



Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

**Minutes of the Special Administration and Finance Committee Meeting
Pupil Accommodation Review for Central Erin Mills
September 9, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
Board Room, Catholic Education Centre**

Chair: T. Thomas
Vice Chair: J. Anderson

Trustees: B. Iannicca T. da Silva L. del Rosario
A. Abbruscato S. Hobin E. O'Toole
L. Zanella M. Pascucci F. Di Cosola

Director of Education: J.B. Kostoff
Associate Director of Instructional Services: R. Borrelli
Associate Director of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer: J. Hrajnik

Superintendents: M. Mazzorato E. McGuire S. McWatters
P. McMorrow J.P. Melito N. Milanetti
G. Prajza M. Prospero G. Robinson
C. Saytar A. Tucciarone
L. Kazimowicz

General Managers: B. Campbell J. Cherepacha R. Lawton

Recorder: C. Jeffery

A Routine Matters

1. Opening Prayer and Attendance
Chair T. Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Opening Prayer
Chair T. Thomas led in the Opening Prayer.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by B. Iannicca

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

3. Declaration of Interest
Nil

B Pastor's Remarks

Nil

C Presentations

1. Comments from Chairperson – T. Thomas

Chair T. Thomas gave the following opening comments.

I want to welcome all of you here this evening. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to take the next step in the Pupil Accommodation Review process for the Central Erin Mills area and conduct the Board consultation phase of the process.

I want to start by acknowledging that the consolidation and closure of any school is an emotional and important subject. I know that many people in the room tonight have given a lot of their time and attention to this issue. Tonight, parents and members of the community will have the opportunity to make your views known directly to the Board of Trustees. Tonight, we will start with presentations from the Accommodation Review Committee and Board staff. The balance of the evening will be dedicated to hearing delegations from parents and members of the community. The Board of Trustees will be receiving the information tonight, and asking some questions of clarification. The Board will not be making any decisions at tonight's meeting.

I want to thank you for coming tonight and also to thank you for your commitment to a goal that we all share, and that is the goal of providing the best quality of Catholic education to our students that we can.

Moved by S. Hobin

THAT THE COMMENTS FROM CHAIRPERSON T. THOMAS BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

2. Comments from the Director of Education – J. B. Kostoff

Director of Education, J.B. Kostoff gave the following comments.

I would also like to welcome parents and community members to this evening's public meeting. I would like to take a few minutes to outline the process for tonight's meeting and to discuss future meetings which will be convened by the Board regarding this matter.

The first item on tonight's agenda is a presentation from the Accommodation Review Committee for the Central Erin Mills area. Many of you attended public meetings convened by the Accommodation Review Committee last spring and are aware that the Committee submitted a report to me in June, 2008. Before I go on, I would like to publicly thank the Committee members for all their time and hard work on the Committee last year.

The second item on the agenda this evening will be a presentation of the staff report. Staff has considered the input received at the public meetings last spring, the input from the Accommodation Review Committee report, as well as a considerable amount of technical information. The staff report includes recommendations for Board consideration, but the Board of Trustees will not be debating, voting upon the recommendations or making any decisions at tonight's meeting.

The balance of the evening will be devoted to the Board of Trustees receiving delegations from parents and members of the community. The Board anticipated that a substantial number of people would wish to delegate the Board on this matter and therefore approved special rules for delegations for the public meetings in May, 2008. Delegates have been advised to pre-register their delegation and have been advised that there will be a time limit of ten minutes per delegation. In instances where a group with common interests has registered as a delegation, they will receive fifteen minutes for their delegation. The trustees are able to ask questions of clarification of the delegations. As stated earlier, there will be no debate on the issues this evening. This is the opportunity for the public to express their views and for the Board of Trustees to listen. The Board does expect that the meeting will proceed in an orderly and respectful manner, even though the subject matter is difficult. Disparaging comments about any members of the Board, staff or community will not be permitted.

Subsequent to this evening's meeting, a second public meeting will be convened next week on Tuesday, September 16, 2008 and further delegations will be received from other parents and members of the community. You are welcome to attend the meeting to hear the delegations or to view minutes of the meeting on the Board's website.

A special Board meeting regarding the Pupil Accommodation Review process for the Central Erin Mills area will be convened on Thursday, November 13, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be advertised in the local newspapers and through letters to parents.

Staff will present their final report which will summarize the input received at the public meetings in September, any amendments to the staff report, and the concluding staff recommendations. Parents and members of the community may make further delegations that evening. At that meeting, the Board of Trustees will debate the recommendations in the report and will vote regarding future school closures and consolidations in the Central Erin Mills area.

Mr. Chairperson, that concludes my comments and we may proceed with the agenda.

Moved by L. del Rosario

**THAT THE COMMENTS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, J.B. KOSTOFF
BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

D Committee, Staff and Trustee Reports Requiring Action

1. Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) Presentation

J.B. Kostoff, Director of Education welcomed and introduced ARC Member Cathy Weber, St. Rose of Lima School Council. A Powerpoint presentation was used to demonstrate the recommendations of the Accommodation Review Committee for Central Erin Mills.

Many participants expressed concerns regarding closing two schools south of Eglinton.

Parents at Blessed Trinity expressed very strong concerns over safety issues with the requirement for their junior/intermediate students to walk to schools further north of Eglinton, as well the additional buses required to bus students to St. Joseph School.

Parents at St. Rose of Lima School expressed strong views on the continued high quality of education offered by the school, of which the Extended French and Gifted programs form an integral part.

The recommendations of the ARC are as follows:

Option #4 – Close St. Rose of Lima – move St. Rose of Lima (All) to Blessed Trinity
or

Option #5 – Close Blessed Trinity – move Blessed Trinity (All) to St. Rose of Lima.

That the implementation be effective for the school year commencing September, 2009.

That consideration of another consolidation review for this school area not occur more than once every 5 years and that the current 5 year period of grace begin in the school year following completion of the ARC process.

Moved by T. da Silva

**THAT THE ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC) PRESENTATION
BY CATHY WEBER BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

2. Report and Staff Presentation – J. P. Melito/M. Prospero

J.B. Kostoff introduced the report of Superintendent Melito and Superintendent Prospero.

B. Bjarnason, Manager of Planning and T. Munn, Senior Planner, gave a Powerpoint Presentation of the staff report.

B. Bjarnason made some brief comments about the process that has been taking place over the past year with respect to the Pupil Accommodation Review Process and Senior Planner, T. Munn reviewed enrolment projections, census data, program issues and the staff recommendations for this area.

The Central Erin Mills Review area has experienced, and continues to experience enrolment decline. Census Data supports the board's projection showing a declining trend in enrolment, because the number of pre-school aged children in the review area is also declining. The board should reduce the number of pupil places by 576.5, and redirect students to receiving schools to balance the enrolment in the area and to have schools with a viable student body in order to offer the best programming, staffing and services to the board's students.

The recommendations of the staff presentation are as follows:

Closure of Blessed Trinity effective June 2009, and redirect all students to Divine Mercy in September 2009.

Closure of St. Rose of Lima effective June 2009, and redirect all regular track students to St. Joseph Streetsville, and redirect the Extended French and Gifted Program to Our Lady of Mercy effective September 2009.

Moved by M. Pascucci

THAT THE REPORT AND STAFF PRESENTATION PRESENTED BY J.P.MELITO/M. PROSPERO BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Trustee S. Hobin asked if discussion took place around changing boundaries.

T. Munn responded this was discussed but the schools in the review area are at capacity or just below capacity.

There was a discussion regarding Catholic presence in the community.

Trustee M. Pascucci asked about the process that takes place if a school is declared surplus.

Associate Director, J. Hrajnik responded that the property would first have to be declared surplus and then there is a board and provincial process to be followed.

E Delegations

Delegation #1 presented by Joanne Smith, Blessed Trinity School.

J. Smith expressed confidence that the Board of Trustees will review all perspectives in order to arrive at the best possible solution. There is a recurring theme of maintaining visible Catholic presence south of Eglinton Avenue. Safety is also a component of that theme. The recommendation of the delegation is to approve the closure of St. Rose of Lima effective June 2009 and redirect all regular track, extended French and gifted program students to Blessed Trinity School effective September 2009.

Moved by S. Hobin

THAT THE DELEGATION PRESENTED BY JOANNE SMITH BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Delegation #2 presented by Terri Meo-Hirsch, Blessed Trinity School.

T. Meo-Hirsch thanked the board directly for receiving this delegation and obtaining the best possible solution for all concerned. T. Meo-Hirsch spoke of maintaining a visible Catholic presence south of Eglinton Avenue and the serious safety hazards children will face daily in walking to and from Divine Mercy through the existing permanent commercial barrier. The recommendation of the delegation is Option #4 which identifies Blessed Trinity as the merged school facility.

Moved by S. Hobin

THAT THE DELEGATION PRESENTED BY TERRI MEO-HIRSCH BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Delegation #3 presented by Tanya Porcellato, St. Rose of Lima School.

T. Porcellato spoke on behalf of her family and also for other young families who are moving into the community. T. Porcellato commented that it was essential to find a Catholic school within walking distance of her home. St. Rose of Lima is in a very safe, peaceful and green community. She further commented that it would be a travesty to close down St. Rose of Lima, a school with such stellar results in academics and character development.

Moved by L. del Rosario

THAT THE DELEGATION PRESENTED BY TANYA PORCELLATO BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Delegation #4 presented by Helena Cassano, St. Rose of Lima School.

H. Cassano spoke on behalf of the gifted program. H. Cassano stated it took 2 months to make the decision to change schools. Everyone she spoke with who had children who had attended the program not only said wonderful, positive things about it but indicated that St. Rose of Lima itself was a school worth the move. The entire school body takes out of boundary students and promotes inclusion, positivity and a support system.

Moved by E. O'Toole

THAT THE DELEGATION PRESENTED BY HELENA CASSANO BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Delegation #5 presented by David MacLachlan, Blessed Trinity School.

D. MacLachlan spoke on behalf of parents and students of Blessed Trinity. D. MacLachlan expressed a note of thank you to all involved in this sensitive and difficult issue. He spoke of the superior facilities at Blessed Trinity including air conditioning, wheelchair accessibility as well as an operating elevator. The recommendation of the delegation would be for option #4 merging all of St. Rose of Lima into Blessed Trinity allowing a much needed Catholic school to remain south of Eglinton in order to maintain visible Catholic education and creating one community.

Moved by J. Anderson

THAT THE DELEGATION PRESENTED BY DAVID MACLACHLAN BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Delegation #6 presented by Paul Ma, St. Rose of Lima School.

P. Ma questioned the closing of schools while the board is running a balanced budget and also leaving the area without the presence of a Catholic elementary school. He asked staff to visit each school before making any decisions.

Moved by A. Abbruscato

THAT THE DELEGATION PRESENTED BY PAUL MA BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Delegation #7 presented by Cathy Marchetti, St. Rose of Lima School.

C. Marchetti spoke on behalf of the St. Rose of Lima School Council. C. Marchetti went on to say that they unanimously oppose any plan that would close both St. Rose of Lima and Blessed Trinity. She also commented that the boundaries recommended in Option #1 would take an already generous and somewhat irrational boundary for St. Joseph and add St. Rose of Lima to it, such that all children in the corridor between the 401 and the 403 would be included.

Moved by F. Di Cosola

THAT THE DELEGATION PRESENTED BY CATHY MARCHETTI BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Delegation #8 presented by Kim Ogryzek, St. Rose of Lima School.

K. Ogryzek spoke on behalf of a parent group who are all passionate around their Catholic school and faith. K. Ogryzek stated that staff needed to reconsider some of the data in the

School Valuation Framework related to capital investment at the schools in the area, transportation cost assumptions and calculation of the Facility Condition Index. She further questioned staff assumptions regarding enrolment declines. In summary, she advocated that the Board avoid having another consolidation review in this area within the 5 year timeframe to allow the community to recover.

Moved by L. Zanella

THAT THE DELEGATION PRESENTED BY KIM OGRYZEK BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Delegation #9 presented by Fegus Griffin, St. Rose of Lima School.

F. Griffin spoke of his loyalty to St. Rose of Lima school and the need to maintain a Catholic school presence south of Eglinton and that in supporting the recommendations of the staff report, a community south of Eglinton would be effectively abandoned.

Moved by S. Hobin

THAT THE DELEGATION PRESENTED BY FERGUS GRIFFIN BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Delegation #10 presented by Max Picardo, St. Rose of Lima School.

M. Picardo spoke as a concerned member of the Central Erin Mills community and Catholic parent with children attending St. Rose of Lima School. Any option to close St. Rose of Lima will cause the most disruption affecting their regular program, gifted program and extended French programs. The recommendation of the delegation would be Option #5 of closing Blessed Trinity and keeping St. Rose of Lima open as the merged school which, after careful consideration, provides the least impact.

Moved by B. Iannicca

THAT THE DELEGATION PRESENTED BY MAX PICARDO BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Delegation #11 presented by Anne Drozda, St. Rose of Lima School.

A. Drozda spoke as a parent of children who attended St. Rose of Lima and have now graduated University and College. A Drozda supports merging Blessed Trinity and St. Rose of Lima as there would still be a Catholic school south of Eglinton Avenue and a school is more than an education institution.

Moved by J. Anderson

THAT THE DELEGATION PRESENTED BY ANNE DROZDA BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Delegation #12 presented by Mike and Rose Tominac, St. Rose of Lima School.

M. Tominac introduced his daughter Rose who is a current Grade 8 student at St. Rose of Lima. R. Tominac gave a message to the board that they are not dealing with numbers when they say they are closing a school but are dealing with children. By closing St. Rose of Lima school they are closing her community, a place where she feels safe.

Moved by B. Iannicca

THAT THE DELEGATION PRESENTED BY MIKE AND ROSE TOMINAC BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Delegation #13 presented by Mary Ann Rowsome, St. Rose of Lima School.

M. Rowsome spoke as a resident on the same street as St. Rose of Lima School for the past 10 years. M. Rowsome commented that her concern is the future development and access to an area of parkland which families now enjoy. A decision to shut down this school will have a direct and negative impact on the community.

Moved by T. da Silva

THAT THE DELEGATION PRESENTED BY MARY ANN ROWSOME BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Please note all 13 delegation presentations will be included as attachments to these minutes and will be posted along with the minutes on the Board's website.

F Information

1 Trustee and Staff Reports for Receipt

Nil

2 Information and Correspondence for Receipt

Nil

G Notices of Motion

Nil

H Other Business

Nil

I Questions Asked of, and by, Board Members

Trustee Pascucci asked if there had been any other reports submitted.

Associate Director, J. Hrajnik responded that there had been one written submission that would be distributed to all Trustees and posted on the Board's website.

Trustee Pascucci commented that what we saw here tonight was democracy in action and he wanted to thank parents, staff and students.

Trustee Iannicca asked if staff could provide a response to issues raised in Delegation #8 by Kim Ogryzek.

J.P. Melito, Superintendent of Planning and Operations advised that staff would prepare responses before the November decisions to enquiries made by delegations. He also noted that the minutes and all presentations from tonight's meeting would be posted on the board's website.

Trustee A. Abbruscato thanked everyone for their presentations and in particular the student delegate.

Trustee E. O'Toole commented on the quality of presentations.

Trustee S. Hobin, who is the Trustee for the review area, gave a special thank you to the ARC committee for Central Erin Mills for all of their hard work.

J Business/Questions/Information In Camera

Nil

K Rise and Report

L Future Special Meetings regarding Pupil Accommodation Review

- Pupil Accommodation Review – Bramalea North – Thursday, September 11, 2008
- Pupil Accommodation Review – Central Erin Mills – Tuesday, September 16, 2008
- Pupil Accommodation Review – Dixie Shorefront – Monday, September 22, 2008
- Pupil Accommodation Review – Bramalea North – Monday, September 29, 2008
- Pupil Accommodation Review – Dixie Shorefront – Tuesday, September 30, 2008

M Adjournalment

Moved by A. Abbruscato

**THAT THE MEETING OF THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE
COMMITTEE MEETING – PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW FOR CENTRAL ERIN
MILLS BE ADJOURNED (9:57 PM)**

CARRIED

Distribution:

Trustees (11)	General Managers (5)
Director of Education	Managers (5)
Associate Directors (2)	Grants Officer
Superintendents (13)	Board and Committee Information Officer
Student Trustees (2)	FOI Board Policy Officer
	Media (2)