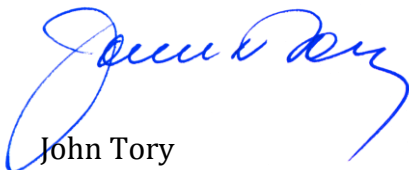
The City of Toronto and I, as Mayor, appreciate the important role that Friends of Silver Creek plays in enhancing and protecting valuable programmes in your community. Having visited the site with Councillor Campbell earlier this year, I know first-hand the value of the services and green space that Silver Creek contributes to the surrounding community. We will continue to work together to support efforts to develop collaborative partnerships and engagement that enhance community assets and deliver programs and services.

I understand that you have been in communication with City staff who have provided additional information on the Silver Creek assessment in the Community Asset Evaluation Framework. Staff are available as a resource if you have further technical questions about the assessment or process.

Lastly, thank you for your invitation to visit the September 15 Silver Creek Open House. Unfortunately, I will not be available to attend the Open House; however, I look forward to continue working together with you and Councillor Campbell towards a successful outcome at Silver Creek.

Please be in contact with my office with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



John Tory
Mayor of Toronto

- c. John Campbell, Councillor - Ward 4
Giuliana Carbone, Deputy City Manager
Chris Brillinger, Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration
Janie Romoff, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation