



DUFFERIN PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Approved Minutes  
**DIXIE SHOREFRONT**  
**Accommodation Review Committee**  
**Meeting #2**

October 25, 2007

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

**Present:**

**ARC COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Elizabeth McGuire, Chairperson, Superintendent of Schools  
John Melito, Superintendent of Planning and Operations  
Thane Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Department  
Rosemary Rock-Vincent, Principal, St. James  
Cheryl Cauduro, Principal, Queen of Heaven  
Deirdre Furlong, Principal, St. Edmund  
Deirdre Kinsella-Bliss, Principal, St. Dominic  
Robert Romanet, Principal, St. Timothy  
Ernie Arduini, Teacher Representative, Queen of Heaven  
Lucio Marcantonio, Teacher Representative, St. Dominic  
Amy Moher, Teacher Representative, St. Edmund  
Emily Irvine, Planner, City of Mississauga  
Harry Tideman, School Council Chair, Delegate, St. James  
Victoria Coste-Ramsay, School Council Chair, Queen of Heaven  
Carol Klafuric, School Council Chair, St. Dominic  
LeeAnn McBain, School Council Co-Chair, St. Edmund  
Eric Landman, School Council Co-Chair, St. Edmund  
Delfina Santos, School Council Chair, St. Timothy

**Absent:**

C. Lecanda, Parish Representative, St. Catherine of Siena  
Betty Biss, Parish Representative, St. Mary Star of the Sea

**Staff:**

Rosa Bonifacio – Recording Secretary, Planning Department  
Joshua Tzventarny – Planner

## **ROUTINE MATTERS**

Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

### **1. Opening Prayer & Introduction**

Elizabeth McGuire led the opening prayer.

Elizabeth McGuire welcomed new members by thanking them for attending the meeting and their membership on the ARC.

New Accommodation Review Committee members identified themselves and the areas of representation.

### **2. Minutes**

Elizabeth McGuire,

Inquired if there were any clarifications, additions or deletions were need for the minutes of the ARC meeting held on October 4, 2007.

#### Clarification

Page 4 – question 5 –

Why the minutes show pupil place number at 488 and the Long term plan shows 720.05?

#### Response

Thane Munn

Clarified that the total pupil place shown on the Long Term Plan is the number for the total area called ESA 02 – Port Credit/Cooksville/Erindale West) – (hand out map – ESA 02 – Port Credit/Cooksville/Erindale West), Dixie Shorefront is only part of the total area, its pupil place reduction number is 488.

#### Clarification

Page 6 – question 3

The teacher representative appointed from OECTA are; Amy Moher, for St. Edmund and Lucio Marcantonio, for St. Dominic.

Page 7 – question 5

Thane Munn explained renewal projects regarding Queen of Heaven, Replacement page for binder under Tab 9 SVF page 12.

Clarification

Page 7 – question 6

Revisions pages handed out regarding all schools School Valuation Framework showing change to the Board mean.

The minutes were then approved for the ARC Meeting #1 – October 4, 2007.

The ARC was advised that the approved minutes would be posted on the Dufferin-Peel website [www.dpcdsb.org](http://www.dpcdsb.org) .

**3. Discussion re: Customization of School Valuation Framework**

Open floor to Committee for discussion:

Regarding St. Edmund, Sept 2007 the actual numbers per LeeAnn McBain, School Council Co-Chair, St. Edmund School Valuation Framework shows 351, per Deirdre Furlong, Principal, St. Edmund Number should be 363.

Deirdre Furlong, Principal, St. Edmund asked regarding her school's Sept 2007 Actual number should be 365 yet the SVF show 271 also would like to have the EQAO 2006-2007 Math – Grade 6 School Valuation Framework shows 58/58% but advised that it should be 60/58%

Response:

Thane Munn advised that the Sept 2007 Actual number as based on Mid Sept 2007 data from Trillium Data Base. and the EQAO number we taken directly from the Ministry approved numbers shown on the website

Carol Klafuric, School Council Chair, St. Dominic what to know under School Valuation Framework for St. Dominic's Facilities (Tab 10, Page 9) regarding question on Kitchen shows yes and no, what should the correct answer be?

Response:

Thane Munn informed the committee that the definition of kitchen in the SVF is for a kitchen used for program purposes such as Food Services at the secondary school not the kitchen in the staff room.

Cheryl Cauduro, Principal, Queen of Heaven advised that all schools answers should be checked to ensure that all are properly completed.

Point of Clarification:

John Melito advised that Planning Staff will check and report back on any updates to the School Valuation Framework. .

The Arc wants to know if the City of Mississauga had current development timelines, that may impact future enrolments. John Melito, advised that these developments may already be factored in to the Long Term Plan, but will have the planning department check. Emily Irvine, from the City of Mississauga will check with city staff and report back.

Comment

Emily Irvine, Planner, City of Mississauga

Explained her role to the committee that she was at the meeting as a resource and does not play a role in the decision process.

Question:

By closing local catholic school, could we lose even more enrolment if parents decide to have the children attend the closer public school?

Response:

John Melito advised that the Board has no control over parents' decisions. As an ARC we must be careful to review all options it is important for the members to voice their opinions around the options and that the ARC should make decisions based on what's best for the community as a whole.

Question:

Closing of schools effect on the local parish?

Response:

Thane Munn advised that Parishes' boundaries do not conform to school boundaries.

4. *Discussion of School Accommodation Alternatives*  
Committee

Discussion was opened to the Committee to review all the options following the Status Quo Summary Sheet (Tab 8) by each school making their presentations. All options were discussed.

**Presentation by school:**

**Queen of Heaven**

by Victoria Coste-Ramsay, School Council Chair,

**See presentation attachment - Appendix 1**

**St. Edmund**

by LeeAnn McBain, School Council Co-Chair

See presentation attachment - Appendix 2

**St. Dominic**

by Lucio Marcantonio, Teacher Representative

See presentation attachment - Appendix 3

Due to time constraints, St. Dominic did not have the opportunity to finish the presentation. At the next meeting scheduled on November 21 St. Dominic will present first with the outstanding schools to follow.

5. **Scheduling of Public Meetings and Notification of Public Meetings**  
**Thane Munn – Senior Planner**

Advised the committee of the Ministry guidelines and that sixty days notice is required for the first public meeting. A date in early February is to be established for the first public meeting and the subsequent meetings would fall approximately thirty days apart there after. The public meetings would be advertised in the local newspaper, local Parish bulletins and the Principals would send notices home.

Thane Munn asked the Principals to go back to their school councils and the general population and get a rough estimate of attendance of the first public meeting, in order to assist the Planning Department in booking a venue to hold the public meetings.

**Confirmation of next meeting**

The next ARC meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul Secondary School – Library.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p. m.

Recorder: Rosa Bonifacio  
October 25, 2007  
ARCmtg#1Oct252007

# Dixie Shorefront Accommodation Review Area

Comments on Options Summary  
from Queen of Heaven

Victoria Coste-Ramsay, Chair, School Council

# 1. Status Quo

- Not an option because of declining enrollment across the board
- Would be revisiting this issue again in the near future

## 2. Close St. Dominic and St. James

Move St. Dominic (Areas F & G) and St James to Queen of Heaven

Move St. Dominic (Areas E & H) to St. Timothy

- Not an option for Queen of Heaven because the school would be over capacity
- Quality of education would affect the students because of the overcrowding of classrooms, washrooms, increased litter
- portables would take away space from the playground and damage the new sprinkler system which was just installed
- school yard is already limited by housing on three sides and roadway
- portables are hot in the summer, cold in the winter
- children in the portables are isolated from the rest of the school body – students would not be as committed because they are segregated
- health and safety issues (in portables there are no washrooms, mud and filth, allergies/mold, increased falls in the winter because of build up of snow and ice)

## 2. Close St. Dominic and St. James

### Continued

- Increased security issues (lockdown procedures, vandalism, break ins)
- Increased car and bus traffic would affect local traffic and environment greatly
- Already very heavy car and school bus traffic because of the 7 schools in the immediate area and the railroad crossing (St. Paul's, Toronto French School, Allan Martin, Neil Matheson and Gordon Graydon)
- Changing school hours not an option because of parents working hours and daycare
- The increased capacity would affect all school field trips, before and after school programming, PALS and special needs program
- Morning assemblies and liturgies would need to be split because of the small gym could not accommodate the entire school
- Increased workload for custodians

# 3. Close St. Dominic and St. James

Move St. Dominic (Area G) and St James to Queen of Heaven

Move St. Dominic (Areas E &H) to St. Timothy

- School is running just under capacity
- Spacing issues would affect the quality of programming for students (lack of space for computer and science room, small gym)
- JK-SK classes need their own room with a washroom and play area for safety reasons
- Needs moderate children would be affected and impacted by the lack of space (they require more space because of specialized equipment, accessible washroom, wheelchairs, etc.)

## 4. Close St. Dominic and St. James

Move St. Dominic (all) and St. James to Queen of Heaven

- Not feasible as school is operating at overcapacity
- See reasons under Option 2

## 5. Close St. James

Move St. James and St. Timothy (Area A) to St. Dominic

- No comment

## 6. Close St. James

Move St James (all) and St. Timothy (Area A) to Queen of Heaven

- Feasible
- St. James students would be able to walk to church as their school does not have a church within walking distance in the vicinity
- Area A not adjacent to school boundary
- Increase need and cost for bussing students from Area A

## 7. Move St. Timothy (Area A) to St. James

- Still does not solve the problem that a school is operating at less than 50% which does not justify the operating costs to keep the school open
- Bussing costs per student are 300% more than other schools in the area
- The school does not have a church within walking distance

## 8. Close St. Dominic

Move St. Dominic (all) and St. Timothy (Area A) to St. James

- There is no church nearby so a pastoral team would have to visit the school regularly or students are bused to the parish

# 9. Close St. Dominic

Move St. Dominic (all) and St. Timothy (Area A) to Queen of Heaven

- Not feasible
- See reasons under option 2

# 10 . Close St. Dominic

Move St. Dominic (Areas F and G) to Queen of Heaven

- Feasible
- Spacing issues could affect quality of specialized programming and JK-SK (see reasons under option 3)

# 11. Close St. Dominic

Move St. Dominic (Areas E & H) to St. Timothy

Move St. Dominic (Area F) to Queen of Heaven

Move St. Dominic (Area G) to St. James

- Still have St. James operating at less than 50% (see reasons under option 7)

# 12. Close St. Dominic

Move St. Dominic (Areas A, G & H) to St. James

Move St. Dominic (Area F) to Queen of Heaven

- St. James will still be operating just under 50% capacity
- This option would only temporarily postpone closing down St. James

## 13. Move St. Timothy (Area A) to St. Dominic

- Yes it is viable but it does not address the issue of St. James operating at less than 50%

# 14. Close St. Edmund

Move St. Edmund (Area C) to St. Timothy

Move St. Edmund (Area D) to Queen of Heaven

- This option does not affect Queen of Heaven as much as St. Timothy which would be operating way over capacity
- Option still does not address the issue of St. James

# 15. Close St. James

Move St. James (all) to Queen of Heaven

- Very feasible, minimal impact on Queen of Heaven
- St. James students would have the opportunity to attend a church mass regularly since they don't have a church within walking distance of their school vicinity
- St. James students would have access to a wider variety of programming and teachers

# Our top 3 options

1. Option 15 – close St. James and move St. James (all) to Queen of Heaven
2. Option 6 – Close St. James and move St. James (all) and St. Timothy (area A) to Queen of Heaven
3. Option 3 – Close St. Dominic and St. James. Move St. Dominic (area G) and St. James to Queen of Heaven

## St. Edmund School

We reject option 14 to close St. Edmund school. St. Edmund School does not meet the criteria for closure; we are a viable catholic school and community.

- The demographics in Applewood Acres, Sherway and Orchard Heights are changing, new families are moving into the areas.
- We have a strong catholic population in Applewood Acres, Sherway and Orchard Heights.
- There are 363 students presently registered: West Acres (public school has approx. 180 students) there are no other schools in our area.
- The capacity of our school is 273 students. To date our enrollment is 363. As we look at our projection into 2011 our enrollment is still over capacity at 320 students. At no time do we fall into the less than 50% enrollment category.
- St. Edmund has room for growth – one empty portable (only 2 in use).
- St. Edmund is located next to Sao Salvador do Mundo Church we share the same parking lot – this church is used each month by students; 45% of population attends this church.
- St. Edmund is located next to two City of Mississauga parks which we have access to as extensions to our school yard.
- Our building is in solid condition and we have had good repair and up keep.
- A 1.3 million dollar addition was added 15 years ago.
- The Region of Peel replaced every toilet and put in new urinal sensors in August at a cost of \$12,000.00. This is thanks to our students for their 3 year Water Research Project, refer to Peel Water Story.
- We do have some concerns re: Page 12-Section 11 – re: current cost to address the current backlog of renewal projects \$2,764,664.87 (disagree that the Board will be spending this money as many of the recommended repairs are not needed)  
Info from the Board personal: Ministry visited schools 3 years ago and this figure is based on the life cycle projections of possible costs that occur after school is 50 years or older. This does not mean that all these repairs must take place, but MAY need to take place. Numbers are based on what it MAY cost to make the school look like a brand new school e.g. \$54,000.00 for new boilers; replace all the millwork i.e. new classroom doors \$133,000.00; build a drop ceiling in former Industrial Arts Room, presently two classrooms \$78,000.00; new pipes \$266,000.00.
- Page 11-Section 11 – errors in Facilities Condition Index (FCI) – info incorrect.

## Analysis of Board proposed options

**Option 1 - Status Quo** – does nothing to reduce pupil placements

### **Option 2 - Close St. Dominic & St. James**

(area F & G and St. James to Q of H)

(area E & H to St. T)

#### Pros

1. Board obtains their required pupil reduction in 2008 and 2009
2. reduced cost to maintain properties
3. reduced non teaching expenditures

#### Cons

1. breakup the student community between 2 schools
2. busing 354 students, is costly and a logistical nightmare, not to mention the length of time students will spend on the bus
3. busing is contracted out which leaves us even more dependent on the current busing companies – poor track record – own personal experience
4. Queen of Heaven will be over capacity for 4 years +
5. The community profile data (source: City of Mississauga, Planning and Building Dept. 2001) notes that 42% of the community is Roman Catholic which ranks #1 in total faith denominations.

In addition, the data notes that 92.4% of the homes are owned (3020).

Assuming **42% of those are Roman Catholic** (1268 homes). The contribution to Catholic education is:

**\$1,057,845.60 /yr (1268 X \$834 – education levy from an average home in the community 2007)**

Will the community pull their support for Catholic education if their local school is closed????

6. St. Dominic school parents will move their students to a public school within the community, which translates into **lost Catholic education revenue** from property taxes -  
 $\text{St. Dominic parents } 254 \text{ homes} \times 92.4\% \times \$834 = \$195,736.46 / \text{year}$  - currently 86% of St. Dominic students are walkers and with the public school located directly across the St. Dominic parking lot parents **will** switch to the public board and so will their financial support
7. students will **not have** the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular programs because they need to catch the bus

8. the area will suffer due to the elimination of a focal point of every community, a Catholic school. Less young families will move into the neighborhood due to the absence of a school.
9. St. Dominic Church is a strong partner with the school due to its proximity. The church attracts St. Dominic students to its youth program.
10. From an urban planning perspective it would see a large geographical area not served by a Catholic elementary school.

### **Option 3 - Close St. Dominic & St. James**

(area G and St. James to Q of H)

(area E,F & H to St. T)

Same pros/cons as in **Option 2** plus the following

#### Cons

1. too far for busing
2. St. Timothy over capacity for 4+ years

### **Option 4. Close St. Dominic & St. James**

(all of St. D & St. J to Q of H)

#### Pros

1. Board obtains their required pupil reduction in 2008 and 2009
2. reduced cost to maintain properties
3. reduced non teaching expenditures

#### Cons

1. Queen of Heaven will go over capacity by 181 students and the school will require 7 portables to accommodate all the students.
2. busing 354 students, is costly and a logistical nightmare, not to mention the length of time students will spend on the bus
3. The community profile data (source: City of Mississauga, Planning and Building Dept. 2001) notes that 42% of the community is Roman Catholic which ranks #1 in total faith denominations.

In addition, the data notes that 92.4% of the homes are owned (3020). Assuming **42% of those are Roman Catholic** (1268 homes). The contribution to Catholic education is:

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5. students will **not** have the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular programs because they need to catch the bus
6. the area will suffer due to the elimination of a focal point of every community, a school. Less young families will move into the neighborhood due to the absence of a school.
7. St. Dominic Church is a strong partner with the school due to its proximity. The church attracts St. Dominic students to its youth program, thus, helping to foster Catholic beliefs and virtues and **maintaining a constant flow of Catholics especially during a time when others question and oppose our beliefs.**

### **Option 5 - Close St. James**

(move St. J & area A to St. D)

#### Pros

1. Board reduces its pupil places by 276 students achieving their 2008 target
2. reduced cost to maintain property i.e. utilities
3. reduced non teaching expenditures
4. facility can be used to generate income from other programs i.e. LINC and Continuing Education
5. 101 St. James students bused vs. 254 St. Dominic students
6. current cost to bus St. James students is \$4,288 per student vs. \$658 per St. Dominic student
7. St. James is not centrally located in a residential neighborhood. The site is surrounded by Lake Ontario to the south, to the immediate north, west and east there are businesses which attract a great deal of vehicular traffic. Not a prime location for a school, hence the low enrolment. It is all about location, location and location.
8. St. James currently partners with St. Dominic's on ski trips.
9. The sheer geographic boundaries make it conducive...it's a natural fit.
10. Our community supports the businesses in Port Credit (to the same extent as they are supported by residents near St. James.) (e.g. Cousin's on Hwy. 10, No Frills, Lagos Restaurant, Ten Restaurant)
11. The continuation of a Catholic school in the geographical area

12. The large amount of land available at St. Dominic make it possible to provide more extra-curricular i.e. soccer, baseball etc.
13. The students from both schools will also participate in community programs outside of school i.e. hockey, soccer, baseball because they live in the same area, thus, contributing to positive social development for each child.
14. The demographics of the St. James area have changed in the past few years. Given its proximity to the lake, and the real estate prices in the area it caters now to urban professionals with no children or empty nesters or retired professionals which is supported by the type of development that is happening in this area i.e. Fram/Sloker townhouses, the Regatta and most recently the North Shore development.

### **Benefits for St. James' students**

1. They will benefit from a larger and safer physical area to play in.
2. Improved teaching experience for both students and teachers, there will no longer be 3 grades in one classroom.
3. Access to a greater number of children, will be positive to the child's social development.

While it is difficult to close any school, enrollment at St. James has continued to decline over the last few years. However if any school should close it should be St. James, strictly from a numbers point of view (# of students and a financial #)

### **Cons**

1. 110 students get bused (new cost unknown) current cost too high \$4,288 per student
2. St. James students travel time on bus will be longer

### **Option 6 - Close St. James**

(move St. J & area A to Q of H)

### **Pros**

1. Board reduces its pupil places by 276 students achieving their 2008 target
2. reduced cost to maintain property i.e. utilities
3. reduced non teaching expenditures
4. it will increase Q of Heaven's numbers
5. facility can be used to generate income from other programs i.e. LINC and Continuing Education

### **Cons**

1. St. James students travel time on bus will be much longer than option #5
2. St. James students will be bused into an area out of their community entirely

### **Option 7 – Move St. Timothy's (area A) to St. James**

Not a viable option as it does nothing to reduce the # of pupil places.