Dear (school board) Trustees and Supervisory Officers

I know you are all sick to death of hearing from parents concerned about wi-fi; however, I have to trust that as elected public officials, you will take a few minutes to read this letter and the accompanying links. Any acknowledgement or response would be most appreciated.

Over the past 1 ½ years, a group of concerned parents has implored the (School Board) to reconsider the decision to install wireless internet in all local schools, based on safety concerns. The (School Board) initially assured us that wi-fi is safe, and indicated that there was no evidence otherwise. We subsequently furnished the board with scientific evidence of risk to health associated with microwave radiation exposure, to no avail.

On May 10, 2011, the Parliamentary Assembly Council of Europe (at which Canada holds “observer” status) called for limits to be placed on the use of cell phones and WiFi in schools:

<http://www.i-policy.org/2011/05/council-of-europe-calls-for-limit-of-mobile-phone-wifi-use-in-schools.html>

The (School Board) indicated that our research was insufficient, and that the opinion of the World Health Organization (WHO) was the gold standard of evidence. On May 30, 2011, the WHO and the International Association for Research on Cancer (IARC) labelled radiofrequency radiation a “class 2b possible human carcinogen”. Perplexingly, once the World Health Organization no longer agreed with the (School Board)’s position, the (School Board) chose to disregard the WHO. Plans to install wi-fi continued to move forward.

<http://www.magdahavas.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/WHO_IARC_RF_2b.pdf>

I would like to make one point of clarification regarding the WHO/IARC announcement, which is that the 2b classification is not restricted to cell phones, but has “broad applicability” to all sources of radiofrequency radiation, including wi-fi, according to Jonathan Samet, who chaired the IARC working group.

Most recently, as of Oct. 4, 2011, Health Canada has finally taken the first step in officially recognizing that cell phones pose a potential health hazard to young people. Health Canada now suggests that parents take measures to limit their children’s exposure to the radiofrequency radiation emitted by cell phones. I hope you will take a few minutes to review the following links:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/health/story/2011/10/04/cellphone-calls.html>

<http://www.cbc.ca/video/#/News/TV_Shows/The_National/1233408557/ID=2148098038>

Another point of clarification: We have been told by the (School Board) many times that wi-fi is not comparable to cell phones. This is simply not true. Both transmit radiofrequency radiation at the same frequency (2.45 GHz). As for the strength of the signal, there are documented cases (including Ontario schools) of a wi-fi beacon signal (ie. the signal from the router, *without* any wireless devices activated) strength being close to or stronger than a cell phone signal. The primary difference is that cell phones are operational for only brief periods at a time, whereas wi-fi systems are irradiating children all day long, every day of the school year. If you open only one link in this letter, please make it the informative video in the following link (measurements begin at about the 7 ½ minute mark of the video):

<http://electricsense.com/2726/wifi-in-schools-gives-off-3-times-as-much-radiation-as-cell-towers/>

In November of 2010, a school in Simcoe County actually had radiation levels (from its wi-fi system) measured that exceeded Safety Code 6 (which many experts feel is grossly inadequate in the first place).

I am not trying to suggest that the trustees and administration of the (School Board) are purposely trying to harm children. I would like to suggest, however, that the decision to install wi-fi in the first place was made with insufficient knowledge and insufficient parental input. In the meantime, the science has grown, and the tide is clearly turning: More and more, wi-fi safety is being questioned and found wanting, especially with regard to children.

As the saying goes, “when you know better, you do better” (Maya Angelou). Maybe wi-fi seemed like a good idea at the time, but if you have been paying any attention to the media, if you have been making any effort to educate yourselves (and I sincerely hope you have, as I *have* educated myself, and I sincerely believe the health of my, and in fact all, children hangs in the balance), you should now know better. Wi-fi was a mistake, and it is time for members of the "School Board" to correct that mistake.

Yours very truly

CC’s to newspaper, MP, MPP, City Council etc