



DUFFERIN PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes
DIXIE SHOREFRONT
Accommodation Review Committee

Meeting #1
October 4, 2007

St. Paul Secondary School Library
7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Present:
ARC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Elizabeth McGuire – Chairperson, Superintendent of Schools
John Melito – Superintendent of Planning and Operations
Thane Munn – Senior Planner, Planning Dept. DPCDSB
Rosemary Rock-Vincent – Principal, St. James
Cheryl Cauduro – Principal, Queen of Heaven
Deirdre Furlong – Principal, St. Edmund
Deirdre Kinsella-Biss – Principal, St. Dominic
Robert Romanet – Principal, St. Timothy
Ernie Arduini – Teacher Representative, Queen of Heaven
C. Lecanda – Parish Representative, St. Catherine of Siena
Betty Biss – Parish Representative, St. Mary Star of the Sea
Emily Irvine – Planner, City of Mississauga
Victoria Coste - Ramsay – School Council Chair, Queen of Heaven
Carol Klafuric – School Council Chair, St. Dominic
Lucy Moore – School Council Chair, St. Dominic
LeeAnn McBain – School Council Co-Chair, St. Edmund
Harry Tideman – Delegate Appointed by School Council, St. James

Absent:

Maureen Gomes – School Council Co-Chair, St. Edmund
L. Mills – School Council Chair, St. Timothy

Staff:

Rosa Bonifacio – Recording Secretary, Planning Department
Bruce Campbell – General Manager, Communications & Community Relations



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ROUTINE MATTERS

Elizabeth McGuire, Chairperson, Superintendent of Schools, called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

1. Opening Prayer & Introduction

Elizabeth McGuire led the opening prayer.

Elizabeth McGuire introduced staff and welcomed members by thanking them for participating on the Accommodation Review Process Committee for attending the meeting.

Accommodation Review Committee members identified themselves and area of representation.

2. Outline of Pupil Accommodation Review Process

Thane Munn - Senior Planner, Planning Dept. DPCDSB

Thane Munn explained to the committee that on October 31, 2006 the Ministry of Education released the Pupil Accommodation Guidelines (previously referred to as school closure guidelines). These guidelines directed Ontario school boards on the pupil accommodation review process to be undertaken and to determine the future of a particular school or group of schools.

The Ministry of Education issued guidelines entitled "Pupil Accommodation Review" which outline the necessary process to close schools in the future. In accordance with the new guidelines, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board established a Pupil Accommodation Review Policy, Regulation and School Valuation Framework, all of which were approved on March 27, 2007.

The Pupil Accommodation Review Regulation identifies that elementary schools below 250 students or 50% capacity should be reviewed. A number of elementary schools which are either below 50% capacity or have less than 250 students were identified in the May 2007 report presented to the Board of Trustees. The Board initiated three Accommodation Review Areas for the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. The following three areas were recommended:

North Bramalea
Central Erin Mills
Dixie Shorefront



The Board will look at a group of schools, not one in particular and the number of options available. The focus is on the entire review area. Factors affecting the designated areas include: geographical boundary, historical enrolment, and the receiving schools.

The “Role of the Accommodation Committees” was reviewed by Thane Munn and the formal guidelines explained that the committee is responsible for customizing the student evaluation framework and review student accommodations options which will be presented at public meetings.

3. Outline of School Valuation Framework

Thane Munn - Senior Planner, Planning Dept. DPCDSB

Thane Munn explained the School Valuation Framework. He outlined that the framework was put together as an assessment tool. The framework was compiled from data received from the School Principals and staff, the Superintendents of Schools, and corporate departments such as the Board’s Planning, Plant, Operations, Finance and Transportation Departments.

The general framework was approved by Trustees and the committee was advised that the framework can be altered or changed and customized.

A copy of the school board’s accommodation review policy, the government’s *Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines* and the *Administrative Review of Accommodation Review Process* documents are available at the school board’s office and posted on the school board’s website.

The ARC’s are required to hold four public meetings to consult and to present School Valuation Framework report and recommendations. All communication will flow through the committee.

The ARC is to consider accommodation and formulate recommendations options. At the end of the process the committee’s role is to report findings and conclusions and then prepare a report to take to the Board of Trustees. At the same time the Planning staff will be preparing a report of recommendations to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees will then convene their own public meeting and make a final decision.



If the Board of Trustees adopts a resolution to close a school, the Board shall identify a timeline for the closure of the school

Thane explained (Tab 6) - The Glossary of Terms and clarified the meanings in detail of PARC, FRC, and FCI as they referred to (Tab 9) – using Queen of Heaven as an example only.

4. Discussion re: Customization of School Valuation Framework

Thane Munn - Senior Planner, Planning Dept. DPCDSB

Thane reviewed in detail the School Valuation Framework by using Queen of Heaven School as an example only. The following sections were referred to (Tab 9) Stats of the school, Enrolments, Financial, Transportation, Staffing, Capital, Safety & Security, Program, Extra Curriculum and Community.

5. Outline of School Accommodation Alternatives

Thane Munn - Senior Planner, Planning Dept. DPCDSB

Based on the Long Term Capital Plan revised in 2006. Years 9 to the next 20 years were identified. The number of pupil places that need to be consolidated in coming years in this review area based on long term enrolments are 488 pupil places.

The members then reviewed the Options Summary Sheet (Tab 8). The options were in no particular order. The fourteen options were formulated by the Planning Department.

Thane reminded the committee that the Status Quo: Break Outs (refer to Tab 8) scenarios are in no particular order. He asked the committee to look at all of the options presented tonight to please bring forward any other options by the next ARC meeting.



6. Scheduling of Public Meetings

A hand out was discussed regarding the scheduling of the future public meetings.

A copy of a draft letter regarding these meetings be sent out to the public was distributed for information.

7. Questions and Comments

1. Question

Rosemary Rock-Vincent - Principal, St. James

What was the process of appointing the Teacher to the ARC Committee?

Response

Thane Munn - Senior Planner, Planning Dept. DPCDSB

Clairified the process, approved by the Board, that Teacher was to be appointed by OECTA.

2. Question

John Melito - Superintendent of Planning and Operations

Asked who was the Teacher here attending that was appointed by OECTA?

Ernie Arduini, first replied that he was the Teacher Representative from Queen of Heaven asked by OECTA, then other Teacher, Sandra Presucitti replied that she was the Teacher Representative for St. Domenic and that she was asked by the Principal to attend not by OECTA.



3. Question

Rosemary Rock-Vincent - Principal, St. James

Should a non-appointed OECTA representative participate in the ARC Committee?

Sandra Presucitti – not appointed by OECTA
it was agreed upon by the chair and the ARC members that non – appointed member leave the meeting until clarification of appointment to the committee is made.

Elizabeth McGuire – Chairperson, Superintendent of Schools

Asked for point of clarification.

Requested

John Melito and Thane Munn

to get clarification regarding Teacher Representative appointed by the OECTA

- is it one representative per ARC area
- is it one per school with appointment made by OECTA only
- can a school principal appoint a Teacher Representative

4. Question

Harry Tideman - Delegate Appointed by School Council, St. James

Regarding ARC members appointed as
(Per Tab 3 Section Pg 2/6) enquired as to why are there no Business or City Representatives?

Response

John Melito - Superintendent of Planning and Operations

As per ARC set up now, offers were sent out to the different representatives of the committee. This ARC has a rep from the City of Mississauga, in other ARC – example of Bramalea North, there is no representation from the City of Brampton.

Point of Clarification:

Why no Business Representation involved in ARC meeting, for the example the like Port Credit Business Associations?



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Response

John Melito - Superintendent of Planning and Operations

ARC members were set up as per the Legislation outline and by the Board's guidelines. At this point we may not have business representation but as the process continues and once public meeting begin the involvements of other members may change.

Comment

Robert Romanet, Principal, St. Timothy

Comment to above question he stated that members on this committee may be representing more than one role. In this case his School Council Chair of St. Timothy is the school council chair and also a local business owner.

5. Question

Harry Tideman - Delegate Appointed by School Council, St. James

Asked under RENEWAL PROJECTS, using example of Queen of Heaven SVF below under (Tab 9 Financial Section page 12)

The current cost to address the current backlog of renewal projects for the school:	\$ 608,950.65 *\$ 150,000.00
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*updated valuation page provided to ARC members

Response

John Melito - Superintendent of Planning and Operations

Will get clarification of current backlog of renewal projects and will report back to next meeting.

6. Question

Carol Klafuric - School Council Chair, St. Dominic

Why is the Board mean different for each school, should it be the same.

Response

Thane Munn - Senior Planner, Planning Dept. DPCDSB

Thane advised that the Board average of the Facilities Condition Index (FCI) should be like the Board mean FCI the same for all the schools. Then advised that after reviewing the data, he will issue the revised pages.



7. Question

Cheryl Cauduro, Principal, Queen of Heaven

Queen of Heaven shows no permits; nevertheless the school has had just some submitted?

Response

Thane Munn - Senior Planner, Planning Dept. DPCDSB

Thane advised that this data is a snap shot in time of when the data was sent to the planning dept.

8. Question

Emily Irvine - Planner, City of Mississauga

Asked the meaning of Flex Boundary, as not definition is given under the Glossary of Terms (Tab 6)?

Response

Thane Munn - Senior Planner, Planning Dept. DPCDSB

Thane explained the meaning of flex boundary

9. Question

Emily Irvine - Planner, City of Mississauga

Under the School Valuation Framework – Value to the Community

- Needs of assessment?
- What are the needs in the area?
- And if closed what will the site be used for?

Response

John Melito - Superintendent of Planning and Operations

The value to Community is an important factor, factors for example closing two schools in a small town. We as a group have to look at how to analyze that data and review if Mississauga has a process in place when deciding to close down the local Mall or the closing of the local store. In Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board, School Closure Review process the board is control led by legislation.



10. Question

C. Lecanda, Parish Representative, St. Catherine of Siena

How will the Church be effected, regarding if a school is at maximum or over capacity?

How will this impact on the delivering of Pastoral services to the school and communities?

Response

John Melito - Superintendent of Planning and Operations

As the Dufferin-Peel community the input of the pastor is part of our process. John Melito explained the Capital Plan is review by the Board every year.

11. Question

Harry Tideman - Delegate Appointed by School Council, St. James

What if the recommendation from the ARC is not to close any school?

Response

John Melito - Superintendent of Planning and Operations

If that is the recommendation then that will be the recommendation put forward to the Board by the ARC.

12. Question

Betty Biss - Parish Representative, St. Mary Star of the Sea

Can we use the past to help with the process, example when we closed St. Mary, in Mississauga?

Response

John Melito - Superintendent of Planning and Operations

John Melito explained previous policy for closing school. Now we are to follow the School Closure Review process the board is influenced by new legislation.



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Comment

C. Lecanda - Parish Representative, St. Catherine of Siena

At this point the Archdiocese and School Board must work together as the Archdiocese is in the same state of review of closing of churches due to low attendance, as the board is for declining enrolment.

13. Question

Harry Tideman - Delegate Appointed by School Council, St. James

Why are there two reports going to the Board of Trustees?

Response

John Melito - Superintendent of Planning and Operations

The reports required were per the Legislation outline and by the Board's guidelines.

14. Question

Carol Klafuric - School Council Chair, St. Dominic

Are the timelines of the 3 ARC's the same?

Response

Thane Munn - Senior Planner, Planning Dept. DPCDSB

Timelines are outlined in the ARC binder and will be similar for all three areas.

15. Question

Carol Klafuric - School Council Chair, St. Dominic

May the impact of closing schools have the kids going over to the Public School in the area that may be closer?

Response

John Melito - Superintendent of Planning and Operations

Impact of enrolment are always factored in. There are new families having less children or immigrants now coming are not from the past European Catholic countries and even land development for family homes is on the decline.



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Comment

Thane Munn - Senior Planner, Planning Dept. DPCDSB

For example, there is development on the condo development on the Lakeshore with the units selling from the \$400,000 to \$2 million. One condo has been sold to a family with small children.

16. Question

Betty Biss - Parish Representative, St. Mary Star of the Sea

Other than St. Mary being closed, what other schools have been closed in the past 2 years?

Response

Thane Munn - Senior Planner, Planning Dept. DPCDSB

Three other schools have been closed in Mississauga;
Our Lady of the Airways and St. Gabriel, St. Michael.

Confirmation of next meeting

Meeting #2
October 25, 2007 at 7:00 p. m.
Location – St. Paul Secondary, Library

Conclusion:

Elizabeth McGuire – Chairperson, Superintendent of Schools

Elizabeth McGuire asked the Accommodation Review Committee to review all data that was presented to them and reminded the committee members that this was the first working draft. Elizabeth McGuire reminded the committee to take this binder back to the area they represent to review the information, process data and think of questions and scenarios for the next meeting.



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Elizabeth McGuire, advised the committee members to forward all questions or concerns directly to her before the October 25th, 2007 meeting and she in turn would then forward the email to the appropriate person for responses.

Adjournment

- . The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p. m.

Recorder: Rosa Bonifacio
October 4, 2007
ARCmtg#1Oct42007