



DUFFERIN PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**Approved Minutes
Accommodation Review Committee**

CENTRAL ERIN MILLS REVIEW AREA

Meeting #1 - Tuesday, October 9th, 2007 – 7:00 PM

St. Aloysius Gonzaga Secondary School – Room 238

Present:

M. Prospero, Chairperson, Superintendent of Schools
T. Munn, Senior Planner, Planning Dept., DPCDSB
J. Rogers, Planner, Planning Dept., DPCDSB
K. DiPasquale, Principal, Blessed Trinity
F. Anderson, Principal, St. Rose of Lima
N. Levey, Principal, Divine Mercy
T. Cruz, Principal, Our Lady of Mercy
M. Buczek, Principal, St. Joseph
A. Daly, Teacher Representative, St. Rose of Lima
D. Jessome, Teacher Representative, Our Lady of Mercy
E. Irvine, Planner, City of Mississauga
J. Flynn, Teacher Representative, Blessed Trinity
H. Coito, School Council Chair, Blessed Trinity
J. Crane-Rodrigues, School Council Representative, Blessed Trinity
C. Marchetti, School Council Chair, St. Rose of Lima
C. Weber, School Co-Council Chair, St. Rose of Lima
R. Kowal, School Council Chair, Divine Mercy
M. MacDonald, School Council Chair, Our Lady of Mercy
L. Condon, School Council Chair, St. Joseph
T. Pimental, Parish Representative, St. Joseph

Staff: Sherri Barnhardt - Recorder – Construction, DPCDSB



ROUTINE MATTERS

M. Prospero, Chairperson, Superintendent of Schools, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. Opening Prayer & Introduction

M. Prospero led the opening prayer with Our Father.

M. Prospero thanked all the members for attending the meeting and invited all members to introduce themselves.

2. Outline of Pupil Accommodation Review Process

Thane Munn - Senior Planner, Planning Dept. DPCDSB

Thane Munn explained to the committee that on October 31, 2006 the Ministry of Education released the Pupil Accommodation Guidelines (Tab 3) previously referred to as school closure guidelines. These guidelines directed Ontario school boards on the pupil accommodation review process to be undertaken to determine the future of a particular school or group of schools.

In accordance with the new Ministry guidelines, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board established a Pupil Accommodation Review Policy and Regulation (Tab4) and School Valuation Framework, all of which were approved on March 27, 2007.

The Pupil Accommodation Review Regulation identifies that elementary schools below 250 students or 50% capacity should be reviewed. A number of elementary schools which are either below 50% capacity or have less than 250 students were identified in the May 2007 report presented to the Board of Trustees. The Board initiated three Accommodation Review Areas for the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. The following three areas were approved:

North Bramalea
Central Erin Mills
Dixie Shorefront

Board staff reviewed all schools in the Accommodation review areas and developed multiple accommodation options. Factors that would be considered when reviewing the accommodation options should include boundary adjacency and enrolment balance among all schools in the review area.



The role of the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) was reviewed by Thane Munn and the formal guidelines explained that the committee is responsible for customizing the Student Evaluation Framework and review student accommodation options which will be presented at public meetings.

Thane explained all of the terms in the Glossary of Terms in Tab 6.

3. Outline of School Valuation Framework

Thane Munn - Senior Planner, Planning Dept. DPCDSB

Thane Munn explained the School Valuation Framework using Blessed Trinity's framework as an example. He outlined that the framework was put together as a tool to assess a school's value to the community, to the student, to the school system and to the local economy. The framework was compiled from data received from the school principals and staff, the Superintendents of Schools, and corporate departments such as the Board's Planning, and Operations, Plant, Finance and Transportation departments.

The general framework was approved by Trustees and the ARC was advised that the framework can be altered and customized.

A copy of the Ministry of Education's Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines (Tab3) and the Board's Accommodation Review Process (Tab 4) documents are posted on the school board's website.

The ARCs are required to hold four public meetings to consult and to present School Valuation Framework report and recommendations. All communication will flow through the committee.

The ARC is to consider accommodation and formulate recommendations. At the end of the process the ARC's role is to report findings and conclusions and then prepare a report to take to the Board of Trustees. At the same time the Planning staff will be preparing a report of recommendations to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees will then convene their own public meeting and make a final decision.

If the Board of Trustees adopts a resolution to close a school, the Board shall identify a timeline for the closure of the school



4. **Discussion re: Customization of School Valuation Framework**
(Thane Munn, Senior Planner, DPCDSB)

Thane Munn advised the committee that they will review the criteria and framework of each school and then develop an outline of things that can be added or assessed for the next meeting.

Thane Munn pointed out to the committee that ARC meeting #1 is for the members to receive a lot of information and get answers to general questions. The second meeting is to discuss the information and the third meeting will be to prepare for the public meetings.

5. **Outline of School Accommodation Alternatives**
(Joanne Rogers, Planner, DPCDSB)

Joanne Rogers, Planner described the review area of Central Erin Mills and referred to the map on Tab 7. All of the accommodation options consider schools within the approved review area only. Consider boundary adjacency, and enrolment balance among the schools. JR identified that the Long Term Plan under Tab 5 indicates that a total of 576.5 pupil places are to be reduced in the Central Erin Mills Accommodation Review Area.

JR explained how to read the Status Quo, enrolments, and portable numbers in Tab 8. The Status Quo identifies the existing enrolments and capacities at the schools within the review area. Pointed out that St. Rose of Lima also has two special programs at its school: Extended French and Gifted. Status Quo shows actual mid-September enrolments, and projected enrolments from 2008-2011. Updated long term projections, based on October 31, 2007 numbers will be updated when available.

Joanne described one option to the Committee as an example. JR explained that the special programs at St. Rose of Lima could be moved to any school in the review area because most students are bussed anyways. JR advised that the options presented are in no particular order.

Joanne reiterated that the committee should consider boundary adjacency, enrolment balance among the schools and whether the option achieves the goal of the Long Term Plan, which is to reduce 576.5 pupil places in the review area.



6. Scheduling of Public Meetings

- The data for ARC Meeting #2 and tentative dates for public meetings was distributed to all members
- The first public meeting (tentative for January 24th, 2008) needs to be announced to the public by no later than November 5, 2007.
- A copy of the “Notice of Public Meeting” letter was distributed to the committee. This letter advises the community within 300 ft of the affected schools of the first public meeting date.
- ARC meeting #3 will focus on preparing for public meetings.

*N.B. – any emails/questions can be forwarded to Thane Munn and he will forward them to the appropriate person for responses.

7. Questions/ Comments

- 1. Name and Title:** T. Cruz, Principal, Our Lady of Mercy

Question: Should I take binder for school council?

Response: T.Munn

Yes, it is ok to take an extra binder for the school council and anyone else may also do the same.

- 2. Name and Title:** K. DiPasquale, Principal, Blessed Trinity

Question: What is PARC?

Response: T. Munn

See Tab 6 in your binder – Ministry sets classroom loading for every school. FRC is how the school board uses the facility – not recognized by the Ministry. *N.B. – Tab 6 also lists a number of other terms and their meanings and Thane went through all of these terms and meanings with the committee members.



3. **Name and Title:** H. Coito, School Council Co-Chair, Blessed Trinity

Question: What are Grant Revenue & Expenditures?

Response: T. Munn

Grant Revenue is Principal, VP and office/admin staff expenses and Expenditures are custodial, etc...

4. **Name and Title:** E. Irvine, City of Mississauga

Question: What would be the use of building/property once sold?

Response: T. Munn

After use of a closed school is a separate process from the ARC – not ARC's the responsibility. Therefore, at this point we do not know what a closed school would be used for.

5. **Name and Title:** E. Irvine, City of Mississauga

Question: Should Community impact assessment be done?

Response: T. Munn

There is a section in the school valuation Framework that assesses a school's value to the community. The ARC will include these findings in their report to the Board.

6. **Name and Title:** Helena Coito, Blessed Trinity

Question: Can zoning change after school closes and land sold?

Response: T. Munn

Board must follow Ministry disposal process. Building/property will be offered to other school boards, Provincial government, colleges, and regions. The selling of the property is a long process and the zoning can change but it does take a long time.

Response: E. Irvine

Zoning process needs to be initiated by someone. City cannot arbitrarily change zoning.



7. **Name and Title:** E. Irvine, City of Mississauga

Question: Is there enough representation of the community on the ARC?

Response: T. Munn

The Board solicited all community parishes for representatives – two at this meeting tonight. Invitation was sent out in the spring and again a few weeks ago. More community representation can be done at school council meetings and public meetings.

8. **Name and Title:** Jo-Ann Crane-Rodrigues, Blessed Trinity

Question: Won't public meetings have more public representatives?

Response: T. Munn

Yes.

9. **Name and Title:** L. Cruz, Principal, Our Lady of Mercy

Question: What is impact on local economy (business, real estate value)?

Response: T. Munn

No guides (from Ministry) on the impact to the local economy. How much money does each school spend in the local community? This is a question that we don't have an answer to. We also don't know what the impact will be on the value of homes in the community.

10. **Name and Title:** Helena Coito, Blessed Trinity

Question: Was anyone outside of the catholic community invited to be part of the ARC?

Response: T. Munn

No one outside of the community besides the City of Mississauga was invited. Public meetings are open to anyone on the community.



- 11. Name and Title:** Cathy Weber, St. Rose of Lima

Question: Is it ok to expose publicly the financial numbers?

Response: T. Munn

Yes. These numbers are already public knowledge.

- 12. Name and Title:** Cathy Marchetti, St. Rose of Lima

Question: What are the demographics of the area – upcoming students?

Response: M. Prospero & T. Munn

Enrolment is declining in elementary schools. Projections from JK to grade 8, based on the last 5 years include – existing population, historic retention (grade by grade), and new development within the school's catchments area.

- 13. Name and Title:** Blessed Trinity

Question: What if we go through the consolidation process and a reverse happens and we need the school?

Response: T. Munn

There are alternative accommodations, and, additions can be built. Buildings may be retained for the future or used for something else.

- 14. Name and Title:** T. Cruz, Principal, Our Lady of Mercy

Question: Timeline for the meetings?

Response: M. Prospero & T. Munn

There is this meeting and we will have most likely two more ARC meetings. After the ARC meetings there will be 4 public meetings.

ARC is together until the report to the Board is completed (maybe next fall).

As for the public meetings – we must give 60 days notice of the first meeting and that does not include Christmas holidays, March break or summer break.



15. Name and Title: L. Condon, St. Joseph

Question: Why such a long timeline between Feb. 7/08 and Mar. 27/08 public meetings.

Response: M. Prospero & T. Munn

The first public meeting will be a lot of information to digest. Plus we had to account for Holy week and March break in between.

16. Name and Title: Cathy Weber, St. Rose of Lima

Question: Are the options presented for school closures feasible? Do they all or do some of them make sense?

Response: T. Munn

It depends on your point of view. Schools were assessed and options made based on certain criteria.

17. Name and Title: K. DiPasquale, Principal, Blessed Trinity

Question: Will we be presenting the most feasible options to the public?

Response: T. Munn

Yes, ARC will take the information from the meetings back to their communities and then come back on the October 30th, 2007, with the best options.

18. Name and Title: C. Marchetti, St. Rose of Lima

Question: Why are extended French and gifted programs easier to move?

Response: J. Rogers

It is easier to move the special programs to any school in the review area. Most students are already being bussed to these programs.



19. Name and Title: Jane Flynn, Blessed Trinity

Question: Can the St. Joseph's/Divine Mercy boundary be changed?

Response: T. Munn

This is something that can reviewed but can also cause problems.

20. Name and Title: T. Cruz, Our Lady of Mercy

Question: The Long Term Plan identifies a need to reduce pupil places by 576.5 in the review area?

Response: T. Munn

Yes.

21. Name and Title:

Question: ARC makes the final recommendations to the Board?

Response: T. Munn

ARC is report is given to Planning and Planning makes a report based on ARC's report and both of these reports are then presented to the Board.

22. Name and Title:

Question: The draft copy of letter should be sent out to all students via newsletter?

Response: M. Prospero

The letter will be sent out to all students at the schools in the review area and will also be sent out by Canada Post to all address within a 300 ft radius of the schools in the review area. It will also be published in the local newspapers, etc... There will be also one letter for each public meeting date (total of 4 letters).



Confirmation of next meeting

October 30th, 2007, @ 7:00 pm at St. Aloysius Gonzaga SS, Room 238

(We will look at the third ARC meeting date at that time, possibly Nov. 29, 2007)

Adjournment

Meeting #1 was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Recorder: Sherri Barnhardt
October 9th, 2007