



DUFFERIN PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes

Accommodation Review Committee

BRAMALEA NORTH REVIEW AREA

Meeting #1 - Tuesday, October 9, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.

Notre Dame Secondary School Room 120

Present: A. Tucciarone, Chairperson, Superintendent of Schools
B. Bjarnason, Manager of Planning
S. Cox, Planner, DPCDSB
S. Boulanger, Principal, Mother Mary Ward
D. Carvalho, Mother Mary Ward, OECTA
C. Klugman, Principal, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys
V. Merulla, Principal, Lester B. Pearson
M. Gibson, School Council Chairperson, Mother Mary Ward
S. Sewerynek, School Council Chairperson, St. Anthony
A. Carbone, School Council Chairperson, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys
D. Dolan, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys/OECTA
R. Armogina, School Council Chairperson, Lester B. Pearson

Regrets: P. Kenyon, Principal, St. Anthony

Staff: Ann Di Iorio, Recorder – Administrative Assistant, Superintendent of Planning

ROUTINE MATTERS

Alex Tucciarone, Superintendent of School called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Opening Prayer & Introduction

Alex Tucciarone led the opening prayer.

Alex Tucciarone introduced staff and welcomed members thanking them for being part of the Accommodation Review Process Committee for attending the meeting.

Regrets received:

Regrets were received from P. Kenyon, Principal, St. Anthony.

2. **Outline of Pupil Accommodation Review Process**

Beth Bjarnason, Manager of Planning, DPCDSB

Beth Bjarnason, Manager of Planning introduced the panel and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Beth gave an overview of the Accommodation Review process and walked the committee members, step by step through the ARC binder that was presented to each member at the meeting. Beth advised that a few more members would be joining the ARC over the next few weeks and that updated list would be given out at next ARC meeting scheduled for October 30th, 2007. There was discussion around a third ARC meeting to be held in November and that date will be decided if necessary at the October 30th meeting.

Beth explained to the group 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.

In May of 2007 a detailed report was presented to the Board of Trustees and reviewed. The Board initiated three Accommodation Review Areas for the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. These three areas encompass: Bramalea North, Central Erin Mills and 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.

Beth reviewed with the group the “Role of the Committees” by walking them through the formal guidelines and explained that the committee is responsible for customizing the student evaluation framework and reviewing student accommodations options which will be presented at public meetings. The intention will be, as a committee to narrow down options and possibly recommend an accommodation solution. At the end of the process the committee’s role is to report findings and conclusions and then prepare a report to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees will then convene their own public meeting and then make a final decision.

Beth concluded this segment of the meeting by advising the committee that the intentions of staff were not to advocate a particular option, but were there to provide information to the committee, not influencing or defending certain options. No decisions had been previously made as to which school may close. There have been not decisions regarding the possible “after use” of school facilities that are closed through the process. Staff and the ARC will look primarily at the needs of the students and the best future accommodation plan for the students of the review area(s).

Questions and Comments

- 1) Mary Gibson – Mother Mary Ward enquired as to how long Trustees have and what do they do with the information?

Beth Bjarnason clarified that there will be four public meetings and then the Trustees will hold at least one public meeting. They are likely to take the report to the Administration and Finance Committee meeting where the public is able to delegate and express their views. The report will then be taken in final to the Board meeting. There is currently not a specific time-line set out and no dates had been yet set.

- 2) Carol Klugman-St. Marguerite Bourgeoys enquired if they just look at Kindergarten students coming in and Grade eight students going out?

Beth Bjarnason advised the committee that a Demographer tracks the students grade by grade and looks at retention rates and new development yields.

- 3) Sharon Sewerynek-St. Anthony asked staff as to how long the committment would be for the ARC members?

Beth Bjarnason advised the committee that there will be two ARC meetings, four public meetings and that a report is to be prepared on behalf of the committee. Beth advised staff that the committee is welcome to attend Board meetings and that the process would probably run past one year of commitment. If for some reason the committee member was unable to attend for the running time of the commitment, they would pass their information and binder along to their replacement.

- 4) Steve Boulanger- Mother Mary Ward enquired about the Long Term Plan for St. Anthony and was there more for a capital approach?

Beth Bjarnason clarified that the Long Term Plan was developed in 2005 and pupil place reductions were identified. An addition or replacement at St. Anthony was identified at that time.

- 5) Alison Carbone-St. Marguerite Bourgeoys asked what was the committee supposed to do and that it looked like the work had been done already in the binder?

Alex Tucciarone advised the committee that the information received tonight was data gathered for the purpose of the review and that the role of the committee was to analyze and make decisions as to which road to take.

3. **Outline of School Valuation Framework**

Stephanie Cox, Planner, DPCDSB

Stephanie Cox walked the committee through the Outline of School Valuation Framework and explained that the framework was put together as an assessment tool. The framework was compiled as valuable information for the Committee, the Board and the local community. The general framework was approved by Trustees and the committee was advised that the framework can be altered or changed and customized. Stephanie then reviewed with the members the Glossary of Terms (see Tab 6) and clarified the meanings in detail of PARC, FRC, and FCI and highlighted the difference between RCM and PORTAPAK. Stephanie then referred to Lester B. Pearson School, as an example only.

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

Stephanie Cox, Planner, DPCDSB – Committee Members

Stephanie proceeded, step by step, through the School Framework including: School Profile, Value to Students, Supports, Transportation, Safety and Security, Accessibility, Special Programs, Value to the School System and Facilities in the School Valuation Framework collected data. Stephanie clarified questions asked by the committee regarding the definition of the terms outlined.

Stephanie then reviewed the Financial, Value to the Community and Value to the General Economy aspects of the School Valuation Framework.

Beth Bjarnason advised that this data was a first working draft and additional information would be considered for the customization of the process. The committee was asked to please inform staff, if they had any additional information by e-mailing Alex Tucciarone before the October 30th, 2007 meeting to allow timelines to share this information with the committee at that next meeting.

Alex Tucciarone advised the group that part of the ARC role was to come up with a final version.

5. **Outline of School Accommodation Alternatives**

Stephanie Cox, Planner, DPCDSB

Stephanie first reviewed the Status Quo (Tab 8) and explained the coloured areas of the Bramalea North Accommodation Review Area. She then explained that the each school had an aerial view to establish the area of each school and advised that the valuation framework was a snapshot of today's current numbers based on the mid-September 2007 report. Stephanie noted to remove year 2012 from the sheet referencing that all schools showed a value of 0. Discussion was raised in particular around the Our Lady of Providence East – (hosted) students currently attending Mother Mary Ward. Stephanie advised that a boundary review process is being initiated related to this hosted area.

Stephanie Cox, reminded the members that when reviewing the Options Summary Sheet (Tab 8) that the options were in no particular order. The eight options were put together by the Planning Department. Stephanie clarified that the information regarding flex students was generated through the Trillium report.

Stephanie then clarified the meaning of Status Quo: Break Outs (refer to Tab 8). Stephanie asked the committee to look at all of the options presented tonight and advised that those options were logical breaks and scenarios and to please bring forward any other options.

Questions and Comments

- 1) Daphne Carvalho-Mother Mary Ward asked if the flex students would move with the school.

Stephanie Cox clarified that the flex boundary numbers issues were substantial and in some areas would have to be accounted in the final options.

Beth Bjarnason advised the committee that the options were required and that the options presented are the first working draft and that adjustments were welcomed and would be then revised for the next meeting and thereafter.

Alex Tucciarone requested the committee members to e-mail any other options to him before the Tuesday, October 30th meeting.

6. Scheduling of Public Meetings

Beth Bjarnason then explained the timelines and process, required by the Ministry to convene the ARC and Public Meetings. A handout was given to the committee with an outline of the timelines and public notice process for the meetings.

7. Questions/ Comments (concluding)

- 1) Steeve Boulanger-Mother Mary Ward enquired as to where would staff go if the school were to close?

Alex Tucciarone advised that he would consult with the Employee Relations Department on this matter.

- 2) Dave Dolan -St. Marguerite Bourgeoys enquired as to how many people would attend the public meetings?

Beth Bjarnason responded that the public meetings would likely be very well attended, especially the first one. Beth also advised the committee that currently the goal would be to get the eight options down to three or four for presentation at the public meetings. Beth clarified that all meetings would be held at Notre Dame Secondary School. All information is public and can be accessed on the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board website and that the link would be sent to the committee members.

Confirmation of next meeting – **Tuesday, October 30, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.** at Notre Dame Secondary School, Room 120.

Adjournment -The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.