



# DUFFERIN PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## Minutes Accommodation Review Committee

### BRAMALEA NORTH REVIEW AREA

Meeting #2 - Tuesday, October 30, 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  
P. Kenyon, Principal, St. Anthony  
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:** NIL

**Staff:** Ann Di Iorio, Recorder – Administrative Assistant, Superintendent of Planning  
(ARCmtg#2Oct307)

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### **ROUTINE MATTERS**

Alex Tucciarone, Superintendent of School called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

1. **Opening Prayer & Introduction**

Alex Tucciarone led the opening prayer.

Alex thanked committee members for attending the meeting.

**Regrets received:** NIL

2. **Minutes – Tuesday, October 9, 2007 meeting**  
Alex Tucciarone, Superintendent of Schools

The minutes were approved.

Moved by: Mary Gibson

Seconded by: Vita Merulla

Beth Bjarnason advised the committee that the approved minutes would be posted on the Dufferin-Peel website [www.dpcdsb.org](http://www.dpcdsb.org) under the Planning Department.

3. **Discussion of School Accommodation Alternatives**  
Committee

Stephanie Cox explained to the committee the handouts/revisions given out at the meeting regarding the Status Quo (Section 8). Options 1 to 8, prepared by the Planning Department were then reviewed step by step by the committee. New Options 9 and 10 that were put forward by committee members were then presented and reviewed. All Options were discussed keeping in mind the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Boards motto “children first” and the effects on the community as a whole. Pros and cons of all options were presented individually by each school included in the Bramalea North Accommodation Review Area with ideas and comments as follows:

**Mother Mary Ward – Steeve Boulanger, Mary Gibson, Daphne Carvalho**

The idea of closing Mother Mary Ward and all students attending St. Anthony is feasible.

Pros

- good for the community
- extra curricular activities with a larger school
- community would benefit, local vendors (pizza place)
- larger school would generate crossing guards
- safety - a possible “Kiss and Ride” would make drop-off/pick-up safer
- more students generate more staffing/secretarial
- more students generate Programs/Special Ed. Teachers
- less split grades

Cons

- community is a close “tight knit”
- crossing Williams Parkway, which is a busy street, could be problematic

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Additional Option- if students in Area “I” are to attend Lester B. Pearson, then phase out students from Mother Mary Ward to keep existing community together. All new students in Area “I” would go to Lester B. Pearson and the sibling rule would still apply.

1. Mary Gibson asked if families in the “T” section on the coloured map (Tab 7) would be bussed if the students were moved.

Stephanie Cox clarified that she would check with the Transportation Department about the bussing/walking options, once the options were narrowed down.

2. Steeve Boulanger asked if building a new Mother Mary Ward was an option.

Alex Tucciarone clarified that the direction of the committee is to look at consolidation first.

Beth Bjarnason advised the committee that all recommendations would go to the Board of Trustees. For a new building, or an addition studies would have to be done. The Board would have to consider all options/cost estimates and other projects in the Long Term Plan. The committee could put a recommendation in their report for an addition or new school for St. Anthony, but it would be the Board of Trustees that would have to determine whether it would be feasible.

**St. Marguerite Bourgeoys – Carol Klugman, Allison Carbone, Dave Dolan**

The idea of closing St. Marguerite Bourgeoys.

Pros

- larger school would generate more teachers for yard duties
- larger school would generate more staffing/teachers/programs

Cons

- there would be no schools left on the east side of Dixie Road
- currently, no “Kiss and Ride”
- currently, no air conditioning
- renovations are needed for better visibility in the entrance area (new schools the secretary has better visibility of the hallways/entrance areas
- longer bus rides to another school
- loss of newly renovated play area
- closeness in the community would be disrupted

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

1. Beth Bjarnason inquired about Option 9 to Alison Carbone if sixteen or seventeen portables would be a concern to the parents.

Alison advised that the parents would look into the possibility of an addition then to the school.

**Lester B. Pearson – Vita Merulla, Alex Zanette, Richard Armogenia**

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

1. Parent Council discussed ARC with parents and the only concern that arose is that extra growth would require an addition or internal renovations.
2. Richard Armogenia commented that the parent community breathes a little easier with the option of Lester B. Pearson not closing.
3. Alex Zanette commented that she would like to see Lester B. Pearson, St. Anthony and St. Marguerite Bourgeoys to stay open. This would allow these schools to attain staffing, both academic and secretarial. Also the “T” area on the map (Section 7) could be moved to Lester B. Pearson, hence bringing the numbers up.
4. Vita Merulla had one concern that if they have more students, would the additional growth merit an addition.

Beth Bjarnason clarified that the addition was on the Long Term Plan and timing would be determined by the Board.

**St. Anthony – Patricia Kenyon, Sharon Sewerynek**

The idea of keeping St. Anthony open.

**Pros**

- the property can accommodate an addition
- school community is beside the church  
children attend masses regularly and support everything that we, as Catholics are about
- special school masses are held at the church also
- the front of the building is workable
- possibility of a “Kiss and Ride” to make the school safer
- more children will add more faculty and staff and also more parents (from other schools that have closed) will be able to help
- positive outlook by committee members
- if a brand new St. Anthony was built it would be combination of possibly two or three schools to make one big one with more facilities such as science rooms/labs

**Cons**

- NIL

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

1. Beth Bjarnason reiterated that the Board of Trustees would have to make the decision to rebuild or construct an addition at St. Anthony.

4. **General Discussion**  
**Committee**

Stephanie Cox reviewed each Option, step by step. The committee members are to revisit the Options chosen together at the meeting and confirm them at the Tuesday, November 20th, 2007 meeting.

The following Options were considered as possible options :( please see attached sheets)

Option # 1, Option # 3, Option #8 and Options 10 and or Option #11 (see below) that was added at the meeting.

**Option #11**

- close St. Anthony and send all students to St. Marguerite Bourgeoys
- close Mother Mary Ward and send all students to Lester B. Pearson

Alex Tucciarone advised the group that it was good to provide a variety of Options to the community. He also encouraged the ARC members to attend the Public Meetings. It was determined that a third ARC meeting was needed to be clear with their final decisions to present at the Public Meetings and that it was important for the members to also voice their opinions around these Options.

5. **Discussion re: School Facilities**  
**Stephanie Cox, Planner**

The general consensus of the discussion was that the ARC wants to do what is best for the “kids” and to follow the motto “Children First” of our Board. Committee members must think about the value they are putting on certain decision making factors. The Board of Trustees will make the final decisions and the final report from the ARC should include the decisions that are best for the community as a whole.

6. **Scheduling of Public Meetings and Notification of Public Meetings**  
**Beth Bjarnason, Manager of Planning**

Beth Bjarnason advised the committee of the Ministry Guidelines and that sixty days notice is required for the first Public Meeting. Beth also noted that the two weeks of Christmas vacation could not be included in the sixty days. A date in early February was to be established for the first meeting and the subsequent meetings would fall approximately thirty days apart there after. A meeting date will be established and confirmed at the next ARC meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 20, 2007. The Public Meetings would be advertised in the local newspaper, local Parish bulletins and the Principals would send notices home of the date.

## **7. General Questions/Comments**

1. Mary Gibson asked if a school is torn down and re-built, is it built up as in two or three storey levels or out as spread out over a main level?

Beth Bjarnason advised that it would depend on certain criteria. It is practice to build two storeys, as it is more economical. Three storey buildings are not favoured, as there would be too many main rooms (such as a gym, library and main office) on the main floor which would not provide enough room for classrooms on the main floor.

Beth also advised the committee that the Liberal election platform included phasing for 2009 for all day JK-SK which would have an impact on schools.

2. Steeve Boulanger commented on the sensitive issue with staff and parents regarding Health and Safety concerns at St. Anthony School.

Stephanie Cox informed the committee that in 1999 teacher concerns over Health issues were investigated. The Board's Health and Safety Department, a medical representative with the Ministry of Labour Health and Safety and Board Consultants did soil and groundwater testing and conducted an indoor environmental assessment. Also a review was done on whether the school was built on a dumpsite. In conclusion by the Ministry of Labour and Health and Safety, they were unable to detect any pattern that contributed to work place exposure which was responsible for adverse health affects in the workplace. There was no evidence that indicated the school was built on a dump site.

In 2006, additional concerns were raised with respect to mould in the port-a-pak. Once again, tests were conducted with a conclusion that the levels of spore counts were at or below ambient outdoor air levels and the vapor barrier was preventing migration of spores into classrooms or corridors. In the end the port-a-pak was torn down, but this was due to extensive structural damage to the floors, which the investigation in the first place.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: November 20, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. (tentative)  
Notre Dame Secondary School, Room 120**