



Approved Minutes  
Dixie Shorefront  
Accommodation Review Committee  
Public Meeting #1

*Tuesday, February 05, 2008*  
*St. Paul Secondary School*  
*7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.*

**Present:**

E. McGuire, Chairperson, Superintendent of Schools  
J. Melito, Superintendent of Planning and Operations  
T. Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Department  
E. Irvine, Planner, City of Mississauga  
ARC Committee Members - Queen of Heaven  
    St. Dominic  
    St. Edmund  
    St. James  
    St. Timothy

**Guests:**

Rev. Norman Roberts  
Rev. Neil McMillan

**Staff:**

B. Campbell, General Manager Communications & Community Relations  
J. Rogers, Planner, Planning Department  
J. Tzventarny, Planner, Planning Department  
R. Bonifacio, Recorder- Secretary, Planning Department



**ROUTINE MATTERS**

Elizabeth McGuire, Chairperson, Superintendent of Schools, called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

**1. Introduction & Welcome**

Elizabeth McGuire welcomed everyone for attending the first of a series of 4 Public meetings. Elizabeth McGuire reviewed ARC process undertaken by this board to investigate the future of a particular school or group of schools in a review area as mandated by the Ministry of Education. Identified in the Accommodation Review Area know as Dixie Shorefront, the following schools:

Queen of Heaven  
St. Dominic  
St. Edmund  
St. James  
St. Timothy

Elizabeth McGuire introduced John Melito, Superintendent of Planning and Operations and Thane Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Department and the Accommodation Review Committee members. She advised the attendees to refer to the yellow handout given out this evening for the agenda.

All details regarding the ARC are posted on the board website

Rev. N. Roberts of St. Dominic Church led the opening prayer.

**2. Background Information**

Thane Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Dept.

Thane Munn explained that the Ministry of Education released the Pupil Accommodation Guidelines (previously referred to as school closure guidelines). These guidelines give direction on the process that school boards are to follow when considering school consolidation.

The guidelines entitled “Pupil Accommodation Review” outline the necessary steps that boards must follow to close schools. Decisions are to be based on a broad range of criteria regarding quality of the learning experience for students, value of school(s) to the community, and ensure that operation and maintenance of schools are effectively and efficiently managed.

The board Pupil Accommodation Review Policy sets out the process that will be followed and under what circumstances schools will be considered in an accommodation review. The criteria are elementary schools below 250 students, below 50% capacity, the long term enrolment indicates continued decline, and/or Long Term Capital Plan indicates there is an excess capacity in the service area and identifies that pupil reductions are required. Additional factors that may include a school in a review area are that the school could be considered as a “receiving school”; reorganization by way of a boundary



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adjustment; redirection of a specialty program (i.e. Extended French, Gifted program); School and or be geographically located.

The Board has initiated three Accommodation Reviews Area; North Bramalea, Central Erin Mills and Dixie Shorefront.

The Board process has three major components they are:

- Stage 1 – Identification
- Stage 2 – Review and Analysis
- Stage 3 – Implementation

All information that is being considered by the ARC is available for the public to review on the board website at the following address:

<http://www.dpccsb.org/CEC/About+Us/Departments/PLN/School+Closures+Review.htm>

### 3. Accommodation Review Committee

Thane Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Dept.

The Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) is comprised of members from the school community as well as from the broader community:

- Superintendent of Schools (Chair)
- School Council Chairs
- Principals
- Teacher Representatives (as appointed by OECTA)
- Parish Representatives
- Municipal Representatives
- School Board Staff

The ARC is responsible to consider the accommodation options, review and customize the School Valuation Framework. Evaluate accommodation options on a school and community basis and make recommendations for modifications and/or alternate accommodation options. At the end of the public meeting process, the committee's role is to report findings and conclusions and a report to the Board of Trustees.

The ARC met on the following dates:

- **ARC Meeting #1** – October 4, 2007
- **ARC Meeting #2** – October 25, 2007
- **ARC Meeting #3** – November 20, 2007

All Dixie Shorefront ARC meetings were held at St. Paul Secondary School and all meeting minutes are posted on the Board's website at [www.dpccsb.org](http://www.dpccsb.org).



4. **Role of the Trustee**

Elizabeth McGuire, Chairperson, Superintendent of Schools

As part of the ARC process, trustees will receive and consider formal reports from both the ARC and from staff at an upcoming public board meeting. At that board meeting, community members will also have the opportunity to present their views, comments and concerns to trustees.

Dufferin-Peel has received an opinion from legal counsel advising that it would be wise for trustees to allow the Accommodation Review Committees to conduct their committee meetings and public meetings without trustees being present at those meetings. It is felt that the presence of trustees would change the dynamics of the meetings and could create a public perception in the community that trustees have predetermined or biased positions. This could impact later voting, or create a risk that the Board's decision could be judicially reviewed. Such an outcome would prolong an already lengthy and difficult process.

5. **Program and Staffing Benefits**

Elizabeth McGuire, Chairperson, Superintendent of Schools

The basis of program and staffing benefits are directly tied to enrolment numbers.

Program Benefits:

In larger schools, the following opportunities exist:

- Greater opportunity for varied programming
- More varied number of peers
- Opportunity to have Special Education Resource Class (SERC) for students with special learning needs
- Varied extra-curricular opportunities

Staffing issues with schools with low enrolments:

- Possibility of triple grades
- Same teacher may teach students 2 or 3 years consecutively
- Staff may be divided among a number of schools
  - i.e. FSL – French As a Second Language*
  - ESL – English As a Second Language*
  - Teacher/Librarian*

Smaller allocation of staffing resources due to numbers

- i.e. CYW – Child Youth Worker*
- Special Services Staff*

The Board has been staffing smaller schools by taking from the large schools for coverage of staff. This was done so that smaller schools would not have triple grades. There is a possibility of triple grades in smaller schools in the future.



6. Neighbourhood Overview

Thane Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Dept.

Presented the following information on the accommodation review area:

- **Enrolment and Accommodation Options**
- **Historic and Projected Total Enrolment (chart 1)**
- **Historic and Projected Total Enrolment (chart 2)**
- **Dixie Shorefront Accommodation Review Area**
  - Status Quo-map**
  - Status Quo – (chart)**
  - Status Quo – (breakout)**
  - Status Quo – (breakout chart)**

7. Accommodation Options

Thane Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Dept.

Reviewed and explained the following:

Status Quo

OPTION 1 - CLOSE ST. DOMINIC & ST. JAMES

Move St. Dominic (Area F & Area G) & St. James to Queen of Heaven  
Move St. Dominic (Area E & Area H) to St. Timothy

OPTION 2 - CLOSE ST. DOMINIC & ST. JAMES

Move St. Dominic (Area G) & St. James to Queen of Heaven  
Move St. Dominic (Area E, Area F & Area H) to St. Timothy

OPTION 3 - CLOSE ST. DOMINIC & ST. JAMES

Move St. Dominic (All) & St. James (All) to Queen of Heaven

OPTION 4 - CLOSE ST. JAMES

Move St. James (All) & St. Timothy (Area A - Regular) to St. Dominic

OPTION 5 - CLOSE ST. JAMES

Move St. James (All) & St. Timothy (Area A - Regular) to Queen of Heaven

OPTION 6 - CLOSE ST. DOMINIC

Move St. Dominic (All) & St. Timothy (Area A - Regular) to St. James

OPTION 7 - CLOSE ST. DOMINIC

Move St. Dominic (All) & St. Timothy (Area A - Regular) to Queen of Heaven

OPTION 8 - CLOSE ST. DOMINIC

Move St. Dominic (Area F & Area G) to Queen of Heaven  
Move St. Dominic (Area E & Area H) to St. Timothy



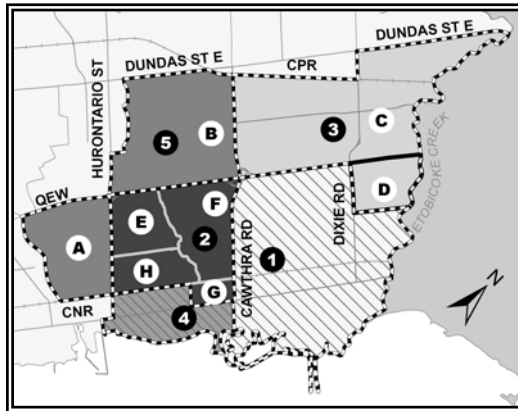
OPTION 9 - CLOSE ST. DOMINIC

- Move St. Dominic (Area E & Area H) to St. Timothy
- Move St. Dominic (Area F) to Queen of Heaven
- Move St. Dominic (Area G) to St. James

OPTION 10 - CLOSE ST. DOMINIC

- Move St. Dominic (Area E, Area G & Area H) to St. James
- Move St. Dominic (Area F) to Queen of Heaven

Map following shows Areas of the options above:



Legend

**1 – Queen of Heaven**

**2 – St. Dominic**

- E G H F

**3 – St. Edmund**

- C D

**4 – St. James**

**5 – St. Timothy**

- A B

Each of the options was reviewed in detail, demonstrating with coloured maps and charts.

To view this presentation see the following link:

<http://www.dpcdsb.org/NR/rdonlyres/43D3CF43-312C-4C04-8208-D69FAFBCCC49/25217/DixieShorefrontARCPublicMeeting15Feb2008.pdf>

**8. Next Steps**

Thane Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Dept.

The next steps to accommodate the public meeting requirements mandated by the Ministry of Education are to have future public meetings

- Public Meeting #2 – April 1, 2008
- Public Meeting #3 – May 6, 2008
- Public Meeting #4 – May 22, 2008

Note: *ALL meetings to be held at St. Paul Secondary School @ 7pm*

ARC prepares recommendation report to the Board of Trustees – Fall, 2008

Staff prepares recommendation report to the Board of Trustees – Fall, 2008

A decision will then be made by the Board of Trustees at the fall 2008 Board meeting

Projected Timelines:

- *School Closure in June 2009*
- *Students relocate in September 2009*



9. Questions and Comments:

Parents, students and community members had the opportunity to express their concerns and ask questions. Board staff responded to the questions and concerns to the best of their knowledge and advised that they would review the additional questions in preparation for the next Public Meeting.

1. St. Dominic - Parent

Question:

- 6 years until youngest graduates
- primary concern is safety
- concern about bussing eligibility
  - crossing Cawthra Road
  - passing 2 high schools

Response:

Thane Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Dept.

- distance & safety to be considered
- speed limits to be reviewed
- Board works with traffic safety council

**Transportation** – will be presented in more detail at future public meeting

2. St. Dominic – Parent

Question:

- Attended St. Dominic himself
- Why St. Dominic being considered when running efficiently
- Should we be fighting for catholic education
- How can we save Catholic schools rather than close

Response:

Thane Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Dept.

- School meets enrolment criteria and declining enrolment criteria

3. St. Edmund - Parent

Question:

- What criteria will Board use to decide what option will go forward?

Response:

John Melito, Superintendent of Planning and Operations

- Trustees will consider ARC & Staff reports



4. St. Dominic - Parent

Question:

- Is there any criterion that will be used that is not publicly disclosed?
- Is there a back room deal regarding lands to developers?
- Prime Property, developers would like to get their hands on?

Thane Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Dept.

- All information has been shared with the ARC and will be shared with the public through the meeting process and the website.
- The after-use of the site has not been not discussed with the ARC except to explain that the after use is NOT a criteria for consideration in a review process
- The board must follow a prescribed Ministry of Education process for disposal of Board property

5. Rate-Payer/Resident

Question:

- No children
- What happens when population grows back up?
- St. Timothy rebuilt, Why?
- Enrolment can be accommodate in Long-term projection

Response:

John Melito, Superintendent of Planning and Operations

- 15 year projection – enrolment declining in whole area

6. St. Dominic - Parent

Comment: Student, teacher, ratio

- special school, fundraising for books
- high EQAO; piloting smart Board

Question: Board projections to 2012 – not long term view – has Board done a long-term view, has the board done a long term projection over the next 15 – 20 years.

Response:

John Melito, Superintendent of Planning and Operations

- Board starting process for new 15 year projection including 2006 census data.
- If there is an upsurge in enrolment in Long Term Plan then it will be considered.



7. St. Dominic – Rate Payer/Resident

Question:

- Demographic – elderly seniors; new families to purchase these homes
- “doesn’t make sense that area will be declining”

Response:

Thane Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Dept.

- refers to line graph
- refers to historical trends, aware that families move
- didn’t happen overnight
- work with census data to confirm projections
- 3 ARC’s initiated because Board wide enrolment decline at elementary panel

8. St. Dominic – Parent

Question:

- A) At capacity – why are there so many options?
- B) Has board considered extra transportation costs to transport St. Dominic to other schools?

Response:

John Melito, Superintendent of Planning and Operations

A)

- Moratorium on closures a few years ago
- Ministry introduced new guidelines to ensure Board focuses on review areas rather than just one school.
- St. Dominic seems to be considered more often because of sub-areas
- ARC debating options

Response:

B)

- Board will consider transportation costs

9. Lynwood Public School – Parent

Comment:

- Facing same challenges as St. Dominic with declining enrolment

Question:

- Any research done on increasing enrolment?
- How to entice children back?
- Any research done?

Response:

Elizabeth McGuire, Chairperson, Superintendent of Schools,

- Explained criteria to enrolment at Catholic Elementary School



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- Superintendent proud of achievement at all schools
- Declining enrolment & facilities are the issue

### 10. Queen of Heaven – Parent

Question:

Why no thought about consolidation when rebuilding Queen of Heaven?

Options show 5 or 6 portables.

Response:

Thane Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Dept.

- portables are a fact of life
- had 750 portables at one time
- not advocating it's the best thing to do
- portables at St. Timothy and Queen of Heaven before rebuilt
- Built school to accommodate students in its catchments area only – not building for future unapproved closure- Board doesn't operate that way.
- Primary Class Size considerations change capacity
- Each option different implication on portables

### 11. St. Dominic – Parent

(Asked to see the slide on Historical enrolment)

Question:

A)

- Why would Board spend \$7 million to rebuild school if historical enrolment and projections show such decline?

B)

- Re: larger schools; extra curricular
- Cost per student to attend St. Dominic same as 3 other schools; same as St. Timothy, Queen of Heaven
- Why consider close St. Dominic?

Response:

John Melito, Superintendent of Planning and Operations

A)

- St. Timothy currently has 6 room portapak in new school; attached to the building
- Built core to meet population; kept portapak
- St. Timothy replacement school

B)

- ARC's mandate to "consider" schools in review area
- Consider all options, no decision has been made by the ARC
- Cannot preclude any school



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### 12. St. Dominic – Parent

Comment:

“Final decision will be debated at the Board”

Concerned & dismayed that Trustee not in attendance

Question:

A) Why was it necessary to seek legal counsel when this is a transparent process?

Comment:

B) Reconsider – Trustees should attending the Public Meetings

- Need to hear concerns at these meetings

Response:

Elizabeth McGuire, Chairperson, Superintendent of Schools

A)

- New process
- province wide sought many legal opinions about the entire process
- Best interest of process & trustees that they not attend

Response:

John Melito, Superintendent of Planning and Operations

B)

- Trustees have very important decision to make as a Board
- Do not want parents to think that trustees are prejudging their decision prior to receiving all of the information through the process
- Just because they aren't here doesn't mean you can't contact them through school council

### 13. St. Dominic – Parent

Comment:

- Will environmental health be considered?
- 85% of St. Dominic walk to school
- go green philosophy/physical activity
- will it be considered? Health environment
- health and welfare of the child's health & planet needs to be considered

### 14. St. Dominic – Parent

Question:

- Bus to St. Timothy if missed how will they get home
- No issue re portables
- Try one closure to see impact, then try another school to see effect & LTP
- School will not reopen after closure

Response:

Thane Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Dept. DPCDSB

- larger schools could address smaller school needs



15. St. Dominic – Parent pre-school aged children

(Asked to see the slide on Historic enrolment)

Question:

A)

- When Queen of Heaven reconstructed 2002 and St. Timothy reconstructed 2006
- How can we trust forecasting/methodology when making Long Term Planning decisions?

B)

- What will you do if enrolment increases in the future? How rebuild school and buy new lands?

C)

- St. Dominic is 80% of options

Response:

Thane Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Dept.

A)

- Decision to rebuild several years ahead of opening
- Enrolment increasing when decision to build Queen of Heaven was made
- Other schools that have been closed in the past are now utilized as other Board Facilities :  
i.e.:  
St. Mary, now leased as daycare centre  
St. Luke and St. Gabriel now used as Adult Learning centre to meet those new needs of a community

Yes always possibility to sell land

Response:

John Melito, Superintendent of Planning and Operations

B & C)

- Clarified 5 schools in Review Area  
Therefore options to close A, B or A and B or none; but all 5 are involved in the process.
- Make decisions based on what we know today
- Short term, mid-term and Long term
- DPCDSB has been on upward trend last 30 years
- Recent decline has surprised everyone, including the Board, Province and Ministry
- 2001 Census provided new information
- there has not been such a decline over last 50 years



16. St. Dominic – Rate Payer/Resident

Comment:

A)

- Why don't we consider saying things in a positive way?
- Too much focus on declining enrolment, transportation, walking, stress for parents
- ARC job is not easy – make decision to ease parents responsibilities

B)

Reference: to slide regarding Programming

- Thought already that St. James was closed.
- Large area play ground areas at St. James, St. Timothy, Queen of Heaven?  
Answer not available tonight.
- If move to Queen of Heaven is there room to play with portables on site?

C)

Answer not available tonight

- Many situations with PDSB/DP schools are beside each other? Arrangement with PDSB and DP can't be considered to run both schools.

Response:

John Melito, Superintendent of Planning and Operations

- Right to Catholic Education/Catholic supports.

17. St. Dominic - Parent

Comment:

- Currently a supply teacher in Metro Separate where public/separate share building & common facilities, i.e., library, gym

18. St. Dominic - Parent

Comment:

- Move to area for quality of life
- 31/2 year old – will send kids to Lynwood Public School for quality of life

19. St. James - Parent

Question:

A)

- Changes to physical premises?
- When in the process is that considered?
- Busing costs?

B)

- who do we contact if we have questions after reviewing ARC materials



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Response:

John Melito, Superintendent of Planning and Operations

A)

- ARC has to analyze remaining options more deeply. What are the costs, what renovations after options narrowed down

B)

- All material on the Board website.
- Process to direct question to is Via Public Meeting, Parent Council, or email [planning@dpcdsb.org](mailto:planning@dpcdsb.org) or school administration

Comment:

Maintain Catholic culture in Port Credit to be considered

20. St. James - Parent

Comment:

- Feel neglected
- St. James physical boundary smaller than the rest
- When St. Mary closed they were told they would get their kids
- No assistance from Board
- Tried to get special programs, nature school/environmental program (Adamson Estate)
- Parents feel they haven't been treated fairly

21. St. James – Parent

Question:

- Declining enrolment related to children going to other programs rather than low growth
- Any consideration to special programs?
- Why is enrolment declining

Response:

Elizabeth McGuire, Chairperson, Superintendent of Schools

- Looking at special program in elementary panel

22. St. Dominic – Ratepayer/Resident

Comment:

- Disappointed Mario Pascucci not here
- Quality of Life – walking to school
- Too many options splitting St. Dominic
- Want to go to school together as a community
- Most folks in area retirees
- Thinks numbers not accurate



23. St. Dominic – Parent

Comments:

- 6 portapak at St. Timothy
- change dynamics of community by closing school
- older community
- separating community/friendship/schools by closing schools

### **Conclusion**

Elizabeth McGuire, Chairperson, Superintendent of Schools, thanked all for attending the meeting. Parents, students and community members were encouraged to fill out the yellow question/comment sheets made available to them and to put them in the box at the back of the cafetorium. If any one has any questions/comments that they would like to address to the ARC committee to see the yellow handout given out at the beginning of this meeting for other avenues for asking questions or giving comments. She advised that they would review the questions and comments and go forward with responses at the next Public Meeting.

### **Confirmation of next meeting**

- Public Meeting #2 – Tuesday, April 1, 2008

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Approximately 207 Parents, students and community members were in attendance of the Public Meeting #1.

R. Bonifacio, Recorder- Secretary, Planning Department, DPCDSB