



DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

CENTRAL ERIN MILLS PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW

**PUBLIC MEETING # 3
March 4, 2008, 7:00 pm
St. Aloysius Gonzaga Secondary School**

Approved Minutes of the Central Erin Mills Pupil Accommodation Review, Public Meeting # 3

Attendance:	Blessed Trinity	34	
	Divine Mercy	6	
	Our Lady of Mercy	7	
	St. Joseph Streetsville	7	
	St. Rose of Lima	42	
	Other	1	Total: 97

1) Introductions and Opening Prayer – M. Prospero

2) Role of the Trustee – M. Prospero

M. Prospero read the open letter, “Our Statement of Principles”, from Dufferin-Peel Trustees that was provided on the handout. In reviewing the community input, Board consideration for the recommendation of the ARC will be held in the fall of 2008.

3) Mandate of the ARC – T. Munn

T. Munn explained the ARC have met five times, discussing all issues that have come from the public meetings. Committee had started with 18 options and are now down to 5 Options. The Committee will have to come up with recommendations that will go to the Trustees, and presented to the community at the fourth Public Meeting.

4) Public Meeting # 2 Review – T. Munn

Ministry Guidelines and the Board process were explained. Transportation eligibility was explained and shown on maps. The Options were explained. M. Prospero discussed programs and staffing issues.

The Committee brings their report to the last Public Meeting then to the Board Administration and Finance Committee. The Board staff also does a report on the process and input as part of the ARC response. It was explained that the staff report is not confidential and will be made public at the Administration and Finance Committee Meeting.

The community was informed that implementation will now be delayed from September, 2008, to September, 2009, as a result of considering community input.

Churchill Meadows # 2 is currently scheduled to be built in 2013. Board is updating the Capital Plan. The 2013 dates could be changed. St. Sebastian is hosting students (students being bussed) until decision about Churchill Meadows # 2 is made.

Condos, townhomes, etc. are all factored into the projections. Board staff continually monitor new developments, conduct site visits, talk with sales people, to update development projections.

5) **Capital Plan – T. Munn**

The Board Capital Plan was explained. Staff showed the Plan from 2003 to 2021 and the enrolment for the five schools involved and also the Extended French and Gifted programs. The total Central Erin Mills Review Area – Enrolment vs Capacity – was shown from 2007 to 2012.

6) **Transportation – T. Munn**

Transportation distances were explained. Transportation criteria is the same as the Peel Board's. Maps were shown – St. Rose of Lima, all would be bussed because of Erin Mills Parkway (70 km speed limit). Blessed Trinity showed the boundaries for bussing eligibility to Divine Mercy and Our Lady of Mercy. Not all students would be eligible for transportation. Students not eligible would have to look at the Empty Seat Policy in October through their school.

Traffic Safety Council will do an assessment to see if crossing guard is warranted. Assessment will take place when school begins in order to count students crossing.

7) **Accommodation Options – T. Munn**

Options now considered are #'s 1, 3, 4, 5, 9 and status quo.

Status Quo	all remains the same
Option # 1	Blessed Trinity to Divine Mercy St. Rose of Lima (regular track) to St. Joseph Streetsville Extended French/Gifted to Our Lady of Mercy
Option # 3	Blessed Trinity to Our Lady of Mercy St. Rose of Lima (regular track) to Divine Mercy Extended French/Gifted to St. Joseph Streetsville
Option # 4	St. Rose of Lima (all) to Blessed Trinity
Option # 5	Blessed Trinity to St. Rose of Lima (all)
Option # 9	St. Rose of Lima (regular track) to Our Lady of Mercy Blessed Trinity to Divine Mercy Extended French/Gifted to St. Joseph Streetsville

All Options are on the Board website.

8) **Financial**

Breakdown of costs for status quo and the above Options 1, 3, 4, 5 and 9 were explained.

Status Quo	Blessed Trinity - \$578,440 St. Rose of Lima - \$612,811
Option # 1	net savings of \$243,220
Option # 3	net savings of \$178,851
Option # 4	net savings of \$101,007
Option # 5	net savings of \$160,398
Option # 9	net savings of \$178,852

9) **Next Steps:**

Public Meeting # 4 – Agenda to be determined at the next ARC Meeting. ARC recommendations to be presented to the community before the Board Administration and Finance Committee, sometime in the fall of 2008.

Notices will be sent out to the communities. Parents can delegate the Committee and the Board Meeting.

Trustees will make their decision at the Board Meeting after the Administration and Finance Committee meeting.

10) Question Period

Parent – St. Rose of Lima/St. Joseph Streetsville

- **Looking at the Capital Plan – where is the research to support decline after 2012? What kind of neighbourhood will be made?**

2006 Census shows that 0-4 cohort continues to decline and that the CEM neighbourhood is maturing.

Parent – Blessed Trinity

- **Can't accept the option for children to cross Eglinton Avenue even though it is 60 km and 6 lanes. Can't accept it that you can't let me know now what will be in place for those walking.**

Traffic Safety Council will come out when school starts to assess the situation. The City of Mississauga Traffic Safety Council makes the decision if a crossing guard is warranted.

Crossing Guard – Blessed Trinity

- **Comment – speed limit on Credit Valley is 40 km around the schools. Glen Erin is 50 km but cars go 60-70 km on Eglinton Avenue. These are dangerous streets for children to cross.**

Parent - Blessed Trinity

- **There is a risk for children to cross Glen Erin and Eglinton Avenue. Icy sidewalks in winter, no place to run to if needed.**

The Board's Transportation Department assesses each situation. All students are treated the same in the Board. Trustees will be made aware of your concerns through the ARC report.

Parent – Blessed Trinity

- **Comment – Look at the history of Blessed Trinity. The last ten years it was used as a holding school. All were welcomed. Now we are not needed. Options don't bus all the students. Safety of students is an issue. Closing the two schools when full-day kindergarten is coming in the next few years, parents might come back.**

Parent – St. Rose of Lima

- **In Option # 1 – St. Rose of Lima to St. Joseph Streetsville. It does not feed into St. Aloysius Gonzaga Secondary School.**

Yes it does.

- **If Blessed Trinity and St. Rose of Lima remain open for September, 2008, what is being done to keep the teachers?**

Staff have the option to stay or move. It is their decision. As enrolment numbers decline, so do the number of teachers, librarians, special services staff, etc. All support staff will decline.

Parent – Blessed Trinity

- **How many students in the Board are walking 2-3.2 km?**

Will look into. No response until next meeting.

- **Pedestrian routes, maps show the residential but not the heavily commercial areas. It is 3.1 km to Our Lady of Mercy for a Grade 8 student (this from Map Quest).**

Our Lady of Mercy is further than Divine Mercy.

- **The net savings, what is outstanding and the cost for the next ten years?**

The costs shown are an annual savings by the Board. School evaluations are based on age of building – look at changing windows, doors, etc., Board looks on an as needed basis for repairs.

- **Important to have a Catholic school in the area as an attraction. Taking it away diminishes the price of homes. People are involved in community activities in the evening**

at the school. The Board talks about safety of children. As students have shown us, walking half hour in snow, rain, heat, carrying heavy backpacks – how will this affect a child's health?

Parent - St. Rose of Lima

- **Have lived in the St. Rose of Lima area for over 20 years. Have one child in school with another to follow in 2008. St. Rose of Lima is a highly rated school close to homes. There are more younger children moving into the area. The school is the core of the community, keeping it together. Closing it is dissecting the community.**

Parent - St. Rose of Lima

- **Disagree to the closing of the two schools. They are experiencing a drop in enrolment but some are 50% of capacity.**
Extended French and Gifted programs were placed at St. Rose of Lima as their core population (from the neighbourhood) is now down to 92 students. St. Rose of Lima and Blessed Trinity meet the Board criteria. Our Lady of Mercy, Divine Mercy and St. Joseph Streetsville do not meet the Board criteria to close. These schools are to be the receiving schools as their enrolments are also declining and are in the review area.
- **Best Option # 5 – Blessed Trinity to St. Rose of Lima, keeping the Extended French and Gifted programs. This would resolve the enrolment numbers for the next four years. It would give new families moving into the area a school in their community.**

Parent – St. Rose of Lima/Holy Name of Mary

- **Trustees should look at the bottom line and vote directly on these Options.**

Parent – St. Rose of Lima

- **There should be a Catholic school open south of Eglinton Avenue. Why would we have any confidence in Planning Department, who built two larger schools north of Eglinton Avenue. Why should we suffer in having our schools closed?**

Parent

- **To the Board of Trustees – shame on them for hiding from the community.**

Parent – Blessed Trinity

- **Thanks to the ARC for all their input. Closing St. Rose of Lima and joining Blessed Trinity makes the most sense. Must find a solution.**

Parent

- **If ARC and the Board are trying to get the closures into place for September, 2008, what does it mean for the students at Blessed Trinity? Why is it now September, 2009?**
Message from the community was that the process was happening too fast. Give the community every opportunity to provide input. Implementation timeline changed from September, 2008 to September, 2009 to allow for this.
- **What about the speciality programs?**
Programs will stay for September, 2008 – no changes until decision is made for September, 2009.

Parent – Blessed Trinity

- **There are 8 busses for St. Joseph Streetsville. How can they handle more busses?**
There would be only 2 busses from St. Rose of Lima core or from Blessed Trinity.

Parent – St. Rose of Lima

- **Need clarification on each Option and number of empty classrooms.**

Parent – St. Rose of Lima

- **Hearing a lot of issues re health of students and school in the community. Need to be more creative with boundary adjustments, why use arterial roads, etc? Challenge for the ARC to improve the process**

Additional Comments:

- I have many safety issues with the lack of bussing –
 - 1) crossing a very busy major intersections (e.g., Eglinton and Glen Erin)
 - 2) passing by a park with hidden areas
 - 3) passing by two high schools (chance of intimidation, bullying)
 - 4) passing by a community centre, library frequented by all types of peopleIf Thomas Street Middle students are bussed, then why not ours?
- Delay implementation to September, 2009. This is too rushed for such a big decision – given no talk of this until this past year. Called Board prior to moving into area only three years ago and no changes planned!
- Keep St. Rose open – need a school in this community – otherwise isolated top school rated. With regional programs, school is at a normal volume of students for the size of school.
- “Evidence” doesn’t tell whole pictures including benefit of smaller schools.
- Have the population from new condos to be built at Eglinton/Erin Mills and south Eglinton near Winston Churchill been factored in? - Yes
- Do Board Strategic Plan first! And see what programs can be brought in to bringing back students from private and public schools. Then re-evaluate.

11) The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Next ARC Meeting:

ARC Meeting # 6 – March 31, 2008 – 7:00 pm - St. Joseph Streetsville

Public Meeting #4 – TBD