D. Amaral, Chair of the East Credit ARC Working Group Committee, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

1. **Prayer**

The Chair led the group in prayer and asked them remember the victims of La Loche, Saskatchewan.

2. **Approval of Agenda for ARC Working Group Meeting #2**

Manager, S. Cox asked that item 10 a) Other Business be added to the Agenda after Correspondence Items. Approval of the agenda was moved by: J. Belmonte, seconded by: S. Bonello

*CARRIED*

3. **Approval of January 13, 2016 Meeting Minutes from ARC Working Group Meeting #1**

The Chair requested an amendment on page 15, paragraph 1 to read, “The Chair indicated EQAO was not one of the rationale presented to the Trustees.” And also, page 15, paragraph 2, “The Chair added that trustees may ask questions regarding a transition plan.”
Approval of the January 13, 2016 meeting minutes was moved by: C. Helme, seconded by: E. Ljubanovic

CARRIED

4. Follow-up Items – Resource Staff
   - Housekeeping
     Resource staff indicated an error in the package from the January 13 meeting – PowerPoint presentation, page 9 under Option 3 should have read, “Close: St. Dunstan – relocate students north of Eglinton to Our Lady of Good Voyage” (not St. Herbert). In addition, current presentation for tonight, add School Information Profiles after Break.

     The Chair clarified that ARC votes on receipt of proposals to communicate to Trustees. Superintendent, D. Del Bianco explained that under the previous Ministry guidelines, the committee itself was asked to come up with one recommendation. Under the new guidelines, all options are welcome and discussed; all will be part of final report to the board of trustees.

   - ARC Requested Information from WGM#1
     Items 1-18 requested information from WGM#1 were provided to ARC Members, with the exception of items 4, 9, 10, 11, 14 which will be dealt with at future meetings. The Chair explained item 17, indicating that board staff meet with principals regularly and together will come up with a mechanism to monitor stress/general tone of the students and move forward from there.

     The Chair added one other item - Translation Services: If ARC members know of parents not receiving information in their first language, please contact your principal and they will arrange translation services with the assistance of board staff. Principals will also be communicating this to their school councils.

5. Public Open House #1 - ALL
   - Discussion/Debrief
     ARC member comments:
     - some parents expressed that it didn’t feel welcoming to allow for questions
     - many parents had already left before the parking lot questions were addressed at end of night; format should have questions throughout the session
     - suggest having a microphone available and schools to have their own tables, not shared tables
     - delay handing out tablets; people were providing feedback right away and not were not fully informed
     - parking lot was a good idea, but provide “FAQ”
     - gap between presentation to parking lot questions being answered too long; many questions not addressed
     - parking lot was not centrally located; make more accessible to parents
     - many parents confused about intention of public meeting – thought it was open mic
     - potentially have more staff available to direct parents; more prominent signage, answer questions with a mic
     - negative feedback to emailing questions; hesitant to email because they won’t get results
     - provide an agenda indicating evening events
Resource staff responses:
- doors to cafetorium malfunctioned; we will provide additional space and screen next time
- tried new things; survey completion at the meeting; parking lot
- meeting was scheduled from 6-9 p.m.; people arrived at 5:30 and started with tablets/parking lot
- intention of the parking lot was for us staff to group the post-it notes, transcribe them and provide answers to them. We can bring them to the next meeting as well and will have FAQ to improve the process
- next communication to parents to provide an agenda, clearly highlighting information for parents; the ARC to set up the format for next open house

• Survey
ARC member comments:
- general feedback from St. Dunstan –fourth box of “no preference” seems biased; parents think there is no preference to option 1, 2 or 3 and it should state “none of the above”. Many parents stop at that point of “no preference”.
- parents didn’t know where the data was going to be used or who the four options would be presented to
- The Chair added: the purpose of the survey was to obtain qualitative data.

Resource staff responses:
- just under 500 people at open house; 427 responded to survey
- intention of survey was not to be biased. We were more interested in comments. Research Department determined that “no preference” prompts people to add a comment
- Nine emails received through PARInfo expressing concern with “no preference” on the survey
- survey closes at midnight, January 27, 2016 –the results will come back to the committee for input on changes

6. Promoting DPCDSB

Bruce Campbell, General Manager, Communications & Community Relations gave an overview of Dufferin-Peel’s marketing strategy.
- Kindergarten registration campaign – advertise in community papers, multi-cultural and ethnic papers, mobile signs, online advertising, send letters home, school marquees, Secondary School synervoice send home messages as well. Fairly aggressive campaign last few years. Pool of available students in elementary must be Catholic or one parent baptized Catholic. Baptism program with parishes; information package sent with parents at registration; ongoing program.
- Other strategies - bus shelter advertising, mall poster advertising, mall food courts – table stickers, direct mail advertising.
- Board’s budget allocation of 90% for salaries and benefits leaves 10% to service schools, classroom expenses and a minute advertising budget. We look for other low cost methods to augment; spread the word, upcoming events e-blast, social media). Students, staff, parents are our best ambassadors.

7. Presentation of Alternate Options by St. Dunstan Community – J. Belmonte
(Refer to slide presentation Option 4 – Proposed by the Families of the St. Dunstan Community, Prepared by Ian Moore and Julia Belmonte)
The Option 4 presentation was moved for receipt by E. Ljubanovic and seconded by S. Bonello

**CARRIED**

**Comments and Discussion from ARC Members:**
- Option 4 closes St. Gregory; shows Britannia as northern limit, but doesn’t mention the 401; discrepancy noted. Geography is not the most important criteria. Guiding principles indicated in the Ministry of Education guidelines we perceive as very vague and open to interpretation. The guidelines used here were geared to this particular option.
- Big determining factor is the east and west movement of students is safer – the two largest roads in the study area are Britannia & Eglinton which are major commuter routes and Region of Peel designated truck route. Avoiding north and south flow over these routes should be a priority.
- Creditview Rd running past St. Dunstan is a busy commuter route, also the Credit river is on western edge of study area
- Aging areas will equal low school population, therefore east/west flow is better.
- St. Dunstan will exceed capacity in 2 years with this plan. St. Gregory has the potential to expand boundaries. St. Gregory can expand north of the 401 and students can use the future pedestrian bridge at 2nd Line.
- Schools on major routes are less attractive due to traffic flow, i.e. pick up and drop off
- Schools located on major routes are more viable for alternative uses over those deep within the residential area
- Can we share any information given to us with our community, before presented?
- Can we be provided with the capacity and waiting lists for St. James?
- Can Julia/Ian provide the number of flex boundary students and how it would impact this option? If the basis is to keep everyone together, would you grandfather the flex boundary students? J. Belmonte responded that the current flex boundary students would stay at the school until graduating. The new merged St. Dunstan School would have no flex boundary students in the 2017 school year.

**Response from Resource Staff:**
The Chair indicated St. Dunstan ARC members can respond to comments at the next meeting.
The agenda package is of public record; unapproved minutes are not posted or shared until they are approved. Information received before the meeting can be shared with your school community, but not the unapproved minutes.
The Chair clarified that St. James Catholic Global Learning Centre is pre-IB; primary and middle year’s programs, moving forward to be accredited as an IB school.

**ACTION: Resource staff to provide St. James capacity and waiting list numbers.**
The slide showing floor plans will not be shared with the public on website, for student safety purposes. The flex boundary student decision is in hands of principal; there needs to be space for students to attend, classroom ratio within board average.

**ACTION: Resource staff to provide flex boundary student information.**

8. **BREAK**
The Chair called the break at 7:10 p.m. to reconvene at 7:25 p.m.

9. **School Information Profiles**
EAST CREDIT
ARC WORKING GROUP MEETING #2
APPROVED MINUTES
January 27, 2016 - 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Location: Boardroom (1st Floor - Catholic Education Centre)

Questions arose regarding five-year renewal needs which were being investigated by the Construction Department.
ARC member asked for clarification on any amendments or changes to the SIPS be shared with the committee, i.e. special education enrolment number not current.
Resource staff added that the enrolment information is captured at October 31st; Ministry reporting dates are October 31 and March 31

**ACTION:** The Chair indicated that Planning Staff will provide more current information.
ARC member asked for clarification on the definition of instructional or specialized classroom spaces, music room, general purpose room, i.e. page 6, Our Lady of Good Voyage.
Resource staff indicated that a computer lab is a separate room adjacent to the library; arts facilities room used to be a dedicated art room, but in most cases is now a regular classroom. The same is true for identified music rooms. A general purpose room is a gym or play area. This is the situation for these types of rooms at the elementary panel. The Board still has media rooms, music rooms and art rooms at the secondary panel. Resource staff also clarified that a chapel/prayer room in elementary panel is an actual classroom converted for specialized use; in Secondary panel an actual chapel is built for this purpose
ARC member asked about the five-year renewal needs when it indicates “entire” versus “original” building, does entire building include RCM?
Resource staff responded that original building would be what was first built and entire building would include any additions. St. Gregory and St. Gertrude had additions put on, that would constitute the entire building.

**ACTION:** Planning staff will provide a breakdown of renewal needs for regular building and for RCM, with a total
ARC member asked what is the impact of this school closure on facility operating and capital budgets, i.e. page 8, Our Lady of Good Voyage

**ACTION:** Finance Department will address this next week.

10. Correspondence

The ARC Members moved receipt on all correspondence items for review at this meeting (WG1-34 to WG1-53).
Moved by J. Belmonte and seconded by T. Lavery.

**CARRIED**


WG1-35 – St. Dunstan
ARC member commented that they find this offensive.

WG1-36 – Our Lady of Good Voyage
Principal, C. Klein responded that any information will be in school newsletter; information is shared from the board to the community. ARC member indicated two notices have been sent home from School Council. They have set up a special email address for parents to request information: OLGVarc@gmail.com
EAST CREDIT
ARC WORKING GROUP MEETING #2
APPROVED MINUTES
January 27, 2016 - 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Location: Boardroom (1st Floor - Catholic Education Centre)

The Chair added that it is within Catholic School Council purview to send home notices with school principal approval.

WG1-38 – St. Dunstan
Resource staff indicated that the rationale was provided on the board website and in your package, as well as at the public open house.

WG1-42 – St. Dunstan
Resource staff indicated that correspondent indicates their previously sent email was not addressed; clarified that their first email was addressed in first meeting and will be included in the minutes.

WG1-44 – St. Gertrude
Resource staff indicated that this is a presentation showing a modification of Option 2; two previous emails by same person have been addressed at the first working group meeting.

**ACTION:** Planning staff are looking at this Option and will come back to a future ARC meeting for discussion with the ARC members.

WG1-45 – St. Gregory
Resource staff indicated that this is a website prepared in support of keeping St. Gregory open. ARC member added that it was prepared by a Grade 5 student.

WG1-50 – St. Gregory
Resource staff stated that this email provides an idea to allow all Christians who are non-Catholic to register in the Catholic Board. This would be contrary to Board policy and the Education Act.

WG1-51 – St. Dunstan
Resource staff indicated that this correspondence proposes an alternate option, the same as presented tonight from St. Dunstan ARC members.

WG1-52 – St. Dunstan
Resource staff indicated that this was sent to the Chair of the Board and his response.

WG1-53 – St. Gertrude
Resource staff indicated that this correspondence had a petition attached with 266 signatures which is not included in the package; J. Rogers, Senior Planner has the original.

Resource staff concluded that ARC will discuss correspondence WG3-54 to WG3-96.

ARC member asked if PAR mailbox responses are viewed in the minutes and not in the individual’s email inbox. Resource staff replied that the auto reply says it will be directed to the ARC committee for discussion.

**ACTION:** Resource staff to update the auto reply to indicate response will be in the Minutes.

10 a) Other Business

Resource staff clarified the discussion at the table of all options, how we can refine it as we move along, and how we put all the information together that we receive over the next few months. As we present all the
options, it may be beneficial if each community identify which one is their preferred option to include in the report to trustees in advance. Staff would put the preferred options in the front end of the report for ease of viewing. On delegation night, the trustees will be aware of the options in advance. If the St. Dunstan option presented tonight is their preferred option/rationale, then that should be in front of the staff report. However, St. Dunstan may refine their option after hearing feedback, before Public Open House #2.

ARC member asked if it is beneficial to delay presenting until delegation night or present now.

Resource staff indicated that we need to present to the committee, to have discussion about it and feedback. Planning staff will help with maps and data. This same format would apply to each community’s option for the trustees. Conversely, if an individual community doesn’t want to prepare their own option, they may wish to adopt another community’s option. The Chair added that trustees receive all information and all options. The Chair added that we must be clear about our intention that this committee is not a voting mechanism by which to vote on one option over another.

ARC member asked on delegation evening, will trustees have option to ask questions on proposals or will it be a one-way forum? Resource staff replied, there will be a time allotment for presentations and a Q&A portion as well. If they have the information in advance, they will be better prepared. The Chair added that the purpose of delegation night is to provide information, i.e. through a presentation to trustees and express individuals’ concerns about their school closure. The process is that the trustees receive the delegation, they are provided opportunity to ask for points of clarification or questions about the presentation. Part of this process is that Trustees could direct staff to bring back information on a part of the delegation.

**ACTION:** Format for delegation night will be added to the agenda next week.

11. **ARC Working Group Meeting #3 – Wednesday, February 3, 2016**

- **Transportation and Finance Departments** – Resource staff indicated that both departments will be coming next week to give an overview of some of the information presented. These will be timed items on the agenda. Any specific questions are to be provided to Manager, S. Cox by noon Monday to allow time for them to consider them and address them. Manager, S. Cox will forward the questions directly to the departments.

Agenda items and supporting documentation should be directed to Manager, S. Cox by the Friday before the next Working Group meeting.

ARC member inquired about the longer term schedule of meeting dates and if school tours could be postponed.

Resource staff added that currently we have seven meetings scheduled. The only constraint is that we have to have the interim report to the board by April 26. Therefore, the last meeting must be April 6; the week prior is the second community meeting date. Any meetings can be added between now and April 6. ARC member suggested the open house be switched to another night, not a Wednesday, for parents that have other activities on Wednesdays.

**ACTION:** ARC Committee to make a decision next week on schedule of school tour dates AND For resource staff to consider moving the Open House to another day of the week.
EAST CREDIT
ARC WORKING GROUP MEETING #2
APPROVED MINUTES
January 27, 2016 - 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Location: Boardroom (1st Floor - Catholic Education Centre)

ADJOURNMENT:
The Motion to adjourn was moved by: S. Bonello, seconded by: J. Belmonte.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Future meeting dates:
February 3, 2016 – ARC Working Group Meeting #3
February 11, 2016 – Site Visits (ARC Members Only) Our Lady of Good Voyage, St. Dunstan, St. Herbert, St. Bernadette
February 17, 2016 – Site Visits (ARC Members Only) St. Gertrude, St. Valentine, St. Raymond, St. Gregory
February 24, 2016 – ARC Working Group Meeting #4

Distribution:
ARC Members
ARC Resource
Mississauga, Ont.
L5M 4Z3

January 5, 2016.

To the PAR Committee,

As a parent of children attending St. Dunstan Elementary, I’m writing to express my extreme concern with the current pupil accommodation review (PAR) taking place by the Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board.

I understand that the PAR process is triggered by low utilization in our collective area (currently 63% of total capacity); and that the Ontario Ministry of Education guidelines for school boards emphasize that the PAR process identify potential closures and consolidations based on managing enrollment in the area, ensuring student well-being and managing budgets responsibly. This is why I’m so concerned with the current PAR process taking place near my home in Mississauga, which has clearly not adhered to these principles.

Of the 8 schools being considered for closure in the PAR review, St. Dunstan is the only school recommended for closure in all 3 proposed options, including the board’s “preferred option”. Here are some key facts about St. Dunstan that I would like to share with you:

- Of the 8 schools under review, St. Dunstan has the **highest overall academic achievement** (based on combined grade 3 and 6 EQAO scores). It is #1 in reading, #2 in writing and #1 in math.
- St. Dunstan is currently above the area’s average utilization and has the **fastest growing enrollment** of the 8 schools. It is projected to be **#2 in utilization in 2016**.

On the other hand, there are 2 schools in the area that are not even being considered for closure; St. Bernadette and St. Raymond. So what makes these schools exceptional?

- St. Bernadette has the **worst current utilization** and St. Raymond is projected to have the worst utilization by 2025.
- St. Bernadette has the **worst total EQAO scores** in the area and St. Raymond scores below the board average in grade 6 math scores.
- St. Bernadette has the **second worst Facility Condition Index (FCI)** and **second highest annual operating cost**.

From this report, the message from Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board seems to be clear: schools that achieve top academic performance, are well-utilized and show positive growth projections will be closed; while those that underperform, are under-utilized and are costly to operate will remain open.

We used to live outside of the St. Dunstan district, but fortunately, our children attended St. Dunstan as flex boundary students since they were in kindergarten. Our children are now in grades 3 and 8. Last year, we moved into the neighbourhood primarily because of how successful our children were at this school, with outstanding EQAO scores, positive, healthy
relationships they made, and for the strong sense of community among staff, students and families in the school.

The board’s “preferred option” will split the students from St. Dunstan and relocate them to St. Bernadette and St. Herbert, the only 2 schools in the area with less than 50% utilization and EQAO scores among the worst in the area. If this occurs, I will be forced to explore other education alternatives for my youngest child, including options outside the catholic school system. Thus, the long-term utilization of area schools and the sustainability of the board’s revenues from local taxation will not be solved by this approach.

The more appropriate approach should be to protect schools like St. Dunstan that have high academic achievement, high utilization and are showing positive projected growth in enrollment and utilization. I ask that in your capacity as the PAR Committee, that you please take action to ensure that the desired outcomes of the PAR policy; namely high student achievement, high utilization and responsible budgets, are brought back into the focus of this process.

If you would like more information regarding the proposed closure of St. Dunstan, please contact our group of concerned parents at savest.dunstan@gmail.com. Thank-you for your commitment to protecting the quality of education for our children for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Hello, my name is [Redacted] and I have a child who attends St Dunstan Elementary in Mississauga. It has come to my understanding that there are several elementary schools under review and possible closure due to overall enrollment issues.

My children have attended two of the schools in question St Dunstan and St Bernadette. I am sure you have already been notified of the following information:

- St. Bernadette has the **worst current utilization** and St. Raymond is projected to have the worst utilization by 2025.
- St. Bernadette has the **worst total EQAO scores** in the area and St. Raymond scores below the board average in grade 6 math scores.
- St. Bernadette has the **second worst Facility Condition Index (FCI)** and **second highest annual operating cost**.

The above are facts so I will not elaborate on them. I will speak as someone with firsthand experience of these two schools. If I were to state the difference between St Dunstan and St Bernadette as day and night would be an insult to St Dunstan and a credit to St Bernadette. St Dunstan is exactly the type of school that Educators should strive to create everywhere whereas St Bernadette was (without exaggeration) the worst possible environment for a child to be raised in. The teachers and administrators at St Dunstan should be rewarded for their hard work.

The Teachers at St Dunstan come early and stay late and create lesson plans to help the children succeed academically.

The Teachers at St Dunstan ALL volunteer their time for extracurricular activities. They have teams in every sport at every age group.

The Teachers at St Dunstan volunteer their time to take the children on trips including overnight trips. The Teachers at St Dunstan have created multiple lunch programs even for those without lunch.

**The teachers at St Bernadette do not do these things.**

The Teachers and Administrators at St Dunstan should be rewarded for their academic success. St Dunstan is EASILY the best elementary school in the area in almost all categories especially academics. As Educators you would be quite smart to take the children from these poorly performing schools and send them into the successful academic environment that St Dunstan has established, it would make no sense to do the opposite. It is the teachers at St Dunstan that have made the school a success for so many years.

**In conclusion why would you destroy the BEST school a beacon of success in the entire family of schools and reward other schools for their failures?** What message does that send to the students and the teaching staff? As a voter and a taxpayer I would like an answer. And simply because of money is not acceptable especially when children are involved. I assume my taxes will not decrease when schools are closed.

Thank you
Hello,

I am a parent of 2 kids currently at Our lady of good voyage school.

We are getting newsletters that there is talk of the school possibly closing?

When/how will we be getting notifications on the status of the situation? What is the plan with the kids currently in the school - is this months or years away from happening?
> To whom it may concern,
> > Education is about the co-operation between the school, teaching staff and parents.
> > The environment at St. Dunstan School reflects that with one of the best Parent Support Group.
> > I am a parent of St. Dunstan School graduates. I have been volunteering at St. Dunstan for 12 years. Through these years, I have seen not only parents and grandparents but also former students return to volunteer their time at the school. They show their love for the school because they have a great sense of belonging.
> > There are volunteers that help in the classroom, on school trips, during hot lunch days and as reading coaches for the All Star Reading Program. Nine years ago, a parent brought in her expertise as a marathon runner to build a girls' running team. They participated in the Bread and Honey 5km run every year to this day.
> > If St. Dunstan School closes, these good traditions will end and the relation between current and former students will end.
> > May I take this opportunity to ask for the consideration to keep this wonderful school running.
> > Let other students come and join the students at St. Dunstan to learn with the best support possible and in a perfect learning environment!
> > Yours sincerely,
> > and parent of former students)
January 7, 2016

Re: Pupil Accommodation review for St Dunstan Elementary School

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to express my concerns as a parent for the pupil accommodation review for St. Dunstan Elementary School. St Dunstan is the only school being considered for closing in all 3 proposed options yet is above average in school capacity and is one of the highest achievers academically. For me, there is no logic in the consideration for closing and more so why St Dunstan would be considered in ALL 3 proposed closing options given the criteria mentioned above is senseless. Now I’ve read the board’s confusing and lengthy report but yet I am still unclear with the specific reasons as to why St Dunstan is being considered in all 3 proposed options. Now my husband is an Electrical Engineer and I am an Accountant and both of us have had several years of school and work experience under our belts. We also have lived in Canada all of our lives so we face no language barriers but yet it is still a challenge for us to understand the board’s direction in these proposed school closures. I would appreciate some feedback with some clear bullet points addressing exactly why St Dunstan is being considered under all 3 options.

On another more personal note, the potential closing of St Dunstan will also affect my family on many levels. My husband and I have 3 children. Our oldest in Grade 1, middle in JK and our youngest will start JK in September 2016. We CHOSE St Dunstan to be our children’s school. We did our research before purchasing our home. We considered the location, our work vicinities, daycare that is attached to the school but most importantly the academics of the school. We want our children going to a school that had the highest academics so we could give them the best opportunity to a successful future. Another reason why we purchased our home was the vicinity of the school to our home. We literally reside across the street. This allows us to drop our children off at the YMCA daycare (that is attached to the school) and then be able to commute to work to make it there at a reasonable time. Our last and most important concern is for our youngest child. Our youngest child was diagnosed with Autism nearly 2 years ago now. In that time, my husband and I have worked diligently to attain the help he needs (all out of pocket might I add and without government assistance). We have made MANY Sacrifices. We hired therapists to work with him on a daily basis. We enrolled him in daycare to help with his social skills and to help with the transition of school. For the last 2 years my youngest got use to a specific school, a specific routine and he has thrived because of it. A closure to St Dunstan will not only be devastating to my family’s routine and work schedule but will certainly set back my youngest son. We worked so hard to get our family to where it needs to be today. We invested a lot of time and money to
make that happen. We strategically did things to set our family up for success. If St. Dunstan closes, you will rip everything that we worked so hard for. Consequently, if St. Dunstan closes we will refuse to give our tax dollars to a city that mismanages their funds and poorly plans for their city. We will move to an area that is more in line with caring for a young family and supporting those who are concerned about the academics of their school and the well being of the children in the community.

Respectfully yours,
My children have attended St. Gregory school from the first year it opened. My oldest graduated from two programs in college. My youngest is in grade seven at St Gregory Elementary School currently. For more than 18 years we have been a part of the St Gregory family. The school is a big part of our community. It's like home. The staff are a dedicated group of teachers who have taught and watched children grow and meet younger siblings. We are a tight Catholic community who wants to have a Catholic school in the neighbourhood. St Gregory grew to have 1200 students at one time. We had many portables. The school was enlarged to hold our children. We have had many, many children walk through the doors and walk out into their future with fond memories of their years here. I'm proud to have been a parent volunteer here for that many years. I don't want to see St. Gregory closed. We live in a very good neighbourhood and we are seeing many new young families moving into the area. We have finally just this school year put air-conditioning throughout the school. It's a beautiful school. It holds a wonderful early start daycare centre that helps transition the children into school easier. It offers before and after school programs that help busy parents look after their children while they go to work. Why would St Gregory even be considered a school that would be closed. We love our school. Don't close St Gregory.
January 8, 2016

Attention: Daniel Del Bianco, Superintendent of Planning and Operations

Dear Mr. Del Bianco,

As a parent who has had children attend St. Dunstan Elementary School since 2004, I would like to voice my concern over the East Credit Pupil Accommodation Review, which includes the closing of St. Dunstan in all three of its proposals. Although I understand the school board needs to find ways to deal with the shortage of pupil places in this area, I would like to outline how St. Dunstan proudly represents a thriving Catholic school in the Dufferin-Peel Separate School Board.

As stated in the review, schools in the East Credit region are significantly under capacity; however St. Dunstan’s enrollment is currently at its highest since the 2011-2012 school year, and is projected to increase over the next ten years.

St. Dunstan provides an environment for students to thrive academically, as well as athletically. The students of St. Dunstan consistently score above the board average in EQAO scores, as well as at or above provincial averages. The school has a number of teams and clubs, many of which have been successful at Mississauga South Family of Schools competitions, as well as at the Board level. This year alone, students have received pennants, medals and ribbons in several sports, including cross country and junior and intermediate volleyball. Past achievements have resulted in several top three finishes at track and field meets, as well as medals in Technological Skills Competitions - gold and silver medals at the board level and bronze at the provincial competitions. The Streetsville Bread and Honey Festival acknowledges the Girls Running Club every year with a plaque, for their participation in their 5km race. Whether through sports, clubs or academics, students have represented St. Dunstan proudly throughout the board, the community and the province.

St. Dunstan is situated at an ideal location to provide a strong Catholic presence in the East Credit area. It stands just north of a major intersection, yet amongst a quiet residential neighbourhood, but at the same time, not hidden away from the main street. Many people unfamiliar with St. Dunstan, often still know that there is a Catholic elementary school just north of Eglinton and Creditview. On several occasions throughout the school year, including the Advent and Lenten season, the sight of St. Dunstan’s grade 1 through grade 8 students walking to St. Joseph's Catholic Church to attend mass is not uncommon. The proximity of the school to the church allows for this unique experience for the students. As the board is aware, St. Dunstan School was recently awarded a cash prize by a technology company. The school was entered into the draw by a local merchant who happened to be familiar with St. Dunstan, due to the school’s visibility in the community.

Ideally, all eight Catholic elementary schools would remain open and students would not be displaced and relocated. However, due to provincial cut backs, I understand that it is necessary for the board to make some changes. I hope that through the ARC process, the board is willing to consider options presented to them that will allow St. Dunstan School to remain open. Keeping St. Dunstan open in the East Credit area, provides a great amount of value to the students, as well as to the Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board.

Sincerely,
Potential Closing of St Gregory Catholic school east credit

Sent: Saturday, January 09, 2016 2:24 PM
To: PAR - Info

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of my family, specifically my 6 year old daughter [redacted] and 3 year old son [redacted] who both attend this school. Over a year and a half ago we decided to move into the neighborhood (East Credit) because of its community like atmosphere and a great catholic school, which we heard from friends who already lived in the neighborhood. This school is a landmark in this area and would be extremely disheartening to have to explain to children that the reason why the only school they know and shares community ties with is closing, and the reason for this is because there isn’t enough “new” applicants each year. I would encourage the board to find other ways to increase enrollment, ...

While I can appreciate that there may be economic savings for the school boards, I would urge everyone involved to consider a couple of facts.

- By closing this school you are tearing apart a social connection (with the recent increase in technology and decrease in social connection a school closure will inhibit children from making social ties to their community)
- Nearby schools are key in developing community connections
- Aligning economic savings should be balanced against broader costs to families and children and community
- My children will be faced with longer days, longer transportation/Will not be able to walk to school (which is a fundamental right and aligned with child fitness and lifestyle goals as well as environmental goals stated by our government)
- Extra-curricular activities will not take place in the child’s local area
- Volunteering will be more difficult for myself and my husband
- Closing the school will also have negative economic impacts for new families that want to move into the neighborhood
- The omission of a catholic school in the neighborhood will bring down property value/again financial burden for this community.
- We will now have to incur financial pressure from before and after school programs/babysitting
- The loss of a school to small children and their families can cause several negative impacts both physically, economically, environmentally, and declines in education.
- We have a strong community connection to this school

As a “Working” mother and one who is taxed heavily, one who contributes to the community, and cares about the community I urge you to please reconsider. We moved into this neighborhood partly due to St Gregory’s, as we wanted to move into a community that offered sustainability and growth. This school is all my children know and I do not want them to have to change their routines/teachers/ principals/community because of low enrolment, instead let’s get creative on how we can increase enrollment. Closing the school is not the answer.

Not only will this negatively affect our children for the reasons stated above but also will create several challenges financially and time constrictions for my family amongst several other families in this neighborhood.

https://webmail.dpcdsb.org/...dAADi8A9SWLxQRqbQmbjKuShyAAAAyMeQAAAj&a=Print&p spid=_1452541051950_753178383[1/11/2016 2:37:43 PM]
I strongly recommend that you do not shut down this school, my children cannot afford it and in an ever changing world that focuses so much on technology and so little on social community engagement I think we have a moral obligation to encourage community involvement, closing St Gregory will fundamentally violate and strip them from this. These children deserve more! The faculty and staff deserve more! We need to do more as a community!

I would encourage anybody to contact me to further discuss.

Please consider this request....My children love this school, we love the school and the community we live in...Please don’t take this away from us.

Sincerely,
In regards to St. Dunstan

PAR

January 9, 2016

Dear Review Board,

As a concerned parent of a student in Grade Three at St. Dunstan, I’m writing to express my extreme concern with the current pupil accommodation review (PAR) taking place by the Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board.

I understand that the PAR process is triggered by low utilization in our collective area (currently 63% of total capacity); and that the Ontario Ministry of Education guidelines for school boards emphasize that the PAR process identify potential closures and consolidations based on managing enrollment in the area, ensuring student well-being and managing budgets responsibly. This is why I’m so concerned with the current PAR process taking place near my home in Mississauga, which has clearly not adhered to these principles.

Of the 8 schools being considered for closure in the PAR review, St. Dunstan is the only school recommended for closure in all 3 proposed options, including the board’s “preferred option”. Here are some key facts about St. Dunstan that I would like to share with you:

- Of the 8 schools under review, St. Dunstan has the **highest overall academic achievement** (based on combined grade 3 and 6 EQAO scores). It is #1 in reading, #2 in writing and #1 in math.
- St. Dunstan is currently above the area’s average utilization and has the **fastest growing enrollment** of the 8 schools. It is projected to be **#2 in utilization in 2016**.

On the other hand, there are 2 schools in the area that are not even being considered for closure; St. Bernadette and St. Raymond. So what makes these schools exceptional?

- St. Bernadette has the **worst current utilization** and St. Raymond is projected to have the worst utilization by 2025.
- St. Bernadette has the **worst total EQAO scores** in the area and St. Raymond scores below the board average in grade 6 math scores.
- St. Bernadette has the **second worst Facility Condition Index (FCI)** and **second highest annual operating cost**.

From this report, the message from Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board seems to be clear: **schools that achieve top academic performance, are well-utilized and show positive growth projections will be closed; while those that underperform, are under-utilized and are costly to operate will remain open.**

We moved our family specifically within the St. Dunstan school boundaries and to have our school church within walking distance. If the school closes I feel we will have to look at other alternatives to our son’s education as I am not pleased with the EQAO reports from the proposed schools we may be allocated to and the definition of what the board calls ‘well being’ as a criteria to close or keep a school open, the ‘well being’ of these children is not being considered in the present proposal. I have had two other children complete elementary education at St. Dunstan moving them from the private system in grades one and three, they had a wonderful education experience at St. Dunstan and now and are doing well in secondary school. One in extended french at Gonzaga, I would like that option which I know is a growing request for parents being offered at Dunstan as well as Rose of Lima.

The board’s “preferred option” will split the students from St. Dunstan and relocate them to St. Bernadette.
In regards to St. Dunstan and St. Herbert, the only 2 schools in the area with less than 50% utilization and EQAO scores among the worst in the area. If this occurs, we will be forced to explore other education alternatives for our children, I will look at the public school, Willow Way and a private option in Mentor. **Thus, the long-term utilization of area schools and the sustainability of the board’s revenues from local taxation will not be solved by this approach.**

The more appropriate approach should be to protect schools like St. Dunstan that have high academic achievement, high utilization and are showing positive projected growth in enrollment and utilization. I ask that in your capacity as MPP that you please take action to ensure that the desired outcomes of the PAR policy; namely high student achievement, high utilization and responsible budgets, are brought back into the focus of this process.

If you would like more information regarding the proposed closure of St. Dunstan, please contact me at [redacted]. Thank-you for your commitment to protecting the quality of education for our children for generations to come.

Sincerely,

P.S. I would like to add that this is my second email to this review board, I received a reply for which I thank you, it is nice to be acknowledged, however, I do not appreciate that my question was not directly answered, my letter was worded briefly, and concisely, instead I received a form letter back that I have seen from some other concerned parents. Not so impressive.
As a parent of three students, ages 4, 6, and 8 attending St. Dunstan Elementary School, I'm writing to express my extreme concern with the current pupil accommodation review (PAR) taking place by the Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board.

I understand that the PAR process is triggered by low utilization in our collective area (currently 63% of total capacity); and that the Ontario Ministry of Education guidelines for school boards emphasize that the PAR process identify potential closures and consolidations based on managing enrollment in the area, ensuring student well-being and managing budgets responsibly. This is why I'm so concerned with the current PAR process taking place near my home in Mississauga, which has clearly not adhered to these principles.

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From this report, the message from Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board seems to be clear: schools that achieve top academic performance, are well-utilized and show positive growth projections will be closed; while those that underperform, are under-utilized and are costly to operate will remain open.

When my husband and I purchased our home, the high performance of St. Dunstan was a key reason why we purchased in the East Credit area. At that time, the school had a rating of 9.3 out of 10 (2005). Although we didn't have our first child until 2 years later, we had planned to send her to St. Dunstan before she was born. My husband and myself, are both highly educated with post graduate degrees and as a result, the education of our children is our top priority. If the planned closure of St. Dunstan is approved, we will regrettable be forced to send our children to the higher ranking public schools in the area. We take their education very seriously, as the teachers in St. Dunstan also do. We have been very impressed with the teachers at St. Dunstan, who starting at Kindergarten encourage the children to always achieve their best. In particular, the teachers cater to different learning needs of the children to keep them engaged in the program.

The board's “preferred option” will split the students from St. Dunstan and relocate them to St. Bernadette and St. Herbert, the only 2 schools in the area with less than 50% utilization and EQAO scores among the worst in the area. If this occurs, we will be forced to explore other education alternatives for our children, most likely the local public school. Thus, the long-term utilization of area schools and the sustainability of the board's revenues from local taxation will not be solved by this approach.

The more appropriate approach should be to protect schools like St. Dunstan that have high academic achievement, high utilization and are showing positive projected growth in enrollment and utilization. I ask that in your capacity, that you please take action to ensure that the desired outcomes of the PAR policy; namely high student achievement, high utilization and responsible budgets, are brought back into the focus of this process.

I would like an update from each and everyone of you regarding the proposed closure of St. Dunstan;
Proposed Closure of St. Dunstan, Mississauga

please contact me at

Sincerely,
Dear Planning Members,

Please find the attached file which shows the utilization rate of several Options and a map with modified school boundaries. The red numbers in brackets represent the number of pupils exceeding the school capacity.

Option 1 will require additional 7 to 9 classrooms to accommodate these students and Option 2 requires about 4 (assuming 20 pupils per classroom). Option 1 is not practicable as two schools will be over the capacity without expanding the school facilities.

Suggest the modified Option 2 which shows a balanced utilization rate. In some years the utilization rate is over but this can be balanced by spreading the students out to other classrooms or to add one more classroom. This is achieved by further splitting the south St. Valentine to west and east halves to supplement the other two underutilized schools – St. Herbert and St. Bernadette.

The guideline requires the decisions should be made within the context of supporting the school board’s student achievement and well-being strategy and to make the most effective use of its school buildings and funding. Therefore, the 1st priority is for the students’ achievement and well-being, the 2nd is to best utilize the existing facilities and the 3rd is to reduce the school operation costs.

The modified Option 2 will achieve the best result regarding the Priority 1 and 2 for the well-being of the students and to have the best utilization of the existing facilities. See the table below the potential impact to the students (and our community) due to the relocation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Pupils to be relocated</th>
<th>Impact*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Option 1</td>
<td>1161</td>
<td>44%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Option 2 (or modified Option 2)</td>
<td>899</td>
<td>34%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Difference</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</table>

* Based on 2646 pupils in 2017

In addition to the excellent performance and highest utilization rate, St. Gertrude has the most students (670 in 2016), which is one quarter of the overall students of all eight schools. St. Gertrude is the only school having FI and it has been mingled well with the regular program at St. Gertrude. It will be disruptive and not for the well-being and students achievement if the ARC recommends Option 1 to relocate the students and school staff of St. Gertrude’s to two separate schools with much less performance.

The report listed five year projected renewal costs of the buildings, but only those in high to medium priorities should be focused on. As shown in the table below, the other two schools are not much better off than St. Gertrude. Furthermore, St. Valentine will require $239,200 urgent repairs. It was understandable that major renewals and upgrades may have been carried out to St. Gertrude in the past.
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<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urgent</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>239,200.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>High Priority</td>
<td>583,440.00</td>
<td>735,280.00</td>
<td>338,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medium Priority</td>
<td>478,400.00</td>
<td>520,000.00</td>
<td>280,800.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>1,061,840.00</td>
<td>1,255,280.00</td>
<td>858,000.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Last but not the least; the housing price is deeply influenced by the boundaries of good schools. There will be much more social impacts to the community and consequently resistance by relocating more students and closing good schools.

Greatly appreciate you taking time to review the above. Should you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to contact me.

Thank you,
Dear Planning Members:

I am very impressed by the details presented in your report. I understand it is a lot of work to improve the spacing utilization rate and appreciated your work in shaping the future of our schools.

I am wondering if the school performance (ranking) has ever been considered before drawing a conclusion which school remains open and which be closed. As you may understand, keeping good schools (especially with good FI program) open will keep the good faith of the community and public. School ranking is not only hot topics of real estate and market, but also the cardinal rules for many parents who value their kids’ education. It is also the mandate of our government, to improve the quality of education. Imagining that closing down a school will be dismal to the parents affected, but will give them some reliefs and assurances that their kids will be transferred to schools with better performances. I understand that this may not be a guideline in the ministry of education, but it is an undercurrent rule and it will cause long term damages if only focused on improving the utilization rate and saving costs.

I have studied in details the Initial Staff Report of East Credit had several comments, questions and suggestions regarding the three options:

Option 1:
This preferred option seemed to be not exercisable as St. Valentine (after merging St. Gertrude) will have an over utilization rate (in a margin of 4% to 18% and trends up). It becomes not manageable and creates another problem. Only St. Gertrude has the FI program, however this Option proposes to relocate it to St. Gregory. This transition may loose many good features of this FI program, and secondly it will be difficult for many families in the central or south areas.

Option 2:
The good thing is the only FI program be still kept in St. Gertrude, and the school will keep excel in performance. The utilization rate is still over at two schools after merging but manageable (by a margin of -4% to 11%). To balance out the over utilization, a suggestion is to further split the existing St. Valentine school boundaries into three parts – East of Heatherleigh Ave between Matheson and Eglinton Ave West be allocated to St. Gertrude; and the rest portion be divided by Bristol RD and be allocated to St. Gregory and St. Bernadette (see the attached revised map). The costs will be slight higher than Option 1 but this is the best option to maximize the utilization rate without exceeding it.

Option 3:
Not practical as the utilization rate is 21% to 29% over the margin.

In summary, St. Gertrude has an excellent performance amount all the six adjacent schools (see attached chart from Fraser institute - http://www.fraserinstitute.org/school-performance); the existing utilization rate is the highest; and it is the only school has FI program. By implementing Option 2 with some modifications, the school fame will be kept, school board budget met and space utilization rate balanced.

Thank you very much for your review and consideration. Feel free to contact me if you have any further questions. My cell phone is [redacted].

Regards,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option 1: Close Our Lady of Good Voyage, St. Dunstan and St. Gertrude – PREFERRED OPTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St Bernadette</td>
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<td>South St Dunstan</td>
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<td><strong>Utilization</strong></td>
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<td><strong>OTG-utilization</strong></td>
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<td>St Bernadette</td>
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<td><strong>Utilization</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Over utilization</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Balance</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Surplus Spaces</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Existing Utilization</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Proposed Utilization</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Increased Utilization</strong></td>
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### Option 2: Close Our Lady of Good Voyage, St. Dunstan and St. Valentine

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<td><strong>St Bernadette</strong></td>
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| Utilization          | 75%      | 74%  | 74%  | 75%  | 75%  | 77%  | 78%  | 79%  | 79%  | 81%  | 81%  |
| OTG-actual           | 120      | 127  | 126  | 121  | 122  | 114  | 108  | 103  | 103  | 91   | 91   |

| **St Herbert**       | 533      | 264  | 247  | 237  | 230  | 227  | 230  | 232  | 237  | 239  | 242  |
| **North St Dunstan** | 160      | 161  | 171  | 180  | 179  | 185  | 187  | 192  | 192  | 192  | 190  |
| **South St Valentine** | 134   | 138  | 144  | 145  | 148  | 150  | 153  | 155  | 158  | 161  | 159  |
| **St Herbert**       | 558      | 546  | 552  | 555  | 554  | 565  | 572  | 584  | 589  | 592  | 591  |

| Utilization          | 105%     | 102% | 104% | 104% | 104% | 106% | 107% | 110% | 111% | 111% | 111% |

| **St Gertrude**      | 752      | 367  | 361  | 347  | 336  | 334  | 326  | 312  | 314  | 315  | 322  | 322  |
| **St Gertrude**      | 646      | 670  | 656  | 639  | 638  | 629  | 613  | 616  | 617  | 624  | 624  |

| Utilization          | 86%      | 89%  | 87%  | 85%  | 85%  | 84%  | 82%  | 82%  | 82%  | 83%  | 83%  |
| OTG-actual           | 106      | 82   | 96   | 113  | 114  | 123  | 139  | 136  | 135  | 128  | 128  |

| **St Gregory**       | 556      | 323  | 309  | 285  | 283  | 277  | 270  | 266  | 271  | 275  | 280  | 280  |
| **North St Valentine** | 243   | 250  | 250  | 258  | 268  | 269  | 276  | 277  | 285  | 293  | 290  |
| **St Gregory**       | 566      | 559  | 535  | 541  | 545  | 539  | 542  | 548  | 560  | 573  | 570  |

| Utilization          | 102%     | 101% | 96%  | 97%  | 98%  | 97%  | 97%  | 99%  | 101% | 103% | 103% |
| OTG-actual           | (10)     | (3)  | 21   | 15   | 11   | 17   | 14   | 8    | (4)  | (17) | (14) |

| **St Raymond**       | 651      | 447  | 388  | 368  | 348  | 321  | 297  | 275  | 252  | 241  | 231  | 232  |
| **OLGV**             | 192      | 178  | 174  | 175  | 171  | 170  | 165  | 165  | 170  | 167  | 171  |
| **St Raymond**       | 639      | 566  | 542  | 523  | 492  | 467  | 440  | 417  | 411  | 398  | 403  |

| Utilization          | 98%      | 87%  | 83%  | 80%  | 76%  | 72%  | 68%  | 64%  | 63%  | 61%  | 62%  |
| OTG-actual           | 12       | 85   | 109  | 128  | 159  | 184  | 211  | 234  | 240  | 253  | 248  |

| Under utilization    | 238      | 294  | 331  | 362  | 395  | 421  | 458  | 473  | 478  | 472  | 467  |
| Over utilization     | (35)     | (16) | 2    | (7)  | (10) | (15) | (25) | (43) | (60) | (76) | (72) |

| Balance total        | 203      | 278  | 333  | 355  | 385  | 406  | 433  | 430  | 418  | 396  | 395  |

Total 2979 2646 2624 2594 2573 2546 2549 2561 2583 2584
Surplus Spaces 333 355 385 406 433 430 418 396 395
Existing Utilization 63% 61% 60% 60% 59% 59% 58% 58% 59% 59% 59%
Proposed Utilization 89% 88% 87% 86% 85% 86% 87% 87% 87% 87% 87%
Increased Utilization 29% 28% 28% 28% 28% 28% 28% 28% 28% 28% 28%
Modified Option 2: Close Our Lady of Good Voyage, St. Dunstan and St. Valentine

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<td>St Herbert</td>
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Hello. I made a website about St. Gregory closing, and it has a lot of students' and parents' opinions on this. Please check it out! Here's the link: http://savestgregoryschool.my-free.website/
Welcome

http://savestgregoryschool.my-free.website/

Help the students!

Save St. Gregory!
St. Gregory Elementary is an amazing catholic school in the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District school board where education is taken seriously. However, this school is closing down due to the fact that there are not enough students in the school.

St. Gregory is an elementary school located in Mississauga, Ontario (Canada), around 300 to 400 students in it and goes from grades K to 8. The school has programs, including DayCare and PLASP. It also has quite a few teams to dance, choir, chess, eco-team and a whole array of sports. St. Gregory has a playground, with both pavement and field. the field has two soccer nets and has a lot of basketball nets. For the kindergarten grades, they have a nice playground area with lots of toys. They go out there for recess until the end of their day and are taken into the 'Big Kid' playground with a student in an older grade so they can get used to the new area and make sure they are fully ready for 1st grade.
Welcome

How You Can Help

Help St. Gregory stay!

You Can Help Us

We don't need money. We need people to care about our school. If your school is in the Dufferin Peel school board, you can totally help, because
your school might close too. There are no other catholic schools in the area, so all the students need your help.

Posters

You can help with posters! Put up posters in the area to let people know that this school matters to the students. On the poster, you should include: Info about the school, why its closing down, and why you should help. Make it convincing, make a lot!

Share This Website

If you dont have time for posters, you can help by sharing this website with someone who does. St. Gregory needs you! Share this with as many people as possible, please. Like they say, the more, the merrier! And in this case, literally.

Attend This School

Okay, Im not saying you or your child should quit your current school to go to this one. If you arent currently attending a school, and live in Missisauga, you can attend this school if you are catholic! We desperately need more students. A LOT more students.

Spread The News!

All we really need is for people to know and care about St. Gregory. Spread the news about the school closing down. Tell people about it!
Why You Should Help Us

If this school closes down, it will be chaos for everyone. Teachers. Children. Parents. If you dont care, you are cold-hearted. This next part will be so sad, that if you still dont care, you dont have a heart at all.

Please, Help!

If the school closes down, it will be hard for everyone who took part in this school. All that hard work. For nothing. Teachers needing new jobs. Friends separated. Parents stressed. Families needing to move houses. Here are some words from the people of St. Gregory.

Apparently the boards money is more important than our education.
-A Student in Grade 5

This is just so sad...
-A Student in Grade 2

I hope the school doesnt close down. If St. Gregory closes, which school will I go to?
-A Student in Grade 2

I grew up here. I dont want to go!
-A Student in Grade 5

its unfair and terrifying. Everyone has had good times at St. Gregs. It doesnt matter how many students are in the school, it matters if we learn.
-A Student in Grade 5

I will miss my friends and the teachers here.
-A Student in Grade 5

This is so stupid and its not fair.
-A Student in Grade 4

If our school closes down, its going to haunt me for the rest of my years in school.
-A Student in Grade 5

Schools are part of our community. Communities are like families. If you close St. Gregory it will create a void in our family. Kids were going to school there from J.K. and up. They have built relationships with other kids and teachers alike. We love our school. Keep it open.
-A parent

I’m very sad and angry! I think I’m gonna call the school board!
-A parent

Just because we didn’t do anything about it yet, doesn’t mean we don’t care about the school. The fact that there are not enough students doesn’t decide whether the school closes or not. They need to be educated and not moved to other schools depending on the city’s budget.
-A parent

If You Don’t Help, Who Will?

Now do you understand? This school needs YOU. If you help, you will be a legend in this school, even if we don’t win the battle.
What I Think About This

I go to St. Gregory School and I for one think that closing down such a great school is a big shame. Yes, I know. Theyre closing it down because there are too many schools with not enough students in them and they dont have enough money to run all those schools. But if they are going to close like 5 schools, why even build all those schools in the first place? I may have forgotten to mention that there is a chance that St. Gregory wont close down, but only if you help. All the other schools went BALLISTIC when they heard that they might close, but for some reason nobody at St. Gregs complained. Until today, that is(if you cant tell, im complaining). This website wont be enough on its own. You need to help St. Gregory. The smallest things will help us.

Imagine all the smiles on the faces of children because you are helping the school.
St. Gregory needs you.
I am still freaking out about the school closing and so is everyone else. People are doing everything they can to stop this catastrophe from happening. Some people are going HUGE. They have parents who work for the news, and they might ask their parents to say something about it on the news. Quite a few students are putting up posters around. Some parents are even calling the BOARD. And I'm just here, making a website (And a video. And a song).

I know that if we all work together, we can stop the school from closing. But either way, a few schools will still close, no matter how much they suffer and complain. I hope it's not us. All we know is that it's the battle of the fittest. The schools that complain most won't get closed. This website is just the start of the chain. #SaveStGregorySchool

WRITE A MESSAGE

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to send me a message.

If you would like to send a message to the school, you can email the following addresses:
PARinfo@dpcdsb.org
luz.delrosario@dpcdsb.org
laurie.mackereth@dpcdsb.org
We really need as many emails as possible. Tag
Welcome

Wow, you actually got here?
I thought you might get bored and go somewhere else on the internet but nope! Here you are! And to keep it that way, I made an entertainment section! Its not the best, but I think it will do. Here it is! the useless button in all its uselessness. I hope you love it, because I sure do! But then again, Im the one who made it...

YAAAAAAAY! --
-->
Good evening...
Ever since I received notice our beloved school may close I have felt compelled to write you. We moved to Mississauga many years ago from Etobicoke and our family and friends were astonished. We resided in one of the best Catholic school areas in Etobicoke BUT moved here to Mississauga because of a school called St Gregory. A family member teaches with the board and recommended St Gregory because of its size, fabulous principal and teaching staff and the outstanding school community.
As soon as we stepped inside the school it felt like home. we were embraced by everyone and felt like it was the best decision we could have ever made for our son. Through the days, months and years our son has been inspired both spiritually and educationally by the St Gregory family including the wonderful team at PLASP who also reside at the school. When our son heard about the potential loss of his beloved school he has been fraught with worry, anxiety and sadness. "what will happen...where will I go...what about everyone?"
Please keep the St Gregory family together in their wonderful home on Swinbourne. To close this school would crush so many spirits who have been uplifted and inspired by this wonderful group.
Sincerely

Sent from my Samsung device
Some thoughts on the possible closing of St. Gregory ...

We value the presence of a Catholic school in our community! The proximity to St. Gregory was one of the considerations we made when we purchased our home.

Should St. Gregory School close, we would lose the only Catholic School in the neighborhood north of Britannia!!!!!!!

St. Julia would be the next closest one, but we are losing accessibility to that school, because of the plan to close 2nd Line to cars. It is also still too far away to be considered a “neighborhood” Catholic School.

The potential closing of St. Gregory even affects those who have already graduated from the elementary school, yet still live in the area.

Catholics may be reluctant to purchase homes in our area because they want to have a Catholic School in their neighborhood.

This could change the resale value of our homes.

The absence of a Catholic School in our area will likely change its demographics.

We do not want to deter Catholics from moving to our neighborhood because there is not a Catholic School!

There's also a very big picture concept to consider! Next Sunday Cardinal Collins is performing a special mass to bring attention to 2016 World Day of Migrants and Refugees at St. Joseph. The reason St. Joseph was chosen is because our parish and community has one of the highest diversities in the archdiocese! So if getting children into empty seats is our problem... in an area that is diverse within Catholic views... shouldn't we be exploring an outside of the box option?? What if the board/trustees were to consider allowing other Christian's with similar Catholic values into our schools board?? This would give us an influx of parents who CHOOSE to give their child a Catholic influence in their educational upbringing!

Looking very forward to continuing to find alternative solutions over closing schools in our community!

Sincerely,

ARC Representative for St. Gregory

Sent from Samsung Mobile
Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is [redacted] and my sons [redacted] [redacted] attend St. Gregory School Grade 3 and Grade 1.

We love this school from the day one PLASP till now. By saying Love, I mean everything of the school, especially the staff. The environment inside and the outside are perfect and safe. The management of the surrounding, traffic etc. we love them all..... In our case all of these are so important because both of my boys have disabilities and for everything we have from the school, we appreciate with our heart and grateful for GOD's help.....it will break our heart if our deep loved school closed down.....

I know there are so many issues going on and my words can not do much...but sincerely from my heart, I hope you can read my words and listen to our voice, Keep our school and keep my children's home!!!!

Thank You!!!!!

Sincerely,
I am very saddened upon receiving this news today from my son, who is in 2nd Grade. It is quite unbelievable even to think that this school will potentially close in the near future. My eldest son was an alumni and I can vouch that this school has only produced well mannered young people with integrity, unyielding faith, and strong community involvement sense. I know at this point, you have narrowed down the options into three, I am really imploring that your decision be in favor of the students of St. Gregory.

Sincerely,
Hello, to whom it may concern, my children attend St. Gregory school, and are enjoying the loving community contributed by all the lovely students, caring teachers, and assisting parents, who strive to make the St. Gregory the best it could possibly be. Since 1998, St. Gregory Catholic Elementary school has thrived with new students and teachers, who've made our experiences at the school a pleasure! Everyone at the school has contributed in making our school, the fantastic place it is today, and everybody at St. Gregory school considers each other as their "second family".

Ideas to keep St. Gregory open and running include the following ideas:

- open the doors for all Christian people who are Non-Catholic to register in the Catholic board. Especially with all the refugees and immigrants coming into our country

Thank you, sincerely St. Gregory parent
To whom it may concern,

As parents of a kindergarten and grade 1 student attending St. Dunstan Elementary School and a resident of East Credit community in the city of Mississauga, I’m writing to you today to express my **significant concerns** about the current pupil accommodation review (PAR) taking place by the Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board. Namely, I am concerned about St. Dunstan being the only school recommended for closure in all 3 proposed options, including the board’s “preferred option”.

I understand that the PAR process is triggered by low utilization in our collective area (currently 63% of total capacity); and that the Ontario Ministry of Education guidelines for school boards emphasize that the PAR process identify potential closures and consolidations based on managing enrollment in the area, ensuring student well-being, and managing budgets responsibly. This is why I’m so concerned with the current PAR process taking place near my home in Mississauga, which has clearly not adhered to these principles.

Of the 8 schools being considered for closure in the PAR review, St. Dunstan is the only school recommended for closure in all 3 proposed options. This school has high EQAO scores, and is above average in school capacity. Here are some specific key facts about St. Dunstan that I would like to share with you:

* Of the 8 schools under review, St. Dunstan has the **highest overall academic achievement** (based on combined grade 3 and 6 EQAO scores). It is #1 in reading, #2 in writing and #1 in math. Furthermore, St. Dunstan ranks **5th in the entire Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board** in highest overall academic achievement (based on EQAO data), and **13th in all of the Mississauga Schools** ranked (this includes, private public, and separate). The Fraser Institute also ranks St. Dunstan as 149/3047 in Ontario, with an overall score of 8.5. As a teacher in the public system, I have visibly seen some of the reasons of this high-performance – teachers collaboratively working, the use of technology (e.g., Smartboards, computers) to improve student engagement, the strong use of descriptive feedback, as well as strong parental involvement in the school. I have also seen teachers using EQAO-type questions to guide their practice. All of these, and more which are visible in St. Dunstan classrooms, are clearly mentioned in the EQAO document.

* St. Dunstan is currently above the area’s average utilization and has the fastest growing enrollment of the 8 schools. It is projected to be #2 in utilization in 2016. Furthermore, this year alone, St. Dunstan
received 1 additional teacher during re-organization in September, indicating a higher than projected growth.

* St. Dunstan classrooms all have smart boards in their classroom, and are used as a tool for instruction and student engagement. All of the smartboards were funded entirely by parent council

*St. Dunstan has easy accessibility. Its driveway entrance is on a major road, and does not create traffic congestion on major roads or side streets. I have driven my children to school arriving at various times 15 minutes prior to school starting to just before the school starting, and have experienced no difficulties/delays entering the driveway or parking directly in front of the school or on side streets. It is also not on the street of another school.

*St. Dunstan is one of the few schools in the area that students are able to walk to Church. The students walk to school on a monthly basis to attend school church services/

When reading about all 8 of the schools involved in the PAR review on the board website, I notice a few things. First, two schools in this area have not even been considered for closure, St. Raymond and St. Bernadette. Should the three principles of budget, well-being and enrollment be adhered to, they should be on the list. St. Bernadette has the worst current utilization and St. Raymond is projected to have the worst utilization by 2025. Furthermore, St. Bernadette has the worst total EQAO scores in the area and St. Raymond scores below the board average in grade 6 math scores. Also, St. Bernadette has the second worst Facility Condition Index (FCI) and second highest annual operating cost.

The board’s “preferred option” will split the students from St. Dunstan and relocate them to St. Bernadette and St. Herbert, the only 2 schools in the area with less than 50% utilization, and EQAO scores among the worst in the area. In the third option, Students from St. Dunstan will be relocated to St. Bernadette and Our Lady of Good Voyage. Our Lady of Good Voyage and St. Bernadette have two of the poorest Facility Working Condition Index (FCI) Scores. Our Lady of Good Voyage has a port-a-pack, which boards are trying to eliminate.

From this report, the message from Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board seems to be clear: schools that achieve top academic performance, are well-utilized and show positive growth projections will be closed; while those that underperform, are under-utilized and are costly to operate will remain open. In reviewing the process information which I have been given, I begin to question the motives and rationale of the decision to close St. Dunstan. I ask myself whether the potential revenue which the DPCDSB would receive in selling the St. Dunstan property which is in a prime location, is a factor in why it has been considered for closure in Pupil Accommodation Review proposals. I would hope that education quality, enrollment, well-being, and budget management would be the deciding factors instead of the potential sale revenue.

My children began their learning journey at St. Dunstan in September 2015. Prior to this my son was enrolled at Willow Way (the public school in our area). My reason for enrolling him there, was the fact that when he was in JK, the Public School had FDK, and St. Dunstan did not (resulting in a $750 savings/month). His teachers in PDSB were fantastic; however, I quickly realized that this was not the place for him as his learning needs were not able to be met due to the behavioral and cultural issues within the school dynamic of the low-EQAO scoring school. The school-research then began for me. I was able to register him at my school, and was also offered flex-boundaries at St. Raymond (the school beside mine). Both of these options would have alleviated all of my daycare costs.
I decided to enroll my children in my home-school, St. Dunstan, because of the high-EQAO scores, reputation, the positive “vibe” walking into the school (and speaking to the principal, teachers, and administrative staff), as well as the positive comments speaking to parents both in and out of the school community. I have not regretted this decision once. The staff is fantastic. They use instructional practices to improve learning and to move each student forward. “Smartboards” are used consistently (there is one in each and every classroom), as a teaching tool to engage students, which were funded entirely by parent council. There is a positive rapport between staff and students there. I feel very comfortable dropping off my children at St. Dunstan knowing that the principal and administrative staff knows both of my children by first-name, and greets me by name when I walk into the building. Both of my children enjoy the fact that the church, St. Joseph, is within walking distance. My son enjoys walking to church each month with his friends. St. Dunstan has a strong focus in literacy and numeracy that is taught both by traditional methods and current methods that are open-ended and involve real-life examples. Assessment and instruction are aligned, and descriptive feedback is given to students to move them forward in their learning. Each and every day you can see parents inside of the school volunteering. There is strong parental involvement, which is evident through fundraising (Pizza/Sub/Pita Days, Dance-a-Thon, etc). In what other school has fundraising allowed for each classroom to have a smartboard?

Furthermore, the early start-time of this school work for me and my family, allowing me to drop off my children at school for entry or at the bus stop in the morning prior to me going to work. This gives me peace-of mind, and allows my children to have a positive start to the day. Having a later start would not allow me to do this.

Should St. Dunstan be closed, I will be forced to explore other education alternatives for my children, including options outside of the catholic school system to ensure that my children receive a similar quality of education to that received in St. Dunstan. I also know, through discussion with other parents in my area, that I am not alone in this. I will not enroll my children again, in another low-EQAO performing school..the differences in these schools are clear. Thus, the long-term utilization of area schools and the sustainability of the board’s revenues from local taxation will not be solved by this approach, and instead will be further hindered by the diminished tax revenue of parents investigating the option of a non-catholic education for their children. It should be also noted that the taxation in the St. Dunstan catchment area is significantly higher than those of the other schools in the PAR process.

The more appropriate approach should be to protect schools like St. Dunstan that have high academic achievement, high utilization and are showing positive projected growth in enrollment and utilization to try to increase enrollment to the board. Boards are consistently trying to improve school performance and enrollment, and I question why then, that St. Dunstan, one of the top scoring schools in the province and school board, would be potentially closed and is on all three board proposals. Through communicating with other parents, a few more options for closures have been suggested that I would like to suggest to you:

1) Keeping St. Dunstan OPEN, and bringing over the students from Our Lady of Good Voyage. This would make St. Dunstan at capacity. It would still allow the students to walk to church. It would ease the traffic congestion on Rivergrove Avenue, as there are other schools with similar starting times. These two schools have the same current starting time, which would minimize the inconvenience to parents. Merging St. Bernadette and St. Herbert at either location (St. Herbert has a better FCI, although St. Bernadette is located South of Eglington). Closing St. Gregory, and merging those students at Raymond (and possibly St. Valentine if actual numbers are higher than projections). Through this option, no schools are forced to split their student population, which demonstrates that principle of well-being of the students is being considered. Through this option, the entire East Credit area is represented, as there would be a school South of Eglington, West of Creditview, and East of Creditview.

2) Perhaps brining in specialty programs to the school (e.g., Special Education, IBT (Global Education),
gifted program, ASD, Extended French, GLD, LD. Sci-Tech etc.) might some of the open space at the school. It should be noted that these are programs that the PDSB has in their schools. Some proposals might include for these programs are:

* Giving St. Dunstan Extended French which would make St. Dunstan at capacity
* Making St. Herbert a Global Education Centre. Those students who do not would be able to attend St. Dunstan

I also feel that it should be noted that some of these classrooms at St. Dunstan are currently used by YMCA daycare and planning time teachers within the school, and as a result they are not open for the entire day.

I times of decreasing enrollment in schools and competition in school boards, would it not be logical to keep this high-performing school open to attract more students to the school and board? I ask that in your capacity, that you please take action to ensure that the desired outcomes of the PAR policy; namely high student achievement, high utilization and responsible budgets, are brought back into the focus of this process.

If you would like more information regarding the proposed closure of St. Dunstan, please contact me at [redacted] OR our group of concerned parents at savest.dunstan@gmail.com. Thank-you for your commitment to protecting the quality of Catholic education for our children for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Greetings,

Thank you for your recent email regarding St. Dunstan Elementary School and the East Credit Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR).

Your feedback is very much valued. While I have forwarded your email to our Planning staff who will, in turn, bring it forward to the Pupil Accommodation Review Committee’s attention, I encourage you, if you have not already done so, to submit your feedback directly to the PAR Committee via the board website at www.dpcdsb.org (through the link on the left side of the main webpage) or by email to PARinfo@dpcdsb.org. You may also wish to bring your feedback directly to your PAR Committee representative. This ensures direct receipt and inclusion in any discussion at the committee level.

All feedback will also be made available to trustees, who will make a decision regarding the current options, or other options that may be presented based on community feedback, in late May of this year.

I encourage you to attend the upcoming Public Open House scheduled for Wednesday, January 20 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at St. Joseph Secondary School on 5555 Creditview Road. Board staff will be on hand to respond to questions and invite feedback.

Thank you for your support of Catholic education. Your commitment and interest are appreciated.

Mario Pascucci

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.
As a parent of a student attending St. Dunstan Elementary School, I’m writing to you to express my extreme concern with the current pupil accommodation review (PAR) taking place by the Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board.

I understand that the PAR process is triggered by low utilization in our collective area (currently 63% of total capacity); and that the Ontario Ministry of Education guidelines for school boards emphasize that the PAR process identify potential closures and consolidations based on managing enrollment in the area, ensuring student well-being and managing budgets responsibly. This is why I’m so concerned with the current PAR process taking place near my home in Mississauga, which has clearly not adhered to these principles.

Of the 8 schools being considered for closure in the PAR review, St. Dunstan is the only school recommended for closure in all 3 proposed options, including the board’s “preferred option”. Here are some key facts about St. Dunstan that I would like to share with you:

- Of the 8 schools under review, St. Dunstan has the highest overall academic achievement (based on combined grade 3 and 6 EQAO scores). It is #1 in reading, #2 in writing and #1 in math.
- St. Dunstan is currently above the area’s average utilization and has the fastest growing enrollment of the 8 schools. It is projected to be #2 in utilization in 2016.

On the other hand, there are 2 schools in the area that are not even being considered for closure; St. Bernadette and St. Raymond. So what makes these schools exceptional?

- St. Bernadette has the worst current utilization and St. Raymond is projected to have the worst utilization by 2025.
- St. Bernadette has the worst total EQAO scores in the area and St. Raymond scores below the board average in grade 6 math scores.
- St. Bernadette has the second worst Facility Condition Index (FCI) and second highest annual operating cost.

From this report, the message from Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board seems to be clear: schools that achieve top academic performance, are well-utilized and show positive growth projections will be closed; while those that underperform, are under-utilized and are costly to operate will remain open.

Several years ago when my wife and I were looking for a new home, our main concern was finding the best school possible for our soon to be school age son. When speaking to our potential neighbors of the house we were considering buying, they all talked about how wonderful a school St. Dunstan was. After doing our own research we realized, they were right. St. Dunstan had the highest academic records of any of the other schools in the other neighborhoods we were considering.

The board’s “preferred option” will split the students from St. Dunstan and relocate them to St. Bernadette and St. Herbert, the only 2 schools in the area with less than 50% utilization and EQAO scores among the worst in the area.

Since one of the main reasons we moved into this area was so that our son could attend a fantastic school like St. Dunstan, we may be forced to move to another area as we will not have our son attend a sub-standard school. We will consider both public and private school if St. Dunstan closes.
Thus, the long-term utilization of area schools and the sustainability of the board’s revenues from local taxation will not be solved by this approach.

The more appropriate approach should be to protect schools like St. Dunstan that have high academic achievement, high utilization and are showing positive projected growth in enrollment and utilization. I ask that in your capacity as Chair of the Board Trustees, that you please take action to ensure that the desired outcomes of the PAR policy: namely high student achievement, high utilization and responsible budgets, are brought back into the focus of this process.

Please feel free to contact me or our group of concerned parents at savest.dunstan@gmail.com if you would like more information regarding the proposed closure of St.Dunstan. Thank-you for your commitment to protecting the quality of education for our children for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Daniel Del Bianco, Superintendent – Planning & Operations
40 Matheson Blvd. West
Mississauga, ON, L5R 1C5

RE: Pupil Accommodation Review 2015 – East Credit, Mississauga

Dear Mr. Del Bianco,

We are a group of private Mississauga residents who are concerned about the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board’s (DPCDSB) proposal in closing one of our schools. The DPCDSB Planning Staff provided several options under the Pupil Accommodation Review 2015 – East Credit, Mississauga. Option 1 proposed the closing of St. Gertrude School. We strongly OPPOSED to choosing Option 1.

St. Gertrude School has a consistent capacity rate of above 86%, while the other 7 schools under review have capacity rates of only between 44% and 69%. Also, the Fraser Institute has given St. Gertrude School a consistent rating of 7.6 to 8.1 (out of 10) in the past five years. The school is ranked at 17 out of the 67 DPCDSB Elementary Schools in Mississauga. In addition, the school has a well-established French-Immersion (FI) Program, which attracts many families in choosing it as their top choice for FI. Finally, the students, parents, teachers, and staff at St. Gertrude School have a strong sense of belonging, and thus developed an excellent Catholic community.

Based on the above reasons, it is not appropriate to close St. Gertrude School; it is not an option. While streamlining facilities is an important operational goal for the school board, we are concerned that this goal will cost our children and their future. You are the leader and guardian of shaping excellence in Catholic education. We trust that you will respect and act appropriately from the input of parents, students, and community members of St. Gertrude School. Please find other alternatives, and DO NOT CLOSE ST. GERTRUDE SCHOOL.

Sincerely,

Concerned Private Mississauga Residents
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