Call to Order:

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.

2. **Approval of Agenda for ARC Working Group Meeting #5**

Approval of the agenda was moved by: J. Greenman, seconded by: J. Belmonte.

**CARRIED**

3. **Approval of February 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes from ARC Working Group Meeting #4**

Approval of the February 11, 2016 meeting minutes was moved by: E. Ljubanovic, seconded by: S. Bonello.

**CARRIED**

4. **Program Department Presentation – C. Blanchard/T-L. Peel**
The Program Department presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Program Considerations”.

The Chair thanked Superintendent Blanchard and Assistant Superintendent Peel for their presentation.

Questions/Comments from ARC members:
- What would be the length of time from survey to implementation of a program?
  Program response: 2-3 years
- Can the IB program be done in a mainstream school?
  Program response: You cannot have dual track in a regular school, but you can have a primary years IB program and regular track grades 7 and 8 in the same school.
- Peel DSB offers more specialized programs, other than Extended French, French Immersion and IB for Elementary students. Would Dufferin-Peel think more specialized programs is a good thing?
  Program response: We offer gifted classes and specialized classes, but we are talking about “programs” for elementary students
  Chair added that our focus is on sustainability. These specialized programs teach the same curriculum, but delivered with a focus on arts, science or other specialty. Specialized programs are certainly an interest in this Board, but we would require further data to support sustainability and that requires significant financial contribution. Peel DSB has middle schools with a rotary system; the same curriculum can be approached in a different way. The variance in a specialized program and regular school is not as great as in an IB program versus a regular program; subtle difference.
- You mentioned a potential location in south Brampton - given the mandate for this ARC group, can we influence where we locate the school?
  Program response: Sites north of the 401 have the same enrolment issues. A location in Brampton would serve the students in the north, adding to our existing location in Mississauga, which serves the students in the south.
  Chair added it is something to consider re an IB program, but research and follow up is required for sustainability and sufficient interest. This process is typically 3 years in terms of the research and background work to implementation.

5.  St. Gertrude Presentation – C. Helme
Chris Helme, St. Gertrude presented “Identification of Alternatives”
The Chair thanked Chris for his presentation.

- Natasha De Menna, St. Herbert provided a document entitled Identification of Alternative Options (WG4-103) based on Chris’ original 67-page document originally received, which did not include Option 8 & 9.
  ARC member asked her to go through each point in her document.
  C. Helme indicated an omission in Option 5, item 2 in terms of the environmental element; it’s more about having a transparent process. I would like feedback from the community and regenerate the work based on that. C. Helme also indicated that he can take hard copy suggestions and present next week.

N. De Menna indicated that Appendix D numbers for north and south don’t add up to the total of 174. Planning staff replied that flex students were not included; we took the existing numbers north, south and a percentage across. The numbers in our staff submitted options are correct per area.
  ARC member said that all committee members are in agreement that any proposals put forward should have schools move as a unit together to a new school; not split up students.

- Summary Review of St. Gertrude Alternate Options Report (St. Valentine Members)
  Chair stated that the St. Valentine response be reviewed next week as it was just received.
Superintendent Del Bianco indicated that we received 1300 responses to the survey; people are willing to provide input. We could provide a more quantitative survey, program related with rationale; large audience at your disposal, as we approach the next public meeting.
Chair added that when soliciting communication from communities, clearly the survey is the vehicle by which most people responded.
ARC member asked, in terms of process for survey for March open house, will staff draft questions and allow us to input suggestions?
Chair replied that on March 2 working group meeting we will come up with the survey questions together; March 9 we will produce a draft survey.
ARC member asked if there will be a comparison of proposals next week.
Resource staff indicated that the ARC will evaluate alternative options at the March 2 working group meeting.

6. Follow-up Items

1. Financial Information – Manager, S. Cox indicated that the information was received at the end of today and will be part of the agenda package to be emailed Monday. In addition, follow up questions can be emailed to her.

2. Kindergarten Advertising – Identified in the minutes of WGM#2.
ARC member asked if a review number of Kindergarten registrations is done and another blitz to increase enrolment? Is something planned?
GM Campbell explained that the campaign is within a set timeline; main kindergarten registration period is in January. We promote registration at any time through Twitter and websites, but no concentrated additional campaign after the November-January period is planned.
ARC member asked since ARC utilization is low, should there be another approach?
Chair indicated that yields in the area show a reasonable number of Catholic students. Planning staff indicated on average the Dufferin-Peel apportionment share of students in an area would be 20%; East Credit has 35% - 2776 students, whereas Peel has 5248. The apportionment is quite high in East Credit compared to other areas in the board.

3. Information on Innovation and Celebration – The Chair worked with the Board Recorder to compile a list dating back to 2014. Faith & Program is a sub-committee of the board which sits monthly with the trustees to discuss issues related to program and faith that are presented for information, receipt and decision making. If the ARC requests anything specifically re EF, FI or IB not presented by C. Blanchard and T-L. Peel this evening, we will search our archives to get them for you.

4. Utilization Rates for the Board - Planning staff provided information on schools that are utilized 50% or less board wide. Utilization rates for the board as a whole have not been updated; notwithstanding, the information will not assist in determining which schools to close in this review area. Board staff will be updating utilization rates as part of the upcoming update to the Board’s Long Term Accommodation Plan.
ARC member asked if we have a date when that will be redone.
Planning staff indicated an update of the long term plan will follow completion of the East Credit Pupil Accommodation Review.

7. BREAK
The Chair called the break at 7:00 p.m. to reconvene at 7:15 p.m.

8. Correspondence Items

The ARC Members moved receipt on all correspondence items for review at this meeting (WG5-111 to WG5-132).
Moved by S. Bonello and seconded by E. Kostuch.

CARRIED
No comments or discussion took place on the following pieces of correspondence: WG5-111 – St. Herbert, WG5-112 – Our Lady of Good Voyage, WG5-114 – St. Bernadette, WG5-116 – St. Herbert, WG5-117 – St. Herbert, WG5-118 – St. Herbert, WG5-119 – St. Herbert, WG5-120 – St. Herbert, WG5-121 – St. Herbert, WG5-122 – St. Herbert, WG5-126 – St. Herbert, WG5-128 – St. Herbert, WG5-129 – St. Herbert, WG5-132 – St. Herbert

WG5-113 – St. Herbert
St Dunstan ARC member offered an apology to the ARC on behalf of parents who were submitting a standard form letter to the PARInfo mailbox early on in the PAR process. ARC member recognized that these form letters were driven from the start of the process where the community and the ARC were not sure of the process and there was a feeling of uncertainty in the community. Over the weeks of meeting as an ARC, friendships and relationships have developed; the process is not about pitting schools against one another. The Chair accepted the apology on behalf of the ARC and acknowledged that people are now understanding that the children in the East Credit area are all of our kids.

WG5-115 – St. Bernadette
ARC member asked if there are statistics indicating how many students we lose to Edenrose because of their French?

**ACTION:** Planning staff to provide information regarding SK students from Bernadette leaving Dufferin-Peel.

WG5-123 – St. Herbert
ARC member indicated to direct them to the minutes re FI question.

WG5-124 – St. Herbert
ARC member indicated that St. Dunstan has a higher utilization percentage than St. Herbert.

WG5-125 – St. Gertrude
Planning staff addressed this email in WGM#3. (WG3-60). Trustees receive all the same information and correspondence that the ARC members receive.

WG5-127 – St. Gertrude
Requested follow up information from Finance which has been provided in WGM#3 information which shows the breakdown of the 90% budget allocation to the bulk of the Board’s expenditures.

WG5-130 – St. Gertrude

**ACTION:** Name and grade reference need redacting.

WG5-131 – St. Bernadette

**ACTION:** Identifying information near bottom of email needs redacting.

9. **Other Business**
   a. Future Meeting Dates:

   March 2 – WGM#6
   March 9 – WGM#7
   March Break – week of March 14
   Holy Week – week of March 20
   Easter – March 27-28
   March 30 – Public Open House #2
The Chair opened up discussion to ARC members regarding the agenda items for the two remaining working group meetings prior to the open house. He indicated that it is within the purview of the ARC to request additional meetings with staff. A discussion ensued with regards to the following:

- Final report to the Board will include a preferred option from each school community or community may choose to endorse another option
- Identify options by a letter, so not confused with original options, i.e. Option A
- Committee to prioritize rationale, i.e. not splitting schools, student safety, school culture
- ARC to provide presentations to Manager Cox by Sunday evening if presenting next week
- ARC to decide March 2nd if another meeting is required; meeting time to be extended to 10:00 p.m.
- March 30 Open House format to be discussed further March 2nd – 3 original staff options, plus other ARC options to be displayed
- Staff Interim Report to Board of Trustees at April 26th Board meeting. Staff need time to write report and present report to Executive Council the week before

ARC member asked if the Interim Report will be shared with the committee before presenting to Trustees.

**ACTION:** Planning Staff to review with Steering Committee and check Policy & Procedures regarding identified dates required before delegations

ARC member suggested we review WG6 correspondence tonight.
Chair suggested we take a break to review further correspondence and reconvene to review at 8:15 pm.

**BREAK** 8:05 p.m.

Motion to review correspondence scheduled for next week at WGM#5 meeting (emails WG6-133 to WG6-142). Moved by S. Bonello and seconded by J. Belmonte.

**CARRIED**

The ARC Members moved receipt on all additional correspondence items for review at this meeting (WG6-133 to WG6-142).
Moved by J. Belmonte and seconded by C. Helme.

**CARRIED**

No comments or discussion took place on the following pieces of correspondence: WG6-134 - St. Dunstan, WG6-135 – St. Dunstan, WG6-136 – St. Gertrude, WG6-137 –St. Gertrude, WG6-139 – St. Herbert, WG6-140 – St. Herbert, WG6-142 – St. Gregory

**WG6-133 - St. Gertrude**
Maps will be included in the minutes being posted this week.
Refers to a modified Option 2 from staff – further modified and a new option 5; will include next week when considering all options.

**ACTION:** Include above options at next WGM.

ARC member was offended by comment on 2nd page referring to “parents care more about their kids’ education…” that they are better role models.
C. Helme apologized on behalf of the St. Gertrude community.

**WG6-138 – Our Lady of Good Voyage**
Requesting renewal needs and renovations since 1999.
Manager Cox stated we would need to determine how long it would take for Plant/Maintenance to collect this information and how it is relevant to the process; 3 schools were built in 2000 & 2001.
**ACTION:** Planning Staff to discuss request above at the next WGM.

**WG6-141 – St. Gregory**
Planning staff clarified students in JK to Grade 5 would be bussed and that Traffic Safety Council would assess safety for Grades 6-8 students and determine if crossing guard is warranted.
ARC member added that OLGV students already cross that intersection and they are bussed.

Discussion ensued on the format for May 9th delegation night)
- An entire evening or multiple evenings of timed delegations where any member of community can come up and present to trustees
- Board laptop provided to run presentation, presentations to be submitted 5 working days before meeting; Timer is set up to run for 5 minutes (Current bylaw for length of delegation is 5 minutes). Trustees then have opportunity to ask questions to the delegate.
- Delegations do not have to be a formal presentation; can be a written statement, and can be made by more than one person and by the public
- Delegations should be submitted directly to Bruce Campbell, General Manager, Communications and Community Relations
- ARC member asked if priority would be given to ARC Members when assigning time slots for delegations

**ACTION:** Staff to review potential schedule of presentations by ARC members at Delegation night

- The Chair gave a physical description of the Administration & Finance Committee meeting set up for delegation night
- ARC member asked if there are fire code regulations for space and if there will be reserved seating for ARC members

**ACTION:** Staff to inquire about accommodation above

- ARC member asked that when ARC is disbanded, when will the PARInfo mailbox be closed to receiving emails for consideration by the ARC.

**ACTION:** Planning Staff to determine date PAR Info mailbox will close

- March 10, 2016 will be a tentative date for additional WGM
- ARC member asked if boundaries for St. Joseph Secondary School will change if Option 3 took place; half of NEW St. Raymond would go to St. Joseph/St. Marcellinus
Planning staff replied that we are not looking at changing secondary school boundaries at this time; not part of this process

Chair thanked everyone for their contribution to this process, sensitivity and amount of work on behalf of all school communities.

10.  **Adjournment**
The Motion to adjourn was moved by S. Bonello, seconded by: E. Ljubanovic

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

**Future meeting dates:**
March 2, 2016 – ARC Working Group Meeting #6 (CEC)
March 9, 2016 – ARC Working Group Meeting #7 (Blessed Trinity)
March 30, 2016 – Public Meeting #2 (St. Joseph SS)

**Distribution:**
ARC Members
ARC Resource
To the ARC Committee and the DPCSB Trustees.

I support Option One (to close Our Lady of Good Voyage, St. Dunstan, and St. Gertrude) as my preferred option. Listed below are my reasons for supporting Option One:

The financial health and stability of the Dufferin Peel Catholic School Board (DPCSB) is the primary concern for all stakeholders. Making the right decision today, will ensure that we all avoid this heartbreaking process for the next 30 to 40 years. It provides the greatest reduction of pupil seats (1516 seats). This meets the requirement of the Ministry of Education to reduce excess capacity, in-order to reduce the cost of funding that excess capacity.

And **meets all the criteria** as set out by the DPCSB Planning staff to select the best options. The criteria includes:

a. An overall reduction of 1400-1600 pupil places
b. An increase in overall utilization by no less than 20%
c. Consider spatial location of schools in the review area
d. Consider the age of the facility
e. Minimize need for portables at receiving school
f. Keep as much of the school community together as possible
g. Taking into consideration major roads as boundary lines.

**Option 1 saves $6.7 million is cost, annually.** The highest cost savings when compared to option 2 ($6 million) and option 3 ($4 million).

Overall, Option One makes the most business sense from the perspective of providing the best education to the Peel Catholic students, within the best facilities, with the best infrastructure that is available within the East Credit area.

I do not support Option 4, submitted by the St. Dunstan school community, as an option that should be considered by the Trustees because:

It is biased. It has not been prepared by an independent body.
The option does not meet the long term needs of the community from the perspective of capacity, growth, maintenance cost and modern facility for students.
It does not meet all of the criteria as set out by the DPCSB Public meeting presented on January 20th, 2016.
It is located on Creditview Road. A busy road that already has a traffic issue during school drop off and pick up times.

Thank you for your time.

Parent of Three Kids in St. Herbert Catholic School.
Great school that played a big part in our children’s development... it would be a shame to close it down!
Why Option 4?

Option 4 should NOT be considered. While this is heart breaking decision, no school or community should be allowed to dictate which schools should remain Open or Closed just because it is in their best interest. The truth of the matter remains that for various reasons St. Dunstan has been identified in all the proposals as a school that needs to be shut down.

What the families of St Dunstan have proposed is:-

1. Discrimination against schools, communities and our children
2. Biased and Prejudice
3. Does not meet the criteria and rationale presented at the Jan.20th 2016 meeting
4. All schools draw families to the area it’s not just St Dunstan (in fact housing in the St Dunstan neighborhood is higher than East Credit and so fewer YOUNG families can afford to move there – so where is the question of attracting students to that school and it’s the reason they have a high out of boundary enrollment. Which also limits future growth.

With respect to their Priorities, Advantages, Strengths & Methodology
#1 Priority - Student Well-Being - How is this served if the students have to walk to school on a busy road its putting twice the number of children in danger.

Academic Achievement - this is discrimination against the other schools. After elementary school the majority of the St Dunstan students go to St Josephs and they have no choice but to be in the same classroom as the students from St Herbert or St Bernadette.

Financial Viability & Long Term Sustainability - Older schools and buildings have higher maintenance costs to meet their long term needs. And it definitely does not have growth options to accommodate more students.

Listed Advantages are really Disadvantages
1. In other schools children are bused to St Joseph’s Church and have a Rosary Apostolate and we all belong to the same St Joseph’s Parish. St Dunstan does not even have a Rosary Apostolate in their school. If you go to the same church why can't you go to another school that is still a Catholic School and belongs to the same church?
2. All schools in the neighborhood have a day care and before/after school program
3. How does St. Dunstan know that other schools do not have a strong Parent Council and participation and fundraising activities – they might be surprised to find out that another Parent Council is much better.
4. This would also increase the traffic in the area causing impatience and traffic accidents. The schools in East Credit all start at different times which eradicates traffic jams.

The board has taken into consideration Student Well-being, Financial Viability and Academic Achievement which is transferable to any school. Teachers cannot work forever and will be absorbed in the schools that will increase in capacity.

I strongly vote for Option 1 which is the preferred Staff Option.

[Name]
Parent & Member of SAC at St Herbert School
Dear Accommodation Review Committee,

We are reaching out to you in support of St. Bernadette Elementary School. We are the parents of two students that attend St. Bernadette Elementary School. Our youngest is in first year and our oldest is in grade . Our children enjoy the school and always have fun and exciting stories to share with us about the on goings within the school community. Our children are absorbing what they are being taught and are always excited to sit and share what they’ve learned with us on a daily basis. Both of our children have been progressing extremely well with their education thanks to the hard work and dedication of the teachers. Both my husband and I enjoy over seeing the homework that comes back and forth from school and are learning new things alongside our children as much has changed since we were in school. St. Bernadette is not only a school to our children, it's like a home to them. They have grown extremely close to the staff and have made many friends that they cherish dearly. As a mother, it gives me nothing but pleasure to volunteer at the school throughout the year so that I can be even closer to my children, the school and the community. We have nothing but good things to say about this school and it's staff who are welcoming and approachable. The addition of Mrs. Parker as Principal has been a welcome change and her drive and initiatives have generated a wonderful response from staff and the community that have made St. Bernadette an even stronger community than it was before and will only further assist in educating and molding our children into young accomplished adults. We look forward to seeing both our children continue their schooling at St. Bernadette Elementary School. Thank you for your time, we appreciate all the hard work you have been putting in for the PAR for the East Credit area in Mississauga.

Best Regards,
Thoughts on recent correspondence received
St. Bernadette CSC [st.bernadette.csc@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 10:54 PM
To: PAR - Info

To the members of the ARC committee,

I would like to begin by expressing my support for the idea of keeping school communities in tack wherever possible. I think as parents we can all appreciate the stress imposed on children when we are asking them to start fresh in a new school.

I would also like to point out my disappointment in the comments (direct or indirect) made with reference to the St. Bernadette community. Although we cannot pride ourselves on having stellar EQAO marks or fundraising dollars amounting to $20K, I think it is important to understand the environment we operate under before any judgement can be passed.

To begin, our school is located on the south side of Eglinton just a short walk from the apartment buildings where many of our students call home. Financially, they are not in the same position as students raised in single family dwellings which are owned instead of rented. Although money cannot buy happiness, we would be naïve if we did not recognize the fact that money buys opportunities - learning opportunities be it in extra curricular activities or access to books of special topics, or simply parental support in the way of a parent or nanny at home. A large part of our families work shift work and earn minimum wage. This profile limits you to the fundraisers you can plan. Our pizza program requests a modest $2 a slice and still we have students who hide or do not bring lunches on those days in order to have a slice of pizza. In the spirit of Christianity we offer them a slice since there is always a few extra. This however, cannot be carried through when the profit margin on each item is small. At Halloween time we held a hot dog lunch for our students requesting a modest $2.25/hotdog. We made $27.55 profit ($0.25/hotdog) but had a 55% engagement. We pride ourselves on the fact that it was affordable to all and subsidized for all who could not afford it on their own. However, when we look at the time involved in organizing the fundraiser (order forms, negotiate price with vendor, engage 4 other parents to help with the distribute on that day, count the money and prepare it for bank deposit) perhaps we had been better off donating the $30 out of our own pocket and using the time in a more profitable way. Despite the nominal profit, children were excited about the hot dog lunch and it complimented the activities of the day. Lastly it gave the moms a day off from making lunches.

So the question I have for the school(s) that pride themselves on making over $20K in fundraising dollars is, what are your guiding principals? We at St. Bernadette do not leave any students behind because we believe that is what Jesus would want us to do. How many families do you support with your fundraising dollars? We support 4 at the moment. If we are going to be measured and evaluated by the number of dollars we raise then perhaps we need to level the playing field for everyone.

To the issue of EQAO marks, this too is impacted by financial well being. Our ESL population is in the 30%. What is yours? EQAO is a mathematical average of student marks. An average, when taken on a small population will be largely impacted with a few low marks. It is in fact a snap shot in time because if the handful of students who are bringing down the averages decided to move to the other side of Eglinton, that school’s average will experience the same overall effect. Furthermore, I have witnessed with my own eyes one particular student who came to St. Bernadette not knowing a word of English in Grade 1. That student couldn’t even string together the words to ask to go to the bathroom. Over the
last two years I have seen them build their vocabulary exponentially. The difference in language use
and vocabulary is probably minimal at this point. That students' EQAO mark does not reflect the
progress made by that child; only where they are today. And even though their progress has been
tremendous, they are not at par with someone who started school speaking English. 40 years ago, I was
that student and had we had had EQAO marks then, I likely would have brought down my class
average. However, that was then and this is now and I believe I would bring pride to my elementary
school if ever a study was done to compare education achievement.

At this point, I would like to applaud the efforts made by the two individuals who took the time to put
forward the new proposal especially with reference to special programs to offer our students. At the
open house held in January, I hear a member of the board speak to how funding has decreased over the
years. We started at a point where we were receiving 100% funding for 100 percent enrollment to a
point where we are receiving funding for only the portion of the available seats we are filling.
Somewhere in between there was a time when we were receiving 100% funding for 80% seats filled - a
surplus of 20%. Where did the extra 20% go during this time. This is the time we should have been
investing in extra programs for our students in an effort to attract and retain more families within our
system. St. Bernadette has had a steady declining population for at least the past 4 years. We are
hemorrhaging 30 students a year while our neighbouring public school is at a whopping 900 students
bursting at the seams. Has any effort been placed in looking at how many families enrolled at
Edenrose should belong to St. Bernadette in theory? Edenrose offers French emersion and this is often
given as the explanation for the declining population at St. Bernadette. If this is indeed the case, then
what is being done to offer a more universal program perhaps in math or science and/or technology at
St. Bernadette to compete with Edenrose?

If any good has come out of this whole exercise, I would hope that we as a community have learned that
we must continually improve ourselves if we want to survive in this day and age. This PAR has been
successful in sparking the attention and efforts of many parents who have dedicated hours showing their
interest and support in wanting to assist the board in making the best decision. I would hope that this
effort and interest does not come to an end once the final decision has been reached. We must work
together now and going forward in order to give our children the best Catholic education possible
otherwise, we will find ourselves doing this same exercise again in the next 10 years.
Iam sending this email in support of Keeping St. Herbert open. My preffered option is option one / option two. I am happy with St herbert school. Teachers and the principal are so helpful and professional. My kids love the school very much. We r really comfortable to the school. Pls leave it open. Thanks

Community member
Sent from my Sony Xperia™ smartphone
I just wanted to express my feelings on the possible closure of St. Herbert school. It would be such a shame to see such a wonderful learning environment close down. This school is full of amazing teachers and staff, whose main goal is to care for and guide their students towards success.

This school is situated on land that is best suited to remain a school and also has the capacity to hold a great number of students. It is capable of holding far more students than St. Dunstan could, without having to get portables. St. Herbert is in great condition and has a big school yard, with soccer fields to keep their students happy and active. It's a beautiful property and it would be so disheartening to see it closed down. Please consider keeping this wonderful school open. It is in the best interest of all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Sent from my iPad
I am writing to express my concern with the possible closure of St. Herbert. This is a fantastic school community. It is disheartening and very upsetting to hear that this terrific well taken care of school is being considered for closure.

Regards,

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad
To Our Trustees,

This email is in support of keeping St. Herbert Open. My preferred option is option 1.

We have 3 children and 2 of which are in this school. Our 3rd will be attending in the next year. Our eldest child has special needs. We have a program set up with the teachers and support staff at this school and it has taken us many many years in order to get to where we are at now. By closing this school we will have to start all over again with the entire process, as the teachers know our son, understand what kind of support he needs in order to be successful.

Please consider choosing option 1

Parent and member of the St. Herbert community

Thank you
To our trustees,

This email is in our support of keeping St. Herbert Open. My preferred option is option 1.
To Our Trustees,

This email is in support of keeping St. Herbert Open. My preferred option is Option 1. It is a closer and safer school for my kids and for most of the students to walk to school and walk home.
To Our Trustees,

This email is in support of keeping St. Herbert Open. My preferred option is Option 1.
To our Trustees,

This email is in support of keeping St. Herbert open. My preferred option is Option1/Option2.

Have the board considered the possibility of having the French Immersion classes and or the International Baccalaureate in St. Herbert? This will be a great opportunity for the students of St. Herbert as well as for the other children not enrolled in St. Herbert. I for one is interested in putting my kids to French Immersion but we find the available French Immersion schools are far from where we live. The St. Herbert community would hate to lose this school and if the school closes it will greatly impact our daily lives.

I trust that you will do your part to make the best decisions for our community by listening and considering our opinions.

Thank you kindly.

Mother of [redacted] and [redacted]
I would like to mention that St. Dunstan has less capacity than St Herbert, and is a much older school. St. Dunstan is 23 years old. A school this old will require constant repairs at a significant cost. The school has served the community well just as all the other elementary schools in East Credit however, it's time to close St. Dunstan.

Regards,

Sent from my iPad
Re: Evaluating criteria for PAR

To whom it may concern,

Can information please be provided about the evaluation criteria that will be used in the final section by the board of trustees.

Thank you

St Gertrude
Not sure why anyone in their right mind would want to close a School like St. Herbert. This is the only Elementary School that I have seen to be clean and well organized. Please remember that this is a big School and to close a newer School over a small run-down School makes no sense.

Also the safety of the location is crucial. Take a look at the locations and tell us that you think a School in an open busy area would be better, again this makes no sense. Instead of considering closure have you gone over the pros and cons.

Please do what makes the most sense closing smaller older Schools and implementing more programs in a large School would be the right choice. This is very frustrating and the stress you are putting on the parents is unfair.

Regards,
At the ARC meeting on February 3rd, it appears my email may have been misunderstood. As such, I would like to clarify the first point of my email below.

When students enrolled in the French Immersion program at St. Gertrude, they attended JK-SK in their home school. They then moved to St. Gertrude in grade 1 to commence the French Immersion Program. If the French Immersion program is moved from St. Gertrude to St. Gregory, these students will be moving yet again, with the potential of going to 3 schools in their elementary phase. The

As part of the ARC meeting on February 3rd, the Finance Dept. provided a presentation. They indicated that 90% of costs are allocated to salaries and benefits. Can I please request a breakdown of what compromises the 90%, which salaries/benefits attribute to each percentage. For example, how much is allocated to teacher, principal, administration, and Board salaries and benefits.

Also, it should be taken into consideration that should option 1 be selected, parents may decide to seek boundary flex from St. Hilary and move their children to that school or to Champlain Trail, which is next door to St. Gertrude (this option would decrease a Catholic presence in our community), instead of moving them to St. Valentine.

Thank you

St. Gertrude
Our school has a fully integrated school where both the French Immersion and regular stream students are united as one. Separating the French Immersion and regular stream students as presented in option 1 would severely impact the students as teachers and students alike have worked hard to integrate the two programs.

Additionally, there is a wait list to enrol in the French Immersion program at St. Gertrude. Has this been taken into consideration? If the students in the wait list are allowed to enrol in the program at St. Gertrude, enrolment rates would not be an issue and St. Gertrude would not be placed into option 1. Again, I would like to reinforce that students in both the French Immersion and regular stream are fully integrated as one. The French Immersion and regular stream enrolment at St. Gertrude should not be looked at separately; they should be looked at together as they are an integrated school community.

Can clarification please be provided as to why the French Immersion students at St. Gertrude are being moved for a second time and why the wait list for French Immersion was not considered.

I look forward to your response. Thank you in advance for taking the time to review my concerns.

Regards,

[Redacted]

St. Gertrude
To Our Trustees,

I am writing in support of keeping St. Herbert Elementary School OPEN. My preferred option is option 1/Option 2.

I have had four of my children attend St. Herbert and the youngest is still there and is currently in Grade 1. I cannot say enough about how GREAT the teaches and the current Principal (Mr. Matos) are, as they are truly there to help the Children and to work with the parent to do so. I have a tremendous peace of mind knowing that my child is at St Herbert as I can be assured if anything goes wrong be it he is sick or he did something unacceptable I will hear about it from the teachers before I even go to pick him up from school and this has been a norm since my first child started school there in 2001. This relationship with the teachers & parents is so important to ensure the kids get the most out of their education and prepare them for success in the world (high school and beyond). It would be very sad to see that dedication from a school taken away from our kids.

Not only that St Herbert is the most central location of all the Catholic Elementary Schools in the area, it would make no sense to close it down.

PLEASE, keep St. Herbert OPEN.

Sincerely,
This email is in support of keeping St. Herberts School Open. My Preferred option is Option 1 /Option 2.

At this reactive point in time as enrollment has decreased due to demographics it is time to be creative, after all enrollment did not decline over night so I'm not sure why no proactive thought was put into the changing demographics earlier. But I understand that forecasts are after all Forecasts but it seems the quick and easy answer is school closings.

A Creative approach is to add value to the School or Neighborhood, example some kind of extended French program be added to the school, I am aware of 5-6 six Grade 4 and grade 5 students that live near St. Herberts that have left and started at St. Rose di Lima this year, which is unfortunate. One of the students at such a young age has an amazing singing voice, I'm sure she should have been in future St. Herberts plays. Another idea is to expand the Day care option at the school, it was a struggle to find someone to look after our little one so we can continue to work in the area, and I'm sure people would welcome increased facilities in the area. Add some sort of Creative Arts Program or Computer Science program for young students, get them pointed in the right direction at a young age, be the first to offer these, BE INOVATIVE, BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

Also I've have heard a lot of advertising of French Catholic schools. Advertise the benefits of attending a Catholic school and the benefits of a Catholic Education.

Here is the perfect example of the Bruce-Grey Catholic School Board promoting their Benefits, Well done on their part. There are many other examples that come up when you google the benefits of a Catholic Education, but I didn't see a Dufferin Peel Catholic Boards Mission Statement of Benefits come up on a google search. I highlighted a few of their points

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**BRUCE-GREY CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

Benefits of Catholic Education

Committed to a vibrant Catholic education, we ensure quality learning experiences through community partnerships that nurture each student in body, mind and spirit and
embrace the teachings of Christ, giving witness to Gospel values.

The Catholic education system is dedicated to instilling values in our students within a safe, caring and supportive environment. Catholic schools provide students with an opportunity to express their faith.

**Ontario Catholic School Graduates are Expected to be:**

- **Discerning believers** formed in the Catholic Faith community who celebrate the signs and sacred mystery of God’s presence through word, sacrament, prayer, forgiveness, reflection and moral living.
- **Effective communicators** who speak, write and listen honestly and sensitively, responding critically in light of Gospel values.
- **Reflective, creative and holistic thinkers** who solve problems and make responsible decisions with an informed moral conscience for the common good.
- **Self-directed, responsible, lifelong learners** who develop and demonstrate their God-given potential.
- **Collaborative contributors** who find meaning, dignity and vocation in work which respects the rights of all and contributes to the common good.
- **Caring family members** who attend to family, school, parish, and the wider community.
- **Responsible citizens** who give witness to Catholic social teaching by promoting peace, justice and the sacredness of human life.

**Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board**

regards
Please Save My School

Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 10:27 AM
To: PAR - Info
Cc: Thomas, Thomas; chelme@eol.ca; shelley bonello [shellrob72@hotmail.com]

Dear Board of Trustees

Hi! My name is [redacted] from St. Gertrude School and I'm going to tell you why I think my school should not close down.

First, I think my school should not close because so many students have not finished school at St. Gertrude and they want to graduate from St Gertrude.

Second, St Gertrude is our family and we are fighting for it not to close. We have so many kids that would have to move.

Third, we have made so many friendships with the kids in the French Immersion program in our school that if we split up it will be hard and we will loose so many friends because the school might close down.

Fourth, St. Gertrude is our home and all the teachers, students and staff are so used to coming to school/work at St Gertrude. It will be really hard to change and get used to a new school.

These are the reasons I think my school should not close.

Sincerely

[redacted] Grade
St Gertrude
St. Bernadette

To whom it may concern,

My daughter [REDACTED] has been attending St. Bernadette elementary school since September 2012. This is an excellent school and with a very warm and welcoming staff who always take the time to greet parents. We would be lost if this school were to close down. We have had many positive experiences with the school. My daughter has had struggles with reading and writing and the school has provided me with extensive tools to help her develop these skills. These tools have included RAZ-kids (a parent and child friendly App designed to help your child conquer different reading levels and to be rewarded with points once they successfully complete the levels). The school has also started a program this year which is a literacy intervention program where my daughter gets one on one reading time everyday with a teacher. She loves this program very much. She actually won an award at Christmas time for moving up three reading levels. With the help of St.Bernadette we have been able to tackle this problem. Our goal for [REDACTED] this year is to have her at the reading level she should be at by the end of the year.

[REDACTED] my daughter was affected [REDACTED]. The principle suggested she see the school counsellor, and in doing so she has been able to handle the [REDACTED] with ease. She still speaks to the counsellor on a weekly basis and is doing much better.

Please take my words into consideration, when deciding what to do with St. Bernadette.

Regards

[REDACTED]
I am writing in support of keeping St. Herbert Elementary School OPEN. My preferred option is option 1/Option 2. I went to St. Herbert for 10 years, my brother and sister both went there as well and my mother has been a teacher at the school since 2001. Please keep St. Herbert open
Save St. Gertrude and the FI program, and Option 5

February 7, 2016

Subject: Save St. Gertrude and the FI program
Dear Planning Member,

I have inquired before about the boundary of East Credit and Hurontario shown in the 2013 Long Term Accommodation Plan. St. Gertrude belongs to Hurontario from the district map of Mississauga as it is located east of Mavis. The recommendation of Hurontario service area is "overall enrollment is stable: will monitor". Other than the boundary maps, will it be possible to provide a copy of the study of the Hurontario areas as well?

I understand that FI has been part of St. Gertrude for a very long time, and it is one of the few schools having FI from Grade 1 to 8. It becomes a hub over the years and attracted families mostly in manageable driving distances as parents are responsible for transportation. If the Board decides to move this hub to St. Gregory which is at the north border of East Credit, this will create huge challenges for many families and students, especially for 30% of students and parents who are dwelling within the St. Gertrude school boundaries. Some students may have to be forced to drop the FI study and I believe this is not for the well-being of students. Secondly, by moving the FI program to ST. Gregory won’t achieve the result as this will cause the problem of overcrowding- FI will has 309 students by 2017 and the available spaces at St. Gregory is only 271 (an extra 38 or almost two classrooms in portables?). Instead, the north half of the adjacent school - St. Valentine has 250 students and perfectly fit the 271 shortfalls of St. Gertrude.

Therefore, I have proposed a modified option 2A and appreciate your consideration as I have seen this is been listed in your action to review. If crossing Eglinton be a problem for the south-east quadrant of St. Valentine students, the students can be accommodated in St. Gertrude by travelling eastward crossing Mavis.

By maintaining the FI at St. Gertrude and enlarging the FI enrollment, this will provide more chances for students who are unfortunately have to be put in the waiting list, and meet the demand of the more and more popular FI program. As shown in attached table below, St. Gertrude has very low cost per students and per square foot as showing in the table below and is sustainable over a long term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Our Lady of Good Voyage</th>
<th>St. Bernadette</th>
<th>St. Dunstan</th>
<th>St. Gertrude</th>
<th>St. Gregory</th>
<th>St. Herbert</th>
<th>St. Raymond</th>
<th>St. Valentine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures for School Utility &amp; Snowplowing/Salting Costs ($)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Students (Average)</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>634</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Total Annually</td>
<td>$91,708</td>
<td>$94,702</td>
<td>$81,321</td>
<td>$99,008</td>
<td>$112,845</td>
<td>$125,574</td>
<td>$109,011</td>
<td>$117,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost per students</td>
<td>$530</td>
<td>$462</td>
<td>$232</td>
<td>$156</td>
<td>$397</td>
<td>$525</td>
<td>$353</td>
<td>$281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Renewal Needs ($)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Area (sq.m.)</td>
<td>4249</td>
<td>5388</td>
<td>4288</td>
<td>6457</td>
<td>5214</td>
<td>5614</td>
<td>5062</td>
<td>5041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Outstanding Renewal Needs</td>
<td>$3,087,760</td>
<td>$1,856,400</td>
<td>$1,786,720</td>
<td>$1,487,886</td>
<td>$1,317,680</td>
<td>$556,400</td>
<td>$866,320</td>
<td>$885,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost per students</td>
<td>$17,848</td>
<td>$9,056</td>
<td>$5,090</td>
<td>$2,347</td>
<td>$4,640</td>
<td>$2,328</td>
<td>$2,804</td>
<td>$2,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost per square meter</td>
<td>$727</td>
<td>$345</td>
<td>$417</td>
<td>$230</td>
<td>$253</td>
<td>$99</td>
<td>$171</td>
<td>$176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Facility Condition Index (FCI)</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Cost to Transport Students to School ($)</td>
<td>$13,608</td>
<td>$11,307</td>
<td>$63,956</td>
<td>$16,329</td>
<td>$16,329</td>
<td>$13,568</td>
<td>$16,329</td>
<td>$16,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost per students</td>
<td>$79</td>
<td>$55</td>
<td>$182</td>
<td>$46</td>
<td>$57</td>
<td>$57</td>
<td>$53</td>
<td>$39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Over the last few weeks, there are strong voices from three schools - St. Dunstan, St. Gertrude and St. Gregory, and both St. Gertrude and St. Gregory made the news. Both St. Dunstan and St. Gertrude have outstanding academic performance. The teachers of these schools may have used the same method and teaching materials, the facilities are not better off, the students are not more talented, but
one of the major differences comes from the parents. The parents care more about their kids’ education; they are willing to pay much higher mortgages to move to the boundary within good schools; they spend more time to be with their kids for the homework and other out curricular activities; they are truly better “role models” of the students at home who help the kids academically outstanding. With that regards, I give a thumb up to Option 4 coming out from parents of St. Dunstan.

In my story, I moved from Brampton a below average school boundary to Mississauga St. Gertrude school boundary and almost doubled the mortgage. I didn’t regret my decision as I can see the better academic and wellbeing of my two daughters, but until now have to facing the uncertainties. But I trust that after gathering all inputs and opinions, the Staff and Board will make the right recommendations and judgement. The decision may not have the best cost savings but should focus on the primary goals of achieving students’ wellbeing-academically and physically, and have the least social impacts.

To better utilize the vacant spaces, Option 5 shown in the attached excel file can also be considered – Close OLGV, St. Herbert and St. Valentine. It is one of the combinations listed in St. Dunstan’s proposal, but the school boundaries are further split. The excel file also contains several other tabs which listed other options that have been discussed before. The revised school boundary of Option 5 and also Option 2A are also attached with this email as well.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Regards,

On Sun, Jan 24, 2016 at 9:41 PM, rote:

Currently, there are 279 students from 39 school boundaries attending FI program at St. Gertrude. If relocating the FI to St. Gregory, the majority of students (about 172 or 62%) will have to take a longer route than they used to be (see the table below and attached analysis). As we all know that the FI program doesn’t allow for school buses, some students may have to be forced to drop the FI program especially for parents with more than two children attending different programs. The stress to cope with longer commute or to drop the FI program doesn’t serve the well-being of students.

Of all the 279 FI students attending the FI program at St. Gertrude, 81 students (or 29%) are within the St. Gertrude school boundary and only 9 students (3%) are from the St. Gregory school boundary.

The FI program is carried out 90% in grade one, 70% in grade 2 and 3, and drops to 50% from grade 4 to 8 while the regular courses gradually increase. Over years, regular courses and FI are well integrated at St. Gertrude, thanks to both French and English teachers, and no doubt the operations will be disrupted if the FI program is physically separated out.

Instead of relocating the FI program, the School Board should consider add more FI classes at St. Gertrude to improve the utilization rate. FI program is becoming more and more popular as a result of high demands from the society. However, many students are currently kept out of the FI program or put in the waiting list as they not lucky to pass the computer generated random central lottery system.

Furthermore, many non-catholic families are considering either the FI or regular program at St. Gertrude. For some reason, the secondary schools allow for the enrollment of non-catholic students but elementary schools do not. Perhaps it is the timing now to lobby for an amendment to the current Education Act to allow for enrolling a proportion of non-catholic students, which will keep up the utilization rate and secondly to welcome kids and parents to get familiar with the Catholic faith and become part of the Catholic families.

After all, the building facilities of both St. Gertrude and St. Gregory schools are about the same age with similar facility condition index and renewal costs. Please consider keep the FI open at St. Gertrude for the wellbeing of the majority of students.

Feeder school analysis for all French Immersion students currently attending St. Gertrude

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FI students at St. Gertrude</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>GR01</th>
<th>GR02</th>
<th>GR03</th>
<th>GR04</th>
<th>GR05</th>
<th>GR06</th>
<th>GR07</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FI students from St Gertrude school boundary</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FI students from St. Gregory school boundary</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FI students from East Credit territory</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total FI students attending at St. Gertrude</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students impacted (longer route) if FI to be relocated to St. Gregory</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
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<td>-----------------------------</td>
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<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of St. Gertrude/East Credit</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of St. Gregory/East Credit</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of impacted students/Total FI students</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regards,
## Option 5: Close Our Lady of Good Voyage, St. Herbert and St. Valentine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Bernadette</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E St. Herbert</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South St Valentine</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Bernadette</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Utilization</strong></td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTG-actual</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| St. Dunstan | 484      | 312      | 316      | 331      | 350      | 346      | 358      | 365      | 373      | 370      | 373      |
| St. Gregory  | 556      | 323      | 309      | 285      | 283      | 277      | 270      | 266      | 271      | 275      | 280      |
| North St Valentine | 243  | 250      | 250      | 258      | 268      | 269      | 276      | 277      | 285      | 293      | 290      |
| St. Gertrude | 752      | 367      | 361      | 347      | 336      | 334      | 326      | 312      | 314      | 315      | 322      |
| St. Gertrude | 646      | 670      | 696      | 639      | 638      | 629      | 613      | 616      | 617      | 624      | 624      |
| **Utilization** | 96%      | 95%      | 98%      | 100%     | 99%      | 102%     | 103%     | 106%     | 105%     | 106%     | 105%     |

|          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| St. Gertrude | 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      |
| 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      |

|          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| Over utilization | 145  | 206      | 251      | 290      | 321      | 348      | 385      | 400      | 398      | 391      | 385      |
| Balance total     | 154      | 229      | 284      | 306      | 336      | 357      | 384      | 381      | 369      | 347      | 346      |

### Total

|          | 2930     | 2776     | 2701     | 2646     | 2594     | 2573     | 2546     | 2549     | 2561     | 2583     | 2584     | 2584     |
| Surplus Spaces     | 284      | 306      | 336      | 357      | 384      | 381      | 369      | 347      | 346      |          |          |
| **Existing Utilization** | 63%      | 61%      | 60%      | 59%      | 59%      | 58%      | 58%      | 59%      | 59%      | 59%      | 59%      |
| Proposed Utilization | 90%      | 89%      | 88%      | 87%      | 87%      | 88%      | 88%      | 88%      | 88%      | 88%      | 88%      |
| **Increased Utilization** | 30%      | 29%      | 29%      | 29%      | 29%      | 29%      | 29%      | 29%      | 29%      | 29%      | 29%      |

**Existing Spaces** 4394

**Eliminated spaces** 1464

Note: St. Dunstan and St. Gregory will become overcrowded in the last 3 to 5 years as the overall utilization rate increases.
PAR review

Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:10 AM
To: PAR - Info

ARC members,

On behalf of the St. Dunstan community, I would like to offer an apology to the St. Herbert, St. Bernadette and any of the other communities involved in this PAR review for any offense they may have taken to past communications regarding our comparison of EQAO scores.

We in no way meant to suggest that our children are in anyway smarter than those attending other schools. In fact, just the opposite. Our position is that all children are unique and ALL have the capability to learn and succeed academically in the right environment.

Identifying the factors that lead to high academic achievement is complex but is an important part of this PAR review. Studies have shown that high academic achievement is less about the students themselves and more about the overall learning environment; including the physical space, administration, teacher engagement, systems and processes.

We view EQAO scores as a proxy indication of a successful learning environment that has been created at St. Dunstan and we believe that environment is worth protecting for the benefit of all the children in the East Credit area.

We are not just the parents of the St. Dunstan community; we are parents of the East Credit community and as Catholic families we love and care for all our neighbors and children within this community. We don’t want the best for our children at the expense of others. Rather, we want the outcome of this process to provide the best education for all the children of East Credit.

Sincerely,
ARC Committee,

I'm writing to express my deep concern with the survey that was conducted as part of this PAR process. In short, I believe that this survey explicitly discriminated against the St. Dunstan community and the response from the board was inadequate to address the concerns of the parents. The results of this survey will be irreparably tainted and will not include the views of many parents from St. Dunstan.

First, the question asking parents to vote on a preferred option (based on the 3 staff options) specifically discriminates against St. Dunstan parents as their school is the ONLY school that appears in all 3 options. The fourth option of "no preference" implies that parents don't care which of the three options is selected. The board knows this was the interpretation of many St. Dunstan parents given the numerous emails sent to the PAR address.

Second, the response from the board was grossly inadequate and did not directly address the core issue raised by St. Dunstan parents. The addition of text to direct parents to add comments did not change the wording of the "no preference" option which was the core issue raised by parents. The board's unwillingness to properly address this concern, combined with the naming of St. Dunstan in all options leaves many parents of our community asking why the board has singled us out as a target?

Third, we know from our contact group of nearly 100 active St. Dunstan parents that many (myself included) did not fill out the survey because of these issues, even after the board added the additional text. Thus, we know that this survey will in no way capture the voice of the St. Dunstan community in any meaningful way.

By continuing to use this survey and ignoring the concerns of the St. Dunstan community, the board is sending a very disconcerting message to these parents and are feeding a sentiment of exclusion and discrimination.

It's easy for the board to say that discrimination/exclusion of St. Dunstan was not intended, and I do sincerely hope that is true, but the actions of the board on this particular issue do not support this position.

Sincerely,
Hello

I attended the ARC meeting on February 3, 2016 and listened to the presentation made by the Finance Department which explained the main rationale for potentially closing schools was the under utilization of schools in the East Credit area. I am now unclear as to why St. Gertrude is an option for potential school closure as St Gertrude has 86% utilization as per the Initial Staff Report to the Board dd 24 Nov 2015. Additionally, the school utilization over the next 10 years is projected to remain very high. Closing schools with below 50% utilization seems a logical choice if a school's utilization is not projected to increase in the next 10 years.

The French Immersion (FI) program at St. Gertrude is one of choice and it also impacts the numbers in the English stream due to families wanting to keep siblings in the same school. Therefore, families with a child in the French stream will move siblings from their home school to the English stream at St. Gertrude to facilitate easy transportation of all children. Based on the ARC Requested Information from WGM #1, there were 15 children waiting on a space at St. Gertrude although spaces were still available at nearby St. Pio. If the program continues St. Gertrude student numbers would only increase as seen by the clear demand for spaces at St. Gertrude.

Regards

WG6-136
St. Gertrude Closure Option

Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 5:52 PM
To: Pascucci, Mario; Di Cosola, Frank; Thomas, Thomas; Da Silva, Anna; O'Toole, Esther; Iannicca, Bruno; del Rosario, Luz; Abbruscato, Anna; Hobin, Sharon; Xaviour, Shawn; D'Souza, Darryl; PAR - Info
Cc: shellrob72@hotmail.com; chelme@eol.ca

Dear Trustee,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Grade [REDACTED] French Immersion student at St. Gertrude Catholic Elementary School. I writing to you today about why you should not close my school.

My first reason is that crossing Mavis is very dangerous. Do you think sending over 100 students to cross Mavis at rush hour is safe? No! It is not safe. Is the loss of even one life worth the closure of the school? Additionally, the busing costs for JK to Grade 5 are huge and go on every year, forever. Today we just walk to school and it is safe.

About splitting the school, it would separate friendships. It isn’t like FI kids only have friends in FI, they have other friends too! For the students in the St. Gertrude area, they would not be bused and may have to give up the FI program. Is this fair? This does not include the family’s daycare arrangements, student’s activities and more.

In the next ten years the forecast is that St. Gertrude student levels won’t change that much and it is already 86%, so why close it? And if you do, you are moving students into portables at St. Valentine and St. Gregory which increases student anxiety and increases costs. Costs that could be used on things like new textbooks and science equipment.

In summary, keeping St. Gertrude open keeps friendships together, keeps people safe on their way to school and can provide money for new school supplies. I ask that you keep St. Gertrude open!

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]
St. Gertrude Student
Sorry correction, I would like to know the renewal needs and renovations since 1999.

Thank you,

OLGV Parent

Good evening,

Can you please let me know how much money each school has received for building maintenance (renewal needs) in the last 10 years.

Thank you,

OLGV Parent
To Our Trustees

This email is in support of keeping St. Herbert Open. My preferred option is Option 1.

The reason for my preference is first for selfish reasons of course. My child would stay in the school that she has known for many years and my child does not deal very well with change. She is already worrying about where she will go if the school closes and I really don’t know what to tell her except not to worry.

The school is in close proximity and my child and her cousins can walk to school which is great and other school they will have to be bussed. When I was younger, it was always a joy to walk to school with your friends and meet others on the way.

Another reason is the age of the school the ones that are slated to close are older and maintenance will be more costly. St. Herbert still has many students attending from the area and will require many more busses to send them to other schools which is a further expense.

St. Herbert has been upgraded with Smart Boards for the present and future education of students attending this school.

Please keep St. Herbert alive. This is a school that I saw being built from the ground up and my oldest attended right from Day 1. She’s in the school picture that is housed in the atrium and would be nice to see my youngest graduate from there also.

Thank you
To Our Trustees,

This e-mail is in support of keeping St. Herbert Open. My preferred option is Option 1. My children are the students in St. Herbert. They really enjoy the school every day - they have a good connection with the classmates and teachers. The school is big and is located in quiet and friendly neighbourhood. Please make a smart decision!

Member of the St. Herbert Community
Hello PAR Committee,

I am a parent of a junior student at St.Gregory Elementary School, and I am sending you this note asking that you do not close this school.

My explanation is as follows:

1. St.Gregory is the only Catholic school north of Britannia Road and south of Hwy.401 under review for the East Credit area of Mississauga. As such, I hope that you are considering in your demographic studies how many Catholic families would make the switch to Britannia Public School (currently and in the future), and so too remove their taxes from the Catholic Board--causing further losses to the dpcdsb. If you have not already considered the ripple effect financial calculations of parents switching to a public school, you should since it would give St.Gregory is a greater financial value.

More detail: My family is Catholic, however I have been educated in a public elementary and a public high school while my husband was educated in Catholic schools. (Aside, I attended religion classes taught by a priest after Sunday masses as a child). As such, years ago my husband and I debated which school to enrol our child. We would not have enrolled our child in St.Gregory if it were not for its presence close to our home, providing convenience, ability to walk to school, and most importantly safety of travel. I do not trust the safety of drivers/students crossing Britannia Road to attend another farther distance Catholic school if St.Gregory was to close.

2. As well, with closure of St.Gregory (especially due to its sole Catholic presence in the north area of Mississauga under review) please consider that you may cause the Catholic population to only worsen more quickly in this area of Mississauga. Fewer, Catholic families would want to buy homes in this area if there is no school. Then leading to the ripple effect of requiring more PARs for closing still more Catholic schools in many other areas of Mississauga and so too causing a greater loss to the dpcdsb in the long run. Again, explaining why St.Gregory is of greater financial value, and it should not be closed.

3. Also, if St.Gregory were chosen to close, unsafe travels would be required to attend a farther distance Catholic school (such as crossing at Britannia Road). Many parents could sue the dpcdsb in the event of a serious injury. This could cost the dpcdsb hundreds of thousands, and even millions, of dollars more than the dpcdsb intends to save with closure of St.Gregory. Are you willing to take this risk?

I understand that the Minister of Education has asked dpcdsb to improve the budget, and you must close some schools in the East Credit area of Mississauga due to the current population decline.

I have sent you my comments requesting you to please maintain your valuable investment in St.Gregory Elementary School. Please make a wise decision and keep St.Gregory open.

Sent from my iPad
Hello PAR Committee,

I am a parent of a junior student at St.Gregory Elementary School, and I am sending you this note asking that you do not close this school.

My explanation for St.Gregory is as follows:

1. I support St.Gregory School. I am proud of the staff at St. Gregory, working very well at educating the students, as proven with EQAO results. I am proud of the low level of bullying and the religious values taught at St.Gregory. I am also proud of the school being well maintained both indoor and outdoor, and I am proud of the school environmental caring. I believe that my positive comments for St.Gregory are held by many parents and students attending this school. The closure of St.Gregory would cause the Mississauga community residents to suffer a great loss both financially and emotionally. As such, please do not close St.Gregory since it is worth more than your financial calculations to the local Mississauga residents.

2. I also would like to comment that St.Gregory is the only school north of Britannia Road and south of Hwy.401 under review, providing a sole Catholic presence in this area. Its closure would cause a decline in the property value of residential homes in this area, due to a resulting non valuable/non Catholic empty landscape. I have read previous meeting notes, and I believe that the dpcdsb is not considering residential property values to even influence their decision (am I correct?). My question then is, why not? I know that my family would personally be at a loss with the closure of St.Gregory, as other Catholic families would. If you do factor in residential property values, it would prove a greater financial property value to St.Gregory, than your initial calculations show (especially due to its sole Catholic presence), and supports that it should not be closed.

3. St.Gregory, built in 1998, is not an old school, and I ask that the dpcdsb maintains this valuable school investment. St.Gregory has new air conditioning that parents too have helped to pay for, and has a growing amount of computers/technology to educate the students. Also, St.Gregory is able to accommodate more students from other East Credit Mississauga Catholic schools. As well, please consider extending the boundary limits of St.Gregory (beyond the East Credit area of Mississauga) so that still more students can be received. As such, in the long run, I believe that it would benefit the dpcdsb to keep this valuable school investment rather than a closure.

4. As well, I walk to St.Gregory to volunteer, and if it were to close, I would not be able to walk, or drive, to volunteer at a farther distance Catholic school. The loss of my assistance and also other volunteers (due to the inconvenience to travel to a farther school) should also be considered to provide a greater value to St.Gregory that should not be closed.

I understand that the Minister of Education has asked dpcdsb to improve the budget, and you must close some schools in the East Credit area of Mississauga due to the current population decline. Please maintain your valuable investment in St.Gregory Elementary School. Please make a wise decision and keep St.Gregory open.

Sent from my iPad