



## DUFFERIN PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### Approved Minutes

## Accommodation Review Committee

### BRAMALEA NORTH REVIEW AREA

ARC Meeting #4 - Tuesday, February 19, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.

St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School- Staff Room

- Members:**
- A. Tucciarone, Chairperson, Acting Superintendent of Schools, Brampton Central
  - 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
  - A. Carbone, School Council Chairperson, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys
  - D. Dolan, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys/OECTA
  - R. Armogina, School Council Chairperson, Lester B. Pearson
  - P. Kenyon, Principal, St. Anthony
  - S. Sewerynek, School Council Chairperson, St. Anthony

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

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### ROUTINE MATTERS

Alex Tucciarone called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. **Opening Prayer & Introduction**

Alex Tucciarone led the opening prayer.

Alex thanked committee members for attending the meeting and for their continued support.

**Minutes –Tuesday, February 5, 2008 Public Meeting**

Alex Tucciarone

The minutes were approved as amended.

Moved by: Mary Gibson

Seconded by: Steeve Boulanger

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. This site is accessible for Trustees and public knowledge.

2. **Discussion /debriefing on Public Meeting #1- Committee**  
**Committee – Comments**

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

The consensus for this area was that the parents felt that the school closure was already a “done deal”. Planning will look at the history of the boundary changes, as parents had requested a review when the enrolment dropped and the boundaries were re-defined. Stephanie Cox made it clear that there was no particular order and that Beth Bjarnason had information to share later in the evening regarding a Ministry update. Stephanie also clarified that the Board owns the properties out right.

Alex Tucciarone clarified that the official choice or decision for the area would be made public at the board meeting when the Trustees vote. This meeting is made public and all members of the community are welcome to attend. Alex also advised that schools can delegate the board and that parents will have an opportunity to have a voice and that information could be inputted into the report going forward to the Trustees.

Stephanie Cox clarified that the all students (elementary) are currently within the Brampton boundary and that the flex boundary process is currently used. Stephanie also noted that in the flex boundary process, students are responsible for their own transportation.

Dave Dolan advised that teachers were inquiring about staffing and to what is going to happen. Alex Tucciarone advised that this process is through the Federation of Teachers, Employee Relations and OECTA and that everyone would have a position.

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

Steeve Boulanger advised that Mother Mary Ward, currently has eight classroom teachers, not seven and also that they have six splits.

Steeve Boulanger inquired about the “flex” process. Alex Tucciarone advised that the decision was up to the Principal, as they know if they can accommodate more students or not. Alex also advised that there is usually a “wait list”. Reference can be made to the process outlined in GAP and that the process outlined there must be followed. It was also made clear that secondary flex is irrevocable and that elementary should be reviewed on a yearly basis by the Principal.

In respect to class size, Alex clarified that the entire board is allocated for 10% and that those numbers cannot be over legislation.

Mary Gibson commented that the parents were to meet tonight to get together and come back stronger. Alex Tucciarone advised that they can prepare a presentation. Mary Gibson will share that information with the Council tomorrow night. Beth Bjarnason

advised that the recommendations could be amended and that is one of the purposes of the public meetings. Daphne Carvalho inquired if the teachers from the school involved can attend and if so, could they speak and make comments. Alex Tucciarone advised that it is an open forum and that teachers are more than welcome to speak.

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

Alex Zanette advised that she had attended the public meeting and was now inquiring as to what is being done to advocate “Catholic” education. Alex Tucciarone advised that the Archdioceses are encouraging enrollment in Catholic schools and are inviting people to come into it. A pilot program for French immersion will be starting in September 2008.

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

Patricia Kenyon commented that although the transition is difficult, it is best to move the school community together. Teachers are worried about staffing and split grades and issues are mainly around the emotional part of a change, however if the children have to move and it’s done “together” that is encouraging.

**REVIEW OF PREFERRED OPTIONS**

**OPTION “A”**

Close Mother Mary Ward and send Areas G and H and I to St. Anthony. Area I would be sent to Lester B. Pearson, but phased in. Over time, however existing students in Area I would have the option of going to Lester B. Pearson.

**OPTION “B”**

Close St. Marguerite Borgeouys and Mother Mary Ward. Send all students to St. Anthony and phase out Area B and I to Lester B. Pearson. Over time, existing students from area B and I would have the option of going to Lester P. Pearson.

**OPTION “C”**

Close Mother Mary Ward and St. Anthony. Send the Mother Mary Ward students to Lester B. Pearson and the St. Anthony students to St. Marguerite Borgeouys. In question to the flex students currently at Our Lady of Providence, a meeting is to be held on December 13, 2007 for discussion.

**4. Questions/Comments from First Public Meeting**

**Small Schools – Alex Tucciarone**

Alex Tucciarone prepared a draft “hand out” of information gathered on “small schools”, based on a letter provided from a parent with a child in a small school. This hand out will be made available for the next public meeting. Alex Tucciarone requested that members send comments to him via e-mail by March 6, 2008 for the next meeting regarding pros and cons of small schools.

**Small Schools - summary**

**Student Impact**

Topics reviewed and discussed were extra-curricular programs, limitation of field trips and in-house presentations, limitation to a single class per grade impacting the richness and diversity of the educational experience, declining student enrolment implying the possibility of the increased number of split classes, impact on the Special Education area and the difficulty of implementing a rotary program.

Staff Impact

Topics reviewed and discussed were low enrolment hence low total staffing, less teaching staff with a reduction in specialty areas such as S.E.R.T./Library/French creating a negative impact in student support, limitation of diversity and creativity, each staff member is required to perform more extra-curricular activities and supervision duties, limitation of parent volunteers and limited opportunities for the mentoring of newer teachers.

Budget/Facility Impact

Topics reviewed and discussed were cost and ineffectiveness to operate a school under capacity leaving classrooms empty, small school operating budget does not provide flexibility in providing for new initiatives or programs, cost of routine or field trip busing becomes very expensive for a small school which increases the cost of excursions and limited opportunities available for students and the limitations and difficulty of fund raising.

JK/SK vs. 6, 7, 8 Enrolment – Stephanie Cox

Stephanie handed out information of the Historica JK/SK Enrolment vs. Grade 7 & 8 Enrolment (see attachment) and reviewed it with staff. This chart will be shared at the next public meeting amending the chart to JK and Grade 8 enrolment only.

Transportation – Stephanie Cox

Stephanie Cox advised the members that she is working with the transportation department and will have information to present for the next public meeting. Transportation will abide by the boards current regulations and policies already set out regarding bussing/walking distances.

A question was posed as to the placement crossing guards. Stephanie advised members that the placement of crossing guards is established through the Traffic Safety Council.

**5. Funding for Future Schools/Additions**

Beth Bjarnason

Beth Bjarnason provided staff with a hand out outlining the Pupil Accommodation Grant from the Ministry of Education implementing good news for the Bramalea North ARC area. Beth reviewed the Long Term Plan prepared by the board for the Ministry. The Superintendent of Planning and Operations and Beth Bjarnason had a discussion with the Ministry regarding an announcement that they will likely provide funding for the area. The announcement has not yet been made official, but looked promising however the impact will affect the timing of the options. There will be restrictions on the funding yet options are available. All projects on the Long Term Plan are subject to sufficient capital funding being available from the Ministry of Education. The timing or nature of proposed projects may be subject to change depending on the availability of funding.

**6. ARC Report  
Stephanie Cox**

Stephanie Cox reviewed the proposed template (handout) provided to the ARC members. Stephanie noted that the reports prepared by the ARC are not limited to that particular format.

The ARC was reminded that there will be two reports prepared for the board consisting of an individual report prepared by Planning and also a committee report. The timelines for this report are to be prepared by June 28, 2008 and is to be given to the Director of Education 30 days in advance.

It was advised that the report was to be prepared before the last public meeting scheduled for May 28, 2008. Stephanie Cox walked the members through the hand out clarifying the contents needed for the report and asked that one member from each school be on the writing committee. It was recommended that the members review the minutes, as all information needed for the report could be captured from them and also to list everything that the committee has done.

**7. Discussion re: Recommended Options  
Committee**

Framework for the committee was established at tonight's meeting.

Alex Tucciarone asked that members send comments to him via e-mail by March 6, 2008 for the next meeting regarding Pros and Cons of small schools.

**8. Questions/Comments**

Alex Tucciarone referred to the attachment (copy) of the questions and comments collected from the first Public Meeting. Each question/comment was reviewed and Alex Tucciarone advised the committee that these questions/comments will be addressed at the next public meeting.

**9. Proposed Future ARC Meeting Date**

A meeting is needed before the last public meeting. The date of Wednesday, May 21, 2008 was established and is scheduled for St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School.

In conclusion Alex Tucciarone advised the committee that there will always be pros and cons for each path. The goal of the committee will be to do what is best for the Bramalea North Community as a whole. Alex asked the committee to continue and share their questions/concerns with staff and parents and thanked all of them for their efforts and continued support.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.**