

Report to the Director of Education

JUNE 9, 2008

Re: BRAMALEA NORTH AREA

ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

PURPOSE:

To report to the Board the recommendations of the Bramalea North Accommodation Review Committee on school closures in the Bramalea North Review Area.

BACKGROUND:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- A. Tucciarone, Chairperson, Acting Superintendent of Schools, Brampton Central
- B. Bjarnason, Manager of Planning
- S. Cox, Planner, DPCDSB
- A. Di Iorio, Recorder

- V. Merulla, Principal, Lester B. Pearson
- A. Zanette, School Council Co-Chairperson, Lester B. Pearson

- S. Boulanger, Principal, Mother Mary Ward
- M. Gibson, School Council Chairperson, Mother Mary Ward
- D. Carvalho, OECTA, Mother Mary Ward,

- P. Kenyon, Principal, St. Anthony
- S. Sewerynek, School Council Chairperson, St. Anthony

- C. Klugman, Principal, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys
- A. Carbone, School Council Chairperson, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys
- D. Dolan, OECTA, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys

The ARC members were provided ARC binders which included materials related to Pupil Accommodation Review such as guidelines and policies, School Valuation Frameworks and accommodation options.

MEETINGS

ARC (Committee)

- Tuesday, October 9, 2007
- Tuesday, October 30, 2007
- Tuesday, November 20, 2007
- Tuesday, February 19, 2008
- Tuesday, May 20, 2008

PUBLIC

Tuesday, February 5, 2008

Thursday, March 27, 2008

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Wednesday, May 28, 2008

DISCUSSION:

The committee started the ARC process with eight options. Through discussion, the committee added three additional options for a total of eleven. During this process the committee reviewed all options using information provided by Board staff, school valuation frameworks and input from school councils. After subsequent ARC meetings, the committee presented three options at the first and second public meetings. Community input from public meetings was reviewed by the ARC committee and through careful consideration; the committee came up with the three final recommendations included in this report.

RECOMMENDATION 1: STATUS QUO

The committee has decided to add this option as a result of the input by the communities at the ARC Public Meetings. Consensus was not reached in the decision to add this option.

PROS:

- Communities get to stay together
- No added portables
- Consensus not reached on this point

CONS:

- Not financially feasible

RECOMMENDATION 2: CLOSE MOTHER MARY WARD

It is recommended by the ARC Committee that the entire Mother Mary Ward community move as one to St. Anthony in a new building (Reference: Prohibited to Repair School Funding). The committee also recommends that the building at Mother Mary Ward be used as holding location in the transition.

PROS:

- New building at St. Anthony
- Population of other schools in area would increase (benefits of a larger school)
- It is an advantage to have the school next door to the Church
- It would be next door to the Church – accessible to attending Mass more often; ease of accessing sacraments: reconciliation and Eucharist, making the Stations of the Cross etc.

CONS:

- Community is a close “tight knit” community

RECOMMENDATION 3: CLOSE MOTHER MARY WARD AND ST. ANTHONY

Ensure suitable, safe transportation for all students. Ensure that Prohibited to Repair Funds are allocated to a proper school facility to accommodate new school population. This option would ensure other school closures would not be necessary in the area.

PROS:

- Fiscally responsible due to declining enrolment
- There continues to be a Catholic school on both sides of Dixie Rd. This ensures that parents have a Catholic option for schooling instead of only a public school within safe walking distance.

CONS:

- It is an advantage to have the school next door to the Church
- It would be next door to the Church – accessible to attending Mass more often; ease of accessing sacraments: reconciliation and Eucharist, making the Stations of the Cross etc.

TIMELINE:

The ARC Committee is recommending school closure to occur in June 2009.

CONCLUSION:

The Bramalea North ARC Committee has been very discerning in its deliberation around possible school closures within our quadrant. Since there are three schools with declining enrolment in a close proximity to one another, many options were taken into consideration.

One of the concerns was access to Catholic Education within a reasonable distance. With some of the choices, there would be no schools on the west side of Dixie while there is a large public school on this side. It would be conceivable that Catholic parents could choose to go to the public school for convenience, safety and proximity.

Taking into consideration input from the community and discussions amongst the Accommodation Review Committee the Bramalea North ARC puts forward the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: Status Quo

Recommendation 2: Close Mother Mary Ward and move students to St. Anthony, which we recommend be rebuilt using Prohibitive to Repair funding

Recommendation 3: Close Mother Mary Ward and St. Anthony and allocate Prohibitive to Repair funds to St. Marguerite Bourgeoys to ensure the school would be able to accommodate the additional students.

That any decisions made around the closure of schools be effective at the end of the school year in June 2009

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT THE REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION ENTITLED BRAMALEA NORTH AREA ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS BE RECEIVED.
2. THAT THE BRAMALEA NORTH ARC RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

RECOMMENDATION 1: STATUS QUO

RECOMMENDATION 2: CLOSE MOTHER MARY WARD AND MOVE STUDENTS TO ST. ANTHONY, WHICH WE RECOMMEND BE REBUILT USING PROHIBITIVE TO REPAIR FUNDING.

RECOMMENDATION 3: CLOSE MOTHER MARY WARD AND ST. ANTHONY AND ALLOCATE PROHIBITIVE TO REPAIR FUNDS TO ST. MARGUERITE BOURGEOYS TO ENSURE THE SCHOOL WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE THE ADDITIONAL STUDENTS.

3. THAT ANY SCHOOL CLOSURES BE EFFECITVE AS OF JUNE 2009

Prepared by:

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Submitted by: Bramalea North Accommodation Review Committee

June 9, 2008