



DUFFERIN PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Approved Minutes
Accommodation Review Committee
Meeting #3
Dixie Shorefront
November 21, 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
C. Lecanda, Parish Representative, St. Catherine of Siena
Barbara Oleksak, Parish Representative, St. Patrick

Absent:

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

Staff: R. Bonifacio, Recorder- Secretary, Planning Department

J. Tzventarny, Planner, Planning Department

ROUTINE MATTERS

Elizabeth McGuire, Chairperson, Superintendent of School called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

1. Opening Prayer & Introduction

Elizabeth McGuire led the opening prayer.

Thanked committee members for attending the meeting.

Elizabeth McGuire welcomed new accommodation review committee member Barbara Oleksak, Parish Representative, from St. Patrick.

Handouts and revisions pages were handed out regarding all schools School Valuation Framework showing changes outlined in ARC Meeting #2 – October 25, 2007. The Memorandum from Mississauga Planning and Building Department dated November 2, 2007 file regarding: Inquiry Regarding New Development

2. Minutes

Elizabeth McGuire

Inquired if there were any clarifications, additions, deletions or changes the minutes of the ARC meeting #2 held on October 25, 2007.

Revisions page 3, item 3 paragraph 2

Reference to **Deirdre Kinsella, Principal of St. Dominic** should have been to:

Deirdre Furlong, Principal, St. Edmund regarding the school's Sept 2007 Actual number should be 365 yet the SVF show 271 also would like to have the EQAO 2006-2007 Math – scores as follows:

Grade 6 School Valuation Framework shows **88/58%** but advised that it should be **88/60%** to be corrected as follows:

Grade 6 School Valuation Framework shows **58/58%** but advised that it should be **60/58%**

The minutes were approved as amended, moved by Deirdre Furlong, Principal, St. Edmund.

Thane Munn advised the committee that the approved minutes of Meeting #2, October 25, 2007 would be posted on the Dufferin-Peel website www.dpcdsb.org under the Planning Department, sub-section School Closures Review.

3. **Discussion of School Accommodation Alternatives and Selection of Alternatives for Presentation at Public Meeting**

Elizabeth McGuire

Advised the committee that the object of the meeting was to review the options and make a decision on any changes, additions or deletions of options for the public presentation. John Melito re-capped the discussion of the options at the ARC meeting held on October 25, 2007. The first public meeting has been advertised to the public.

Due to time constraints of the last meeting, St. Dominic's representative did not have the opportunity to finish the presentation. St. James's representative did not present. St. Dominic's representative will present first with St. James to follow.

St. Dominic completed its presentation on options

- **See presentation attachment to previous ARC meeting #2 minutes October 25, 2007 - Appendix 3**

St. James Harry Tideman, School Council Chair, Delegate, St. James, provided copy of presentation to committee

- **See presentation attachment - Appendix A**

Discussion was re-opened to the Committee to review all the options following the Status Quo Summary Sheet TAB 8 - Feasible Options - # 2 – 14 review all the scenarios. After discussion and consideration by the committee, it was agreed by all that the following:

Options were divided in 3 groups:

Group One: Options 2, 3, 4

Group Two: Options 5, 6

Group Three: Options 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

and

Removal of three Options 7, 13, 14

4. **Public Meetings**

Thane Munn

The Preliminary Agenda for Public Meetings was given out.

Board staff will present the information and options at the Public meetings. Questions from the Public will be addressed by Board staff. Notice of the first Public Meeting has been sent out, through the schools, local newspaper and to residents within 500 feet of the schools.

Public Meeting:

February 5, 2008 at St. Paul Secondary – Cafeteria

5. **Discussion re: Future ARC Meetings**

Elizabeth McGuire

The question was raised if the committee required another ARC committee meeting before the public meeting, the committee agreed to meet after the first Public Meeting to de-brief. The inclement weather date, Tuesday, February 27, 2007 was decided upon.

Future Meetings:

ARC #4 Meeting

February 27, 2008 at St. Paul Secondary - Library

Confirmation of next meeting

Public Meeting:

February 5, 2008 at St. Paul Secondary

Future Meetings:

ARC #4 Meeting

February 27, 2008 at St. Paul Secondary - Library

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 p. m.

Recorder: Rosa Bonifacio
November 21, 2007

St. James Elementary School
DISCUSSION PAPER for ACR MEETING of
November 21, 2007

Appendix A

ST. JAMES COMMENTS

With the closing of St. Mary's, St. James remains as Port Credit's only Catholic Elementary School and, as such, an integral part of our community. Having been newly renovated in 1994, St. James is in meticulous condition and serves as a model of success for highly regarded, small, community-based schools. It is our opinion that with the closing of St. James, Port Credit will cease to be a whole community and, furthermore, that the reduction in Catholic presence will serve only to further the cause of those wishing to eliminate public funding of Catholic education all together.

Below are excerpts from recent studies showing the value of small, community-based schools.

PROXIMITY: The impact of school quality and proximity is not limited to families with school-aged children but extends to residential property owners generally. As has been found in previous studies, school quality has a significant positive impact on residential property values. However, the impact of school proximity appears to be as significant in terms of property values, with close proximity generally making a positive contribution to property values while greater than average distance from schools correlates with significantly lower property values. These findings should be of particular interest in growing communities facing decisions of locating new schools. Educational quality is not the only factor affecting parental and student satisfaction with schooling **Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics, Apr 2007**

SMALL SCHOOLS: Commonly defined as elementary schools between 100 and 400 students, and secondary schools between 500 and 1000 students – are more successful when compared to larger schools. Small schools have proved to be such a superior and more successful model for educating children that the title of a research paper from the Centre for Education Research at the University of Wisconsin is, "The Ultimate Education Reform - Make Schools Smaller." As noted in the 2005 Ontario Small School Report produced by People for Education, international research shows that small schools: improve student achievement, increase attendance and graduation rates, elevate teacher satisfaction, improve school safety and increase parent & community involvement. **People for Education, Ontario's Small Schools, 2005**

"Measured either as dropout rate or graduation rate, the holding power of small schools is considerably greater than that of large schools." **Kathleen Cotton, "School Size, School Climate and Student Performance"**

A compelling body of research shows that when students are part of smaller and more intimate learning communities, they are more successful. The latest research demonstrates that small schools, particularly schools of choice, have a measurably positive impact on inner-city students, especially those from minority and low-income families. The tradeoff for the wider selection of courses offered in large schools has been the sacrifice of coherence, intimacy, security, student choice, and teacher autonomy that a small school can offer. In small schools, the level of participation in all activities tends to be higher, and fewer students are marginalized. **Small Schools Workshop**

SCHOOL CLOSURES: Neighbourhood public schools play a significant role in communities around the province, serving children, youth and families, providing public space, offering programs and hosting events, building social connections, and providing a hub for many facets of community life. Schools are key in developing allegiance to the community and pride in the accomplishments of its members. Bureaucrats align school closures with economic savings, although it should not be taken for granted that this is so. However, any examination of the cost of keeping schools open should be balanced against the broader costs to children, families, and the communities of closing schools. **BC Teachers Federation**

PUBLIC MEETING PROCESS

A well-conceived public meeting process and series of agendas will help to reduce the negativity surrounding the ARC process, while assisting us in facilitating meaningful two-way communication between the Committee and the Community.

Individual Presentations

St. James proposes that each school to be affected by the outcome of the ARC process should be given 5 minutes to present the particular views of their own community.

REMOVE ST. EDMUND FROM CLOSURE DISCUSSION

For the sake of the St. Edmund Community, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and Catholic education as a whole, we believe further discussion regarding the closing St. Edmund should cease, thus reducing the inherent negative impact generated by the ARC process and assisting us through the anticipated process of elimination.