



Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

**Minutes of the Special Board Meeting
Pupil Accommodation Review for Central Erin Mills
November 13, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
Board Room, Catholic Education Centre**

Chair: B. Iannicca
Vice Chair: A. Abbruscato

Trustees: F. Di Cosola T. da Silva L. del Rosario
E. O'Toole S. Hobin J. Anderson
L. Zanella M. Pascucci

T. Thomas via Teleconferencing

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 B. Iannicca called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led in the opening prayer.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion 317 (08-11-13) by A. Abbruscato

Seconded by M. Pascucci

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

3. Declaration of Interest
Nil

B Pastor's Remarks
Nil

C Presentations

Chair of the Board, B. Iannicca gave the following opening comments The purpose of tonight's meeting is to take the next step in the Pupil Accommodation Review process for the Central Erin Mills area.

The Pupil Accommodation Review process has stretched over many months and I know that many people in the room tonight have given a lot of their time and attention to this issue. I want to thank you for your commitment to the process and your devotion to ensuring the best education for your children.

I would like to review the agenda for this evening's meeting:

- First, we will hear delegations from parents and residents that have registered to make a presentation at this evening's meeting;
- Next, staff will make comments regarding the report which is included on the agenda for this evening;
- At that point, trustees will discuss and consider the recommendations put forth in the staff report

The discussion will likely be lengthy tonight and we will need your patience and cooperation. The Board does expect that the meeting will proceed in an orderly and respectful manner, even though the subject matter is difficult.

We will now proceed with the delegations. Delegates 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, the group will receive fifteen minutes.

Motion 318 (08-11-13) by S. Hobin

Seconded by L. del Rosario

**THAT THE COMMENTS FROM CHAIRPERSON B. IANNICCA BE RECEIVED.
CARRIED**

D Delegations

Delegation #1 presented by Liam Condon, St. Joseph Streetsville.

L. Condon reiterated to the Trustees that St. Joseph School Council does endorse the recommendations of the board staff report and also to tell the Trustees and parents of St. Rose of Lima a bit about St. Joseph School. He went on to say that the parents and students of St. Rose of Lima and Blessed Trinity should think about Catholic education and how important it is to all of us

Motion 319 (08-11-13) by L. del Rosario

Seconded by S. Hobin

THAT THE DELEGATION FROM L. CONDON BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Delegation #2 presented by Marilyn Cook, Our Lady of Mercy.

M. Cook spoke as a parent of children attending Our Lady of Mercy School. She thanked the Committee for their hard work and thoughtful consideration and insights. She asked that all resources be used to serve all 1,727 students in the most equitable manner and not disproportionately allocated to 182 students due to emotion or politics. M. Cook commented that we need to keep competitive to the public board in order for our numbers to grow and we need to use our resources wisely to ensure we provide all children a quality Catholic education

Motion 320 (08-11-13) by T. da Silva

Seconded by L. del Rosario

THAT THE DELEGATION FROM M. COOK BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Delegation #3 presented by Michael Kekich, St. Rose of Lima.

M. Kekich spoke as a parent of children attending St. Rose of Lima School. He addressed issues in the follow-up report around Enrolments and Projections, EQAO and Fraser Report, and Boundary Reviews. In conclusion, the parents of St. Rose of Lima support Option 5 to address the enrolment problems south of Eglinton

Motion 321 (08-11-13) by S. Hobin

Seconded by L. del Rosario

THAT THE DELEGATION FROM M. KEKICH BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Delegation #4 presented by Nicole Smieja, Shalia Bumbaca, Georgianna Cameron and Lisa Anlao, St. Rose of Lima School.

N. Smieja S. Bumbaca, G. Cameron and L. Anlao are students at St. Rose of Lima School who spoke about being able to walk to school, being able to graduate from their school with their friends, and how everyone in the school and community worked together to fight for their school.

Motion 322 (08-11-13) by S. Hobin

Seconded by L. del Rosario

THAT THE DELEGATION FROM N. SMIEJA, S. BUMBACA, G. CAMERON AND L. ANLAO BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Delegation #5 presented by Kim Ogryzek, St. Rose of Lima.

K. Ogryzek spoke as a parent from St. Rose of Lima on behalf of a parent group within the community. She raised issues such as boundary changes, alternative accommodation options, Extended French and Gifted Program students being excluded from the overall enrolment total, maintaining Catholic presence, safety issues and the pupil place reduction numbers. K. Ogryzek further commented that she hoped her points will influence the vote towards keeping St. Rose of Lima open.

Trustee Pascucci asked planning staff to clarify if boundary changes were offered to the community?

T. Munn, Senior Planner responded that boundary changes were discussed at the ARC committee meetings.

Motion 323 (08-11-13) by S. Hobin

Seconded by L. del Rosario

THAT THE DELEGATION FROM K. OGRYZEK BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

E Information/Reports From Trustees, For Receipt

Nil

F Information/Reports from Administration, For Receipt

Nil

G Reports from Committees for Receipt

Nil

H Trustee, Administration, Committee Reports Requiring Action

1. Central Erin Mills Pupil Accommodation Review Follow-Up Report – J.P. Melito/M. Prospero

J.P. Melito, Superintendent of Planning and Operations introduced the follow-up report as the next step in a process that has involved ARC committee meetings, ARC public meetings, Administration and Finance Committee meetings, and now the Board Public Meeting. The report provides staff's response to previous delegations and staff analysis. The report also highlights the timelines to accommodate the requirement for school closures.

Motion 324 (08-11-13) by F. Di Cosola

Seconded by L. Zanella

1. THAT THE CENTRAL ERIN MILLS PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW FOLLOW-UP REPORT BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Questions/Comments

Staff responded to questions/comments asked by Trustees regarding the Pupil Accommodation Review for the Central Erin Mills Area.

Trustees Hobin and Zanella raised the question that it would have been helpful to know in advance that Blessed Trinity students south of Eglinton could have been bused to Divine Mercy. Superintendent Melito commented that during the ARC process, staff could only quote Board Policy regarding walking distances indicating that students would walk but to be consistent with the Peel District School Board, staff recommended bussing the students across Eglinton Avenue.

Trustees Hobin and Pascucci raised the question of boundary changes. T. Munn commented this issue was discussed at ARC committee meetings along with a number of other options. The ARC committee decided which options were to be presented to the public.

B. Bjarnason, Manager of Planning went on to further comment that the planning department brought options forward at the initial meeting to get the discussion going and the boundary issues was an item to be looked over by the parent. At the final ARC committee meeting, when the ARC committee were preparing their report, planning staff left the room and the ARC committee produced their own report.

Trustee O'Toole asked for clarification regarding including EF and Gifted students in accommodations numbers.

Associate Director of Instructional Services, R. Borrelli responded that these programs are designated in certain areas of the board depending on the availability of schools to hold that program and the board can make any changes and the program can be moved at any time

Trustee Di Cosola raised questions regarding enrolment numbers at St. Rose of Lima School.

J. Rogers, Planner clarified that there are currently 23 students registered in grade 8 and only 7 are registered in Junior Kindergarten and there are 8 students enrolled in grade 7.

Trustees Di Cosola and Pascucci raised questions regarding Annual Net Savings and the loss or gain of grants by closing schools.

J. Cherepacha, General Manager of Financial Services commented that the GSN funding flows through the Pupil Foundation Grant and is based on both enrolment and per school. In this scenario, if you close two schools you will lose the funding that is based on having the schools in place, such as the grant for a principal at each school location. However, you have not lost the enrolment base of the school, you have only moved the enrolment to other existing schools and therefore, the increased enrolment at the other schools may allow a certain funding benchmark to be reached that potentially increases the funding for Vice Principal complement, Secretarial complement and custodial staff. Each scenario or option will provide different impacts on funding and savings due to the number of schools recommended for closure and the number of schools that would take the transfer of students.

Trustee Hobin raised a question about Catholic presence south of Eglinton and why it is not a priority for this area as it is in the Dixie Shorefront area? She further commented that as a Trustee she is very concerned about declining enrolment and Catholic presence in our schools.

J.B. Kostoff, Director of Education, responded that in the Dixie Shorefront area, three schools have already been closed whereas in the Central Erin Mills area the recommendation is to close either two or one schools.

Superintendent Melito further commented that the question of Catholic presence has come up a number of times throughout this process and in many catchment areas in our board, the school is not right in the middle of that catchment area.

Trustee Hobin further commented that it would have been helpful in this process to look at options as to what we could do with these schools if we closed them. Have we heard from the Ministry in terms of what board's can do with properties that are closed in an area and is there any process in place from past experience to transition communities.

Director of Education Kostoff commented that this is a stand alone issue and wouldn't be useful as part of the ARC process.

J. Hrajnik, Associate Director of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer commented that as indicated at previous meetings, the property would first have to be declared surplus

and then there is a board and provincial process to be followed and it is not part of this process.

Regarding the transition process, R. Borrelli, Associate Director of Instructional Services commented that the best example of a template that the board has is the closure of St. Mary and St. Luke schools where a deliberate attempt was made by the superintendent of schools and the principals of the schools to ensure that the transition was as smooth as possible. Also, working with the local councils of the communities to ensure that some heritage from both communities were brought into the new schools

M. Prospero, Superintendent of Mississauga North Family of Schools further commented that a Consolidation Committee would be established which would be made up of the superintendent of schools, the principal of the school closing, the principal of the receiving school, one teacher from the school to be closed, one teacher from the receiving school, the school chairperson and one parent of the school to be closed, and the school chairperson and one parent of the receiving school. The Consolidation Committee would be formed for the purpose of involving parents and staff in the implementation of the recommendations. They would review the academic, spiritual, social and emotional welfare as well as concerns of students and staff. There would be discussion around the retention and display of artifacts, banners, awards and also any specialty items purchased by school council as well as consolidation of furniture etc.

Trustee Hobin made a final comment thanking the ARC committee members and parents that have written and contacted Trustees and let them know that on behalf of herself and her fellow Trustees, no decision will be easily made. She also thanked Planning Staff for all their hard work. Trustee Hobin further commented that the board should write to the Ministry and tell them about this experience and make some recommendations as well

Trustee Pascucci commented he supported the request from Trustee Hobin to write to the Ministry to let them know about this experience. The Ministry of Education has put this board and every Catholic board on the defensive.

Motion 325 (08-11-13) by A. Abbruscato

Seconded by L. Zanella

2. TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE ARC, I.E. THAT WE CLOSE ONLY ONE OF THE TWO SCHOOLS SOUTH OF EGLINTON, AND IN THE INTEREST OF KEEPING THE STUDENT BODY INTACT, THAT THE DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD CLOSE ST. ROSE OF LIMA IN JUNE 2009 AND MOVE ST. ROSE OF LIMA INCLUDING THE EXTENDED FRENCH PROGRAM AND THE GIFTED PROGRAM TO BLESSED TRINITY FOR SEPTEMBER 2009.

Trustee O'Toole requested that votes be recorded.

RECORDED VOTE:

YAY: A. Abbruscato, B. Iannicca, L. Zanella, T. Thomas

**NAY: S. Hobin, M. Pascucci, F. Di Cosola, T. da Silva, L. del Rosario,
J. Anderson, E. O'Toole**

DEFEATED

Motion 326 (08-11-13) by E. O'Toole

Seconded by J. Anderson

**3. THAT THE DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
APPROVE THE CLOSURE OF BLESSED TRINITY EFFECTIVE JUNE 2009,
AND REDIRECT ALL STUDENTS TO DIVINE MERCY IN SEPTEMBER 2009.**

**THAT THE DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
APPROVE THE 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.**

**THAT THE DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD PROVIDE
TRANSPORTATION TO BLESSED TRINITY STUDENTS, SOUTH OF
EGLINTON AVENUE TO DIVINE MERCY COMMENCING IN SEPTEMBER
2009.**

Trustee O'Toole requested that votes be recorded.

RECORDED VOTE:

YAY: E. O'Toole, J. Anderson, L. del Rosario, L. Zanella

**NAY: S. Hobin, M. Pascucci, F. Di Cosola, B. Iannicca, A. Abbruscato,
T. da Silva, T. Thomas**

DEFEATED

Trustee Zanella commented she would not be voting in favour of this motion as St. Rose of Lima School cannot accommodate special needs children.

Trustee Da Silva commented that special needs students could be accommodated on the 1st floor of St Rose of Lima School.

Motion 327 (08-11-13) by T. Da Silva

Seconded by A. Abbruscato

**4. THAT THE DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
APPROVE THE CLOSURE OF BLESSED TRINITY EFFECTIVE JUNE 2009,
AND REDIRECT ALL STUDENTS TO ST. ROSE OF LIMA EFFECTIVE
SEPTEMBER 2009.**

Trustee O'Toole requested that votes be recorded.

RECORDED VOTE:

**YAY: F. Di Cosola, B. Iannicca, A. Abbruscato, T. da Silva, L. del Rosario,
J. Anderson, T. Thomas**

NAY: M. Pascucci, S. Hobin, L. Zanella, E. O'Toole
CARRIED

I Notices of Motion

J Other Business
Nil

K Questions Asked of, and by, Board Members

L Business/Questions/Information In Camera
Nil

M Rise and Report

N Future Special Meetings regarding Pupil Accommodation Review
Pupil Accommodation Review – Bramalea North– Tuesday, November 18, 2008
Pupil Accommodation Review – Dixie Shorefront – Thursday, November 27, 2008

M Adjournment

Motion 328 (08-11-13) by F. Di Cosola Seconded by T. da Silva

THAT THE MEETING OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING BE ADJOURNED.
CARRIED

Good evening Trustees, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Liam Condon and I am here again tonight on behalf of St. Joseph's Elementary School in Streetsville for a couple of reasons.

The first would be to reiterate to you the Trustees that St Joseph School Council does endorse the recommendation of board staff to close St Rose of Lima and Blessed Trinity, to move the gifted and extended French programmes to Our Lady of Mercy, St Rose of Lima regular stream students to St Joseph's and move Blessed Trinity to Divine Mercy. We know this is a really tough decision but we would urge you to make the right decision not only for St Rose and Blessed Trinity but also for the other three schools involved.

My second reason for being here, given what we believe to be the right decision, would be to tell you the Trustees, but more importantly the parents of St Rose of Lima a little bit about St Joseph's.

St. Joseph Elementary School has been a part of the Streetsville community for over 50 years. In many respects it has been the core of the community. Many families have seen generations graduate from this small school and now their children are attending. It is very well maintained and up to date i.e. Air conditioning, the wonderful paint job we got for our 50th anniversary and the new gym floor we got last year, for which we are very grateful.

St. Joseph's School is a strong Catholic school that will welcome your community, we all want the best for our children, and we the parents of St. Joseph's feel that by closing St. Rose of Lima we will gain a larger community that can fulfill many more programs and opportunities for our children. We have good parental involvement in our school, both through a core group who are involved in our parent council and the fabulous support by all parents of our fund raisers. We also have a parent run kiss'n'ride which won the Mississauga Safety Council award in only its second year of operation.

As I've said before our children get to go on nature walks along the banks of the Credit River, they get to walk to the local public Library, they participate in science fairs and they have access to Vic Johnson's Arena next door. They also walk to our local Church for school Masses and Sacramental preparation, and both of our priests Fr. Marc Andre and Fr. Ed come to the school on a regular basis.

The students all get to go on at least one class trip per year to places like Silver Creek Conservation Area, The ROM, Queen's Park, Apple farms, bowling, Pioneer village and the list goes on. All of this could not happen without the support of our great principal Maria Buczek and her wonderful staff. The dedicated teachers who are diligent and organized, not only do a great job in the classrooms, which is evident in our higher EQAO test results of last year (30% up in Grade 6 math) but who also support the children with a wide range of extracurricular activities, like basketball, volleyball, soccer and athletics for everyone.

The last thing I would like to say to the parents and students of St Rose of Lima and Blessed Trinity would be, We are all children of God, we are all Catholic and want our faith to continue to prosper, if our trustees make the decision tonight to close both of your schools, I would urge you to think about Catholic education and how important it is to all of us.

Thank you all for listening to me tonight and God Bless us all.

November 13, 2008,

Good evening ladies and gentlemen,

I am a parent of children attending Our Lady of Mercy School and I would like to address the attendees this evening to discuss the options provided by the ARC Committee and the Board staff. Firstly, I wish to thank the Committee for their hard work and thoughtful considerations and insight.

My main purpose is to provide my feedback to the September minutes posted on the website as I have attended all of the public meetings, save the most recent. I must say I was surprised at the recommendation of the ARC Committee as their two choices did not leap out to me as the most obvious.

When I attended one of the spring meetings, we were presented with various slides and the status quo slide stated that all five schools would have declining enrolment and 2009 estimated a total student body of 1,727 children including Blessed Trinity at 111 and Rose of Lima at 71. All numbers I quote going forward are based on these slides and the 2009 estimates. I think the main consideration for all of us is that we have to keep in mind that we have five schools with declining enrolment and the challenge is to consider the optimal solution for everyone concerned.

Firstly, the idea of keeping Rose of Lima open for 71 students is irresponsible. I cannot believe that was even a consideration other than the fact they have been well organized and very passionate. Rose of Lima's argument is that it is a highly regarded school, suggesting its academic prowess is superior to the other four schools. I, however, would suggest that one need only look at the grade 3 level EQAO scores to note that they are on par with the board results. I would further suggest that their EQAO scores improve considerably once the gifted children enter their school at later grades.

The next consideration is Blessed Trinity's arguments. They felt it unsafe for their children to cross Eglinton Avenue. I have to ask, what about the children who live east of Erin Mills Parkway who attend Divine Mercy? They are bussed as Blessed Trinity's children will be bussed or they have to cross a busy street where there is a mall and other businesses.

Blessed Trinity's grade seven and eight children who will have to cross Eglinton Ave to attend Gonzaga High school in a few short years, will most likely be the children not bussed. I believe all other children, given their distance, will be safely bussed via the school board. If one must be very picky, I looked at the September newsletter posted on the Blessed Trinity website and it appears that their kiss 'n ride is well utilized but in need of supervisors. If a high number of the 111 students (assuming 50-70 families) are driving their children to school anyway, driving another block north to Divine Mercy should be of no consequence for those families.

Blessed Trinity's other argument, that there should be a Catholic representation south of Eglinton, provides me with little comprehension. Representation comes with attendance. Evidence from low school enrolment suggests there are few Catholics in the area, so logic would ask: why maintain a Catholic school where there are few Catholics and jeopardize the education of an area where there are substantially more Catholics in attendance?

You will note that I have deliberately not included the gifted nor the FSL children in the above discussions as they are bussed and since their numbers are double of their "host" school they likely are drawn from the population of the other schools under consideration. It would be prudent to consider the gifted and FSL numbers in the total of the five schools but not to allocate them to any particular school for the purposes of determining school closure. Their presence would support the viability of any of the five schools and thus it would be unfair to use them in the calculation for the purpose of one particular school.

I think it speaks volumes that only one delegate spoke at the September meeting on behalf of the FSL and gifted. This is a group comprised of 148 children. Enlightening compared to the 12 delegates speaking on behalf of the 71 regular track at Rose of Lima. If this was a good option for the gifted and FSL, I would think more would have come forward. Certainly, sending them to a small school where there is little opportunity to integrate with a larger student body must contravene some portion of the Education Act for Special Education.

Finally, I looked at the financial savings of all Options and found Option 1 most compelling, making the most sense. Another bonus is that Option 1, indicates no portables in any of the schools in 2009 where Options 4 and 5 require portables. Options 4 or Option 5 also requires keeping a school open for 182 students, less than the 250 requirement.

I am sure I have not told you anything you don't already know but I felt someone should speak on behalf of the other 1,545 children. Enrolment is declining at all of these schools. Sooner or later the parents at Divine Mercy, Our Lady of Mercy and St. Joseph will be calling you asking you why they lost their librarian, their vice principal, why some services are worse in the Catholic school than the Public school next store or why did my child get injured due to insufficient supervision. The parents from these schools have not attended these ARC meetings in the numbers of Blessed Trinity or Rose of Lima because they don't see the big picture. You, as Trustees of the Board, have been entrusted with that job.

Thus, I think the dispassionate view of the board staff should be considered with appropriate weighting. Resources should be used to serve all 1,727 in the most equitable manner and not disproportionately allocated to 182 due to emotion or politics. That would be most irresponsible.

Lastly, having attended other meetings I was witness to some of the emotional pleadings of the participants, but emotion is motivated by many factors. During one of the meetings, the woman who sat beside me told me she came to support the Rose of Lima cause but also told me that her children were grown and she was not Catholic. She told me she wished to sell her house within the next six months and was afraid her property values would plummet at the announcement of a school closure. I'm not so sure that all attendees at these meetings are concerned with Catholic education.

Thank you so much for considering my view and providing me the opportunity to speak on behalf of all of the children in all of the schools. We need to keep competitive to the Public board in order for our numbers to grow; we need to use our resources wisely to ensure we provide all children a quality Catholic education.

Marylynn Cook

Delegation to the Board of Trustees

Prepared By: Michael Kekich

November 13, 2008

Good evening. My name is Michael Kekich and I have three children. Two are currently enrolled at St. Rose of Lima School and my youngest will be joining the system in 2010. I guess I will find out later tonight whether or not she will be attending St. Rose.

My wife, Pauline, wanted to speak to you this evening as she is School Council co-chair for St. Rose, but she recently had surgery and has lost her voice. She can only whisper at the moment. While this is great at home, it doesn't work out so well here.

The purpose of my speech this evening is to address claims made in the recent Follow-Up Report.

Enrolments and Projections –

Many of the parents from St. Rose believed that the decision to close St. Rose was made well before the public process began. The entire review process has been riddled with inconsistencies that support this view.

For the last eight months, from February 7th through September 16th, the projected enrolment figures presented by the Planning department remained the same. Suddenly, on page two of the Follow-Up Report new figures have mysteriously appeared. Please refer to Appendix 1 for the status quo chart from the September 16th Board Meeting and the new data from the Follow-Up Report.

The chart below incorporates and compares the data presented earlier in the year (highlighted in grey) to the new data presented in the Follow-Up report. I have added the final column, titled 'Skew', which represents the difference between the original and new projections.

School	Sept 08 Actual	Sept 08 Projected	Difference A	Original Projections from Feb/Sept	Difference B	Skew (original projections – new Sept 08 projections)
BT	104	113	-9	119	-15	-6
DM	618	622	-4	624	-8	-4
OLM	492	488	4	492	0	4
SJ	366	364	2	363	3	+1
SR (RT)	95	100	-5	91	4	+9
SR (EF)	107	110	-3	106	1	+4
SR (G)	56	59	-3	54	2	+5
CEM Total	1838	1856	-18	1849	-13	+5

Difference A is a calculation of Actual minus Projected numbers from the FOLLOW UP REPORT for each school. BT is -9 students according to the enrolment projection, DM is -4, OLM is +4, SJ is +2 and, not surprisingly, SR has shown the largest declines; -5 for RT, -3 for EF and -3 for G. This is a total of -11. The Central Erin Mills total decline is 18.

According to this chart, St. Rose of Lima is responsible for **61%** of the total decline in the CEM review area enrolment projections. Now, let's take a look at how St. Rose fared using the data presented to us repeatedly throughout this process.

Difference B is a calculation of Actual minus Projected numbers from THE FOUR PUBLIC MEETINGS AND THE TWO BOARD MEETINGS for each school. BI is -15 (instead of -9), DM is -8 (instead of -4), OLM is 0 (instead of +4), SJ is +3 (instead of +2) and, surprisingly enough, SR actually shows increases; +4 for RT (a swing of +9), +1 for EF (a swing of +4) and +2 for G (a swing of +5). This is a total of +7 (instead of -11) and a swing of 18. The Central Erin Mills total decline is now 13.

According to this chart, St. Rose of Lima is actually responsible for **70%** of the total increase in the CEM review area enrolment projections.

The new data from the Follow-Up report shows SR as accountable for 61% of the decrease in projected enrolment when, in fact, we are responsible for a 70% increase in projected enrolment. This is a swing of 131%.

It is this kind of behavior that angers and upsets the parents from SR and leads some of us to believe that we are marked for closure. Somebody wants to close SR. This school has been in jeopardy before and according to many of our neighbors, we have managed to remain open because of a strong, caring and dedicated community as well as a strong school council.

EQAO and Fraser Report

The Follow-Up Report claims that our delegations raised issues surrounding the EQAO and Fraser Report results of St. Rose compared to 'other schools in Central Erin Mills'. This is not the case. While we understand that the Report Card fails to 'explore the effects of school size, local school demographics and socio-economic realities', our point was to highlight that the scores for St. Rose are superior to almost all 2800+ schools listed on the report regardless of size, local school demographics and socio-economic realities.

Furthermore, the report states, "we know that data such as EQAO test results are not a complete measure of success as Jesus would have described it". Well, in Luke 12:15 Jesus says, "Beware – Don't be greedy for what you don't have. Real life is not measured by how much we own". In John 2:17 Jesus says, "This world is fading away, along with everything it craves. But if you do the will of God, you will live forever." I wasn't aware that the will of God included meeting enrolment figures and financial accountability.

EQAO scores have been implemented to measure how successful a school is in delivering the required Provincial curriculum. **The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board is committed to offering quality education to our children.** This being the case, why would you want to close a school that has consistently produced the top EQAO scores in Ontario?

Boundary Reviews

The statement, "delegations suggested that boundary revisions be investigated *rather* than school closures" is a false statement. Both our delegates and the Board of Trustees asked about boundaries *and* school closures. The paraphrased responses given were that 'we are not here to discuss boundary changes' and 'DM, OLM and SJ do not meet the criteria required for closure'.

The Follow-Up Report also states that 'alternative accommodation options were not suggested by the ARC Committee'. Well, alternative accommodation options were not suggested by the staff either. However, the parents *have* suggested other (more workable) accommodation options. I'm sure you will recall from Pauline's previous delegation that three new creative options were introduced. We are simply asking the Board of Trustees to question why more wasn't done to provide longer, more viable solutions.

A few final comments:

I. 96% of our contacted community (consisting of both Catholic & Public taxpayers) opposed the closure of St. Rose.

II. Enrolment declines are clear across the country in both the Catholic and Public boards. In the future, these declines will inevitably continue. Are we addressing this situation correctly by building and saving large schools and closing smaller community schools? Does this make sense? Declining enrolment = larger schools.

III. Something interesting occurred to me throughout this process. The St. Rose delegations consisted of current and former students, community members, parents' of former students, mothers and fathers. I would like to focus on the fact that roughly half of all these delegations were made by us 'fathers'. What does this say about our community? It says that there is definitely a cohesive **family** unit. Not only are mothers involved with the everyday activities of their children but we fathers are too.

IV. When you walk into the building, there is no mistaking St. Rose for a **Catholic - elementary** school. The walls are covered with photos of the students, motivational posters, portraits of Jesus and statues of St. Rose. There are no lockers and there is no cafeteria. The simplicity and the mere size of the school parallel the state of the children attending it. They are young they are small and they are innocent. To them the school is perfect. Who are we to judge?

St. Rose is special. Although the Staff has presented a multitude of issues favoring the closure of small schools and excuses as to why our EF and G programs are ineffective in our school, I will tell you that they are completely wrong. Our school does not follow any of the Staff trends or conclusions. They list the need for increased parental involvement in small schools as a negative. By this rationale, less parental involvement in larger schools is a positive. It has been said that 'education starts at home' -- and I agree. Has the staff really studied St. Rose or have they simply made generalizations?

In conclusion, the parents of St. Rose feel that tonight's decision should be:

Exercise OPTION 5 to address the enrolment problems south of Eglinton *and* warrant that another Accommodation Review Process be initiated offering more 'creative alternatives' to address the wider and steeper declining enrolment problems to the north.

Thank You.

APPENDIX 1

CHART A

	FRC Capacity	June 30, 2007	Oct. 31, 2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Churchill Meadows #4 East (Hosted)		80	-	-	-	-	-	-
Churchill Meadows #4 West (Hosted)		55	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blessed Trinity		163	129	119	112	111	106	103
Blessed Trinity (All)	318.5	298	129	119	112	111	106	103
# of portables		4	0	-8	-8	-8	-9	-9
Divine Mercy		717	669	624	585	535	495	462
Divine Mercy (All)	719	717	669	624	585	535	495	462
# of portables		0	0	-4	-5	-8	-9	-10
Our Lady of Mercy		573	517	492	451	421	401	393
Our Lady of Mercy (All)	616.5	573	517	492	451	421	401	393
# of portables		0	0	-5	-7	-8	-9	-9
St. Joseph		427	389	363	360	330	307	292
St. Joseph (All)	478.5	427	389	363	360	330	307	292
# of portables		1	1	-5	-5	-6	-7	-8
St. Rose of Lima		128	105	91	71	68	62	60
Extended French		123	125	106	106	108	108	108
Gifted		77	65	54	42	39	39	39
St. Rose of Lima (All)	285	328	295	251	219	215	209	207
# of portables		4	4	-1	-3	-3	-3	-3

CHART B

School	Sept 08 Actual	Sept 08 Projection	Difference
Blessed Trinity	104	113	-9
Divine Mercy	618	622	-4
Our Lady of Mercy	492	488	4
St. Joseph	366	364	2
St. Rose of Lima (RT)	95	100	-5
St. Rose of Lima (Extended French)	107	110	-3
St. Rose of Lima (Gifted)	56	59	-3
Central Erin Mills Total	1838	1856	-18

Good evening Trustees,

My name is Nicole Smieja. I am in grade 6 extended French.

You may be wondering why I'm delegating again. My parents did. My dad even said "Are you sure you want to delegate again?" Well, I do. It's the last chance, I will fight for what I believe in and I believe you should keep our school open. Here is what I want to say. How many of you have heard of Anne of Green Gables written by Lucy Maud Montgomery, 100 years ago? Well, when Anne gets married, Marilla tells her "a house is not a home without a birth, a marriage, and a death". Our school has experienced the sorrow of the death of a much-loved teacher, the joy of many teachers getting married, and every new child is like a birth in our school. This means our school is a second home to us and whatever happens, we stay together like a family. I am speaking up for my family, not my mom or dad but my school.

I and many others walk to school everyday (like pioneers) it is a nice peaceful walk. If you close my school you will take away a privilege that we would like to keep it is a privilege that you should want us to keep, it's exercise. Also you may think a bigger school = a better education but I go to a small school and I do not believe I would get a better education at a bigger school; if anything I might get a worse education at a bigger school. My school has the best teachers. I for one think I have the best math teacher in the whole universe; an hour or more of math a day in an accelerated program that is a lot, but we do it.

My friends and I are just a few of the 256 students at our school whose lives will be affected by your decision.

I know it is voting night tonight, but while you vote, I want you to try to picture St. Rose of Lima herself guiding you to the right decision.

Thank you for your time. We hope you consider what we said. Good night.

Good Evening Trustees,

My name is Dhalia Bumbaca and I am in Mrs. Shear's grade 6 gifted class at St. Rose of Lima. Mrs. Shear is the most amazing teacher I've ever had, and just like the other teachers at St. Rose they are all exceptional. You may be wondering what qualifies me, 11 year old Dhalia with no university degree yet, to say St. Rose of Lima is the best school with the best teachers and the best students. My opinion should count because first of all I'm a straight "A" student, which means I take my education very seriously, and secondly St. Rose isn't the only school I've attended, it's the 4th so I have a lot to compare it to, and more importantly whatever decision you make, it affects me and all my friends. I'm going to say whatever it takes to make you understand the importance of keeping the students and staff of St. Rose of Lima happily together. Now I've been to all the meetings and my reasons were first to support my school and second so I could stay up late. But I actually learned a lot about the ARC committee which I soon figured out had nothing to do with Noah's Arc, but part of a very, very, very long process. The need to keep Catholic education alive came up a lot as well. Which by the way, closing St. Rose works against keeping catholic education alive and if decisions continue to be made in the way they are, catholic schools and all our teachers, students, and parents have a lot of worrying ahead of us. I know you think you've heard all the possible reasons for not closing down our school, and one more might not really make a difference but after seeing the recent American and Canadian elections and watching history being made, every single vote makes a difference. I am not adopting Obama's slogan, "Change we can believe in" because unlike American politics, St. Rose's school doesn't need and change and it certainly doesn't want it. Our community doesn't want it. We've got a great thing going, three fantastic programs that work together as one. Every student at St. Rose wants to be there, and they are all enthusiastic about learning, and are proud to be part of the nurturing, friendly, and interesting place we call school. My good friends are here

tonight and they're not even in my class. Some aren't even in my grade. Our Remembrance Day liturgy that happened a few days ago was a beautiful tribute to those who have fallen for our freedom and peace, and it was beautiful because the different classes and the choir came together under the guidance of our dedicated teachers to make it a beautiful ceremony. No matter what goes on at the school, we all work together and the entire St Rose Community has come together to fight for our school. St Rose of Lima isn't just a building, it's a philosophy and I hope you all had the chance to visit St. Rose because if you did you could feel it as soon as you walk in the school. When I first came to St. Rose for my orientation I had to be dragged there and I had no intention of being part of this super school everyone talked about. When I left the orientation a couple of hours later I thought there was a conspiracy going on between my parents and the school. Everyone I had contact with that day was so nice, I could not think of anything wrong with the school or anyone there. I felt so welcomed and so interested in everything that was presented to me. I couldn't wait to go back in September. I'm not the only one who feels that way. The school has that affect on people. St Rose has a program called Youth Ambassadors of Faith and I'm very fortunate to be chosen as a youth ambassador and I take my responsibilities very seriously. I know that most of you have probably made up your mind or at least feel strongly about how you will be voting this evening. I am begging you, to really listen to what my friends and I are saying. Please do what is best for us, for the children, don't move us around, and don't split us up. We may be a small school but we're passionate, passionate about our education and passionate about our faith.

Thank you,

Hello my name is Georgianna Cameron. I am 12 years old and in grade 7. I came to St. Rose of Lima in grade 2, and I was really looking forward to graduate here next year, and now the school might close. Me and my friends would be very sad if the school closes because we've been together all this time. So I ask you please don't close our school.

Delegation of the Board of Trustees Presentation – Nov 13, 2008

Good evening, my name is Kim Ogryzek; I am a parent from St. Rose of Lima and am speaking on behalf of a parent group within our community.

First of all I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening and stress that I do not envy you the tough decision you have to make. The decision you have in front of you will greatly alter the future of many catholic children.

Therefore, because of the importance of this decision Iand I am sure all of you believe the ultimate decision, should be the right one having weighed ALL of the potential solutions, not necessarily just the ones that have been proposed to you .. I trust you will consider the comments I make before you this evening.

As elected Board members we entrust in you to find answers that may not be cookie-cutter but leading edge solutions that envision new ways of dealing with these highly sensitive and emotional issues.

You see....when this process began we as a community understood that the intention was to be fair, consistent and transparent, the purpose of my delegation this evening is to highlight some inconsistencies and identify where we have perceived the process to have fallen short of the above criteria

- Dufferin-Peel's Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines state that 'boundary changes, other accommodation options or further monitoring of demographic trends should be considered' in their analyses. However, 18 pre-established options were handed to the ARC Committee who were told NOT to discuss potential boundary changes when suggested.
 - How does this measure up against Peel's intention's
 - And therefore have all options truly & fairly been considered?
- In addition, the guidelines of Dufferin Peel Pupil Accommodation review process states that 'any one of the factors identified or any combination of the factors/ may be cause to initiate a Pupil accommodation review process -- saying this, all five schools listed met at least one of the criteria and could have been considered in the 'alternative accommodation options' put forward for review. Why was this not the case?
- Students in the Extended French and Gifted programs at St. Rose are being excluded from the overall enrolment total of the school. Although somewhat puzzling, as nowhere in the guidelines does it say these children should be excluded, we as a community have to accept that they are being excluded for this decision.
 - However, how can you use these same children and include them as part of the recommended solution or rational for sustaining another schools' total enrolment. This speaks to inconsistencies.

- When we speak about consistency we should have a common goal amongst the Catholic community across all political regions.
 - The Preferred Staff Option put forth by the Planners in the Dixie Shorefront report and the Input from the Public Meetings section in the Central Erin Mills area have resulted in very different recommended outcomes.
 - For example, maintaining Catholic presence in the Dixie Shorefront area is at the expense of not meeting the required pupil place reductions detailed in the Long Term Plan whereas in the Central Erin Mills region this Catholic presence is not given the same weight. Why would there be different goals in different regions?
- The recent follow up report presented by the planners speaks to the safety issues raised by the parents of BT. This report reads, ‘in the interest of consistency, staff proposes that all students residing south of Eglinton Ave be provided with transportation’ should the Board approve Option 1. How can a sudden amendment to a Board-wide transportation policy be considered ‘consistent’?
- The last point I would like to speak to makes our community, and I think would you as well, uneasy as to how the overall options and process was rolled out.
 - In our review area, the goal put forward by the Planners at the beginning of the process was a pupil place reduction of 576.5 places.
 - The closure of both BT and St. Rose, the planners recommended solution at the end of the process, would reduce the amount of pupil places by this EXACT figure!

There is a multitude of other questions that we can ask about the process: but in the interests of time I leave you with two more thoughts.

First, is the decision that you are about to make, as a highly respected Board member, really the correct one or just one of a few cookie cutter options you have been asked to consider.

Finally, in the interest of personal transparency – obviously, my agenda is that hopefully the points outlined above will influence your vote towards keeping St. Rose of Lima open. However, regardless of the outcome hopefully you will take the above as feedback from a community and how some things have been perceived to be inconsistent, unfair, and not truly transparent and look at this as an opportunity to improve on this process. Thank You!