Chair: David Amaral, Superintendent, Mississauga South

ARC Members: Leslie Aziz, Our Lady of Good Voyage  Jennifer Greenman, St. Gregory
Terri Lavery, Our Lady of Good Voyage  Erin Ljubanovic, St. Gregory
Ewelina Kostuch, St. Bernadette  Natasha De Menna, St. Herbert
Sandra Pozzobon, St. Bernadette  Cara Szczepanik, St. Raymond
Julia Belmonte, St. Dunstan  James Zammit, St. Raymond
Shelley Bonello, St. Gertrude  Karen Canlas, St. Valentine
Chris Helme, St. Gertrude  Zarah von Schober, St. Valentine

Principals: Colleen Klein, Our Lady of Good Voyage  Janine Krolewicz, St. Gregory
Maria Parker, St. Bernadette  Walter Matos, St. Herbert
Linus O’Neill, St. Dunstan  Brenda LeClair, St. Valentine
Tina De Vellis-Carino, St. Gertrude

Resource Staff: Daniel Del Bianco, Superintendent, Planning & Operations
Stephanie Cox, Manager, Planning Department
Joanne Rogers, Senior Planner, Planning Department
Krystina Koops, Planner, Planning Department
Bruce Campbell, General Manager, Communications & Community Relations
Kathy Russell-Kwan, Researcher, Program Department
Lucy Papaloni, Superintendent, Mississauga Brampton Central

Recorder: Pat Pierre, Administrative Assistant, Planning & Operations

Regrets: Bidemi Olawale, St. Herbert
Ian Moore, St. Dunstan
David Clifford, Principal, St. Raymond

Call to Order:

D. Amaral, Chair of the East Credit ARC Working Group Committee, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

1. **Prayer**

   The Chair led the group in prayer.

2. **Approval of Agenda for ARC Working Group Meeting #8**

   Approval of the agenda was moved by: S. Bonello, seconded by: E. Ljubanovic.

   CARRIED

3. **Approval of March 9, 2016 Meeting Minutes from ARC Working Group Meeting #7**

   Amendments to the March 9th minutes were requested as follows:
   
   Page 10 - Other Business – ARC member indicated they requested the accident data from the City of Mississauga; they did not pay for that report.
   
   Page 3 - ARC member indicated that signage at St. Bernadette is completely braille, so that would need to be provided at new school; not moving with student.
   
   Page 2 – 3rd bullet re renewal costs should be St. Bernadette vs St. Herbert; not St. Valentine.
Page 2 – Capital Investment cost – OLGV community feels strongly about capital cost, but it should not be a deciding factor because all schools, even newer ones will eventually get to an age where they will have high capital costs.

Page 2 – 10-year Government T-Bill question, add the response from staff that is not how schools are funded.

Approval of the March 9, 2016 meeting minutes as amended was moved by: E. Kostuch, seconded by: K. Canlas. CARRIED

4. Public Open House #2 Survey Results – K. Russell-Kwan

Research Russell-Kwan discussed the Open House #2 survey results through a presentation.

Questions/Comments from ARC members:
ARC member asked for a copy of presentation. Staff will post the presentation on the board website.
ARC member asked for clarification on survey question re keeping schools central to the catchment area, whether this referred to boundary area or the area as a whole? Staff indicated that the question referred to the rationale discussed at the last meeting, which is keeping schools central to the review area.

The Chair thanked researcher Russell-Kwan for all her work and presentation tonight.

5. St. Raymond Presentation – J. Zammit

James Zammit, ARC member presented on behalf of St. Raymond.

Questions/Comments from ARC members:
• 800+ students in 2001, as indicated in presentation. Were there more students per classroom? Manager Cox indicated that the ratios for students/teachers were different then, in addition, kindergarten program was half day, therefore twice as many students in classroom (am class and pm class). Chair added that there have been open concept classrooms in the past, but it is not typically our practice.
• Reference to “keep students together” applies to elementary students only; secondary students can go anywhere, does not feel response is accurate. Chair added they would have to apply through flex boundary process.
• Presence of Catholic communities alludes to 2 schools closing. In terms of our PAR process, different boundaries were presented by each ARC community and each had a different perspective.
• St. Raymond indicated that a fully air conditioned building can promote health & safety benefits. An ARC member questioned what are ‘health & safety benefits’?
  o St. Raymond discussed that ‘respiratory diseases or respiratory conditions’ can be decreased by air conditioning. This is inaccurate.
  o ARC member corrected that research studies must be presented to validate this, as it was alluded that schools with NO air conditioning increases respiratory diseases / conditions. It was discussed that it is really the condition of the HVAC system, age, and ongoing maintenance of this which can relate to respiratory conditions.
  o The point acknowledged through the presentation is that fully air conditioned schools help to promote a better learning environment as the environment is more comfortable.
• Presentation did not indicate there would be issues with traffic at drop off times in the area, which is inaccurate
• The intent that aging schools would be closed is inaccurate
• ARC member congratulated James for a very positive presentation. Chair thanked James for his presentation as well.
6. **Follow-up Items – Resource Staff**

i) **Vehicle Collision and Traffic Ticket Data** – provided through St. Bernadette ARC members

Staff looked at school hours re St. Bernadette and St. Herbert; data from 15 minutes before school/after school shows 1 accident during those times in a 5 year period. The number of tickets during the before/after school times could not be determined as times the tickets were issued was not identified. Let the record reflect that accident which occurred at Eglinton/White Clover way is midway between St. Bernadette and St. Herbert and students would not be near that intersection.

ARC member asked if staff looked at lunchtimes when Grade 8s leave the premises. Manager Cox indicated that this was not considered as staff was not asked to analyze the data. Committee members are welcome to look into that data further.

ii) **Additional Transportation Information**

Students residing north of Eglinton Avenue in the St Sebastian catchment area are required to walk across Eglinton Avenue subject to the Board’s transportation eligibility criteria. Transportation department has advised that students do not walk across Mavis Road, Creditview Road or Britannia Road. **CORRECTION:** Transportation has advised that grade 7 and 8 students that attend Our Lady of Good Voyage do cross Britannia Road.

100% of students south of Eglinton Avenue in the St Dunstan catchment area are eligible for bussing based on an assessment by City of Mississauga Traffic Safety Council deeming the intersection of Creditview Road and Eglinton Avenue unacceptable for pedestrian student crossing.

ARC member asked if St. Bernadette or St. Herbert were to close, would all the students get bussed across Eglinton Avenue. Staff indicated that an assessment would have to be done to see if all or a portion of students will be bussed; not all students would be crossing at the intersection of Eglinton and Creditview.

ARC member stated that safety is one of the top two criteria, why can’t Mississauga Traffic Safety Council assess ahead of the decision being made to close schools. Staff responded safety cannot be assessed when there are no existing conditions of students crossing roads. ARC member added that there is a year of transition to ensure that safety of students to and from school are determined.

iii) **Delegation Night Format**

Superintendent Del Bianco explained that seating will be reserved for ARC members. The first 8 time slots will be reserved for ARC members to delegate the board. ARC members are still required to register their delegation.

- Delegation night scheduled for May 9 (May 10, if required)
- 24 delegations per night
- 5 minutes allowed for delegation presentation
- 5 minutes for questions from the Trustees to the delegate
- Written correspondence can be submitted as a delegation, in lieu of a presentation

General Manager, Campbell provided further information re Delegation Night:

- As per Board policy, delegation requests for the May 9 meeting must be received five days prior to the meeting, which will be May 2. Registration must include a brief outline of the intended subject of discussion and an electronic copy of the actual presentation.
• If PowerPoint or other AV media used, bring on USB key on the night of the meeting. MP4 video format is preferred. Cautioned that if imbedded AV does not work, the presenter should be prepared to present verbally.
• Suggest if PPT includes imbedded audio or video, also copy the audio or video separately on the USB key as backup.
• Must bring 14 copies of any handouts and a copy of the speech/presentation on the night of the meeting.
• First 8 time slots will be reserved for ARC member delegations. The order of these 8 delegations will be drawn from a hat and delegations from the general public will be time stamped. Board reporter will assign them a date and time
• Copies of presentations will be allowed to be made at your school (School Council business)
• Delegate should be present that evening to answer questions from Trustees
• Bylaw states that the same individual cannot delegate twice in 1 month
• Begin presentation with: Good evening, ladies & gentlemen, through the Chair, then timeclock counts down your 5 minutes.
• Suggest having a friend or family member be present to translate communications if required.
• A Bulletin will be distributed to parents during the week of April 18 to advise of Next Steps and information regarding the delegation process; Delegation evening will be advertised in the local newspaper.
• The Interim Staff Report will be available on the Board's website on April 22, 2016.

iv) Addendum to St. Gertrude Presentation
Terri Lavery, ARC member, handed out an information sheet regarding the presentation made on March 9 by St. Gertrude community that singled out Our Lady of Good Voyage on one slide. She took the calculations done by St. Gertrude and applied them to all schools. She did not indicate any endorsement of the calculations or support that they should be a decision making factor, only that they be presented in a similar fashion. She will email the presentation with this slide added to the trustees.

ARC member said that data has not been verified by staff. Chair responded that this distinction was never made for any of the other presentations. Staff clarified that all information presented will be given to trustees as part of their package. Trustees will ask staff for clarification, if they have questions. PAR Info Mailbox is now closed, so any further correspondence to will be by private email to Trustees, not shared with the public. Chair added that staff have been a resource to the ARC; once delegations are served, staff will be a resource to trustees.

7. Next Steps
   • Interim Staff Report – April 26
     Manager Cox outlined to the ARC the requirements for the Interim Staff Report as written in the Board’s Policy and Procedures on Pupil Accommodation Reviews.
     The report will identify the 5 ARC options as well as the original 3 staff options. Staff will also present a final option for Board consideration which could be one of the 5 ARC options, one of the original 3 or a new option. The original 3 staff options did not take into account community concerns. Staff will consider all rationale and board’s interest a when making final recommendation. Recommendation will be for receipt by trustees only; trustees will not be voting on any of the options on April 26.
     - The Interim Staff Report will available on the Board's website on Friday, April 22; a week and a half before the May 9 delegation night
     -As per the Board Policy, the report must be available to the public 10 days before the public delegation night
- Public is welcome to attend all board meetings; valuable for ARC members to attend to guide their community for delegations

- Delegation Night – May 9 (& May 10 if required)
  Community has opportunity to voice opinion and concerns on their own behalf or behalf of the community.

- Final Staff Report – May 24
  Staff present final recommendation for action; Trustees to vote on staff recommendation.
  Discussion will take place regarding the final staff report.
  - structure of final report will be standardized and user friendly to trustees
  - staff will not be adding items to community presentations brought forward
  - trustees could vote down staff recommendation and put forward a motion to consider an alternative option

Chair suggested an extended break to review additional correspondence.

8. **BREAK**
The Chair called the break at 8:10 p.m. to reconvene at 8:30 p.m.

9. **Correspondence Items (WG8-241-WG8-353)**
Chair asked for a motion to go through each piece of correspondence individually as we have in the past and comment on specific ones. ARC member asked if certain items of correspondence could be refused receipt due to their content. Chair indicated that we cannot remove offensive correspondence; all correspondence must be received.
Moved by K. Canlas, seconded by J. Belmonte.

  **CARRIED**

The ARC Members moved receipt on the first part of correspondence items for review at this meeting (WG8-241-WG8-290). Moved by S. Bonello and seconded by C. Szczepanik.

  **CARRIED**

No comments or discussion took place on the following pieces of correspondence:

WG8-244 - St. Herbert
ARC member commented that the words "safer neighbourhood" compared to other school neighbourhoods are subjective.

WG8-247 - St. Herbert
Same comment as WG8-244

WG8-249 - St. Herbert
Same comment as WG8-244
WG8-250 - St. Herbert
ARC member indicated that WG8-250, 264, 265, 266, 281, 286 and 287 all commented on St. Dunstan regarding bullying, their signs and felt St. Herbert community portrayed an inaccurate picture and suggests pitting one community against another. All along St. Dunstan has supported keeping school communities together and the well-being of all children.

N. De Menna, ARC member, apologized on behalf of the St. Herbert community.

ARC member asked if a motion could be made regarding some of the offensive emails from school communities. Chair provided some suggestions with a potential motion:

The ARC identifies that throughout the process, items of correspondence have been received that make offensive and disparaging remarks regarding communities which do not reflect the spirit of collaboration, collegiality, compassion and empathy that are paramount to the ARC’s mandate and philosophy.

Moved by N. De Menna and seconded by J. Belmonte.  

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WG8-253 - St. Herbert
ARC member clarified “homeless” scores referred to scores of people.

WG8-255 - St. Herbert (N. De Menna)
Further Transportation Dept. information requested was provided earlier in the meeting under ARC Requested Information.

WG8-260 – St. Gertrude
Standardized wording for signage was sent to all schools involved in the PAR, for their use.

WG8-261 - St. Herbert
Body of email in subject line; redaction is that of sender's privacy disclaimer.

WG8-264 - St. Herbert
Same comment as WG8-250

WG8-265 - St. Herbert
Same comment as WG8-250

WG8-266 – St. Dunstan/St. Gertrude
Same comment as WG8-250
ARC member commented on t-shirt statement from twitter. Comment was taken out of context. T-shirts were provided free of charge to all students as a result of a prior fundraiser, which they then asked to wear for spirit day.

WG8-267 - St. Herbert
ARC member commented that the words "safer school zone" compared to other school neighbourhoods are subjective.

WG8-270 – St. Dunstan
The St Dunstan attendance area contains 2 locations which have been assessed by City of Mississauga Traffic Safety Council and deemed unacceptable for pedestrian student use, therefore requiring that transportation be
provided. The first of these is the intersection of Eglinton Avenue and Creditview Road which is deemed unacceptable for pedestrian student crossing. Therefore, all students south of Eglinton Avenue receive transportation. The second location is a small section of sidewalk on Creditview Road near Carolyn Road which is also deemed unacceptable for student pedestrian use by Mississauga Traffic Safety Council.

**WG8 -271 and WG8-272 – St. Gertrude**

Page 2 of the minutes from March 2, ARC Working Group Meeting #6 refer to OLGV Presentation, where OLGV ARC members were asked by other ARC members which of their 2 options they preferred. OLGV ARC Members identified preference for their Option 2, reducing pupil places by 1043. Sender of this correspondence admitted that he misinterpreted the minutes, and understands that there were no options formally identified as “preferred” by the ARC.

**WG8-272 – St. Gertrude**

Same comments as WG8-271

**WG8-281 - St. Herbert**

Same comment as WG8-250

Board staff will be making a final recommendation for Trustees to vote on based on all information, community feedback, alternative options, rationale, survey results, etc.

ARC member asked if there will be an opportunity to provide feedback on the Pupil Accommodation Review process. Manager Cox indicated that our policy is based on the guidelines from the Ministry, but as more boards go through PAR there may be an opportunity for all Boards to provide feedback to the Ministry regarding the process. Superintendent Del Bianco added that a survey will be conducted for the ARC members, principals and everyone involved to determine if the process can be streamlined or improved.

**WG8-285 – OLGV**

1. Portables may be required as short term accommodation, portables are a reality in some situations. ARC member asked re question 2. Demographic of the area. Senior Planner Rogers replied that through our enrolment projections, we have been waiting for increase of 1600 students over the last 5-8 years, but it hasn’t happened. The Board will accommodate new students who move into the area.

**WG8-286 - St. Herbert**

Same comment as WG8-250

**WG8-287 - St. Herbert**

Same comment as WG8-250

ARC member added that OLGV sign advertised PAR information night for parents and was approved by the board. The sign has been removed.

**WG8-289 – St. Gertrude**

General Manager Campbell provided this follow-up statement:

*The matter brought forward by the parent has been reviewed. The director of education met with the trustee, the chair of the board and the school principal. The comment dates back to a December 2015 school council meeting prior to the initiation of the ARC, at which a parent attending the meeting posed a question to the trustee in a self-described humorous manner about the trustee’s support for the school.*
In his response to the director, the trustee indicated that he did say that the school had his support, but that they (the parents) needed to convince five additional trustees, as well.

It was also noted during the review that the parent who asked the question about support indicated that he posed the question in a humorous manner and that he felt that the trustee was either unprepared to respond or perhaps was making light of the situation. The parent further indicated that he did not believe that the trustee actually had anyone “in his pocket.”

(Please note that the ARC members requested the ensuing discussion regarding WG8-289 be reflected in the minutes verbatim.)

ARC member, St Valentine – This comment was very offensive, General Manager Campbell is a third source and would like response to come from Trustee Thomas himself publicly to all the parents here or I’d ask him to recuse himself from the board. I know you said it was December, but the parent who wrote the correspondence did not say that. He said his school has Mr. Thomas’ support, plus 5 others. Would like Mr. Thomas publicly to clarify and not to vote.

ARC Member, St Gregory – As a Catholic, this is against everything we’re teaching our children to do, which is honesty and integrity. Granted, this could be completely hearsay and taken out of context. Speaking for St. Gregory – political transparency is required by Mr. Thomas in this process. At the end of the day, it is politics.

After all the months of work on this ARC, it comes down to 11 people deciding our fate. When there is a question of this magnitude raised of one of the 11 trustees, it is concerning.

ARC Member – St Gertrude– I was at this school council meeting and over a 100 parents attended. Mr. Thomas is a genuinely sweet man and he means the best for everybody; he literally got bombarded. He was there observing and the parents were yelling at him and being aggressive towards him. It was a joke when this parent said “who do you have in your pocket”. This parent is very aggressive and very humorous and it was taken out of context. I was witness to this along with 100 other parents.

ARC Member, St Gregory – added Mr. Thomas might have a relative on the board of trustees which is a concern and brings to light the ideology that he does have a “person in his pocket”.

ARC Member, OLGV - St Valentine agrees that Trustee Thomas should be recused from this process, because no matter what the results are, there is a whole veil of uncertainty.

ARC Member, St Dunstan – Every trustee probably has a conflict with someone, has a relative or lives in a community. Where do we stop? These are our trustees; we elect these people.

ARC Member, St Gregory – how do we deal with this?

Chair – This is a matter that is going to require more consideration and deliberation from staff. Our director will review this. It’s the Chair of the Board and the trustees that receive the information from the ARC and we’ve heard from certain individuals that ARC members have concerns about the content and suggestion that was made. There will have to be a response in some manner. I don’t have the authority to make the decision on this. General Manager Campbell as liaison, will certainly take that information to Director Mazzorato.

The ARC Members moved receipt on the additional correspondence items for review at this meeting (WG8-291-WG8-353). Moved by J. Belmonte and seconded by C. Szczepanik.

CARRIED

No comments or discussion took place on the following pieces of correspondence:


WG8-294 – St. Gertrude
St Gertrude petition, 932 signatures

WG8-302 - OLGV
The decision will be made at the May 24 Board meeting. The decision will be posted on the Board website and a bulletin will be distributed to the community that week.

**ACTION:** ARC member asked that the first sentence in paragraph 3 be redacted, which may identify the person.

WG8-303 – St. Gertrude
The percentage reported is not based on the whole sample of 1267 respondents, but is based on the subset of everyone who said their most preferred option was Option 1.

- Total number of respondents who most preferred Option 1 = 533
- Total satisfied if their most preferred option is implemented and picked Option 1 as their most preferred = 471 (400 very satisfied + 71 somewhat satisfied)
- 471/533=0.8837 or 88.4%
- **Finance Question:** Although the Ministry’s profile shows a projected increase in our grants, this does not reflect an accurate picture of Dufferin-Peel’s funding as we continue to experience grant reductions resulting from excess capacity and enrolment decline.
- This small increase is really a net number because the Ministry had to fund the centrally negotiated labour framework. These grant decreases were expected as these are phased in grant reductions from previous years. Thus the increase in funding will not have an impact on the PAR process.

WG8-317 – General
Is land value a factor – No.

WG8-319 – St. Dunstan
ARC member indicated that St. Bernadette has childcare.

WG8-321 – St. Dunstan
**ACTION:** Student’s name needs redacting.

WG8-333 – Option 1
Preference is staff option 1 and ARC option 1, adding EF program.

WG8-334 – OLGV

WG8-347 – OLGV
**ACTION:** 3rd line down – parent’s name and email needs redacting.

WG8-353 – St. Gertrude
St Gregory petition – 562 signatures. Names won’t be posted.
10. **Other Business**
Minutes from ARC WGM#8 will be sent by email in approximately a week for approval, before staff report is sent.
May 24 Board meeting is an open meeting for the public.

Chair made a closing statement that it has been an honour to work with this committee. Thank you to the ARC members, staff and the public who have come out to support your schools.

11. **Adjournment**
The Motion to adjourn was moved by E. Kostuch and seconded by T. Lavery.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

**Distribution:**
ARC Members
ARC Resource
Hello

My kids go to St Herbert and love the school! It is a new building with outstanding facilities while other schools are more rundown with no air conditioning. St Herbert is located in a very safe area and please remember this school is surrounded by Public schools. Although you aim to ensure kids will be transferred to the same school, a lot of parents will opt for the public school right across St Herbert.

Have you considered every option to attract more students? What is the ideal number of enrolled students needed to keep St. Herbert open?

We the parents are willing to help out in anyway possible.
The school is in a safe neighborhood where education is at its best.

Pls. keep St. Herbert open.
Thank you.

Concerned Parents

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.
KEEP ST. HERBERT OPEN

Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 7:04 PM
To: PAR - Info

GREETINGS... this in response to your plan of having some schools closed..

Please keep St. Herbert School open. please save this school. It is newer than the others. can be found in a safe neighborhood and since its bigger, it can accommodate more students than other schools.

Thank you...

https://webmail.dpcdsb.org/owa/?ae=Item&t=IPM.Note&id=RgAAAACwMMW2SdJESb... 3/23/2016
Dear Sir/Madam:
I join the appeal of parents to keep St. Herbert OPEN. This school is newer than the others and is situated in a safer neighborhood. Since its bigger, it can accomodate more students than other schools. Many kids live near by St. Herbert and have come to love the school. Please listen to our prayers and keep St. HERBERT Open for the safety and practical reasons.
Thank you so much..
REGARDS,

(sent via NOTE 5)
Petition To Save St. Herbert School

Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 9:42 PM
To: PAR - Info

Good day!

It has come to our attention that some schools will be closing due to quota issues. This is such an unfortunate news to those who would be affected by this move.

I would like to petition to save St. Herbert School from closing. The school is located in a safe and convenient location and is a fairly new facility which is large enough to accommodate more students compared to other schools.

I, along with the other concerned parents in the neighborhood whom would be affected by this proposed plan, hope that you can consider our request to save and retain St. Herbert School.

We are hoping for a kind positive response with our request.

Sincerely,
GREETINGS... this in response to your plan of having some schools closed.

Please keep St. Herbert School open.. please save this school. It is newer than the others. can be found in a safe neighborhood and since its bigger, it can accommodate more students than other schools. Our prayers are for this school to be retained.

Your positive response to this request will be highly appreciated. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPhone
Hello,

I would like to petition for St. Herbert to be kept open. As compared to the other schools, St. Herbert is newer and bigger and can therefore accommodate more students. It is also in a safer neighborhood.

For your consideration.

Sincerely,
GREETINGS... this in in response to your plan of having some schools closed..

Please keep St. Herbert School open.. please save this school. It is newer than the others. can be found In a safe neighborhood and since its bigger, it can accommodate more students than other schools. Our prayers are for this school to be retained.

Thank you...
Hi,

I would like to petition or request to keep St. Herbert School open.

The school is newer than the others. It's located in a safer neighborhood and since its bigger, it can accommodate more students than other schools.

Hoping for a favorable decision.

Thank you and may God Bless you all!
Keep St Herbert open - do not be bullied by St Dunstan!!!

Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 12:07 PM
To: PAR - Info
Importance: High

Dear Trustees,

I am a concerned parent of kids who attend St Herbert school and I am writing to convey this message to you the Trustees who have the final voting power to not be influenced by St Dunstan. St Dunstan has lobbied with other schools on the proposed list and are proposing St Herbert’s closure.

- Is this an election campaign that the Trustees want us parents to run?
- Do the Trustees want us as a Catholic community to show that we are supporting bullies like St Dunstan in our community?
- St Dunstan community is only worried about one thing and one thing only – PROPERTY VALUE. Is this what the pupil accommodation review is all about?
- Posters, banners, calls to the MPP’s office every day, does the future of our kids come done to this??

St Herbert is a school that is 16 years old and one of the newer schools. This is a school that is surrounded by 3 public schools, has air conditioning, is surrounded by green space, DO YOU REALLY WANT TO CLOSE THIS BEAUTIFUL SCHOOL??

Parents from St Herbert have already approached Sherwood Mills Public School and Fallingbrook Public School for tours of their schools, to move their kids into the public school system if necessary once the discussion is made. Why would my kids from St Herbert go to St Bernadette which is a much older school and has fewer facilities? Just so the school board has Catholic presence south of Eglinton!!!

Please keep St Herbert open and keep the Catholic presence in our community alive. Please do not be BULLIED by St Dunstan!!!

Thanks for your time reading this email.

Concerned Parent.
St. Gertrude

To whom it may concern

I am a concerned parent from St. Gertrude. I am voicing my support to save our school. We have a great school community. We are united as one school with a strong French immersion program. Please keep our children's best interests as a priority when making your decision. We need our children to stay with their friends, avoiding stressful separation. We need to consider student safety in this process. This closure will impact our school family - all the teachers, staff, students and school community. Please keep St. Gertrude open.
Hello,

We moved to the St. Herbert neighbourhood in 2014. We have two children ages one and eleven. It was hard for my son to change schools, but he was welcomed with open hearts and warm friendships! One of the reasons we moved to Sherwood Mills Blvd was because of St. Herbert. I felt it was a fresh, newer beautiful school with a huge amount of green space and I wanted my children to go here. My little one will be starting JK in 2018 and I would love for him to go to St. Herbert. I love the community and the teachers and Mr. Matos is the best principal ever :) If our school closes this means my older son, [redacted] will have to change schools, yet again and on top of it in grade 8. We will be heart broken if st. Herbert closes. Please keep in mind that our school has the interior and exterior space to welcome new students. Any student who would attended St. Herbert, I know will be welcomed like my son was when we moved into this wonderful community!

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone
KEEP ST. HEBERT OPEN!

To Whom it May Concern,

ST. Herbert needs to be kept OPEN because it is not only a solid educational day centre, but also a vibrant and much needed meeting place for Multicultural groups on evenings and weekends. By closing this school, you literally make "homeless" scores of individuals well beyond the students that attend St Hebert during the week.

PLEASE PLEASE, if closures must happen, DON'T make St. Hebert one of your chosen schools to close. The loss would be devastating.

Signed a parent of a child who has learned community and religious values while attending classes in St. Hebert.

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 7:51 AM
To: PAR - Info
To the board of Trustees,

As a concerned parent, I don't want to see our school close. I believe in the Catholic school system and I want my children to go to a Catholic school, I want to make sure this school remains open!

With Sherwood Public and Fallingbrook Middle schools just a short hop and a skip away for many us, sending our children there would be our first choice versus being bussed or walking and crossing a major intersection.

Should you choose to close this school, then I and many others will be looking to transferring to the public schools come Sept 2016.

thank you.

one of many concerned parents
Clarification of previous questions for Transportation Dept.

ARC St. Herbert [keepstherbertopen@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 9:28 AM
To: PAR - Info
Cc: Rogers, Joanne

Good morning Ms. Rogers,

Further to last night's meeting, I want to clarify the question from WG8-219 which you said you were going to revisit with the Transportation Dept. They gave one example but the question asked for all of the schools where students had to cross one of the 4 streets listed. Also, there was a second part to the question which was not answered by the Transportation Dept.

Can the Transportation Dept. please identify all of the schools in DPCDSB (including schools in the PAR review and schools not in the PAR review) where students within a school's boundary are required to walk across:

i) Eglinton (if so, is it K-8 students or just grades 6-8)
ii) Britannia (if so, is it K-8 students or just grades 6-8)
iii) Mavis (if so, is it K-8 students or just grades 6-8)
iv) Creditview (if so, is it K-8 students or just grades 6-8)

The second part of the original question asks for the following:

Please provide the full details of all schools where students have to cross the above-listed streets (whether it be by bus or walking). If there are some students who cross one of these streets by bus are they bussed because they are outside of the walking web of the school (based on their grade) or are they bussed because the street speed limit is above 60 km/h or are they bussed because STOPR and Traffic Safety Council has deemed it unsafe to cross by walking? How many students do not qualify for bussing at each of the schools where they are required to cross the above-listed streets (Eglinton, Britannia, Mavis, and Creditview)?

Thank you.

Regards,

Natasha De Menna
To whom it may concern,

I am a parent of a child who goes to St. Herbert, I kindly appeal to keep St. Herbert open. I've been a resident of Mississauga for over 20 years and live 10 minutes away from the school. It is very convenient for me and my child going to school since it's a 10 minutes walking distance, having no driving experience at all. My child always love to go St. Herbert and had good memories in her school, treasure all her friends and good teachers. Thank you for your consideration.

Concerned Parent

Sent from Samsung tablet00
To: PAR@dpcdsb.org

I am a parent attended yesterday ARC meeting held on March 10, 2016.

In preparation for an objective and meaningful survey this coming Open House #2 March 30, 2016, in designing the survey choices should not be pre-tag or associated to rankings as it will easily draw respondents to default / assigned rankings rather than getting an objective opinion. It is much better to receive less but well-thought responses than many default responses without careful evaluation choices for importance and impact.

Regardless of survey outcome, in my own opinion as parent I agree that the top priority themes relate to:

1) keeping school communities together (e.g. do not separate English program and French immersion programs students apart as this is big displacement foremost to students, and as well as teachers, parents, and the general community.
2) student safety / walk-ability and crossing-traffic issues
3) no or minimize use/choice of portables
4) student well-being
5) reduce excess pupil places

I trust the above top concerns will reach careful judgment by the Board of Trustees in their decision-making.

Sincerely,

[Name]
Parent
St. Gertrude School
GREETINGS... this in response to your plan of having some schools closed.

Please keep St. Herbert School open. please save this school. It is newer than the others. can be found in a safe neighborhood and since its bigger, it can accommodate more students than other schools.

Thank you...

Sent from my iPhone
ST HERBERT SCHOOL

GREETINGS... this in in response to your plan of having some schools closed.

Please keep St. Herbert School open.. please save this school. It is is newer than the others. can be found In a safe neighborhood and since its bigger, it can accommodate more students than other schools

Thank you...
To whom it may concern

I would like to inquire if we, as parents of the school community, are able to post signs at the school requesting support from the school community and promoting the open house, such as the attached sign.

I would like to know if I can prepare signs like this to have posted at the school. I think other school communities under this review would like to use this approach to maximize communicating with parents.

Thank you in advance.

Regards

St Gertrude
Do not close St Herbet Elementary School.

Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 10:53 AM
To: PAR - Info
Keep St. Herbert school open!

Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 9:25 PM
To: PAR - Info

Please keep st.herbert school open for our children.
Thank you,
Keep St. Herbert open

Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 7:56 AM
To: PAR - Info

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Trustees,

I am a concerned parent of kids who attend St Herbert school and I am writing this email to you the Trustees who have the final voting power to not be influenced by St Dunstan.

- Is this an election campaign that the Trustees want us parents to run? If so, this should have been made clear right at the beginning so all schools could have had the same information.
- Do the Trustees want us as a Catholic community to show that we are supporting bullies like St Dunstan in our community?
- St Dunstan’s community is only worried about one thing and one thing only – PROPERTY VALUE. Is this what the pupil accommodation review is all about?
- St Dunstan has signs all along the route to St Joseph’s church and when St. Herbert put up a sign just to make parents aware of the current situation, St Dunstan opposes it and makes a big noise about the signs. Did the PAR committee ask St Dunstan to take their signs down? Why not??
- Posters, banners, calls to the MPP’s office every day, does the future of our kids come done to this??

St Herbert is a school that is 16 years old and one of the newer schools. This is a unique school that is surrounded by 3 public schools. DO YOU REALLY WANT TO CLOSE THIS BEAUTIFUL SCHOOL?? DO YOU WANT TO REPEAT THE MISTAKE OF CLOSING A BEAUTIFUL SCHOOL LIKE BLESSED TRINITY AGAIN??

Parents from St Herbert have already approached Sherwood Mills Public School and Fallingbrook Public School for tours of their schools, to move their kids into the public school system if necessary once the discussion is made. The day care at St. Herbert accommodates kids from St. Herbert, Sherwood Mills Public School and Fallingbrook Secondary Public School. Parents have to walk through our school, in front of the school alter, down our hallways (with religious boards and projects) and pick their kids up. This is what Catholic presence is!! Not having a Catholic school in a certain pocket of the community.

Why would my kids from St Herbert go to St Bernadette which is a much older school and has fewer facilities, does not have AC and my kids may or may not be bussed? Just so the school board has Catholic presence south of Eglinton!!

Please keep St Herbert open and keep the Catholic presence in our community alive. Please do not be BULLIED by St Dunstan!!

Thanks for your time reading this email but this whole process is very stressful for the students and parents.

Concerned Parent.
To all the Trustees,

My kids attend St. Herbert school and love it. I just wanted to point out the whole school closure process has caused a lot of stress to my kids. My youngest is [name] years old and I have overheard her talking to her friends that St. Dunstan is trying to close our school and how she wishes that the aliens would attack St. Dunstan. My older child is [name] years old, he has been stressed as he will need to move schools. We have seen signs of other schools and of St. Dunstan in particular along St Joseph’s Church route which has affected my kids.

We teacher our kids to be kind, gentle, forgiving and to follow Catholic values at home. My kids have been exposed to this ugly process as the school board, Trustees or the ARC/PAR have not taken control of the situation right at the start.

I do not want to have my kids or any other kids to be exposed to this bitter fight between schools. The PAR, ARC, Trustees need to make the process clean. This has become more than an election campaign as here the feeling of kids are involved.

Just want to leave you with these questions—
• Would my kids want to change their school and go to St. Bernadette or St. Dunstan after what they have been put through?
• Would the receiving schools welcome kids and parents the same way they would welcome other new kids?
• Are the kids going to the receiving school going to be bullied?

The past PAR closures have not resulted in a smooth transition for the students and parents. The current PAR has gotten ugly, dirty and extremely stressful. Would the transition this time be smooth for all our kids??

Thanks for taking the time to read but please do not just add this email to the minutes of the ARC meeting but take some action to make this process more CATHOLIC in spirit.

Parent of stressed kids.
Good afternoon,

As a resident of Streetsville I have concerns over the signs that are being placed on Municipal property around the neighbourhoods. Even during elections political parties are only allowed to place signs on private property with the owners permission.

If I am not mistaken the same would go for the signs being placed by St. Dunstan and St. Gertrude. It is an eyesore as you will see by the pictures below. Those are only the ones I was able to take safely as they were not on busy arterial roads. St. Gertrude they are placed on Bristol and the West side of Mavis up to Matheson Blvd.

St. Dunstan have their signs hanging from Municipal trees on the blvd all around. They are not on private property at all. A drive by St. Joseph Parish on Durie Road one only has to see it is again Municipal property.

Will we be seeing children wearing shirts paid for by the School Council at our meetings? That leads me to question who paid for the signs that they have been placed on Municipal property? Our @StGertrudeMBC t-shirts are in! Thank you to our School Council! Wear ur new shirt this Friday #spirit


I do hope there is open transparency across the board when handling these situations.

Regards,
Hi,

I am really concerned with all this process going on as I am a parent of 3 students attending St Herbert School.

I do not understand how come there is a doubt about how good this school is comparing to others.

This is one of the newest schools, is fully air conditioned which is something that makes already a huge difference regarding the comfort of our children. Moreover it is located in a safer school zone, meaning that children and parents can safely enjoy a nice walk home.

Not less important is also the fact that this school has an on-site childcare, which is very convenient for children and their parents.

Thank you for your consideration.
I am a parent of two kids. They really love the school and as a parent we feel that our kids in healthy and safe place and in safe hands too so pls keep it opened.
Thanks
God bless
Sent from my Sony Xperia™ smartphone
St. Herbert - Please keep open

Dear Sir / Madam,

It is with great trepidation I hear that my daughter’s school is proposed to close and the community split with students being sent to either St. Bernadette or St. Valentine. Our school has a lot to offer. We are one of the newer schools. Our school is fully air conditioned (one of the 3 schools that is fully air-conditioned) and we are located in a very safe school zone. If my daughter has to go to any of the other schools proposed she will need to be bussed. Besides the fact it is further away (1.8KM as compared to currently 1Km to St. Herbert) I do not feel comfortable with her crossing the main roads on her own. I worry about her safety being a girl and walking to school alone.

St. Bernadette is even further away from our location. Nearly 2.1 km away.

Please keep St. Herbert open.

Regards,

A extremely worried parent
To the Board staff/ARC Committee,

In reviewing the facility profiles for each school in the East Credit PAR, there appear to be transportation arrangements that are unbalanced. The table below highlights the transportation particulars for each school:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Storeys</th>
<th>Avg. Distance to School</th>
<th>No. of students bussed to school</th>
<th>% Eligible for Transportation</th>
<th>% Not Eligible</th>
<th>Longest bus ride (minutes)</th>
<th>Shortest Bus Ride (minutes)</th>
<th>Avg. Length of Bus Ride</th>
<th>Aggregate cost to Bus</th>
<th>Cost per Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OLGV</td>
<td>St. Bernadette</td>
<td>St. Dunstan</td>
<td>St. Gertrude</td>
<td>St. Gregory</td>
<td>St. Herbert</td>
<td>St. Raymond</td>
<td>St. Valentine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$13,608.00</td>
<td>$453.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.39 km</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>$1,615.29</td>
<td>$1,615.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.44 km</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$63,956.00</td>
<td>$1,615.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.46 km</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>$16,329.00</td>
<td>$480.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.9 km</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>$16,329.00</td>
<td>$510.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.12 km</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>$13,568.00</td>
<td>$510.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.42 km</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>$16,329.00</td>
<td>$544.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.1 km</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>93%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.15 km</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>$16,329.00</td>
<td>$302.39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I would like to know why St. Dunstan has bussing eligibility for 64% of the student population, while the balance of schools have only 3% - 16% eligibility? The average distance to St. Dunstan is comparable to that of St. Bernadette and St. Herbert (1.46km vs 1.44 km and 1.42 kg, respectively), and the longest bus ride is on par with St. Gertrude and St. Valentine (16 minutes). Despite similar proximity and travel time, the other schools’ eligibility is far below that attributed to St. Dunstan. Thus, I would like to know the reason behind the skewed bussing eligibility at St. Dunstan. Is it due to the Eglinton Ave street crossing? This would be the only consideration in my mind that differentiates the school from others, as all other boundaries do not require Eglinton Ave be traversed. With that rationale in mind, it would seem biased to exclude bussing from other students who, under the PAR review mandated from the Ministry and DPCDSB, would now require traversing Eglinton Ave to attend school. I bring this point to light as I understand bussing is not being considered if St. Bernadette, for example, would close and students relocated to St. Herbert.

Regards,

Parent
Save St. Gertrude  March 24, 2016

I understand that the 2nd Option becomes the preferred option as minuted in the March 2 Meeting minutes- Items 4 of Questions/Comments from ARC members:

- Option 1 keeps communities together but splits the FI for St. Gertrude; yes
- Which is the preferred option; 2nd option is preferred
- 2nd option closes St. Gregory and St. Bernadette, and keeps St. Gertrude as is; reduces 1043 pupil places

As you are aware, Option 1 impacts more to the students as highlighted below:

- 90 to 120 students over the capacity of St. Valentine; 26 to 36 over St. Gregory, which means many portables
- most numbers of displaced students
- disruptive operation to uproot all FI classes developed over the past seven years
- unsafe for students to cross the major road
- split up the largest community of St. Gertrude
- more air pollution as parents need to transport FI students themselves
- more portables at St. Valentine as students within St. Gertrude boundary who have to drop out the FI program due to the relocation will go to St. Valentine

Furthermore, Option 1 has the implications of:

- Parents may file grievances to the French language advocating agencies (such as Canadian Parents for French and the Office of the French Language Services Commissioner) especially parents of whose students have to drop out the FI program due to the relocation
- The DPCDSB ombudsman may step in and audit the PAR review procedures if cost-saving instead of the well-being of students is perceived to be the driving factor
- There are controversies that the East Credit area study targeted eight schools but the ESA map shows only seven. St. Gertrude is located in the Hurontario area which has an overall stable enrollment as recommended in the 2013 Long Term Accommodation Plan

Since the first public meeting on January 20, there have been many more viable options, valuable suggestions and evaluation criteria thanks to the great joint efforts from the PAR staff, ARC and parents. Option 2 and several other options have demonstrated a much better consistent utilization rate to eliminate portables and vacant spaces with sufficient (although not the greatest) cost savings.

The display in this March 30 open house is expected to show valuable options with comprehensive information (pros and cons). The parents shall be fully informed of the background of decision making and what evaluation criteria are based on.

It has been overall a challenging task from the beginning of review process. PAR planning
members have showed professionalism and enthusiasm in handling difficult public issues. Trust that PAR members will have unbiased view and provide comprehensive recommendations in the final report presented to the school trustees.

Have a good Easter weekend and God Bless!
Dear PAR Planning Members,

I was informed that in the email below I misinterpreted Item 4 of the March 2 Meeting Minutes, which make sense that at this public consultation stage, PAR members are still gathering data and evidences to present most practicable recommendations with a staff preferred Option as required by the MoE guideline. Option 1 has many flaws and negative impacts and it will be surprising to see at the end if it is still status quo being the preferred Option after so much time and effort.

I appreciate being living in a democratic country and every parent has the freedom to voice the concerns. I appreciate you provided a great platform to engage the participation of as many parents as possible. I appreciate your patience and time in reviewing and assessing each Option. Truest the final report will be more comprehensive considering the tremendous amount of time spent, options, suggestions and ideas received and more transparent and practical criteria developed.

Regards,

On Thu, Mar 24, 2016 at 5:33 PM, [Name] wrote:

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- Option 1 keeps communities together but splits the FI for St. Gertrude; yes
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It has been overall a challenging task from the beginning of review process. PAR planning members have showed professionalism and enthusiasm in handling difficult public issues. Trust that PAR members will have unbiased view and provide comprehensive recommendations in the final report presented to the school trustees.

Have a good Easter weekend and God Bless!
Potential loss of FI students to the Public Schools due to St Gertrude closing

Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 12:13 AM
To: PAR - Info

It is a very real possibility that DPCDSB is going to lose up to 50% of French Immersion students currently attending St. Gertrude School, due to the lack of transportation. My family, just like many others, worked very hard to enable my son to attend FI. Many families purchased houses within St. Gertrude boundaries, because parents were unable to drive their children to and from school. We all will be left with one choice: move our children to one of Peel Board's FI schools where they will be guaranteed a school bus.

I certainly know I won't be able to transport my child (and three other students I bring to St. Gertrude every morning) to St Gregory's location due to my working hours, if FI is moved there.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPad
To whom it may concern,

I have lived in the neighbourhood since the late 90's. It is a safe and wonderful place to live at and a huge part of it is because of St Herbert School. The school plays a large part in our community. As a child I remember playing in the field and seeing all the neighbourhood kids go to school. It is comforting to know that my children now go to that school. I love knowing that they are safe and comfortable with a school with A/C and new facilities. The staff is amazing and the area surrounding the school contributes to the schools greatness. The neighbourhood is full of young families and it would be a HUGE loss if St.Herbert closes. As a daycare teacher connected to a school I can fully attest what a huge impact a local school is to the community. It is where children make lifelong friendships, find themselves and where neighbours become family. The staff is amazing and it saddens me that all this will change. Thank you for taking your time to hear me out. Bottom line: please don't close ST.Herbert!
To Whom It May Concern:
I am a parent of 3 children that go to St Herbert. The closing of this school concerns not only my family, but also my brother's family. My nephews also go to this school. My concern is that it will become harder and safety issue for us to pick up 5 kids and walk esp. our kindergarten students. St Herbert is one of the newest schools. If you are cutting renovation and maintenance expense, you should consider other older schools to close. St Herbert is also an air conditioned school. We chose to allocate our taxes to Catholic schools and our kids deserve to go to a comfortable school where they will enjoy staying in the classroom to learn.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone
Once again here I am to show my support to St Herbert School, which is never enough!

I do not understand how come the number of people attending the meetings supporting their school will help making a final decision! It is not the number that matters! What matters are the good conditions that our children currently have and are about to lose if this goes on!

We are one of the newer schools, closing should never be an option! I can not imagine my children moving all the way to St Bernadette, which doesn't even have air conditioner (except for the office and for the day care!) or even to St Valentine where they would lose St Herbert's exceptional playground area.

My children have built amazing friendships and confidence at St Herbert. Friends are extremely important in a child's growing.

The school location is simply one of the best: kids and parents can easily enjoy a nice walk to and from school as this school is located in a safe school zone.

I hope that my testimony will help to make a difference!
I am one of the St Herbert proud parents!

There are so much good things that I can say about this school and not even a bad one I can remember! This should mean something, right?

St Herbert has such a phenomenal staff, the Principal is amazing, I have no words to describe how appreciated I am for all his commitment and effort to this school!

My children come home happy everyday, they feel this school is their second family, everyone knows each other and everyone is looking in the same direction: on creating a safe and pleasant environment where our children can achieve great things and the teachers are proud teachers!

If St Herbert closes, the daycare will close as well, which is not going to cause harm only to St Herbert students and parents but also to Sherwood Mills P.S. that shares this daycare services.

Just mere steps away from the school playground there is a protected marshland area, Creditview wetlands Park, which is an amazing tool for students and teachers to learn about ecosystems.

I hope all these things will be considered when making the final decision!
I am sending this email in support to keep ST. HERBERT's School open. I have reviewed the proposals and read that if St. Herbert is closed my 10 year will be relocated to St. Bernadette. I still can’t understand how the newer schools such as St. Herbert are even considered. St. Herbert is in a prime Safe School zone location, there are many Roads leading to and from the school reducing traffic and the roads are wide and always cleaned first of snow in the winter. St. Bernadette has only 2 streets in or out of the area in a neighborhood who’s demographics is no secret in a few years there will be no Catholics remaining what so ever and the need for Public school will be greatly increased. Not to mentioned that you ruin any chance of teaching kids independence as they approach the grade 7 or 8 to walk home by themselves. Parents will not even consider allowing their childrer to travel 3 KM to school on their own and passing south of Eglinton. Children SAFETY should be the primary consideration, there are always people around on all the neighboring streets so if children walk home they are in view of many people. The police frequent Fallingbrook to keep speed down as well. ST. Herbert is a new school with Full air conditioning with a Day Care, why would you even consider it. All that is doing is restricting anymore young Catholic families from moving into the neighborhood. if you close St. Herbert you are putting the last nail in the Catholic Community Coffin. St. Herbert is sandwhiched between Sherwood, public shool, Fallingbrook middle school and Rick Hansen High School, all public schools. St. Herbert is the balance in this community in that school zone and the last Catholic show of force. Do the right thing Keep ST. HERBERT OPEN.

--
St. Raymond has been a school full of learning, friendships, memories and bonds. Being a fellow student myself, I strongly agree St. Raymond should remain open. We have the capacity to bring in other kids from the closing schools and there is a guarantee we will bring them in with loving arms. I am a grade 8 student myself and it breaks my heart to know there isn't a place I can come back to when I leave for high school. Yes if you close the school you can bring our belongings to a different school, but it won't be the same. I will not see the beloved teachers who helped me through my toughest times, there isn't a place for me to reconnect with friends who are visiting as well, and there won't be the classrooms I did my finest work in. We put our hearts and souls into St. Raymond school, and if it closes it will break a community bond. I am here writing to you about the school I love dearly. There are many options and I hope St. Raymond will remain open, so we all have a place to learn about our faith in the eyes of Jesus. As our principal says after each announcement, "Keep a smile on your face and a smile in your heart, and always remember the golden rule to treat others the way you would like to be treated" SAVE ST. RAYMOND
Hi,

I just wanted to say that the staff at St Raymond are wonderful with my JK and I'm very pleased with their work ethic and maintenance of the school. They create a wonderful learning environment for my child and genuinely care about their students. My child always looks forward to going to school here and have developed some great friendships that I hope will last them for as long as they remain together. I sincerely hope that you will reconsider your decision. We would be devastated if you chose to close this school as it is an asset to our community and to our children.

Thank you for taking the time to read a parent's concern and I hope that you will support St Raymond's continued success!

Sent from my iPhone
PAR - To the Board Staff & Trustees

Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 3:18 PM
To: PAR - Info

Dear Board Staff & Trustees

I am truly disappointed with the PAR process. I strongly believe that the board should have made the recommendations and the trustees vote on what the best option is to meet the business needs. I have heard amazing opinions of Superintendent David Amaral and from my observance at the ARC meetings the supporting team is also very knowledgeable and unbiased. If there is one thing this group should do is learn from this process and CHANGE it.

This process has caused tremendous stress among parents and children. Some schools are treating this like a political campaign by putting signs, wearing t-shirts and engaging other schools to work with them to present proposals to close St Herbert. Even schools that are not affected by the closure except as a receiving schools are submitting proposals. Our children can read and ask questions about these signs and speak among themselves. We feel pressured to do the same and then have to remove our signs because those very schools are complaining about them.

The schools are now pitched against each other in a race to survive. There is so much hate in the community at large. Most of us belong to the same church community and have friends in different schools St Dunstan, OLGV, Valentine that are part of this PAR. This process has left an uneasy feeling between all of us. We teach our children not to indulge in bullying and at work we are told to report the bullies to human resources. Why do I feel like a certain school is bullying and pressurizing other schools, the community and trying to bully the board staff. Where are the Catholic values that we are trying to instill through the Catholic Education System?

The impact of this kind of process has made me skeptical about the outcome of the boards decision if it takes into consideration the proposals from the ARC. The transition would not be the same as if the board staff submitted the proposal and the Trustees voted on the board submitted proposals.

Our children would be impacted, but impacted by change. A change that affected them because of the changing demographics not because a school with parents with a higher PDI ran a campaign and made the most noise.

I could go on but I am hoping that this email is read is read in it’s entirety and has a positive impact to initiate change in the process.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Regards

[Redacted]

Parent of 3 children at St Herbert (Making a Difference)
St. Herbert Closing

Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2016 7:35 AM
To: PAR - Info

I understand with changing demographics, enrollment can always be a variable, but generally how long can we be assured that if the school doesn’t close – it’s safe. I would hate to be given one set of results only to have it re-examined and the school be back in jeopardy in a few years. Regardless of the outcome; can we be confident that these changes will be implemented and stand firm for many years to come? Closing St. Herbert just doesn’t make sense. When I googled important things to consider when picking an elementary school. 3 things came up:

1. Classroom – active, inspirational, involved teachers
2. Spirit – happy children in all aspects of what the school offers. School academics, special offerings of sports and after school programs.
3. Location – most appealing location in regards to accessibility and safety.

St. Herbert has all three and then some. It is one of the newer, cleaner, fully air conditioned, caring, and friendlier, schools I have been in. The kids generally all know each, look after each other and respect each other. The teachers are caring, involved and inspiring. St. Herbert has virtue ceremonies that inspire kids to want to be better students and better little people. By acknowledging the children that exhibit these wonderful virtues; keeps them motivated to continue on that path and inspire others to follow. They keep the lines of communication open at all times with parents and I can honestly say my children enjoy going to school each day. This school is a rare find, and to say all school operate or can offer the same great things is merely not true. It is the unique circle of people there that’s makes this school the place that children want to be. I think that most people are fighting for their schools because its expected, it’s location is convenient, and it’s the only school they know. But once they transfer to St. Herbert they will wonder why they even protested in the first place! Closing St. Herbert doesn’t just affect the school, it would be a tragedy to close the wonderful daycare attached; that services people in the community who don’t necessarily attend the school. Please consider all that will be interrupted, disturbed and upset but St. Herbert’s closure. Let’s keep St. Herbert open!!!
To Our Trustees,

This e-mail is in support of keeping St. Herbert Open. I attended yesterday public meeting in St. Joseph. I really think that the newest schools and the schools in the safe zone should stay open. Keep our kids in healthy and comfortable conditions.

Member of the St. Herbert Community
Good afternoon,

My name is [REDACTED]. My children attend St-Dunstan and both my children are diagnosed with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I know this is a fairly common diagnosis, and we certainly aren’t the only ones dealing with problems that affect our children's school work and friendships, however this is our reality. Aside from being inattentive and hyperactive, they face varying challenges when it comes to routines and social interactions.

We have been so blessed and so fortunate for the support provided at St-Dunstan. I am talking about full-on guidance from the Spec Ed staff, mainstream teachers and principal. I will never, ever forget their support, encouragement and guidance. Given all of my children’s difficulties, they are currently thriving at St-Dunstan. I realize curriculum is delivered similarly across the board – but what stands out for my children is the sense of belonging they have now achieved. Many children with [REDACTED] often don’t have close friends; they have trouble keeping up friendships. My children are in a great place right now – we are finally seeing the light coming through! They’ve been attending St-Dunstan since JK. It has taken years to get to this point. To develop, grow, trust and ‘belong’. I can tell you, it is the greatest joy in my life to see this come to fruition.

I completely understand that the PAR has to happen, that the # of schools must shrink within East Credit. But I beg of you, please, do not split any of the schools/student bodies. All of the ARC members have worked hard to come up with proposals that meet all of the Ministry’s criteria when undergoing a PAR. I beg of you, to please consider ARC Options #1 or #2. For the sake of our students’ well-being, please do not split them up. Changing schools in itself can be a wrenching social and emotional experience for students, please consider this when making your final decision. As a mother of 2 children on IEPs, that have [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], I am constantly researching ways to help them increase their self-confidence, self-worth and success. My husband I do all we can to provide them a balanced and stable life at home. I’ve read about the connection of school environments and mental health. Students that have to deal with not just a change in their home environment, but in their social network of friends at school can be deeply affected and face setbacks academically. I don’t want my children or any other child to feel like an ‘outsider’. It will be enough that they will have to re-integrate into a new space – but if you separate them from their peers and friends this can and will lead to feelings of exclusion and low self-esteem. I don’t want any of our children affected by this PAR to feel marginalized or stressed – they will have enough adjustments to make as they transition – but please, keep them together. Let’s ease the damage of this reality. I know this may sound dramatic, but I want to draw your attention to their reality, challenges and fears – which are very dramatic when you are the one living it. As their mom, I have to speak up on their behalf. As their mom, I have committed myself to taking charge of their overall well-being. I feel this way for all of the children involved across all of the schools. Please keep this in mind when you make your final decision.
Sincerely signed,

WG8-284
Good afternoon ARC members,

Having now seen several different options presented to the school board to tackle the proposed school closings, I have some questions and comments.

1. To me it seems like closing some schools and moving students to other schools will create a need for portables. Portables do not facilitate a conducive learning environment. I don't see the point in cutting costs on closing some schools only to squeeze children into a school which will need portables in the near future.

2. Has it been taken into account that naturally the demographics will once again change when the younger generation in east credit river area will start having more families, or when the older residents of current homes sell to young families? The numbers of students will once again grow. It does not make sense to close school when most certainly the space will once again be needed in the future.

3. OLGV was built to accommodate the size of the community. Larger school such as St Raymond and St Gregory were opened and the boundary lines re-drawn. We then saw that the pupil capacity decreased. No brainer here why this happened. OLGV should not be on the list to close down.

4. OLGV is the oldest school in the group, and yes it has looming repair costs, however all the schools in the review group will eventually need repair costs. Unfortunately OLGV is in the present cycle so it looks like it is the most expensive school to keep.

5. OLGV is one of the only schools that is situated on a wealth of land, with a green space, large play ground and community centre just steps away. This is a huge benefit to the students.

Thanks,
Dear Trustees,

My kids attend St. Herbert’s school and I am writing to you to express how exhausting and stressful the how PAR process has been for my family.

The process started out with 3 options being presented by the PAR committee and in no time the PAR committee was taken over by St Dunstan. St Dunstan has made a joke of the Catholic community and it’s schools by having signs put up all along St Joseph’s Church for all to see. Their signs are promoting the Catholic presence but they are actually attacking other Catholic schools by proposing to close another Catholic school( St Dunstan is the first school to propose the closure of other schools and this caused other schools to do the same). Is this our Catholic spirit!!!

St Dunstan has turned the whole process into an election campaign, they have T-shirts, banners, MPP’s calls, very vocal and dominating ARC members. When our school had a general board put outside our school to provide parents information (even though OLGV, St. Gertrude, St. Gregory, St. Dunstan all have signs) we were asked to take it down. Why?? Why where the other schools not asked to do the same?? Are they special??

The school board, the Trustees and the ARC committee need to set rules that this is all in bad taste. We need to think about our students. Other schools are forced to put up signs, print T-shirts as looks like this is what the PAR and the Trustees want!!!

Please make this process smooth and stress-free for all of us. Every time we drive around our neighbourhood or to church our kids see the signs from other schools and get stressed and outraged. I do not want our kids to be exposed to this and I want the ARC and the school board to step in.

Parent of St. Herbert.
Dear Trustees,

My kids attend St. Herbert’s school and I am writing to you to express how exhausting and stressful the how PAR process has been for my family.

The process started out with 3 options being presented by the PAR committee and in no time the PAR committee was taken over by St Dunstan. St Dunstan has made a joke of the Catholic community and it’s schools by having signs put up all along St Joseph’s Church for all to see. Their signs are promoting the Catholic presence but they are actually attacking other Catholic schools by proposing to close another Catholic school (St Dunstan is the first school to propose the closure of other schools and this caused other schools to do the same). Is this our Catholic spirit!!!

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Parent of St. Herbert.
Dear PAR committee:

We have reviewed most of the presentations, minutes and correspondence and would like to thank the PAR Committee members for their time and dedication.

We are re-submitting our concern regarding safety with the potential closure of St. Gertrude and redirecting the students to St. Valentine across major road boundary lines and the dangerous intersection at Mavis/Lafayette and/or Mavis/Bristol. The answer that JK-5 will be bused but grades 6-8 will not, and that Stopr and the City of Mississauga will review the site for safety and improvement tips AFTER the board of trustees’ final decision is NOT ACCEPTABLE.

We ask that the ARC committee insist that safety criteria be considered BEFORE a final decision is made. Also, could a request be made to the City of Mississauga to provide incident/accident reports at these sites?

Even if they decide to bus all students, could someone on staff please address the logic of busing almost 400 students from a school that has perhaps the lowest average per student walking distance to school...a true community school. As far as the last public meeting, why is ARC #5 (formerly Staff #1) still even on the table? The obvious safety concerns noted above and additional busing costs need to be considered. Also there are immediate over projections at two of the schools with option #5. Portables will be needed right away and any potential future growth would not be available. Also, any option that closes St. Gertrude means there is no Catholic elementary school in the huge area South of Britannia, North of Bristol, east of Mavis and west of Hwy#10.

It seems that ARC #5 fails to meet most of the criteria of evaluation and ask the staff to review it once more before any interim report.

Regards,

St. Gertrude
Concerned Citizen

Sent: Friday, April 01, 2016 9:56 AM
To: PAR - Info

As a concerned citizen I attended the Public Open House #2, which provided us an update review of the East Credit Pupil Accommodation.

While in attendance, I was alarmed to hear of a conversation regarding Trustee Thomas Thomas. I was most disheartened to learn that Mr. Thomas made a veiled promise to the parents of the St Gertrude community at a recent school council meeting.

Mr. Thomas apparently said he had 5 Trustee's in his "pocket" as far as voting was concerned. I would have gladly considered this to be here say, until I heard it from a second source at the very same meeting!

I'm sure I speak for many that a voting bloc has no place whatsoever in school board decisions!!

While this process is understandably emotional, it must also remain completely transparent! A process on consensus, free from any political manipulation!

If there is no truth to this occurrence, then my apologies go out to Trustee Thomas and to all involved. However, if it is true, then perhaps it's time to re-examine our Catholic values?? Especially where children are concerned...

Thank you

_____________________________________
If you received this email in error, please advise the sender (by return email or otherwise) immediately. You have consented to receive the attached electronically at the above-noted email address; please retain a copy of this confirmation for future reference.

Si vous recevez ce courriel par erreur, veuillez en aviser l'expéditeur immédiatement, par retour de courriel ou par un autre moyen. Vous avez accepté de recevoir le(s) document(s) ci-joint(s) par voie électronique à l'adresse courriel indiquée ci-dessus; veuillez conserver une copie de cette confirmation pour les fins de référence future.
Good afternoon. In response to the PAR currently being undertaken in the East Credit area, the overall approach has been measured and generally welcoming of diverse opinions.

However, at this point, I feel that it still cannot be stressed enough that in the event of school closures, any closures should endeavour NOT to split up school communities. Close schools if needed, but move the community as a unit to the receiving school.

I have had personal experience wherein a school was closed and the community split; it is an option that in the end, benefitted no one.

Thank you.
Dear ARC Committee and Ms. Luz del Rosario:

I am deeply concerned that if St. Gregory Catholic School were chosen as one of the schools that will be closed as a result of the Pupil Accommodation Review and that the students will be transferred to St. Raymond, it will be extremely unsafe for our children to walk to school.

All of the children that attend St. Gregory will be forced to cross Britannia Rd. to get to St. Raymond. Britannia Rd is an extremely busy road that is dangerous for elementary school children to cross. In fact, there was a recent adult pedestrian fatality on March 14, 2016 at Britannia Rd and Silken Laumann Way. We, the parents of St. Gregory do not want our children to become another fatality statistic.

Childhood obesity and the diagnosis of type 2 diabetes in children is on the rise. The ability to walk to and from school encourages children to participate in exercise allowing them to stay fit and healthy and preventing the onset of early diabetes and obesity. Unfortunately, the heavy traffic and safety hazard of Britannia Rd will impede the children’s ability to walk to and from school.

Furthermore, the closure of St. Gregory would result in no Catholic presence in the area north of Britannia and south of the 401 and could possibly change the demographics of our community.

Therefore I hope that you will take into consideration these concerns when making your decisions on school closures,

Sincerely,
Hello

I haven't followed this issue very closely but I want to give you my thoughts. My children attended OLGV. We lived within walking distance and there was nothing better than having the kids walk to school chatting with their friends. If my kids were still at this school and they would have to board a bus and leave the neighbourhood I would consider going to the public school. This way they will still be able to walk, friends is the area and no bus.

Sent from my iPhone
Support for St Herbert

Dear DPCDSB Trustees,

I'm writing in support of St Herbert school and Staff Option 1.

Thank you,
St. Gertrude Petition - 800+ signatures
Chris Helme [chris_helme@outlook.com]

Sent: Saturday, April 02, 2016 11:46 PM
To: Abbruscato, Anna; Da Silva, Anna; Iannicca, Bruno; D'Souza, Darryl; O'Toole, Esther; Di Cosola, Frank; del Rosario, Luz; Pascucci, Mario; Hobin, Sharon; Xaviour, Shawn; Thomas, Thomas
Cc: PAR - Info
Attachments: Petition001.pdf (3 MB); Petition002.pdf (4 MB)

Dear Trustees,

Please find the attached scanned copies of petitions representing approximately 825 individuals voicing their support to keep St. Gertrude school operating. Please give them your full consideration during the upcoming deliberations regarding school closures in the East Credit Area.

Kind Regards,

Chris Helme
ARC Member – on behalf of the St. Gertrude Community
Dear PAR board,

I had attended your Wednesday open house and felt the need to write to the board. I am a parent of two children in St Dunstan School.

It has been one very long exhausting journey for the ARC committee members and the board. But I would like to thank the school board for allowing the people's voice to be heard as well and take in consideration what is really important before making the decision. What ever decisions that are going to be made, I personally feel that the children should be kept with their friends. It will allow them to focus on academics and ease into their surroundings.

My son is working with a school advisor with his struggles in relationship building and social etiquette. He is just making strides in this area. Hence my concern if he will thrown into a new environment that would set him back. I hope the board takes into account what a child goes through while splitting schools.

I personally would not like any of our Catholic schools to be close. These are channels to provide service to our communities and abide by our lords teachings. If these schools could be reinvented to provide enhanced learning centers - Extended French or IB programs, it would be more beneficial.

Hope the board and the Councillors will be guided by the Holy Spirit to make the right decisions for our children.

Regards
Keep All Children Together
Julia Belmonte [savest.dunstan@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2016 11:54 AM
To: PAR - Info

(Forwarded letter from St.Dunstan)

To whom it may concern,

As a resident, it has been very hard to see this review occur. As a Catholic, it is heart-breaking that any Catholic school be proposed to close especially during a time that non-Catholics would like to see the demise of the Catholic school system. I ask that the school board and Trustees consider a less-impactful decision, I understand that the Province has increased some funding for both Catholic and Public boards. In any decision, I trust that the students well-being will be of most importance in any decision and ask that consideration be given to not separated any children regardless of school from their peers. This should be the greatest factor of all so that these children can ease into any transition that may occur.

I hope these letters being sent in are being considered by all members and trustees.

Blessings,
To whom it may concern:

Please keep St. Gertrude open. My daughter loves the school very much. She is in the French immersion program and she wish that her little brother will be going with her in the same school. She learned a lot from her teachers which we as a parents are very happy about it. It really pays off all our sacrifices to drive her to and from school. We live far from the school but because we want our daughter to learn and have a better future and with a better foundation of education we believe that she will become a good citizen in the next generation. Please retain the school open because all the things that they need to nurture a child this school has it. As a parent if possible we don't want our child to move in another school because St Gertrude is the community where she belongs. God bless you!

Sent from my iPhone
Pupil Accommodation Review - Support for St. Dunstan

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this email to express my strong belief that splitting schools should not be an option as part of this review. School communities should remain together to minimize the impact this will have on our children. As a parent of 2 children at St. Dunstan, I am very concerned as to how the closure of our school and the separation of the school community will affect my children. My son has only just started JK this September and it took us quite some time to get him adjusted and transitioned into school. My daughter has been at the school since JK and she is now in grade 4. She is almost halfway through her elementary education and has made some wonderful friendships at St. Dunstan. To see those connections ripped apart by the splitting up of our school is just unfathomable. I am hoping that the trustees will take this into consideration as they make their decision.

Our school communities should remain together. I am in favour of either ARC Option #1 or 2 to minimize the impact this will have on our children. Please keep our school open! There are no other schools that would be impacted by separation, like St. Dunstan. Even if the other schools considered in this review are closed, at least they will remain together. Please, please remember our children in all of this, I understand the need for this review, my only ask is that you consider what the impact will be on the children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2016 5:46 PM
To: PAR - Info
Cc: 

https://webmail.dpcdsb.org/owa/?ae=Item&t=IPM.Note&id=RgAAAACwMMW2SdJESb3... 4/5/2016
Good Afternoon,

I am a parent of a young student at Our Lady of Good Voyage. I wanted to share my reasons why our school should remain open:

The reason we as parents send our children to a Catholic school is for the religious education that they cannot receive at a public school. OLGV prides itself on the strong relationship it has developed and maintains with St. Joseph’s Church. Our school is located within a few minutes of walking distance from the church which eliminates the costly need for busing. Our students walk to the church twice a year, once at the beginning of the school year and once at the end. We also have masses in our school throughout the year that are presided over by our parish priests. We also have our grade eight graduation ceremony in the church’s hall to keep the catholic faith in all we do.

Our school may be small but it has one of the largest Parent School Councils in the board. We have been asked on numerous occasion how we are able to elicit such a great response from our parents. Our active council has consistently engaged in activities to enhance our student’s learning experience. With fundraising initiatives we were able to provide the school with air conditioners in all classrooms and learning spaces. We support our school’s sports team where needed. We provided equipment for the school yard and gym activities. We host a Halloween dance-a-thon every year. We hosted our 25th anniversary celebration last year. We have on regular basis applied for and received the PRO-Grant (a parents reaching out grant) to engage parents in a wide variety of areas. We purchased essential tools to assist the children in math and reading. Mathletes and Raz-Kids are just some examples. Every year our council presents our students with sacramental gifts to commemorate their First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Our school is located adjacent to a large green space where our students can benefit from outdoor education and eco awareness. We also have a cross country track on our property and have access to soccer fields and baseball diamonds. Our students are active in extra curricular programs thanks to our teachers. We have many accomplishments to be proud of. We have won Skills Canada every year from 2008-2015. We have won championships in a wide variety of sports and clubs from cross country running, hockey, basketball, volleyball and chess to name a few.

Our location also gives us the room we need to grow in the future if enrollment exceeds current capacity. Another important benefit of our location is it provides a safe environment for our students. There are no major intersections to cross and we do not have to deal with a high traffic area. We have extra parking available at River Grove Community Centre and would be able to handle an increase in traffic. Another benefit being next door to the community centre is the opportunity to partake in the swimming programs and other educational programs they offer.

We are lucky to have the YMCA daycare located in house. They offer before and after school programs that are an invaluable resource to our families and community.

In closing I’d like to say we have built a great community at this school and closing it would not be in keeping with the boards own mission statement:

The Mission of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, in partnership with the family and church,
is to provide, in a responsible manner, a Catholic education which develops spiritual, intellectual, aesthetic, emotional, social, and physical capabilities of each individual to live fully today and to meet the challenges of the future, thus enriching the community.

I thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

( a very proud parent of an OLGV student)
Hello everyone at the board,

We are the parents of two St. Gertrude students. We are very concerned that there is a possibility that the school might be closed. Our kids love the school, the teachers and their friends at St. Gertrude. What is very concerning to us is that our kids will have to cross Mavis in order to get to St. Valentine. Truly, on several occasions I have witness cars zooming down on Mavis on red lights!!!!! Also, we are very concerned that within a short period of time, St. Valentine will be running overcapacity and students will have to be taught in portables!!!!

Please do not close St. Gertrude as this school has so much potential; in both areas as a community of great students and teachers as well as the actual building.

Sincerely,
Dear ARC and Trustees,
I recognize that the Pupil Accommodation Review process is difficult for all involved, and each school has a community of students and parents who want to keep their school open, for a variety of reasons both practical and emotional. I do appreciate and want to recognize the significant amount of time and effort that each of the East Credit Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) members have contributed to this important process - thank you to each of you.

I would like the trustees and ARC to hear about the unique qualities of Our Lady of Good Voyage (OLGV) School, therefore I am writing to share my experience as a parent of two students attending OLGV. I have had children at the school since 2006 and have been active on the parent council since 2007.

The academic and social environment at OLGV is strong - although we have a small teaching staff, our participation in extra-curricular activities (and our demonstrated success when we compete throughout the community of schools) continues to amaze me! The diversity of available activities has allowed my children, with their different strengths and interests, to flourish and gain the confidence that can only support them as they progress through the education system and become young adults.

The physical location of Our Lady of Good Voyage School is fantastic - immediately beside the recently re-developed River Grove Community Centre, our grade three students are able to walk to the "Swim to Survive" program. We have easy access to the green belt and David Culham trail - what a perfect environment for the children to engage in outdoor education, scientific inquiry in a natural setting, and enhanced eco-awareness. We can access the baseball diamond, our own track, and have the largest outdoor play area per student (as per the statistics shared through the PAR process). Parking and drop off is safe and easy, with the short path from the community centre parking lot utilized by many parents for before school drop-off and after school pick-up.

OLGV has a strong relationship with our parish, St. Joseph's Church, as our school is within walking distance to the church. Our students walk to mass at important points throughout the school year and this maintains an ongoing Catholic presence in our school, along with the Rosary Apostolate. This strong Catholic presence is the reason why many of our families choose to send our children to a Catholic school and must not be overlooked.

My final point is that although the official physical capacity of our school is 280 students, OLGV has available additional capacity without portables that could be utilized if the student population grows. Although portables are an option in many schools, I think most would agree that portables are less than ideal in our Canadian climate. The RCM unit ("portapak") comfortably accommodates six additional classrooms and this space would support additional student spaces if needed in the future.

Thank you for your consideration,
Hello,

My name is [name redacted] and I have 2 children. My daughter graduated from OLGV last year and has moved on to St. Joseph's Secondary School this year. She graduated as class valedictorian, and received awards for the honour roll, the athletic award and the citizenship award. All of this in huge part of the quality of education she received from the OLGV staff. My son is currently in grade 7 at OLGV and will graduate next year. We have been a part of this school community since 2007. Although my son will move on from OLGV and I will no longer have children at the school, this community needs this school for many reasons.

Before we had children, my husband and I moved to Mississauga from Toronto and purchased our home one block from OLGV. In researching the school, we found it to be very successful in terms of student achievement, and very close to St. Joseph's secondary school to continue their Catholic education. Also, we had access to the YMCA for before and after school care located in the school which was a major convenience for us. Once we met the teachers we knew we had made the right choice for our children- spiritually and academically.

I joined the Parent Council in [year redacted] and was elected Chair in [year redacted] a position I currently hold. Over the years it was repeated by the administrators that other principals would ask how OLGV retained large support from parents joining the council, making us one of the smallest schools who held the largest number of elected members on a parent council- something we still are proud of today with 11 members. Yes, we are a small school but have been able to achieve so much, keeping the children and our Catholic faith at the centre of all that we do. We subsidize trips for all students to keep costs down and maximize their learning not only in the classroom with Scientist in the School, but outside with outdoor excursions based on student interests while meeting the curriculum expectations. Our relationship with St. Joseph's Parish has been a thriving part of our school community, demonstrated through school masses, celebrations and overall faith based learning. These are only a few reasons which scratch the surface of our success.

We are a small school but we are mighty- an unofficial motto, bares truth when our extra curricular activity records are viewed. We are successful in many areas- sports, technology and our eco team just to name a few! Even have had successful students move on to become successful contributors for sports t.v. such as Sid Seixeiro from the "Tim and Sid" show.

Keeping all of this in mind, I ask you as a community member and as a parent to keep this amazing school open. The community needs this school to be a visible sign of our faith and success and to continue to raise the amazing children who thrive on the education and experiences they receive from this school. We started it all from this one school years ago in this community and it would be a huge loss for this community to see OLGV close its doors.

I do have one question, when the decision is made as to which school or schools will close, how will the decision be presented to everyone? How will the affected schools be notified?

Thank you for the opportunity to let us speak and have a voice in this process.

God Bless,

[Name redacted] and family
Dear PAR committee:

Thank you for accepting our final comment/request to this website.

We are very concerned with the results posted from the first survey. We find it very hard to believe that the 88.5% satisfaction rate for staff option #1 is even remotely accurate. That would have us believe that out of the 1267 surveys submitted, 1121 people were very satisfied with option #1. There were 416 surveys submitted that directly relate to their school closing. This survey result indicates all those people plus 600 more would be satisfied with those 3 schools closing! Also, we find it hard to believe that St. Dunstan only had 54 surveys submitted.

Was there a default that if you didn’t rate it, it automatically went to “satisfied” because we only recall choosing one of the options not rating them all. Also we only filled out 2 surveys (1 each) and question whether everyone else did. Having said all this, we ask that the PAR committee review this as we DO NOT want the results of this survey submitted in the staff interim or final report as it is poor and misleading information as to community feedback.

Our final question is to finance. Will the Board of Trustees give any consideration to the INCREASE in funding for DPCSB. The funding is an increase of $1.16 million from last year. Will this INCREASE in provincial education funding (for classrooms and operations) effect any decisions?

Regards,

St. Gertrude parents
Two of my children are at St. Herbert. One attending school and the other at the daycare facility within St. Herbert. Both my kids have gone to the daycare since they were born and are consider the staff family. I do not want to have to transition my youngest daughter to another daycare and go through with the painful drop off (crying) all over again.

The staff and the school is great, there's no need for any major repairs and feel that this school should remain OPEN!

Thanks,

[Redacted]
Dear DPCDSB Trustees,

I have attended a few ARC meetings, and also Public Meeting #2 on Mar 30 at St Joseph which was very informative and well conducted. Good job to all those who were involved in organising it!

I noticed that St Gertrude managed to get a lot of publicity at this meeting for their preferred ARC option in the Mississauga News (http://www.mississauga.com/news-story/6414317-can-school-spirit-ward-off-loomings-closures/), including a certain parent from St Gertrude being quoted a few times in the article. I am confident that this article and the vocal parent from St Gertrude will not in any way influence the final decision made by you the trustees, and pray that you will be guided to make to right one.

Thank you and God bless.
To whom it may concern,

I am a concerned parent from St. Gertrude school. I have two children that are in the French immersion program and we moved so that we could be closer to this school and the families in this community. I know of many other families in the French immersion program who also moved closer to the school so that their children would be close to their friends and continue to build lasting friendships/relationships with their peers. I am voicing my support to save St. Gertrude as we have a great school community, united as one school with a strong French immersion program. Please keep our children's best interests as a priority when making your decision. We need our children to stay with their friends, avoiding stressful separation. We also need to consider student safety in this process. This closure will impact our school family - all the teachers, staff, students and school community. Please keep St. Gertrude open.

Sincerely,
Dear Sir/madam,
Keep St Herbert open, our school is one of the newest school, fully air condition and located in a safer school zone...we pray that you make a smart decision and hoping (especially my kids) that you keep st Herbert open.

Sent from my iPad
Dear Pupil Accommodation Review Committee:

My daughter attends Our Lady of Good Voyage School and unfortunately it is one of the elementary schools that is proposed to close down. My son also attended O.L.G.V and is now a student at St. Joseph’s Secondary School. I just wanted to express my concern as a parent and as a resident of this beautiful community. I would like O.L.G.V. to remain open for future generations to enjoy the Catholic teachings and the many positive attributes this wonderful school has to offer.

A school is just a building with brick and mortar, however in our community it means more to us. It represents Catholics in our area and it joins our youth in faith, which is the most important reason to stay open, in my opinion. We are the closest proximity to St. Joseph’s Church and we have an important relationship that binds the church, school and parents together. To lose this Catholic presence and visibility in this way will be very sad for our future families. We are also a close knit family where our talented teachers, school administration and parent council do so much for our children on a daily basis.

I am sure you already know of all the other positive reasons to keep our school open, but here is a summary:

1) O.L.G.V has the space to accommodate other pupils - at one point we had over 1000 pupils enrolled but due to excess building construction of new schools in the area, forced the boundaries to change
2) O.L.G.V has the largest physical space & proximity to the green belt and it provides the opportunity for students, especially kinesthetic learners, to enjoy outdoor education
3) O.L.G.V’s location provides a safe environment for our children, traffic is local and minimal
4) River Grove Community Centre is next door and an important partnership with the school and its curriculum.
5) Soccer field and baseball diamond are adjacent to our school
6) YMCA daycare - before and after school program where I dropped off my children is important for parents’ peace of mind knowing their children are taken care of with the same virtues and values of O.L.G.V. and walked to their classrooms.
7) St. Joseph’s Secondary School is close in proximity and vital to the transition from feeder school to high school.

My hope, as for other concerned parents as well, is that the positive outweigh the negative in keeping Our Lady of Good Voyage open. We do realize the age of our school compared to others, but we hope that the committee will take everything in consideration. In the business world, it is about dollars and cents (the bottom line), however in our eyes it is about keeping our Catholic presence in our community.

Thank you for your time in reading my letter.
God Bless,

[Signature]
Good afternoon,

We'd like to bring to your attention our concern regarding the school review in the East Credit zone. We have a 2 1/2 year old attending the YMCA at St. Dunstan. He has now adjusted to the school and developed relationships with peers. We're concerned that if St. Dunstan is closed the students for jk would be split based on the boundaries to different schools. This would make it a harder adjustment for young children.

We also have another child starting later this year with the YMCA and the same situation would apply. We strongly request that boundaries are not split to different schools.

Thank you for your consideration.
Dear all,

I am writing to you following the Public Meeting #2 at St. Joseph Secondary School on March 30th.

My name is [REDACTED] and I am the parent of 2 children attending St. Dunstan Elementary School.

After studying all information provided so far, I would like to request through this letter to please consider as the most important factor in your decision to keep school communities together.

From the 5 final options put forward, options 1 or 2 have the most suitable criteria when considering all influencing factors.

Thank you again for your time, attention and consideration.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
My Thoughts on the PAR Process

Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 4:14 PM
To: PAR - Info

To whom it may concern,

As the PAR process comes to a close, I have learned a lot about the process. I have been well updated by our ARC representatives, have read the minutes on the board website, have attended the community meetings, and have attended several ARC Wednesday night meetings. I can now see that yes, there is a significant difference between projected numbers and actual numbers. I also see the fact that the surplus of space in our schools presents a problem financially to the school board. And, yes, unfortunately, Although I hate to admit it, I do see the space surplus results in the need for schools to close.

When deciding on what schools should be closed, I have considered and believe in the principals set out in the PAR guidelines:
1) Student Well Being.
2) Financial Responsibility and Accountability
3) Maintaining Enrollment in the area

When reflecting on these guidelines, to, me, as both a parent and educator, this means:
1) the impact of transition be minimized on our children. This, to me is the most significant and important factor that needs to be considered. Change alone is very difficult for kids at the end of grade 8, or when a family move occurs. But, when schools need to be closed through a PAR process, students should be moved as "whole school communities". This would allow for really only the physical location of learning to be changed. This would allow all students to move WITH their pre-established friends, that they have come to know and love over their long or short school careers. Being in a new school building is difficult enough for children, let alone being in a new building with ALL (or the majority of) students and staff whom they have never seen before. I believe that there would be less anxiety for students knowing that ALL of their friends from their OLD school would be with them in their new educational setting. As a teacher in the public system, I see the anxiety levels of our grade 5 students as they prepare for middle school. Through conversations with them, they clearly say that they are less nervous about grade 6 because they know that their friends will be with them. Those who are going to other schools for grade 6 (usually for a specialized program) indicate that they are more nervous than their friends as they "will only know a few people...or will be there on their own. This also brings back memories for me when I decide dead to go to St. Martin SS because all of my peers were going there, even though Erindale was right across the street from my house.
2) All areas in the East Credit review area should be represented.
3) Schools should not exceed capacity for long periods of time. Portables are not in the best interest of children, due to issues involving health concerns. Furthermore portables require more transition for students (putting on coats and boots to get to the library, gym, etc) resulting in learning time being taken away from our students.
4) Additional programs should be put in the East Credit area to attract students to the schools, and fill student seat vacancies. Looking at the Extended French enrolments and wait-lists, there does appear to have enough interest to possibly add an additional program.
5) Maintaining enrolment in the East Credit area is crucial. Parents look at potential schools when researching areas to move to, and they do look at school rankings when making the decision to move from one home to another. There is actually a real estate agent in Mississauga that ranks schools right on
her website. I do know that this may not be the most significant factor, yet, it is a factor parents consider. When looking at both the public and separate schools in my "home school" location, the public school is significantly lower ranked than the separate school. I did have my son in that public school for his kindergarten years, and moved him immediately after. I can tell you that there is a difference in the kids and learning that takes place. Thus, keeping higher performing schools open might assist with attracting and maintaining students to the Catholic board instead of the public board.

6). When looking at the proposals that have been brought forth by both the ARC team and the school board, there are some options that can save the school board money. Some options minimize or omit the need for kindergarten classrooms being built, or omit the need for high renewal costs due to the closing of those schools. Transportation costs were also lower in some of the ARC presented options.

7) Traffic Flow - Ease of getting to the schools before school and after school is important. There is nothing worse than having to sit for 10 minutes attempting to get to up the street to drop your kids off, or into the school parking lot for kiss-n-ride. Buses should be easily able to get into the drop-off lane, and not be stuck on the street. St Dunstan, is one school that I know meets this criteria. I have driven to the school on a variety of locations and have not been impacted by traffic congestion. I have actually driven my children to school on both rainy days and snow days, and have been able to park directly in front of the school at 8:25 (when school starts at 8:30). Furthermore, what is most important to understand about the St. Dunstan traffic flow, is that those individuals who are exiting the parking lot and then going northbound on Creditview will turn right out of the parking lot, while those who are going southbound will turn left out of the parking lot. This allows for ease of traffic, and absolutely no traffic congestion.

As a parent of St Dunstan children, I ask that you please consider the above listed factors when making your decision. To me, as mentioned above, **keeping kids and school communities together** should be the most important factor when deciding what schools to close. Our kids are just 'stuck in the middle' and are 'innocent bystanders' in this process, thus the impact placed upon them should be minimized by just moving their "physical location" of learning. Thus, I am showing support for **ARC Option 1, or ARC Option 2** for the above mentioned reasons. Understandably, the school board may see the need to reduce more pupil places. Should this be the case, **ARC Option 4 and St. Dunstan Option 4** (presented on January 27) should be considered, as they are the options that **do not split school and student populations**. It should be noted that these options, although reducing pupil places **do not allow for future growth** to the area. If attracting additional students to the area is a factor, than ARC Option 1 and 2 allow for space, along with opportunities to attract additional students through Extended French, which is not currently offered in the East Credit area. Should other options be found that do not divide school communities, they would be supported by me too!!

Please, consider our children...lets minimize the impact on them...don't divide school communities...move school communities as a **unit** of children moving from one school to another!

Sincerely,
Dear PAR Committee

As parents of 3 kids, one attending St. Joseph high School and two attending St. Dunstan school I would like to contact you to express our views on the current pupil accommodation review (PAR) that is taking place by the Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board.

We understand that the PAR process is triggered by low utilization in our collective area; and that the decisions you will take will ensure student well-being and managing budgets responsibly, we now feel a lot more confident of the good work the committee, the board and the trustees are doing during this process.

That is why once again I want to express what keeping the well being of the kids means for us as parents, we want our kids to feel that they should not worry regarding being separated from their friends due to this process, kids want to move or to stay with all his friends and class mates and the options that are presented for closing St. Dunstan will divide the kids to two different schools, as a community we have found in St. Dunstan a community of involved parents, teachers and caregivers and the YMCA center attached to the school works really closely with the school.

We moved to the Credit Pointe Village 3 and half years ago, when our middle kid was going to start Elementary School; it took several months for us to find a house we wanted to buy as we knew we wanted our kids to attend St. Dunstan, we love the community, we go to St Joseph church and our older son attends St. Joseph school. Our youngest has been attending the YMCA day care center attached to the school since before he was two years old, and he will become 4 years old this April, he cannot wait to start attending JK at St. Dunstan this coming September and it breaks their and our hearts to think that they would have to move to a different school and day care altogether next year, and they will not see most of their friends as half of then will move to a different school.

We invite you to work through the different proposals presented during these months of review and we would like to highlight the benefits presented on the proposal 1 which, will close only two schools, will meet the board occupancy expectation, will keep the kids from the closing schools together, will ensure Catholic presence in all areas and will also leave space for growth within the area, this proposal is a win-win for the
board and all the community involved.

Thank-you in advance for your commitment to protecting the well-being and the quality of education for our children.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Mississauga, ON

[Redacted]
PAR members,

I am writing to request that all school communities remain together when a decision is finally reached. My family belongs to the St. Dunstan's community and I have seen the parents of all schools work together to reach a mutual agreement that is for the benefit of BOTH the board and each particular school. It is unfortunate that 2 or more school must close, leaving children, teachers, and all staff affected in many ways. However difficult it is, I understand it must be done. As a parent, and as a citizen and tax payer, I ask that closing the schools is not the only option to reduce costs due to a shortfall in the budget, but that all affected members, including the board look at their own expenses and review how to better utilize the moneys given to better assist and protect the children and all those whose lives are part of a school community.

Sincerely,
Re: message from St.Dunstan School parents.

I just want to mention that our option is that all school community has to stay together. Our kids need stay with their school friends.

From [Redacted]'s
Mom
Regards,

Sent from my iPhone
Good Afternoon,

I am writing to show my support for the ARC Options that keep St. Dunstan elementary open, specifically ARC Options #1 and #2.

My daughter is currently enrolled at St. Dunstan and my son would be starting in the fall. Although a young age, she has developed friendships with many classmates and was understandably saddened to hear the news of the possibility that the school could close.

We moved into the area over 5 years ago, based on the good things we had heard about St. Dunstan from other friends in the area whose children were attending the school at the time.

We have seen for ourselves that the community around St. Dunstan is very closely knit and consistently shows strong support for their school. Through the years my daughter has been enrolled in the school, it is very clear to see why. It is of the utmost importance to us that the school community be kept together, regardless of which option is ultimately decided upon.

I have attended a few of the information nights and although I can understand the need for the review, I stress that my preferences are ARC Options 1 and 2. These options would keep the community together for our children to continue to grow and enjoy the many friendships they have made and will continue to make throughout their years in the St. Dunstan community.

Thank you for your consideration of the above.

Best Regards,
Dear Sir / Madam,

I’m writing this email to express my family’s concern over the possible decision to close St.Dunstan School. Our family’s preferred ARC options are #1 and #2, which would keep the students together, and not split up the community. Having two young children in the school, this is extremely important to us and even more so our kids.

We need to keep our school together, and splitting students based solely on geography will have devastating effects on their emotional development. That in itself is more than reason enough to keep the students together. Having said all that, if the decision is made to close St.Dunstan and split up the students, my wife and I will be pulling our children out of the Catholic School Board and placing them into the Public system, as almost all of their close friends live on the other side of Eglinton, and the nearest Public school is two blocks closer to where we live than the proposed school the Catholic Board wants them to be relocated to.

Thank you for your time. I trust you will make the right decision.

Regards,
Just wondering if land value in a potential sale is a factor in deciding what schools to close?
Letter Regarding ST. Dunstan Closure

Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 5:58 PM
To: PAR - Info; savest.dunstan@gmail.com
Attachments: st_dunstan_letterOPTIONS1~1.doc (28 KB)
Mississauga, Ont.

April 4, 2016.

To the PAR Committee,

As parents of children attending St. Dunstan Elementary, we continue to be concerned about the possibility of St. Dunstan School closing, in addition to the many other schools suggested to close. We do understand that school closures are the reality, in order to balance out expenses and underutilized space in the proposed schools. However, we have attended several ARC meetings and followed all proposals closely, and if we may express our choice, we are in favour of ARC options 1 or 2. It is important for the families and community members to remain together, and not split schools. We are proud of our school representatives who have put countless hours of their time and expertise to research and formulate a plan that would best accommodate everyone in all communities. An Extended French program at St. Dunstan would be a wonderful addition to our school programs, but not splitting friends who have been together since Kindergarten (like my own children), and parents who have developed life long bonds with other parents, teachers and community members are essential for everyone’s best interest at heart.

My 2 children have attended St. Dunstan since Kindergarten. They love going to school, and are proud to be part of the St. Dunstan community, mostly because they have established healthy relationships with other kids and teachers, they have best friends, and they can identify the strong sense of community among staff, students and families in the school.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my voice. Please consider keeping our kids together.

Sincerely,
East credit review.

To whom it may concern, as a parent of a small child I feel it's important to keep the kids in the schools being closed together as opposed to splitting them up. It will be hard enough on them to move to a brand new environment but if they have the comfort of friends and familiar faces around them the transition will be smoother.

I'm also hoping St. Dunstan stays open. It's a great school with caring teachers and good hearted kids. Perhaps one of the empty rooms could be used for a parent and family learning centre. These early years programs from the provincial Govt are excellent and we don't have one in East credit. There are 3 that I know of but one is in St Theresa of Avila, one is over by winston churchill and one over by hurontario. We don't have one here and I would definitely bring my son to st dunstan for it. Please consider.

Thanks!

Sent from my Samsung device
Hello my name is [Redacted] and my daughters grade 1 and 2 go to olgv. Olgv has many memories for our family as my husband and brother in law went to Olgv. Also more importantly my best friend who moved in grade 5 from St Matthews to Olgv set my husband and I up. Useless information I know, but this school has meant so much to our family.

We love that our girls can walk to church for mass. We love that there is an amazing community centre and nice trails and nature space literally in our backyard. Our slogan, were small but mighty is true! We have a big parent council, and we may be low in numbers, but we can sure fund raise! Our school is able to subsidies trips, and activities for our kids.

My daughters teachers have been nothing less then amazing! They are kind and get our girls the help they need.

My youngest has special needs, and the school has been so understanding, compassionate and have given my daughter a successful start to school. After our first meeting they got everything in place as soon as they could and I got updates along the way. It made her transition a smooth one, and make one anxious mom calm. Every teacher knows my children, and when I say knows them I mean it! When picking my girls up the teachers will ask how hockey was, or how our dog is. I can tell you I work for the public school system and I can't even name all the children in kindergarten let alone the whole school.

Please consider saving Olgv as it an amazing school for so many reasons. My girls are devastated that their school might close, as it’s their family away from home.

Thank you for your time

Sent from my iPad
To whom it may concern,

My name is [redacted], I am the parent of a child attending St. Dunstan and would like to foremost thank you for taking the time to review my email to you. My family has been actively following along with the developments that have transpired since it was originally announced that the East Credit area's Catholic schools were under review. We have attended almost every single ARC meeting, gotten to know many of the families not only within our school, but some of the others as well. There have been many good suggestions made, ones that show together as a community we can make the best of a situation needing to be addressed. I can most assuredly tell that no school is happy to be in this position to have to defend themselves, but given what the situation at hand is, we have for the most part all come together in defining the most important issue which is - keeping the students together. This is specifically PARAMOUNT to my family, as we have a child with cancer that has made massive strides to get back to a normal life. They have made great concessions at his school, the staff & principal Mr. O'Neill have all been so wonderful in accommodating his /our situation. One of the prime efforts the hospital has made in recent years was to reintegrate children who are in treatment for cancer back into school, as they found the benefits of having children back into their social environment far outweighed the benefits of segregating children at home to prevent illness. They found it to be far more detrimental to a child's psychological state to keep them away from their peers at such an important time in their lives.

I urge you all, please, from the bottom of my heart - if you must make the painful decision of closing any school, PLEASE KEEP THE STUDENTS TOGETHER. I can't possibly stress how important this is to not only us, but to our son [redacted] especially.

I go on record to say I prefer ARC option 1 or ARC option 2. I pray for God's guidance in helping you all to choose the right option. I don't envy the position you are all in to make this / these choices, but hope you find it in whatever you DO choose, to make the choice that involves all students being kept together. At very least that.

Thank you for your time, God bless you all.
To whom it may concern,

I am the mother of a Grade Student at Our Lady of Good Voyage School. We are passionate about our school remaining open for a number of reasons:

1. Largest green space to allow for safe recreation
2. Low Traffic area allowing safe access for students
3. Proximity to the River Grove Community Centre - giving our students the opportunity to partake in activities offered there such as swimming lessons
4. Strong and Supportive Council that has provided a number of contributions to our school including: trip funding, air conditioner units, smart boards, prayer room, scientist in the school, government grants used to support Mathletes, health and mental well-being initiatives, and literacy
5. Closest proximity (walking distance) to St Joseph's Church enabling students to be more involved in church activities resulting in feeling a part of the Catholic Community
6. Ongoing achievements in regards to our extra-curricular activities (Chess Club, Skills Canada, Sports Teams)
7. OLGV has accommodated over 1000 students in the past
8. OLGV has been supporting the Catholic Community for over 25 years

It would be greatly appreciated if all of these above points could be taken into consideration.

Kind regards,
Dear DPCDSB and ARC members,

As a parent of 3 children attending school in the east credit catchment, I would like to voice my support for the ARC option #1 and ARC option #2.

I have attended the majority of the ARC meetings since the beginning and have been an active participant via email during this process. I was very concerned with the options initially presented by the board, not only because of the selections of schools but more so because of the disconnect with principles set out by the Ministry of Education guidelines - namely student well-being, academic achievement and financial sustainability. It appeared as if the board recommendations were based solely on geography and lacked depth of any meaningful analysis or research.

However, I must applaud the board for being receptive to the ARC process and input. I believe that this has been a learning process for everyone involved. While the options developed by the ARC have been publicly criticized as being biased by individual schools advocating for themselves, those of us that have been present in the process know this is categorically false. The options developed by the ARC have benefited from a broader consultation of the community, a deeper study and understanding of how to achieve a successful outcome (including review of best practice reports from past PAR processes not previously considered by the board), and stronger consideration and alignment with the PAR guideline principles.

The 2 options I am supporting have identified the closure of only 2 schools. Recognizing that the original intent was the closure of 3 schools, I believe that these options provide a more fair treatment of the east credit area in terms of sharing the financial burden across the school board district and more importantly, will minimize the impact to our children. These options allow for our kids to stay with their peers and support networks - I believe this to be the most important factor in terms of student well-being.

Finally, I would like to thank the board and all the parents that participated in the ARC process. Regardless of the decision by the trustees, we are all grateful for your efforts on behalf of our children within the east credit community.

God bless.

-
To the Trustees:

We would like to extend our full support in keeping St. Dunstan's Elementary School open and to keep our kids and the school communities together. We prefer the ARC options number 1 or 2.

Thank you,
Dear Sir/Madam

I am a parent of two boys who attend Our Lady of Good Voyage Catholic School. I am very happy with the school, I know all the teachers and feel that closing down this school would scar this community. It is an older school with a lot of history that needs to be preserved. The location of this school is perfect, can't ask for any better. It is close to River Grove Community Center, park, church, baseball diamonds and soccer fields, but the most important is that my kids don't have to cross any major streets or intersections to get safely there. It would be a big mistake to close this school.
KEEP OLGV THE BEST SCHOOL AROUND

Best Regards
Option 1

Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 8:09 PM  
To: PAR - Info

After reviewing the options at the public meeting, the best option is the staff proposed and ARC chosen Option 1. To make this option more viable the staff should consider extra bus service and Extended French at one of the receiving schools. The would satisfy two needs of St Gertrude and St Dunstan and also distribute the pupil spaces.
Thank you for your time and may God guide you as you make this difficult decision.

Sent from my iPhone
Hi,

My name is [redacted]. I have a daughter who has just started her schooling in OLGV, last September and another young one who would start going to school in September 2018. I recently moved in to the neighborhood after seeing a Catholic school close to the place I live.

I did attend the public meeting on 30th March and was seeing the ARC review options which sees us only open in 1 of the 5 options. My concern is in general about the thought of any of these Catholic schools being shut down. The schools that remain open might have won the battle for remaining open, but overall we have lost the war in this regard as we get smaller in the East Credit area. As Superintendent Daniel Del Bianco mentioned that the Pope in his Easter message stressed peace in the world. How are we going to achieve that if our Schools that give peaceful, meaningful and moral education are closed down? How are young Catholic parents within Canada and immigrant Catholic families going to come to our community if there are no Catholic schools around?

We need to rethink our review policies. As Albert Einstein a German Jew who started his education in a Catholic elementary school said "Our Current problems are generated by our current thinking". We need to rethink our ways to foster growth in Catholic schools.

In this turbulent world that we live, the last thing we need to do is to close down Catholic schools that foster peace. We as stakeholders (Parents, teachers, administrators and students) need to have an understanding and shared sacrifice to keep these institutions from closing.

Hope you will make the right decision

God Bless you

Thanks

[redacted]
Save OLGV

Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 8:28 PM  
To: PAR - Info

To whom it may concern:

I am a parent of [redacted] and [redacted]. [redacted] is attending OLGV since we moved to this neighbourhood 5 years ago, and [redacted] first attended YMCA Daycare and now is in [redacted] program.

My boys love OLGV and they both enjoyed the YMCA daycare which is conveniently located on the school's premises.

All the teachers and the school's stuff are simply amazing. They educate my children with care and wisdom. OLGV is a school where teachers know their students, student's siblings and their parents by name. Our Lady of Good Voyage provides an extra curriculum activities such as sports, chess, Rubik's Cube Club, and skills Canada.

Our school has a wonderful school council whom is very dedicated and supportive of our school. The council provided new air conditioners for our school, pays for school field trips, scientists in the classroom, prayer room and many many more. It allowed our students to learn and experience more.

Our school is in a perfect location, close to the Community Centre, where my kids attend many classes. After school they often play in the Community Centre's playground, or they play on the baseball field or tennis courts. It is simply safe and convenient.

Also the St. Joseph's Church is near by, where students can walk for school masses during school hours. OLGV has a great relationship with this church for years.

Not to mention the river and beautiful park just behind the school.

If you decide to close OLGV, it would mean larger classrooms in a new school. It would mean longer commute to school and as a parent I would not feel that my kids are safe traveling to school by school bus, or crossing over major streets. It would mean broken friendships and stress for our kids adjusting to new situation, new students and teachers.

OLGV is a community not to be broken. It would be shame if they would be closes!!

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone
Dear PAR Committee:

I wrote back in December to raise my concerns about the potential closure of St. Dunstan. I was surprised that a school with the strongest academic scores in the East Credit review area would be identified for closure in all three initial options. That said, I believe the ARC committee has worked hard to develop options to best work within the Ministry guidelines for pupil accommodation review.

In support of our Catholic values and community, I strongly believe that keeping our schools together is most important. After reviewing all of the ARC options, I support the following options:

ARC Option 1 - Close 2 schools (Our Lady of Good Voyage, St Herbert) Add EF program
ARC Option 2 - Close 2 schools (Our Lady of Good Voyage, St Bernadette) ADD EF Program

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
As the mother of two, both at St Dunstan’s, I am writing to you to voice my support in the options presented by the committee that involve keeping school communities together. After reviewing all of the information provided and although I understand the need to reduce capacity in the area to better utilise the schools any option to split school communities would not benefit any child. Attending a new school will be hard for most children and splitting them from their friends will make it even harder.

The ARC option 1 closing only two schools will in my mind offer the best solution both in the short term and in the long term future of catholic education in this area.
Dear Trustees,

I am in Grade  at OLGV and both my older sisters went here too. I love our school for many reasons. One is that we always walk to church, so we can get exercise. Another reason is that our teachers are very kind and they help us. We have a huge area to play outside with lots of grass. Another reason is that my school is biking and walking distance from our house and if I go to a different school, my parents won’t let me go on my own because I will have to cross busy streets. When we have gym, we have a bunch of activities we can do, scooters, hockey, soccer and dodgeball.
Keep our school open

To who may concern

We are a parents of two kids who are in the St. Dunstan Elementary School, and after this last 3 months of meetings and discussions we would like to ask you, to keep our kids together and we strongly prefer ARC options # 1 or # 2. We want that our school the St Dunstan stay open. It's outstanding, has a great team and great facilities.

Keep our kids together !!

Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 8:45 PM
To: PAR - Info
Hello,

I have had a chance to review the options and in my opinion the best option is the staff proposed and ARC chosen Option 1. You could consider having extended French at one of the receiving schools. Another way would be to add an extra bus service. This would ensure even distribution of pupil spaces and also meet the requirements of St Gertrude and St Dunstan. I hope this will be considered while making a decision.

Thank you
Hi,

With regards to the proposed closure of Olgv. I would like to highlight a few points and would appreciate your response to the same.

1. If olgv is closed and kids are expected to walk home from other schools they will have to cross the very busy credit view road and there will not be a crossing guard to help kids on this road. Safety of our kids is prime and making them cross a busy street is asking for trouble. Pls advise.

2. If olgv is closed all the proposed schools are on Whitehorse and nearby areas. This means that during peak times of school in the morning and evening these streets will be jammed pack and could cause car accidents or other mishaps due to the density of the population in a narrow 2 way street. Pls advise what alternative would parents have to pick and drop kids being transferred from Olgv.

3. Olgv is an excellent school with great experienced teachers and it's like a family. Closing olgv would mean loss of stability for the kids esp the younger ones who have just settled into school. My Lil one cried for the whole year and only just about adjusted to the school. Closing the school would mean another period of adjustment for her and kids like her who take time to adjust. You will be uprooting the foundation of the kids at olgv and we request you to please reconsider the Lil ones in your decision.

Also, Olgv is the only school which has a community center and church within walking distance. Would appreciate your response to my email.

Thanks,
Good Evening,

My name is [redacted] and I live in the Our Lady of Good Voyage area. I have a daughter who is not school age yet. Before we moved into this area we did some research into the local elementary schools. I had heard many wonderful things about the staff and students at OLGV. Over the years, I have seen the students throughout the community, walking to St. Joseph Church and participating in programs at River Grove Community Centre. What a wonderful school in an ideal location. It is next to a Community Centre and surrounded by nature. I am a strong believer in Community involvement and protecting the Catholic Education/Schools for the next generation.

My husband and I decided OLGV would be a excellent school for our daughter as it is walking distance and has a day care option that has wonderful staff. I feel this is a very nice, safe area for our daughter to explore in her early years at school.

I was very disappointed to hear that the school may be closing. I am a supporter of Catholic Education and I attended Catholic schools growing up. However, if OLGV closes I will have to explore other options for my daughter. Why would I want to bus my child when there is a Peel elementary school right down the street? The closing of Our Lady of Good Voyage would be a significant loss to Catholic Education and Dufferin Peel.

I appreciate you taking the time to read my letter as I am a concerned parent, neighbour and friend of this Community.

Thank you for your time,
Dear Trustees,

I am a parent from St. Herbert Elementary School and have attended a few ARC meetings as well as both the public meetings.

Trustees please use all the resources, research and data available to understand this pupil accommodation review process before making your decision. Please do not be influenced by all the noise made by bigger, richer and influential schools. Please DO NOT REPEAT THE MISTAKE OF CLOSING ANOTHER NEW SCHOOL LIKE BLESSED TRINITY SCHOOL.

St. Herbert is a unique school among the 8 schools from the current PAR, as it is surrounded by 3 public schools. These schools provide education from JK to grade 12, and they are just steps away from St. Herbert. Therefore it would be very unfortunate if the only Catholic school is closed in the area. Parents could choose to send their kids to the public school if St. Herbert is closed as they will find them more convenient than having their kids bussed, that will mean a loss of Catholic Students to the DPCDSB. I have the school google map link below for you to get a better idea of how close St. Herbert is to the public schools just in case some of you have not visited the school yet.

https://www.google.ca/maps/uv?hl=en&pb=!!s0x882b4104b098ced5:0xd81ea1b329a07725!2m5!2m2!1i80!2i80!3m1!2i100!3m1!7e1!4s/maps/place/st%2Bherbert%2Belementary%2Bschool%2Bmississauga/@43.5864234,-79.6840037,3a,75y,223.64h,90t/data=!3m4!2s7HbtqSSCLQz0A6qI13Evw*212e0*214m2*213m1*211s0x0:0xd81ea1b329a07725!5sst+herbert+elementary+school+mississauga+-+Google+Search&imagekey=!1e2!2s7HbtqSSCLQz0A6qI13Evwssa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi2rZKUs_XLAhWKnIMKHUg0BOgQpx8IcTAQ

Please make an informed decision and please choose the Staff Option 1.

God Bless all of you and may the holy spirit guide each of you in making this life changing decision for many parents and children.

Kind Regards,
OLGV

One of the downsides that keeps coming up for OLGV is the lack of air conditioning. Is this really an issue when most elementary schools are without air conditioning? Do the other schools have comparable daycare facilities, I don't believe they do. I know that several years ago it was brought to the boards attention to do some upgrades, but that went on deaf ears. With the money saved on transportation for the other schools to utilize the facilities in the area some upgrades could be made.

We should be looking at the positives. By leaving this school open, the board will be saving transportation costs because of the school's closeness to the green space, community centre & baseball, softball & soccer fields. None of the other schools in the area other than St. Joseph Elementary are within walking distance to the Church, that alone should be reason to consider having OLGV remain open.

The gymnasium is larger than any of the other "newer" schools that are also being considered for closure.

This school should be considered one of the schools to remain in the area. With more younger families moving in to the area I'm sure that in the coming years we will see enrolment increase again.

Sincerely

Sent from my iPad
Hello,

I am writing to enlist my support to keep OLGV school open.

I personally appreciate the extra effort and planning that the teachers and faculty invest in to teach and nurture every child. Special teaching strategies are designed to help and encourage children to improve their learning ability, especially the little ones who need academic support.

The teachers, students and council together do a remarkable job with their extra curricular activities. The commitment and time the coaches invest in the success of the children in Chess, public speaking, track & field, volley ball, basket ball (it's a long list of various activities.) cannot be easily replaced.

A special mention to the science and technology club that do amazingly well developing young minds to push their boundaries.

To conclude, OLGV is one of the older schools in the area with close proximity and strong ties with the Parish this adds value toward providing spiritual guidance to our children.

I truly hope you would give this school your kind consideration to leave it open.

Thank You

Sent from my iPhone
To whom it may concern,
I am writing again, as a parent from St Dunstan school community to firstly acknowledge the time and effort put forth by all of the ARC members. They have given up their personal time for several weeks to participate in this process. I would also like to thank the board members who also gave up many Wednesday evenings. I have attended all meetings and the level of respect demonstrated in those four walls is worth commending.

The ARC was given an opportunity to come up with some options that would benefit the DPCDSB and our reps worked very hard to put together two new options and presentations based on their own research and public facts. Everyone is wanting to find the best possible solution for all children involved. In a perfect world there will be NO school closures, however this likely is not the case as many classrooms are sitting vacant. We are striving to find the best possible solution and in doing so we really want to stress the IMPORTANCE of NOT SPLITTING school communities for the well-being of all our children.

I would also like to show my support for ARC option #1 which would only close two schools.

This process has been a learning one for all involved and I appreciate the hard work demonstrated by all participants - parents, board members and principals. I hope the trustees are able to see the amount of time and effort that has been spent these past few months trying to come up with the right solution for EVERYONE.

Sincerely,
An appreciative St Dunstan parent
Hi,

We really hope and pray that you can consider leaving Our Lady of Good Voyage open. The school relationship with the Church helps us strengthen our catholic faith. Extra curricular activities such as skills Canada, Sports and community services helped my kids to become more active in life outside of our home. OLGV made all of that happened.

Looking forward for your consideration about this matter.
SAVE OLGV!

Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 10:46 PM
To: Da Silva, Anna; darryly.dsoouza@dpcdsb.org; frank.dicosta@dpcdsb.org; Abbruscato, Anna; Thomas, Thomas; del Rosario, Luz; brian.iannicca@dpcdsb.org; O'Toole, Esther; Pascucci, Mario; Xaviour, Shawn; PAR - Info

To whom it may concern,

I am a high achieving Gr 1 student at OLGV. I got to where I am today because of the great staff and community at OLGV. I feel it is a very safe and welcoming community. We may not have many students at the moment although our school has such a great facility with a large gym to accommodate many people.

Sports teams and clubs are really a big interest of mine and for all the years I have been here I have been really pleased with the great effort of the staff to create teams. Beleive it or not for a small school we do extremely well! This year alone the Gr.8 girls volleyball team placed 2nd in families and our cross country team placed 1st as a team.... I can just imagine what we can do if schools merge with ours and we get more students. I also find it very convenient that our school is near our parish and River Grove Community Centre. I know personally that in Gr. 3 we did the swim to survive program and It helped me tremendously.

This school means the world to me and really deserves to stay open so others can get the same great experience as I did. OLGV may be small but we are definitely mighty. Personally I had to move out of St.Raymond when I was young and I would hate for young students at OLGV to have to move out and re adjust just like I did.

In conclusion I hope you will consider keeping OLGV open as it has a lot of great things to offer!

Sincerely,

(Grade 1 student at OLGV)

Sent from my iPad
Our Lady of Good Voyage

Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 10:56 PM
To: PAR - Info

To the Members of the PAR Committee,

I am a mother of three boys who attend Our Lady of Good Voyage School. They are currently in grades 1 and 7. I am writing to you because I feel there are many reasons why Our Lady of Good Voyage should remain open. I feel compelled to try to put into words the amazing experience my boys have had attending OLGV.

I will start by describing the actual school building and its phenomenal location. I am an advocate of Catholic Education and strongly believe that Our Lady of Good Voyage provides unprecedented Catholic Presence and Visibility in our community. There are a large number of people who pass by OLGV school daily on the way to River Grove Community Centre. It would send a really negative message on the state of Catholic education if they were to see the only Catholic school in the area shut down, while the two Peel public schools are still standing right beside it. I believe we must fight to keep our Catholic presence in this highly travelled area located in the heart of Streetsville! Our Lady of Good Voyage is part of the landscape of Streetsville and we must maintain its Catholic visibility.

Another key point to OLGV’s location is its proximity to River Grove Community Centre. There have been many community partnership opportunities such as field trips and play days, which were only made possible by the fact that the community centre is within walking distance to the school. No other school in the area is fortunate enough to have such a vital resource so close to them. It would be a shame to disregard this huge benefit to the school and the students.

Also, I have heard many reports on the safety of students as they are being dropped off and picked up from school. Again, Our Lady of Good Voyage is in a unique position due to River Grove community centre being located beside it. The community centre parking lot is adjacent to the school. As a result, there is no traffic or congestion during drop off or pick up. Students are completely safe whether they are walking to and from school or being dropped off or picked up. I realize this is an important point, as I know student safety is of paramount importance to the Board.

Our Lady of Good Voyage is surrounded by a lush, green natural forest setting. The forest setting has allowed students the opportunity to explore and learn in a natural environment. Teachers are instructed to use a variety of instructional strategies and more importantly provide students with many hands on opportunities. As stated in the Ontario Curriculum, scientific concepts are best learned and understood through investigation, exploration, observation and experimentation. Our Lady of Good Voyage is able to provide students with a variety of natural resources, which is an ideal environment for inquiry based learning. Students will be more engaged when they are able to see the connections between the scientific theory/concepts and the natural world around them. Our Lady of Good Voyage is one of the few schools that is able to provide students with this unique learning opportunity.

I must also share a bit about the heart of the school. Every school is made up of more than just bricks and mortar. Our school motto is “Let your light shine so everyone can see God’s good work”. This is reflected in the outstanding achievements by the students in our school, thanks in large part to the amazing efforts from the staff at the school. We may be a small school, but we are mighty!! We have
approx. 200 students in the school, yet every year we have 50+ students signing up for choir! The Chess team has to have weeks of tryouts to select the team since again we have 40+ students trying out. (and this year all three teams have made it to the Board Finals!!) The teachers at Our Lady of Good Voyage ensure that the students have every opportunity possible ... we have every sport / club imaginable. Every student has the opportunity to shine. The students in our school are not afraid to try out for clubs or participate ... they feel valued and safe in our school community and that to me is more important than any other statistic.

The staff at OLGV have done a wonderful job at promoting unity and inclusivity. They recently started the School Yard Mix Up where the last Friday of the month the older grades play with the younger grades. This helps build a sense of community.

I would like to share a story .. my 8 year old son plays in a hockey league with other kids from the Mississauga area. One day he was in the change room and the boys were talking about what happened at their schools that day. One boy mentioned a story about a bully in his school. And then another boy chimed in with a similar story about a few bullies at his school. This kept on going for a few minutes, with each boy sharing a story. The whole time I was watching my son’s face. He seemed puzzled and shocked. He finally spoke up and said, “We don’t have any bullies at our school”.

That simple statement from an 8 year old speaks volumes. When I pick up my kids from school I see all the kids running around together. Students in grade 7 and 8 will say hi to my children by name (as I mentioned above, they are in gr. 4, 2 and SK). As a parent, you want your child to get a good education, but more importantly you want them to feel valued. I love knowing that my children are developing into caring, faith filled adults. Our Lady of Good Voyage has given my children the best start in life. I feel truly blessed to be able to send my children to school each day and know they are in the best possible hands.

I thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I know it is lengthy, but it doesn’t even scratch the surface. Our Lady of Good Voyage is definitely worth saving!

Sincerely,
We are writing to plead the importance of keeping Our Lady of Good Voyage School open. We moved into this area 17 years ago with the intentions of starting a family and sending them to an outstanding school called Our Lady of Good Voyage. We were blessed with three amazing kids whom today attend Our Lady of Good Voyage. We feel so fortunate that we have this Catholic school in walking distance in our community. The staff are incredible and we can truly say that they are part of our family! Our children are not just a number but individuals with a name. They are taught to respect, honour and love one another. The parents at this school are just as amazing!

Our Lady of Good Voyage is located in an incredible area, walking distance to River Grove Community Centre for swimming program etc, St. Joseph High School, St. Joseph Catholic Parish whom we have a great report with and Vic Johnson Arena for ice skating and swimming. We are fortunate to have a large area for our children to play in that includes baseball diamonds and soccer fields for sports activities. We are also fortunate to have trails for nature walks in our back yard. Being next to the community centre is fantastic as parents are able to use that parking lot as a pick up and drop off area for our children. This leaving the front for buses and making it safer for kids and less congested with cars. Kids that are able to walk home are not exposed to high traffic areas but to local traffic making this a safer walk home. We also have Mississauga transit that comes by the school. My morning drive down Creditview to Eglinton takes me approximately 7 minutes from Bristol Rd the traffic trying to go in and out of the school is horrible.

Our school has been participating in extra curricular activities and have done incredibly well in Volleyball, Basketball, Chess, Skills Canada, Cross Country etc. The children have had a chance to show their talent at the Our Lady of Good Voyage talent show! We have a large council that supports the school community! They have been able to provide our school with air conditioning units, smart boards, science in the school, a prayer room, trips and government grants used to support mathletics, health and mental well being. We have a french room and an art room which gives our students much more opportunities. The french program our children are taught is above and beyond what other schools in the area have been taught!

The Catholic religion as we have seen has dropped tremendously. We would like to see multi religious communities as opposed to pockets or one religion only. By closing down our school you leave no Catholic school open on the west side of Creditview. Catholic families with children may decided to not move into the area if no Catholic school within walking distance is available. We will lose the Catholic religion in our area and let me say that buyers do look at that. Are you not concerned that by closing our school you are pushing parents to make a decision to change boards and send their children to walking local public schools?? It has definitely crossed our mind as parents. Does busing not come with a cost? All these kids will need to be bused.

Our Lady was the first school built and had a huge number of students for many many years. Slowly other school started opening and students removed from our school to fill other schools. Why not look at the boundaries again. We have school buses that drive by our school that picks up students and takes them to St Josephs in Streetsville. Is our school not closer to them if they are driving by?? Please do not take this away from our community and our children. Put yourselves in our position, would you be okay with this. Think of the children. Let's keep Catholic Religion in our area. PLEASE KEEP OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE OPEN!!

Family

Sent from my iPhone
Hallo,
I am writing this e-mail to keep St.Herbert Open. It is a newest school in a safe area. It is a great school for kids and their parents.
Keep St. Herbert Open!
Parent
Sent from my iPhone
Dear Review committee,

I have three children involved in this review process, all attending St Dunstan (ages ___ and ____). I would like to voice my support for the ARC Options 1 and 2 in the review process. These options close the fewest schools causing the least disruption to the children involved. In addition, they also do not split schools causing further unnecessary stress in the students. My children, like many others involved in this review process have made strong friendships with some of their peers which would be weakened by removing the opportunity to interact everyday at school. I also like these options because they add extended french which helps retain current student and attract new students to the schools in the area.

Thank you for your consideration to my views.

Sincerely
Dear Review committee,

I would like to let you know that I support ARC Options 1 and 2 in the review process. I support these options as they close the fewest schools and do not split schools. Closing fewer schools benefits the visibility of the catholic presence in the area. It also causes stress on a fewer number of students who have to move schools. In addition as it doesn't split schools, it doesn't separate children from the friendships that they have spent years building.

Thank you
Sincerely
Also Our Lady of Good Voyage has the largest gym. And let's not forget the YMCA.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 4, 2016, at 11:03 PM, [Name] wrote:
> 
> We are writing to plead the importance of keeping Our Lady of Good Voyage School open. We moved into this area 17 years ago with the intentions of starting a family and sending them to an outstanding school called Our Lady of Good Voyage. We were blessed with three amazing kids whom today attend Our Lady of Good Voyage. We feel so fortunate that we have this Catholic school in walking distance in our community. The staff are incredible and we can truly say that they are part of our family! Our children are not just a number but individuals with a name. They are taught to respect, honour and love one another. The parents at this school are just as amazing!
>
> Our Lady of Good Voyage is located in an incredible area, walking distance to River Grove Community Centre for swimming program etc, St. Joseph High School, St. Joseph Catholic Parish whom we have a great report with and Vic Johnson Arena for ice skating and swimming. We are fortunate to have a large area for our children to play in that includes baseball diamonds and soccer fields for sports activities. We are also fortunate to have trails for nature walks in our back yard. Being next to the community centre is fantastic as parents are able to use that parking lot as a pick up and drop off area for our children. This leaving the front for buses and making it safer for kids and less congested with cars. Kids that are able to walk home are not exposed to high traffic areas but to local traffic making this a safer walk home. We also have Mississauga transit that comes by the school. My morning drive down Creditview to Eglinton takes me approximately 7 minutes from Bristol Rd the traffic trying to go in and out of the school is horrible.
>
> Our school has been participating in extra curricular activities and have done incredibly well in Volleyball, Basketball, Chess, Skills Canada, Cross Country etc. The children have had a chance to show their talent at the Our Lady of Good Voyage talent show! We have a large council that supports the school community! They have been able to provide our school with air conditioning units, smart boards, science in the school, a prayer room, trips and government grants used to support mathletics, health and mental well being. We have a french room and an art room which gives our students much more opportunities. The french program our children are taught is above and beyond what other schools in the area have been taught!
>
> The Catholic religion as we have seen has dropped tremendously. We would like to see multi religious communities as opposed to pockets or one religion only. By closing down our school you leave no Catholic school open on the west side of Creditview. Catholic families with children may decided to not move into the area if no Catholic school within walking distance is available. We will lose the Catholic religion in our area and let me say that buyers do look at that. Are you not concerned that by closing our school you are pushing parents to make a decision to change boards and send their children to walking local public schools?? It has definitely crossed our mind as parents. Does busing not come with a cost? All these kids will need to be bused.
>
> Our Lady was the first school built and had a huge number of students for many many years. Slowly other school started opening and students removed from our school to fill other schools. Why not look at the boundaries again. We have school buses that drive by our school that picks up students and takes them to St Josephs in Streetsville. Is our school not closer to them if they are driving by??

https://webmail.dpcdsb.org/owa/?ae=Item&t=IPM.Note&id=RgAAAACwMMW2SdJESb3... 4/5/2016
> Please do not take this away from our community and our children. Put yourselves in our position, would you be okay with this. Think of the children. Let's keep Catholic Religion in our area. PLEASE KEEP OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE OPEN!!
>
> Family
>
> Sent from my iPhone
Dear trustees,

I am writing this letter as a concerned parent of the St. Dunstan community. From the very beginning of this process, I can confidently say that the focus of our school community has been and only been centred around the best interest of our children. The hard work that the board planning committee did in order to come up with cost saving measures for the board and the province was evident in the three options they presented in November. Unfortunately, the options placed St. Dunstan in a position to close in all three scenarios. That is problematic as we did not want to see a place where our kids have formed such a close and comfortable community in, close its doors forever. Teachers that contributed to the school’s greatness would be dispersed across the board as well as so many other faces that made the school a welcoming and loving place to be in everyday. This alone would be devastating but it only stood to get worse when all three board presented options, decided to split our children based on which side of Eglinton Avenue they lived on. This to me and many others is the most problematic factor in the whole process. Our children have formed lasting friendships with other children that are fostered daily by the environment for which they coexist in. It will not only be a travesty to separate them, it would cause profound sadness and possibly even anxiety to children who depend on healthy friendships in their daily scholastic life.

In the very beginning of this process, the committee of superintendents requested that ARC representatives from each school present options they deemed logical, cost effective and in the best interest of students. I am proud to say that St. Dunstan’s representatives voiced the concerns of the entire school community by presenting a thoroughly vetted option which kept our student body together. I have attended ARC committee meetings and have really enjoyed spectating a true democratic process in action. I am even further impressed that time and time again, even in the face of negativity, our representatives have maintained the highest levels of professionalism and sound judgement, never being sidelined and always working in the best interests of our children. This is what I expect out of our elected representatives as well. To thoroughly assess what is in the best interest of students as well as the families in the communities they represent. My hope is that the additionally presented options, made by our ARC representatives are given the proper considerations they deserve.

Thank you for reading this letter.

Sincerely,
Re: St. Dunstan Review

Good Evening

I know that tonight is the last time to get my voice out in regards to why I am continuing to fight to keep our school open so I thank you for taking the time to read over my email. St. Dunstan has welcomed my special needs son with open arms and has provided the very best for him in any new situation. Between his teachers, principals and peers, my son has made tremendous progress in the last 3 years. My son is hearing impaired and one of his biggest fears is socialization. He has a fantastic teacher who makes him feel so loved and welcomed that he has come out of his shell and seeks her support when needed. He has met some fantastic friends along the way and that is the socialization piece that I am so worried he will loose if the school closure happens. I beg of you to reconsider this option of closure but if it cannot be foreseen then all I ask is to keep our kids together!! Starting at a new school with new teachers, environment and social setting is a huge transition for any child, imagine a child with special needs!

Thank you for taking the time and consideration to read this over.

Signed:
A very upset and eager mom
As a parent to two children who attend OLGV it has been a fantastic experience. The staff, parents and children all make for a wonderful environment for our children. They are able to flourish. Be who they are in a safe, inclusive place. We have a close relationship with the church and walking distance for the children.

My daughter and son participate in extra curricular activities. The teachers are committed and as a result we are successful in our extra curricular activities (sports, chess, skills Canada)

We have a large council supporting the school community and what we have provided for the school (trip funding, air conditioner units, smart boards, prayer room contributions, scientist in the school, government grants used to support mathletes, health and mental well being initiatives, literacy)

Save OLGV
This email is to express my concerns for the possible school closure of St Gregory Elementary School.

I feel that the big picture is being lost and decisions are being made by individuals that will not be directly affected. This possible school closure will affect our community in such a negative way. When we chose to buy a house in the neighbourhood a selling feature was St Gregory was located near by where we could walk our child to school that is set in a nice area adjacent to a park and a beautiful neighbourhood and community. If you take this away our neighbourhood will not be a desired area to move into therefore our property value will decrese without a Catholic school present.

Everytime I meet past St Gregory students they always have fond memories of their time at the school. St Gregory has educated and nurtured wonderful children into wonderful young adults. That says alot about the school and the community.

A few weeks back a fundraiser was held at St Gregory and the students, parents, friends, family and teachers raised $1400.00 to support Sick Kids Hospital at a request of my sons charity of choice as well as him growing his hair to be cut and donated to Angel Hair Network. Global News came out to film the event and this all came together within a 1 week period which goes to show how our school comes together and supports one another. This is truly a beautiful wonderful, caring, nuturing, positive school that I am proud to be a part of.

The idea of children being bussed across a busy street such as Britannia is ridiculous and completely unsafe. I would never have moved into this area if that would be the case. These children need to be safe and live close to their school. I feel Parents of the Catholic faith will choose to send their children to the public school because of safety and convenience. There is no school near by north of Britannia and therefore St Gregory MUST stay open. I do not see any other option.

Please, please, this is a no brainer. I cannot imagine living in a neighbourhood without St Gregory. It is of so much value to our neighbourhood and community. St Gregory is a huge asset to the children and parents. The Teachers are caring and loving and supportive.

Keep St Gregory Open!!!

Thank you for your time.

Parent

Sent from my iPad
FW: PAR Review
Rogers, Joanne
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 2:41 PM
To: PAR - Info

From: Del Bianco, Daniel
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 11:15 AM
To: Cox, Stephanie <Stephanie.Cox@dpcdsb.org>; Rogers, Joanne <Joanne.Rogers@dpcdsb.org>; Amaral, David <David.Amaral@dpcdsb.org>; Papaloni, Lucy <Lucy.Papaloni@dpcdsb.org>
Subject: FW: PAR Review

FYI – communication directly to the Trustees.

From: Pascucci, Mario
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 11:13 AM
To: Del Bianco, Daniel
Subject: Fw: PAR Review

Fyi

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, April 2, 2016 20:59
To: Pascucci, Mario
Subject: Re: PAR Review

Yes, thank you, Mr. Pascucci.
On Apr 2, 2016 8:10 PM, "Pascucci, Mario" <Mario.Pascucci@dpcdsb.org> wrote:

Thank you for you email.

May I forward the email to the superintendent.

Mario
Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, April 1, 2016 15:38
To: Abbruscato, Anna; Da Silva, Anna; Iannicca, Bruno; D'Souza, Darryl; O'Toole, Esther; Di Cosola, Frank; del Rosario, Luz; Pascucci, Mario; Hobin, Sharon; Xaviour, Shawn; Thomas, Thomas
Subject: PAR Review

Dear Trustees,
With regards to your pending decision on the PAR Review for East Credit, please consider the
The ARC Committee was open to suggestions and recommendations from all communities, giving all affected the opportunity to translate how they felt and what they think was best for the future into concrete plans and action. In the process, 11 other options were presented by 6 of the 8 affected schools (note that there were no alternative proposals from the St. Bernadette and St. Raymond communities). All 11 community sponsored proposals came to the same conclusion specific to one school, and that is that ST. GERTRUDE SHOULD REMAIN OPEN.

Quoting an excerpt from a presentation of another school, St. Dunstan, "St. Gertrude remains untouched, it has high overall utilization as is and French Immersion program does not move, you keep the experience, expertise and children together".

I am a parent of a child in St. Gertrude and I admit that I am biased. However, it would be difficult to dispute, based on these proposals, that the communities are unanimous and clear with regards to St. Gertrude.

There is so much to say about the merits of St. Gertrude, however, I would like to keep it simple and concise, and again, I feel that the communities have already spoken their minds. KEEP ST. GERTRUDE, KEEP THE EXPERIENCE, KEEP THE EXPERTISE, KEEP THE EXCELLENCE.

Kindly review attachments.

May God continue to guide you.

Thank you and best regards,

This email has been sent from a virus-free computer protected by Avast. www.avast.com
FW: St Gregory Petition
Rogers, Joanne

Joanne Rogers
905-890-0708 x. 24299

From: Cox, Stephanie
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 8:21 AM
To: Rogers, Joanne <Joanne.Rogers@dpcdsb.org>
Cc: Koops, Krystina <Krystina.Koops@dpcdsb.org>
Subject: FW: St Gregory Petition

For correspondence on Wednesday.

S.

Kind Regards,
Stephanie Cox, MCIP, RPP
Manager of Planning
Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board
Phone: (905) 890-0708 x24163
Fax: (905) 890-1557
E-mail: stephanie.cox@dpcdsb.org

From: Jennifer Greenman [mailto:jennifergreenman@yahoo.ca]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 10:37 PM
To: Cox, Stephanie <Stephanie.Cox@dpcdsb.org>
Subject: St Gregory Petition

second email