EAST CREDIT
ARC WORKING GROUP MEETING #1
APPROVED MINUTES
January 13, 2016 - 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Location: Room 301 (3rd Floor - Catholic Education Centre)

Chair: David Amaral, Superintendent, Mississauga South

ARC Members: Leslie Aziz, Our Lady of Good Voyage
Terri Lavery, Our Lady of Good Voyage
Ewelina Kostuch, St. Bernadette
Sandra Pozzobon, St. Bernadette
Julia Belmonte, St. Dunstan
Ian Moore, St. Dunstan
Chris Helme, St. Gertrude
Shelley Bonello, St. Gertrude

Jennifer Greenman, St. Gregory
Erin Ljubanovic, St. Gregory
Bidemi Olawale, St. Herbert
Cara Szczepanik, St. Raymond
James Zammit, St. Raymond
Karen Canlas, St. Valentine
Zarah von Schober, St. Valentine

Principals: Colleen Klein, Our Lady of Good Voyage
Linus O’Neill, St. Dunstan
Tina De Vellis-Carino, St. Gertrude
Janine Krolewicz, St. Gregory

Walter Matos, St. Herbert
David Clifford, St. Raymond
Brenda LeClair, St. Valentine

Resource Staff: Daniel Del Bianco, Superintendent, Planning & Operations
Stephanie Cox, Manager, Planning Department
Joanne Rogers, Senior Planner, Planning Department
Lucy Papaloni, Superintendent, Mississauga Brampton Central
Bruce Campbell, General Manager, Communications & Community Relations

Recorder: Pat Pierre, Administrative Assistant, Planning & Operations
Regrets: Krystina Koops, Planner, Planning Department
Maria Parker, Principal, St. Bernadette
Regina Labog, St. Herbert

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 and showed a video reflection from Pope Francis.

2. Introductions

The Chair welcomed the Committee members and the public supporters. The Committee members introduced themselves. The Chair indicated that as the Chair of the Committee, his job is impartial, he is to ensure the meeting runs smoothly and that we are in compliance with Ministry regulations. He indicated that he is not a voting member; only the 16 members from the 8 schools will have a vote in terms of any issues necessitating a vote. This Accommodation Review Committee is a conduit in terms of sharing information between the Board and their school communities. The voting criteria will be 50% plus 1 of those voting members. The ARC does not vote on recommendations or options.

The Chair introduced Stephanie Cox, Manager of Planning to continue with the first item on the agenda.
3. Ministry of Education Guideline Overview

Manager, S. Cox, led the meeting with a brief overview of the slide presentation.

- School Board Efficiencies and Modernization
- Community Hubs
- Community Planning and Partnerships
- Pupil Accommodation Review

The East Credit review area has the highest number of surplus spaces in Dufferin-Peel.

4. Review of November 24, 2015 Initial Staff Report to the Board

Manager, S. Cox continued to explain to the Committee the slide presentation in greater detail.

- Background
- Status Quo

An ARC Member asked if there was any examination as to why the projections were off so much and what confidence can be placed on these projections. Resource staff replied that when Planning Staff completed the Long Term Accommodation Plan was done prior 2001, it was based on 1996 census data and the enrolments of the day. New schools and additions were built, based on this information. The following Long Term Projections were prepared based on 2001 census data which showed that the birth rate had dropped. By this time, the schools in East Credit were already built. Unanticipated decline in birth rates was experienced in the review area, all across the Board, and across the Province. ARC member asked the census year upon which the plan was made. Clarification was sought as to whether it was in 2002. Resource staff replied 2001 census data showed a decline in birth rates. Census data is available every 5 years. In 2011, the government did not complete a census, however, it completed a National Household Survey; a voluntary one. The government will reinstate the long form census in 2016.

Manager, S. Cox continued with the slide presentation.

- Rationale
- Options

Option 1 – ARC Member asked if Planning could better articulate the assumptions made to separate the French Immersion (FI) students from the regular stream.

Information requested: Where do French Immersion students that attend St Gertrude come from.

Response: Resource staff will identify the home school from where FI students come. The Board does not identify individual students on maps for privacy reasons. Superintendent, D. Del Bianco clarified that this information is available on the website.

Information requested: Can information on the total number of students in FI and Extended French be provided? Are those programs at capacity in general, or are there waiting lists.
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Response: 2015 data will be provided. The Board is currently going through French Immersion and Extended French application process for September 2016.

Manager, S. Cox carried on with the slides referring to Option 2 and Option 3. The primary incentive from the Ministry of Education in addressing surplus capacity is the reduction of funding for that excess capacity. That reduction in capacity funding equates to about $1.5 million per year. For the next three years the Board has to find $1.5 million per year to fund that excess capacity.

Resource staff added that funding is a province wide issue. The Ministry used to provide top-up funding. As long as a certain utilization at your school (80%) was maintained, the Ministry would provide the additional 20% in top up funding. The Ministry has reduced the top up funding and hopes to eliminate it altogether. It is a reflection of provincial initiatives all around and our deficit; reducing the top up and cutting school board budgets by 2%. Close to 95% of the budget is salaries, therefore, the operational factor is a small piece. Our coterminous board and our neighbouring Catholic school boards have to deal with this as well.

Manager, S. Cox clarified that the numbers in the report are operational (i.e. snow plowing, heating, lighting, etc.) and do not include salaries.

- Discussion & Comments

Question: ARC member stated that everyone understands there are cutbacks. How did these proposals come about? Why is St Dunstan identified in all three proposals?

Response: Resource staff explained that the scenarios are determined by schools central to the community -proximity, size of school and age of facility. One school was not targeted. The Board’s rationale may not be the community’s rationale. The Board is trying to eliminate surplus pupil places. If the St. Dunstan community or any school community want develop their own scenario, it is within your purview to do so with some background rationale. Staff was mandated to develop options and to identify a preferred option and we had to come up with some criteria to develop it. Any community member may have a different ranking as what should be criteria; we will work as a team. Resource staff will assist with preparing maps, and scenarios as we do it here. We will discuss it with this group and it will be presented to Trustees as part of the Interim report. Your schools and communities will also have that information, so you can also bring your rationale forward on delegation night.

ARC member indicated that St Dunstan is the only school to increase utilization over time and students are split between three different schools. It is not in the student’s best interest to split them up from their friends. Keeping the kids together is one of the biggest issues.

The Chair suggested the ARC members articulate those considerations in terms of how you’re putting that recommendation forward and why you’re putting that recommendation forward. These meeting minutes will be recorded and put on the public website and brought back to the Trustees in a twice monthly report. Although this committee is open to hearing your concerns and suggestions, it is the mandate of this committee to suggest alternatives. We are here for you as a resource to explore those other options under the parameters that you deem necessary or should be given consideration when considering closing a school.

Question: Are any of the schools in the review area eligible for top-up funding?
Response: Yes. Criteria for top-up funding with respect to the more recent funding announcement will be provided.

Question: Why is 3 not the preferred option if the overall goal is to reduce pupil places?

Response: Referring to the maps, resource staff indicated that while Option 3 reduces the most pupil places, the distribution of the remaining schools in the review area would not be central to the entire area. In Option 1, there are schools between Britannia and the 401, between Britannia and Bristol, between Bristol and Eglington and between Eglington and the 403. This distribution allows for larger walking boundaries, whereas in Option 3, no school would remain north of Britannia, and therefore there would be no Catholic presence in this area which is one of the criteria considered.

Question: How are PAR boundaries established? ARC Member identified that parents have concerns that there are students passing Our Lady of Good Voyage to go to another school. St. Joseph boundary area includes students north of Our Lady of Good Voyage boundary. Why wasn’t St Joseph Streetsville included in the East Credit Review Area?

Response: St. Joseph Streetsville already underwent a Pupil Accommodation Review in 2008. There was no value to adding it to the East Credit review area. The overall excess capacity would increase as a result of St Joseph being added.

Question: Can we make a proposal that students join us from St Joseph Streetsville because there are students that get bussed right by Our Lady of Good Voyage to go to that school.

Response: The Chair suggested that in two weeks Planning staff could come back with actual numbers and maps of how many of those students would be crossing the proposed boundary of Our Lady of Good Voyage that need to get to St. Joseph Streetsville. Resource staff indicated that the goal is to reduce this review area by 1400-1600 pupil places. When you are looking at combining schools, keep in mind that there is the rest of the review area that we need to reduce capacity in.

Question: Is the Board open to other alternatives to compensate for that $1.5 million shortfall without having to close schools?

Response: The Board is open to alternate considerations, keeping in mind that the board must maintain a balanced budget, which is mandated by the Ministry of Education.

Question: How much advertising is done by the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board to attract students and how much is assumed that Catholic pupils are being sent to Catholic schools?

Response: The Board has committed significant funds over the last 2-3 years to advertising in newspapers, bus shelters, and radio. There are only a finite number of Catholic families in our community and 100% of them do not attend DPCDSB schools. We target Secondary Schools, as we can attract non-Catholic students as well. We can spend a great deal of money and we might get a few elementary students, but not 1600; the demographic is not there.

Action: The Chair - A summary of the board’s marketing strategy will be provided.
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Question: Would the Board of Trustees consider allowing non-Catholics into our schools?

Response: The Board has sought many legal opinions whether we would be in accordance with the Education Act or the Assessment Act, if non-Catholic students were admitted to our Catholic elementary schools the board would be breaking the law. Trustees are very adamant about championing the cause that our Catholic schools be registered and populated by Catholic students; our policy indicates one parent or the child must be baptized Catholic. It is also illegal and against the Assessment Act for parents of elementary students to have students in both the public and Catholic board; we have procedures in place to adhere to the legislation. The issue of allowing non-Catholic elementary students in our elementary schools would be contrary to attendance rights as outlined in the Education Act and would provide fodder to those who would advocate for a single school system.

Action: Provide Board policy and the related legislation at our next meeting.

Question: ARC Member has indicated that their community has prepared alternate options and would like to present them to the ARC at a future working group meeting. Request for additional information regarding transportation eligibility.

Response: Alternate options from the St Dunstan community will be presented at a future ARC meeting: date to be determined.

Action: Transportation eligibility maps could be provided to the ARC members for viewing purposes only. Transportation department will be invited to a future ARC meeting: date to be determined.

Question: SIP showing the projected five-year facility renewal needs are out of date. Can we get an updated version with a breakdown of portapaks versus original school costs?

Response: RCMs (relocatable classroom modules) are not included in the capacity numbers. Resource staff will recalculate the numbers to highlight the RCM costs separately to add clarity.

Question: How true is capacity and the amount of students that a school can hold without the portables? Does the capacity and utilization at Our Lady of Good Voyage include portables?

Response: “OTG” (On the ground capacity) is the bricks and mortar capacity of the school and does not include the RCM or Portapak. There are 150 extra spaces at Our Lady of Good Voyage, but they are not included in the OTG.

Question: When talking about rationale for the options, one option favours schools that were more recently developed because there are lower maintenance or repair costs. In the SIPs, was the focus on the overall five year renewal needs or the student costs of the renewal needs?

Response: The safest way to look at that is, the per square foot of the building. Larger buildings cost more to heat and light than smaller buildings, but it doesn’t mean they are less efficient than smaller buildings, it’s just that there’s more space there. Assessing renewal and maintenance needs on a square footage basis provides a more accurate assessment for comparative purposes.

Question: Has any consideration been given to existing daycare?
Response: The child care providers are aware of the PAR process. Staff will discuss the needs of child care spaces with the board’s child care operators and options to relocate spaces within the review area, if required.

Information Request: Request for a consolidated summary of all SIPS.

Question: ARC member asked about buildings in terms of closure to schools. It was mentioned earlier, that it was put out to your partners about these empty schools and there was not a good response. What will happen to these empty buildings if there is a closure? Renovations, repairs that have to be done in the next one to two years, would have to be done even if you are leasing the space. So it’s tough to say that one school needs more repair than the other, when the Board would have to repair it anyways, regardless if it is used for other purposes or selling it to the City.

Response: Resource staff replied, renewal needs should not be the driving factor. Once the Board of Trustees makes a decision on what they want to do, they need to declare a school surplus to Board needs. When trustees decide to put a school up for sale, it goes to one of a number of preferred agencies, i.e. coterminous boards, municipalities, government, and so on; there is a hierarchy of these agencies. It is offered to each one of them first and they have an option to purchase it at fair market value within a timeline. After that, it goes to the open market which is a tendering process.

Questions: Was property value considered with any of these proposals?

Response: No, property values is not a consideration.

5. BREAK

The Chair called the break at 7:35 p.m. to reconvene back at 7:50 p.m.

6. Correspondence Items – Discussion

Each email received from the PAR Info mailbox will be received and reviewed individually by the ARC. Senior Planner, J. Rogers stated that emails 1-33 will be discussed at Working Group Meeting #1. Any emails we received at PARInfo@dpcdsb.org by the Friday before any working group meetings will be redacted and distributed to the committee for discussion. Resource staff identified the school and each email issue. The ARC discussed the emails, and recommended a course of action, if any.

WG1-01 St. Dunstan – Moved for receipt by: The Committee.

- What is the rationale behind the three options
- Why is St. Dunstan identified in all three options
- Looking for more information on timing of changes and closures

ARC member stated that the Planning Department has done a very good job of explaining the rationale and the ARC has done a good job examining that rationale; ARC member will take that information back to the St Dunstan community.

Resource staff explained that any closures would not take place until June 2017, if approved.
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ARC Member suggested to group the St. Dunstan emails with common concerns and provide one response. Resource staff indicated that each email will be discussed and recorded in the minutes and posted on the board website. ARC members can direct community members to those minutes and corresponding responses or actions.

WG1-02 St. Dunstan – Moved for receipt by: E. Ljubanovic, Seconded by: J. Greenman.
- Providing their support for not closing St. Dunstan School.

ARC member had an objection, stating that this email did say, “I do not know what factors you will be looking at to determine which school remains open...”, therefore they would need the information on the rationale. Senior Planner J. Rogers acknowledged this.

WG1-03 St. Dunstan – Moved for receipt by: E. Ljubanovic, Seconded by: S. Pozzobon.
- Why was St. Dunstan listed on all three proposals of schools on the list to close and what was the criteria that put St. Dunstan as the constant on the list of closures?

Resource staff indicated that this rationale had been addressed previously in the meeting.

- Parent seeking ARC membership.

No comments or questions.

- Advocating to keep St. Dunstan open

No comments or questions.

WG1-06 St. Dunstan – Moved for receipt by: E. Ljubanovic, Seconded by: J. Greenman.
- Why is St. Dunstan in all three options?
- Why we are closing one of the highest ranking schools?
- Why not close other schools that need more work?

Resource staff indicated that this rationale had been addressed previously in the meeting.

ARC member asked for a specific answer as to why close one of the highest ranking Catholic schools in Dufferin-Peel? This was a common question raised by the St. Dunstan community. The Chair indicated that although EQAO scores are part of SIP, they were not in consideration in terms of the viability for closing the school and there is a rationale behind that. It is not our practice to rank schools, nor would it be our practice in the Pupil Accommodation Review. Those teachers and students can move and the scores will be taken with them to another school community. It is our mandate to be as transparent as possible.

ARC member asked a follow-up question on that point regarding the proposal and the long term sustainability of the East Credit area. To-date we have considered closure options, reducing the number of spaces, but there
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hasn’t been a lot of talk about long-term sustainability. Are we going to have to repeat this process in another 5 or 10 years? Resource staff replied that we can only do this process once every 5 years; it could come up again in 5 years. If the Board reduces 1400-1600 pupil places and the enrolment has stabilized in East Credit, we hope that will prevent us from doing this process again in East Credit.

ARC Member asked when it comes to the future predictions and capacity in our schools, was that not taken into consideration, when looking at the three proposals? St. Dunstan was the only one to show an increase in utilization out of the eight schools, yet we are the one in all three proposals. Resource staff responded that due to a small development in that area, it shows a small increase, however, Planning Staff are looking at the entire review area in terms of utilization.


- Looking for rationale, criteria as to why St. Dunstan was chosen in every option.

Resource staff referred to the rationale.

ARC member addressed information that the email indicated wanting more information regarding St. Rose of Lima. It was a modular school converted to bricks and mortar and became an Extended French school feeding kids from St. Dunstan School. ARC member asked how did St. Rose of Lima remain open. She identified that several parents are asking specifically about this school which is now at such a high capacity. St. Rose of Lima extends out over three major intersections and offers Extended French, and we in the East Credit area do not have Extended French at all. The Chair suggested that the discussion regarding Extended French may be something to put forward in St. Dunstan’s proposal from your school community on February 3rd. St. Rose of Lima is not in this review area.

Resource staff indicated that the St. Rose of Lima boundary was in the previous pupil accommodation review. It was not a recommendation of staff. It was actually the Trustees that decided to keep St. Rose of Lima open. Manager, S. Cox offered to provide specific information on that previous pupil accommodation review.

WG1-08 St. Dunstan – Moved for receipt by: S. Pozzobon, Seconded by: C. Szczepanik.

- Looking for rationale why St. Dunstan is in all three options and also referring to EQAO scores being the highest in board and why we are proposing to close it.

No comments or questions.


- Same letter as WG1-06. Advocating to keep St. Dunstan open
- Why we are proposing to close a school that is so high ranking

No comments or questions.


- Looking for clarification on how the French Immersion program will be handled during a PAR
- What the plans are for those French Immersion students and where would they go?
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The Chair indicated that this question was addressed in the Options available on the board website.

WG1-11 – Moved for receipt by: S. Bonello, Seconded by: C. Szczepaniak.

- General email on how to submit feedback.

Resource staff indicated that all email submissions received an automatic reply on how to give their feedback and that all the information re PAR can be found on the board website.


- Supporting keeping St. Gertrude open.
- Questioning the rationale of why St. Valentine will take over the boundary of St. Gertrude?

Resource staff indicated that we want to create a contiguous boundary; having St. Valentine encompassing St. Gertrude forms a nice square boundary, and the French Immersion students would be directed to St. Gregory.

ARC member asked about the rationale specifically identifying French Immersion (FI) students – why are they different and need to be segregated from the rest of school? Resource staff replied that when we put programs in schools, those programs can be moved to different schools. We have situations where enrolments in some schools become too high and because the FI program is optional, that is the rationale for splitting the FI students and keeping the students in the community that attend the regular track program there.

ARC member commented that as a whole, the St. Gertrude students have friends that are integrated in the FI program and moving the FI program somewhere else affects them a great deal also. The Chair indicated that that would be recorded in the minutes, but as far as the rationale as to why one part moved was explained by resource staff in the program piece.

WG1-13 St. Gertrude – Moved for receipt by: S. Pozzobon, Seconded by: S. Bonello.

- Option that has been put forward; a modification of Option 2
- Map attached showing the Northwest portion of St. Valentine being redirected to St. Gregory, South portion of St. Valentine going to St. Herbert, and the East portion to St. Gertrude
- There is also a line graph attached showing an overall ranking of the schools in the review area

Resource staff indicated that this is an alternative option consideration by the ARC

ARC member asked if the merits of this option should be considered at this meeting. ARC member suggested we bring it forward when all options are available. The Chair responded that staff will bring the information on this proposal forward on behalf of this person.

ARC member asked about two other emails that are similar.

Resource staff clarified there are two subsequent emails WG1-31 and WG1-44 (for the next meeting) with the same proposal. There are no modifications to this email.

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- Advocating to keep St. Dunstan open

ARC member commented that the person who sent in this email, when deciding what area to purchase their house, they looked at EQAO scores. ARC member commented that, again, it spoke to long term sustainability factors to be considered by the trustees; these are factors that are going to attract people to the area.

- Advocating to keep St. Dunstan open
- referring to EQAO scores

No comments or questions.

- Advocating to keep St. Dunstan open
- How much thought was given to student well-being, academic achievement, financial viability in the three options that have been put forward

ARC member reiterated that this is a common theme in a lot of emails. This has it broken down - 1. Student well-being – will impact the community that has been developed by students, parents and teachers; 2. Academic Achievement – again referencing EQAO results; and 3. Financial Viability – we should consider more than the cost per square foot when it comes to defending Catholic education. ARC member requested that this be recorded in the minutes.

WG1-17 St. Gertrude – Moved for receipt by: E. Kostuch, Seconded by: S. Bonello.
- Urging the reconsideration of the closure of St. Gertrude.

ARC member asked if we are able to find out the number of special education students in each school considered here.

Response: The Chair indicated that confidentiality is the number one concern. We can provide you that information for the meeting in two weeks. But, if you go to the enrolment report on the board website, it shows the special education students in the “SE” column per class per school (self-contained class). Those students that are deemed special education and are on an IEP, would have to be identified in another manner. Staff will review and come back with the best way to identify this all the while maintaining confidentiality.

- Asking for additional information for utilization rates for all schools in the Board
- Asking for the total number Spec. Ed students in the review area.

Response: The Chair identified that Staff would come back with that information.

- Advocating to keep St. Dunstan open
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No comments or questions.

WG1-20 St. Gertrude – Moved for receipt by: S. Pozzobon, Seconded by: L. Aziz.

- Focuses on French Immersion from St. Gertrude – questioning what happens when siblings are in FI and other in the regular English program

Resource staff responded that with a specialized program in one school and a regular program in your boundary school, children from the same family could potentially be separated, but that a flex boundary option may be considered. That is an annual process that is dealt with the school principals. If parents/guardians wanted their children together, it is something that could be applied for. The Chair added that the St. Gertrude community may want to include that in their recommendations for future consideration, in terms of separating families. Resource staff indicated the board policy and that we do attempt to keep families together, but this is particularly difficult with specialty programs where there is no other room in the school to house other students.


- Grade 5 student outlining why St. Gertrude should stay open

No comments or questions.


Explain how St. Dunstan does not meet criteria to stay open

The Chair indicated that was reflected in the rationale. Resource staff added that when Planning Staff completes a review, the whole area is considered, not just one school.


- Advocating to keep St. Dunstan open

No comments or questions.


- Advocating to keep St. Dunstan open

No comments or questions.


- Option 1 Questions

ARC member responded that the first question has been addressed regarding forecast accuracy. Others are fairly specific questions that can be answered over the course of other meetings. ARC member asked if there was a conflict in the initial report re discussion of saving $1.5 million annually, and a secondary criterion to achieve an increase of 20% utilization at each of the receiving schools as it seems like an additional hurdle being placed on this selection of schools and wanted to better understand that.
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Resource staff responded that the financial piece and utilization piece are not tied together specifically in the report. In terms of utilization, the goal is to increase the number of students in the school. ARC member responded that the wording reads, “Options which do not achieve an increase in overall utilization greater than 20% at each of the receiving schools...are not identified as recommended options”. Resource staff clarified that the board is trying to see an increase of utilization of 20% overall, not at each school. Of the eight schools, at the remaining five, we wanted to see upwards of 20% utilization for those receiving schools.

WG1-26 St. Dunstan – Moved for receipt by: E. Ljubanovic, Seconded by: J. Greenman.
- Same as a previous email regarding the three principles: 1. Student Well-Being, 2. Academic achievement and 3. Financial sustainability

ARC member commented that he heard from the Planning Department their criteria when coming up with these plans was to retain central schools, retain newer schools, looking at major roads within a boundary and looking at this north/south distribution. Resource staff replied, that was what the Planning Department tried to achieve, but there were options that didn’t achieve all of the options, but Planning Staff wanted to show those as well.

- Advocating to keep St. Dunstan open
- Expressing concerns about other schools in the review area

No comments or questions.

WG1-28 St. Dunstan – Moved for receipt by: S. Bonello, Seconded by: S. Pozzobon.
- Advocating to keep St. Dunstan open

No comments or questions.

- Four questions being posed:
  1. What data was used to reach this conclusion that closing St. Dunstan is a viable option?
  2. Why such a strong focus on this one particular school?
  3. What other characteristics may have influenced the decision process: timing, location, etc.?
  4. Has there been a review or involvement by parties other than Board members or the Ministry of Education? If yes, who were these parties and what is their interest in the process and decision?

Resource staff responded 1. With respect to the data, we would refer to the rationale. 2. The focus on St. Dunstan is unintentional; the whole area is reviewed. 3. Location of the school; keeping the receiving school centrally located. 4. Resource staff responded that this is a board led process and other than going to the municipality or our potential partners, asking if they can be a part of our solution in any way, that’s the extent of any interaction with third parties.

ARC member asked if the Planning Staff had already been in contact with other parties – your top 10 regarding this school or will that be the next step in the process? Resource staff commented that the Board has just under
100 community partners, including the school board across the street, the Region, Municipalities, Child Care providers and any others that currently take up space in our schools. The Board engaged them before the process started on a very high level asking them if they need any space in our schools. Once the process was approved by Trustees to start, then Planning Staff asked them to focus on this particular area. Resource staff added that as part of the process, at the December 10 meeting referred to earlier, Planning Staff shared the same information and comments on these options and the report as well. If the Trustees have comments before the Interim Report is provided, those comments will also be reflected in the report that goes to the Board. Resource staff commented that it’s embedded in the policy, that once Trustees start the process, Board Staff have to write a letter to the municipality, coterminous boards, etc. to inform them that we have started this process. ARC member inquired if there is any interest in buying St. Dunstan or the property? Resource staff replied, none. The Chair clarified that if there was interest in buying St. Dunstan that would not sway the decision to close. The Ministry regulations are such that that cannot be part of the process moving forward.

ARC member asked, if there was interest in any of our schools, would the members of the ARC know that? Resource staff responded, yes. There were only 25 schools identified as community partners. ARC Member asked if we can receive the criteria for community partnership. Resource staff identified Community Partners section on the website that will outline the report criteria and the list of schools. If Community Partners has interest in space in any of those schools, they can contact the Planning Department at any time, not just through the PAR process. Resource staff will provide the list of the board’s community partners to the ARC. ARC Member added that there may be some smaller organizations that had not thought about using a school but may be able to use a school, if they had been approached. Resource staff indicated that the community partnership meetings were advertised in the newspapers and other places, so even if they weren’t on our list of 100 partners, they can see that information. (Brampton Guardian, Mississauga News, Orangeville Banner, Caledon Enterprise – all local papers and on our website.) 100 partners were invited to public consultation and only 8 individuals came forward with only 4 interested in daytime use that they could renovate the space and occupy space in our buildings as a separate entity. The Chair added that actually part of December 7th report identifies the schools, and the French Immersion students broken down by school. The second page of the appendices in that report identifies the community partnerships. Planning Staff will append the link to next agenda.

WG1-30 St. Dunstan Moved for receipt by: Z. von Schober, St. Valentine

ARC member indicated that on the second page, last paragraph, that a hotmail account was not redacted. Resource staff will make redactions for the public website. If any committee members wish to authenticate any of the emails or see them in their entirety, J. Rogers has the non-redacted versions.


- Second email with modified option 2 for St. Gertrude.

Resource staff confirmed that the ARC already agreed to explore this option.


- Advocating to keep St. Dunstan open.

No comments or questions.
EAST CREDIT
ARC WORKING GROUP MEETING #1
APPROVED MINUTES
January 13, 2016 - 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Location: Room 301 (3rd Floor - Catholic Education Centre)

WG1-33 St. Dunstan — Moved for receipt by: S. Bonello, Seconded by: E. Kostuch.

- Advocating to keep St. Dunstan open.

No comments or questions.

ARC member indicated that, addressing the concerns of St. Dunstan parents re EQAO scores that the Chair mentioned earlier, if you take students with higher EQAO scores and transfer them to schools with lower EQAO scores, that those scores would come up; that’s the number 1 factor, and 2, the teachers. The Chair replied, potentially, yes. There are so many variables. ARC Member continued with, would it be fair to say that your child is an excellent student and his strength will come through no matter where he is. The Chair responded to that by saying, EQAO is a reflection of the Ontario curriculum and as such teachers are mandated to teach that curriculum. The student will be able to achieve to his or her full potential with the support of the school community that he/she attends. A student’s achievement is not going to be transferrable all the time, however, it would be fair to say there would be some level of consistency in the transference of that achievement level.

Resource staff commented that every school teaches the same curriculum, so the level of what the students will be delivered will be the same wherever they go. That consistency will be throughout the system. The substance of program is essentially the same.

ARC Member asked if the converse is true, if a student below board level moves, if they go to that school where the aggregate level is higher, that you would expect them to achieve a higher level. The Chair stated that it is impossible to unilaterally state that transferring to another school will improve achievement. It does not honour the variables and things that come into play that affect a student’s achievement that the local school, no matter how hard they try, may not have the ability to support within the context of writing an assessment such as EQAO. It is so case by case and so unique to each individual child that we would not be able to comment on that. There may be patterns. ARC member indicated that it was a very tough question, but all the parents in our community are concerned and now I have some support and input. We don’t want to give messages to parents that we can’t support and conclude unequivocally that that transference will happen.

ARC member commented that some parents have a huge concern about moving children from the school they are used to, to a new school and that it would have a huge impact; especially if the child is struggling academically. Moving a child to a different environment, a different class, teacher and friends, have a big effect on the child. The Chair responded that this is not the best case scenario by any means. This isn’t what anyone hoped for, but our reality is that we need to address the issues that are before us. The Chair reiterated that no school will close until June 2017 and that, the Board and staff and Board of Trustees are committed to a solid transition plan, not only in the planning, but in the implementation for 2016-17 academic year. Although the decision would be made in late May, there would be a solid year for the transition plan to be articulated and implemented to support those very souls.

ARC member stated the sensitivity around performance is to be acknowledged and appreciate you grounding us in this unique situation for each child. There are many factors, i.e. ESL, health, anxiety – inclusion of consideration of academic performance are not to be included in minutes. I know that parents of all our children, we do practise Catholic values and that is the acceptance of all children of all levels. The Chair commented that St. Dunstan address the concerns of their school community members that are bringing that up as one of the issues as why St. Dunstan shouldn’t be closed. They require clarity and how to communicate that very message. ARC member replied that it’s not just their school, it’s all of them.
EAST CREDIT
ARC WORKING GROUP MEETING #1
APPROVED MINUTES
January 13, 2016 - 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Location: Room 301 (3rd Floor - Catholic Education Centre)

ARC member asked if it should be realistic in the job of the trustees, that EQAO be a determining factor with them. The Chair indicated EQAO was not one of the rationale presented to the Trustees. A school may not have great EQAO scores, but their extra-curricular and co-curricular activities from a school level may provide amazing opportunities and equally or more important to developing well rounded citizens of the future. You can present that as a concern from the St. Dunstan community in your proposal.

ARC member indicated that is a common thread in our letters. It should not just be the focus, but we need to provide answers. People have invested a lot of money to move into our neighbourhood because of these scores. The Chair added that trustees may ask questions regarding a transition plan. It becomes about the continuation of the achievement, not dependent necessarily about the physical location of the school.

ARC member commented that parents are not just looking at scores, but these are people who have spent a lot of money investing in the area because of these scores and they want answers. The Chair said, respectfully, what I’m hearing you say is, every parent wants to do the best for their child. That might be another message to take back to your community. I’d hate for the perception to be that there is some sort of elitism at St. Dunstan. I fully understand that that’s not the intention behind it, but that may be the way that the communication is being perceived to the people in your community. That might be a way to guide them in this direction.

ARC member asked if there is support for students and parents to guide them through this process. For example, providing strategies and resources, if your child is upset regarding potential school closures. The Chair replied that Staff will bring back some suggestions or tips when discussing this with your child.

ARC member also asked about WG1-11 and where do ARC members find information. Are there options for people who don’t have the Web or if English is not their first language? Are there resources for them? The Chair indicated that parents/guardians’ first point of contact in terms of ARC members’ discussions with them should be the principal, who is in constant contact with Board staff as to the needs of the community. The Public Open House will be an opportunity for all parents/guardians to come forward, if they feel comfortable to ask staff there for materials that have been translated, but we do have those services available. The Chair indicated that question will be raised with our Communications Department to see if they can help those people that you mentioned.

ARC Member asked about WG1-32 and the reference to “Places To Grow Act”. She indicated she is not familiar with that. The Chair said that we will bring that back next time, in terms of explaining a little about Places to Grow for them.

7. Public Open House Format and Survey

6:00 p.m. – Introductions and overview

6:15 – 8:30 p.m. – Open house format. Staff will be available to answer questions.

8:30 p.m. – “Parking Lot” – if any questions are left unanswered, the public can write down their questions, and they will be answered at 8:30. Any questions that are not addressed that evening will be addressed and posted to the website.
EAST CREDIT
ARC WORKING GROUP MEETING #1
APPROVED MINUTES
January 13, 2016 - 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Location: Room 301 (3rd Floor - Catholic Education Centre)

An online survey will become active that night and continue online for the week after that. The purpose of the survey is to collect feedback regarding the 3 proposed options and any new options and rationale from the community. Tablets will be available at the school. The results of the survey will be shared with the ARC.

8. ARC Working Group Meeting #2 – Wednesday, January 27, 2016

An agenda will be forward to the ARC prior to the meeting.

9. Future ARC Working Meeting dates

Schedule of future meeting dates and school tours attached.

ARC Members asked who will be responsible to lead school tours. Facilities supervisor has the keys and access to all rooms. We can determine as a group what we want to see at every school and we will fine tune that with school staff.

Request for Agenda items for January 27, 2016 meeting:

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

ARC member asked when Finance and Transportation were going to be present. Did that timeline get determined by the ARC? The Chair indicated that it will be determined around the questions that arise and the availability of staff to come and present, but depending on where we are in the process will determine what staff need to come in.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Motion to adjourn was moved by: J. Greenman, seconded by: E. Ljubanovic.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Distribution:
ARC Members
ARC Resource

Future meeting dates:
January 20, 2016 – Public Open House #1
January 27, 2016 – ARC Working Meeting #2
February 3, 2016 – ARC Working Meeting #3
Dear ARC Members:

Please let me introduce myself virtually. I'm [redacted] residing at [redacted] Carrington Road and I have 3 children that currently attend St. Dunstan elementary school.

Wanted to share with you that two of my children, [redacted], were both in tears this evening at the thought that their school could potentially close. This was very upsetting for my husband and I.

Having said that, I have reviewed the potential options and it appears that St. Dunstan would close in all options unless the eight schools stay at status quo, or at least that is how I'm interrupting the options outlined on your website. I have observed that the staff preferred option lists St. Bernadette, St. Herbert, St. Raymond and St. Valentine. Does this mean that in this scenario (option 1) St. Dunstan would close? If this is the case, this doesn't make sense to me considering the current utilization rates at three of those schools are actually lower than St. Dunstan. This would mean that you're actually impacting and potentially displacing more students and potentially being disruptive to more families.

Could you please explain the rationale behind the development of the three options? Also, could you please provide the estimated timing of the changes/closures, should they occur?

I would appreciate a response to the questions posed above and would like to stay informed through these deliberations. Could you please keep me informed about the accommodation review process going forward including any dates and locations of public consultations.

From a very concerned parent.

Regards,

[Redacted]
To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the letter sent on Nov.26th regarding the Pupil Accommodation Review 2016 in which my child's school (St. Dunstan) was listed. I am very concerned about this because my younger daughter will be registering also at St. Dunstan this January for JK in September 2016. I moved to my current address solely because it is within walking distance of St. Dunstan's. I think it is a very good school, well run and has consistently done well in the grade school rankings. I do not know what factors you will be looking at to determine which school remains open and which one will be closed down but PLEASE look at the most current enrolment figures (2014, 2015) as well as school ranking.

I know budget cuts are mostly likely the reason for school closings in general, but I hope real estate developers are NOT part of this selection process because if it would be a very sad day in education when schools are bulldozed down to make way for condos/townhouses. You are dealing with children, their friends, families and teachers here. Please think twice.

Yours sincerely,

A concerned parent of St. Dunstan's
RE: St. Dunstan
PAR - Info
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 11:01 AM
To: [redacted]

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your email. We appreciate and value your input. Please be assured that your comments have been documented and will be discussed and considered as part of the accommodation review process.

By way of background, accommodation reviews are designed to look at a grouping of schools to determine how best to address an enrolment shortfall, with the least possible impact on students and families. We understand, and are sensitive to the fact, that the possibility of a school closing can be stressful. While the initial staff report may contain a proposed option that impacts your child's school, it does not necessarily mean that this will be the option that will ultimately be adopted. The final decision by the Board of Trustees to move forward with a recommendation will not take place until extensive consultation with the community has occurred.

The staff recommendation, outlined in the November 24 Board Report, will be presented at the first public meeting, scheduled for January 20, 2016 at St. Joseph Secondary School. This recommendation provides a foundation for the ARC (Accommodation Review Committee) committee's discussions. The rationale for developing the options considered available capacity, enrolment projections, facility condition and distribution of schools within the review area. The committee may also create alternative accommodation options, which should be consistent with the objectives and criteria outlined in committee's terms of reference. The current recommendations propose any schools selected for closure would be closed, effective June 2017.

All meetings are open to the public. Please join us at the ARC Working Group or Open House Public Meetings that will be scheduled in January for more information on the development of the options. Talk to your principal about how you can get involved.

All Information related to the process, including meeting dates, Policy documents, Board reports, Q and As, and other materials will be posted on the website at www.dpcdsb.org.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 12:46 PM
To: PAR - Info
Subject: St. Dunstan

Hello, as a parent starting to information gather regarding the Pupil Accommodation Review I would first like to ask why was St. Dunstan listed in all three of the proposals of schools on the list to close. More specifically what is the criteria sited that put St. Dunstan as the constant on this list of closures?

Thank you,
Hello!
Recently a letter was sent home to the parents of students in schools involved in the Pupil Accommodation Review in the East Credit Service area. It was noted in this letter that there would be parent representation on the Accommodation Review Committee. I am interested in sitting on the committee to ensure the voice of parents of young children is heard. I have lived in the community for the past 23 years and understand the reason for the review. It is obvious the community dynamic is changing. I have one child currently registered in Our Lady of Good Voyage school and one who will we will be registering to start in September 2016., so I have a vested interest in the outcome of the review. Working in community services, I know it will be very important to engage families in the process to make every effort to help manage changes and gain their confidence in the decisions being made.

I look forward to your response,

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Hello,
I was recently made aware that St. Dunstan was being considered to be shut down. I graduated in 2000 from St. Dunstan and I can firmly state that the foundation laid by the teachers at St. Dunstan allowed me to reach my goals in life. Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] were incredible mentors and teachers to all of us students. I'm sure many other students feel the same about other teachers from the school. Please keep the school open so that more children can benefit from the incredible mentorship and guidance provided from the staff. I hope I get the opportunity to bring my children to St. Dunstan in the future. Thank you for taking the time to consider my request.

Sincerely,
To whom it may concern at the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board:

My husband and I are current residents of Ward 6. We live at Trailmaster Drive. Our eldest daughter is of school age and her home school is St. Bernadette. Due to morning start times, my husband and I were not able to drive our daughter to school (and bussing was not available due to proximity), she was accepted to attend St. Timothy School near my parents, under the flex boundary system.

My parents have since sold their home and we too, have sold ours so that we can move in together. Our new residence will be at Credit Pointe Drive, still in the Ward 6 jurisdiction. This home was chosen not solely based on the actual structure or neighbourhood but largely due to the fact that the Catholic school, St. Dunstan, was highly ranked and recommended by many.

The article in the Mississauga News states that in all three scenarios, St. Dunstan would be closed. May I respectfully ask why this might be? If the numbers given by the News are correct, it certainly is not in the bottom three lowest attended schools in East Credit, so why then is it included in all three scenarios? As you well know, it is one of the newer schools in the area and, from what I gather from my visits to the school during the registration process, it seems that this school runs like clockwork. Everyone that I have come across, be it the administration, staff, students, custodians all seem happy to be there. In short, this is exactly the type of positive school climate that I want my children to be in.

It is unfortunate that numbers are low throughout most of East Credit. My husband and I certainly understand that by closing schools there will be less overhead to pay that can be put back into full capacity schools and in turn, our childrens' education. However, we ask again, why St. Dunstan? Why close one of the highest ranked Catholic Schools in Dufferin Peel? Why not close older schools in need of more work? What are the deciding factors ultimately? It would be a real shame to put an end to the amazing work being done by the students, staff, administration and community members of the St. Dunstan family. My family urges you to take a second look at your choices and consider all the facts. If we can be of assistance in any way, please let us know.

May God bless you and guide you to make the right decisions for all involved.

Yours in partnership,
Dear [Name],

Thank you for your email. We appreciate and value your input. Please be assured that your comments have been documented and will be discussed and considered as part of the accommodation review process.

Please note that the summer meeting you refer to was a regular board meeting where the Board of Trustees approved the policy that governs the Board’s Community Planning and Partnerships. A public meeting was held on October 20th by board staff subsequent to the Board meeting to consult with the Board’s community partners. The purpose of this meeting was to advise the Board’s community partners that there are schools within our jurisdiction that have available spaces and to explore potential partnerships opportunities. At this meeting, 8 community partners attended, and since that meeting, no formal request for partnerships were received. This was not a meeting regarding Pupil Accommodation Review.

By way of background, accommodation reviews are designed to look at a grouping of schools to determine how best to address an enrolment shortfall, with the least possible impact on students and families. We understand, and are sensitive to the fact, that the possibility of a school closing can be stressful. While the initial staff report may contain a proposed option that impacts your child’s school, it does not necessarily mean that this will be the option that will ultimately be adopted. The final decision by the Board of Trustees to move forward with a recommendation will not take place until extensive consultation with the community has occurred.

The staff recommendation, outlined in the November 24 Board Report, will be presented at the first public meeting, scheduled for January 20, 2016 at St. Joseph Secondary School. This recommendation provides a foundation for the ARC (Accommodation Review Committee) committee’s discussions. The Ministry Guidelines require Boards to include one or more options to address accommodation issues within the review area, as well as a recommended option; therefore the Initial Staff Report refers to 3 options for consideration, and Option 1 is the “Preferred Option”. The rationale for developing the options considered available capacity, enrolment projections, facility condition and distribution of schools within the review area. The committee may also create alternative accommodation options, which should be consistent with the objectives and criteria outlined in committee’s terms of reference. The current recommendations propose any schools selected for closure would be closed, effective June 2017.

All meetings are open to the public. Please join us at the ARC Working Group or Public Open House Meetings for more information on the development of the options. The first Public Open House is scheduled for January 20, 2016 from 6pm to 9pm at St Joseph Secondary School. Talk to your principal about how you can get involved.

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All information related to the process, including meeting dates, Policy documents, Board reports, Q and As, and other materials will be posted on the website at www.dpcdsb.org.

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 9:43 PM
To: PAR - Info
Subject: Request for information: PAR St-Dunstan Elementary School

Hello,

I am seeking further information with regard to the recent Pupil Accommodation Review letter sent home to parents on November 26th, 2015. My children attend St-Dunstan elementary school, and I had no idea what a Pupil Accommodation Review meant. I read the letter, and decided to visit the school board’s website for further information. I am sure you can appreciate how I am gravely concerned by the misleading information provided on the letter - in comparison to the options I found on-line on the school board’s website. As a member of the St-Dunstan community, I am quite shocked that St-Dunstan does not stand a chance in any of the listed options (other than the status quo/no changes option). What I find most appalling is how the letter seems to sugar-coat the truth; it’s not an accurate snapshot/summary of the truth or reality of the situation. I am sure the board is aware of this, and in fact counting on the parents’ ignorance.

How is this letter, and this review process, for that matter - fair and transparent? Why were the concerned school communities not properly informed, upfront? I am very upset by the obvious lack of clear communication with all interested parties. Why not spell out the truth of the matter from the get-go? Why not give all concerned a chance for a debate, alternate plans, ideas - brainstorming sessions? This affects us all.

I am a public servant myself (with the Federal Government), and we strive to uphold a code of values and ethics which are based on Fairness and Transparency in all of our processes and procedures. I do not feel the board is being Fair and transparent at all. It is as if the decision has already been made, finalized.

I am willing to petition, write the Premier, the school trustee and anyone else - to try to save this school and this tight-knit community.

In my online search, and on the board’s website, I was able to find some info. Not the most easily accessible info I have to say. I had to dig. I do not understand how the board can just hold an initial meeting during the summertime of 2015, advertising only in the Mississauga News, when most families are away - and only have 8 individuals show up to discuss this pupil accommodation review. Where were the parent reps? Why weren’t we included more directly in this? Even if I had seen this article/notice, I would never have understood that this meant there would potentially be a school closure?! Why not employ the use of plain language to ensure this is clear and coherent for those of us who aren’t familiar with the lingo? And as for the meeting that took place on November 24th 2015 - it was called a ‘general meeting’... however the main topic of discussion, was the pupil accommodation review.

I visited your website - and I spent 5+ hours searching and reading to try and inform myself. I do not feel this is fair and transparent in any way. In fact, it feels more like a hidden agenda.

I am so disheartened and saddened that the board is not willing to give St Dushman a fighting chance. This school, and the extraordinary staff within it, have helped mold and shape my children - and continue to do so - with hundreds of children. We’ve benefited from the daycare centre as well - which afforded us a work-life balance we would have never have had. It also afforded my children much needed balance and stability, which is crucial to their development.

We want our children to have the opportunity to continue to thrive and grow within the St Dushman community and eventually graduate with their peers from St-Dunstan. To close this school, would be a great loss to an entire
RE: Request for information: PAR St-Dunstan Elementary School

community and impact hundreds of lives and families. I know that this comes down to the bottom line of a budget. I understand fiscal restraints in this day and age. I just feel that parents and the entire community should have been given the information, without it being done in such an underhanded, unadvertised way. Placing this notice in the Mississauga news after all, let’s be honest - the board knew this would slide by, unnoticed. This is not a good basis for planning. Even if it is in the initial stages.

My request, is for openness and honesty. Is it possible to share with me the criteria used to determine how St-Dunstan was chosen to the one school omitted from every single option? Can someone explain this to me in plain language? Is this info not ATIP-able? I believe the public deserves to know the ‘whys’ behind all of this.

I have been upset ever since finding out. Interestingly, in speaking to one of my colleagues at work - she lives by Credit Valley Hospital. She told me that her children (now in their twenties), went to a school named St-Rose. This school was built as a temporary holding school in the 1980’s. She said they used train carts to build it - then added some brick and mortar - and she emphasized how horrible the conditions were - impossible to properly air condition and heat. Why on earth would the board still allow this school to remain open? My understanding is that this school, had very low enrolment for years (only one class per grade), the board wanted to close it, the parents protested and then they added a french program as well as an advanced program - and that boosted their numbers and they are still open today. Why would the board want to keep a school that was built as a temporary structure / temporary measure, as a permanent school? It just doesn’t make sense, especially not from a Heath and Safety perspective.

I have found it grossly unfair that should the closure take place, and St-Dunstan be no more, its students would be separated by a boundary, which the other 2 schools in the plan, do not. A potion of the students that live north of eglington would be assigned to one school, while those that live south would be assigned to another. How is this a fair plan?

I look forward to receiving further information and I thank you in advance,

Sincerely,

[Redacted]
Hello,

As a parent of a child currently in Gr.2 and another child enrolling in PDK in January, I am quite concerned about the released proposals to close St. Dunstan.

We purchased our property at [redacted], specifically to be in the St. Dunstan community. We researched area schools meticulously because of our eldest daughter's speech and learning disability. When we met with varying principals/schools, we were most rest assured by Mr. O'Neill that our daughter's needs would be very well taken care of at St. Dunstan and that has proven to be true in her 4 years there. The faculty has all worked together to ensure all her needs are met and it continues daily until present. We are family at this school. Teachers, principal, secretary, parents and students. Together as a community, we raise funds for the school and ensure that every child's needs are taken care of. As a school we are strongly involved with St. Joseph's Parish and the kids walk to their masses as a school because we are within walking distance. This will all change if these proposals go through.

I can respect that cut-backs need to be made but I can assure you, the Board may not realize how strong our community is and that many parents are involved in making this school a leader in the East Credit. This on top of our high-ranking scores across the board thanks to our invaluable teachers and staff who put their heart into ensuring our school's success. Many many parents have specifically moved to our community because of our school's ratings and faculty.

As a very concerned parent, I would like to know how St. Dunstan was placed on the list of all 3 proposals when our enrollment is up 10% alone this year vs. last year. How can we be proposed to close ranking as the highest EQAO school in the East Credit? Why would it not be considered that other schools join our school to excel students into these rankings?

I hope these questions are answered to concerned parents at any of the future meetings including the Jan. 20th public meeting.

Regards and God Bless,
RE: St. Dunstan possible school closing

PAR - Info

Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2015 12:30 PM
To: [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your email. We appreciate and value your input. Please be assured that your comments have been documented and will be discussed and considered as part of the accommodation review process.

By way of background, accommodation reviews are designed to look at a grouping of schools to determine how best to address an enrolment shortfall, with the least possible impact on students and families. We understand, and are sensitive to the fact, that the possibility of a school closing can be stressful. While the initial staff report may contain a proposed option that impacts your child’s school, it does not necessarily mean that this will be the option that will ultimately be adopted. The final decision by the Board of Trustees to move forward with a recommendation will not take place until extensive consultation with the community has occurred.

The staff recommendation, outlined in the November 24 Board Report, will be presented at the first public meeting, scheduled for January 20, 2016 at St. Joseph Secondary School. This recommendation provides a foundation for the ARC (Accommodation Review Committee) committee’s discussions. The rationale for developing the options considered available capacity, enrolment projections, facility condition and distribution of schools within the review area. The committee may also create alternative accommodation options, which should be consistent with the objectives and criteria outlined in committee’s terms of reference. The current recommendations propose any schools selected for closure would be closed, effective June 2017.

All meetings are open to the public. Please join us at the ARC Working Group or Public Open House Meeting that has been scheduled on January 20, 2015 from 6pm to 9pm at St Joseph Secondary School for more information on the development of the options. Talk to your principal about how you can get involved.

All information related to the process, including meeting dates, Policy documents, Board reports, Q and As, and other materials will be posted on the website at www.dpcdsb.org.

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 2:45 PM
To: PAR - Info

Subject: Fwd: St. Dunstan possible school closing

To whom it may concern at the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board:

My husband and I are current residents of Ward 6. We live at [Redacted] Trailmaster Drive. Our eldest daughter, [Redacted] is of school age and her home school is St. Bernadette. Due to morning start times, my husband and I were not able to drive our daughter to school (and bussing was not available due to proximity), she was accepted to attend St. Timothy School near my parents, under the flex boundary system.

My parents have since sold their home and we too, have sold ours so that we can move in together. Our new residence will be at [Redacted] Credit Pointe Drive, still in the Ward 6 jurisdiction. This home was chosen not solely based on the actual structure or neighbourhood but largely due to the fact that the Catholic school, St. Dunstan, was highly ranked and recommended by many.

The article in the Mississauga News states that in all three scenarios, St. Dunstan would be closed. May I respectfully ask why this
RE: St. Dunstan possible school closing

might be? If the numbers given by the News are correct, it certainly is not in the bottom three lowest attended schools in East Credit, so why then is it included in all three scenarios? As you well know, it is one of the newer schools in the area and, from what I gather from my visits to the school during the registration process, it seems that this school runs like clockwork. Everyone that I have come across, be it the administration, staff, students, custodians all seem happy to be there. In short, this is exactly the type of positive school climate that I want my children to be in.

It is unfortunate that numbers are low throughout most of East Credit. My husband and I certainly understand that by closing schools there will be less overhead to pay that can be put back into full capacity schools and in turn, our children's education. However, we ask again, why St. Dunstan? Why close one of the highest ranked Catholic Schools in Dufferin Peel? Why not close older schools in need of more work? What are the deciding factors ultimately? It would be a real shame to put an end to the amazing work being done by the students, staff, administration and community members of the St. Dunstan family. My family urges you to take a second look at your choices and consider all the facts. If we can be of assistance in any way, please let us know. May God bless you and guide you to make the right decisions for all involved.

Yours in partnership,
RE: PAR Question

PAR - Info
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2015 11:03 AM
To: 

Dear [Name],

Thank you for your email. Please note that no decisions have been made regarding the East Credit Pupil Accommodation Review. However, if you refer to page 7 of the Initial Staff Report, you will see that the French Immersion (FI) students would be directed to St. Gregory in Option 1; regular track students from St Gertrude would be directed to St Valentine in the same option.

You can access the Initial Staff Report at the following link:
http://www.dpcdsb.org/CEC/News/Pupil+Accommodation+Review.htm

From: [Name]
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2015 8:50 AM
To: PAR - Info
Subject: PAR Question

Good Morning,

I am a parent of a French Immersion child at St. Gertrude. I was wondering how the French Immersion program will be handled during the PAR and if there are any plans in place as to where the FI students would go? I did not see anything on the board website.

Thank you,
Hello,

I would appreciate if you could please let me know how we can send our feedback for consideration.

A concerned parent!
To: Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board

Dear Sir / Madam:
We are concerned parents of two siblings attending St. Gertrude School (French Immersion) and we would like to express our strong support keeping St. Gertrude School status quo (unchanged) or at least as surviving school.

We reviewed the school profile of St. Gertrude with other school profiles listed under PAR and it has the largest enrollment and growing over the last 5 years and will continue to attract more students with the popular French Immersion program. Option 1 Staff preferred in dpdcsb website, we do not see the rational why St. Valentines will take over St. Gertrude school boundary considering profile of St Gertrude in many respects better (utilization, capacity, number of students, student achievement EQAO, etc). Also it will cause big disruption to student continuity learning relocating the French Immersion program.

Kindly take our parents concern for serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Concern Parents and Taxpayers
St. Gertrude School
Initial Staff Report- PAR 2015- East Credit_Suggestions

Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2015 11:16 PM
To: PAR - Info
Attachments: Chart 6 schools.pdf (116 KB); map Option 2_modified.pdf (175 KB)

Attention S. Cox, J. Rogers, and K. Koops
Regarding: Initial Staff Report- PAR 2015- East Credit
Dear Planning Members:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regards,

[redacted]

https://webmail.dpcdsb.org/...PdAAD1E9SWLxQRqbQmjbKuShyAAAAyEHbAAAA3&ae=Print&pspid=_1452542309753_400056143[1/11/2016 2:58:42 PM]
Hello and thank you for taking the time to receive and read my email. My name is [Name] and my family has been residents of Credit Pointe Dr. since 2002. It is an area we took close attention in choosing when buying our first home, an area that we are proud of and have grown to love immensely. Many factors went into us choosing this area, most importantly of which was the school in which our children would go to, thus my reason in writing to you today.

I am writing to you in regards to the proposed closing of my son's school - St. Dunstan. It goes without saying that my wife and I were taken aback by the news that not only was St. Dunstan one of the eight proposed school closures, but the ONLY school on all 3 proposed options. This school sitting currently at 7th in EQAO rankings in Mississauga (57th out of 2348 in Ontario in last 5 years) was primarily the reason that not only my family, but QUITE A FEW families have SPECIFICALLY moved into this area. This is such an important reason to base a purchase of a home, one that may seem extreme to some, but in dealing with our children's education, choosing St. Dunstan was worth the move into the area. The ranking of the school is also reflective of the environment created by the teachers and the tight community ties to the school. The scores would not be what they are, were it not for the care put into learning by these teachers. Additionally, the concessions made towards children with special needs by this school can't be understated enough.

Here is what I mean. My son was diagnosed with cancer in December of 2012. The strains of dealing with an immunocompromised child have been shared with this school out of necessity. He has missed so much school, yet the teachers and principal always made sure he was caught up. The times that he had to be quarantined because of a case of chickenpox in the school was a protocol put in place by the school in conjunction with Sick Kids Hospital. A letter was sent out, initiated by the principal that a child with cancer was a student at the school and that parents take extra caution in sending a sick child to school. This has become more than just a school to us and more than just a job for these teachers. Therefore, you can see why these are calculated decisions by families to put themselves at that school. I am sure you will hear by many of the unique reasons they moved into this specific school boundary.

I simply can NOT accept that we would be going from a school we proudly chose, to one that we did NOT want, one that is not even ranked in the top 40 catholic elementary schools in Mississauga (St. Bernadette). I understand fully what is the issue at hand in regards to seats being filled, but seeing as St. Dunstan is ranked as high as it is, sitting currently at 64% capacity, a clear visible beacon of our community in plain view on Creditview - I find it far more EFFECTIVE to nurture and fill this school to capacity by finding various solutions, not threatening it. It seems far more logical to add to a school with such high regard and have a proud reflection of the school board's faith in the school to grow rather than to dissolve it into a pool of mediocrity. I intend to keep my son's level of education set at the bar it has been set at. Never was in the plans to have it lessened.

I can assure you our community is outraged about this and we will stop at nothing to see that every angle is explored, every option is looked at and everyone that stakes a claim in this riding, community and boundary is approached. I start today with you, as well as our trustee Luz del Rosario and MPP's Harinder Takhar and Bob Delaney.

I am currently fighting a mountain in regards to my son's cancer, this fight against the closure of St. Dunstan will be the least of what I will do for him and the teachers who have gone out of their way for him. I have 2 year old twins that I have every intention of also enrolling in St. Dunstan in 2017.

With our hearts put aside, we will collectively be heard. We understand the complexities of the issue, but are here to resolve, not concede. I appreciate your attention on this matter and look forward to your response.

Mr. [Name]
To whom it may concern.

My name is [Redacted] and I am writing to you as a way to voice my concerns about the possible closing of St. Dunstan elementary school. It has recently been brought to the community's attention that the school is being considered to close because of its low enrolment numbers and future projections of low enrolment. Unfortunately, St. Dunstan has been brought to the table in three separate scenarios as an option to close without properly considering the many reasons it should not.

I am a parent of a child that attends St. Dunstan and a teacher of 15 years myself, I have a good understanding of the intricacies of student enrolment numbers and board funding and the crisis that faces Dufferin Peel when there are too many empty student spots in schools. Knowing this, I can confidently say that the wrong school has been targeted. This is a school where the Fraser Institute has awarded it an 8.5/10 rating, making it 57th out of 2348 elementary schools in the province. It surpasses surrounding schools in its academic achievement and it is consistently ranked in the top 10 elementary schools in Mississauga of both the Peel and separate school boards.

Its veteran teachers and administration are of top class and the strong, dedicated parent community in this school make it the best of the best. It is evident in so many areas. Teachers are always in communication with parents and never let students get behind. Special needs of students are not only met, they are met quickly and with the care and understanding needed to properly transition a student so they are working to their full potential. The staff at St. Dunstan work hard to provide students with the best experiences possible and their pedagogy reflects that. My child is simultaneously challenged and nurtured and that is no easy feat.

The commitment of parent volunteers is evident in a number of worthy initiatives that are brought forth and funded by the school community when the money runs dry from the province. Students at St. Dunstan are never evident at a disadvantage when there is limited government money because the parent council will get what is needed to keep the students education and experiences of highest priority. In-school scientists, movie day excursions, student agendas, computer math applications, reading applications and so much more, continually foster my child’s learning experience at St. Dunstan. Where many schools can attest to similar fund raising initiatives, St. Dunstan has a rich history of this kind of participation and action which seems to get better with age. The school community rises to any challenge with viable solutions and the effort to keep the school alive will be no different.

School ranking was also the determining factor in why my husband and I decided to purchase a home within the boundaries of St. Dunstan. I will be having another child attend the school in the coming years and I will go to great lengths to find a way together with elected officials, to avoid closing a stellar school and source of pride in our city and province.

Thank you for reading my concerns and I look forward to hearing back from you. Hopefully, together we can find workable solutions to keep St. Dunstan open and uphold its legacy as an admirable school in our community.

Sincerely,
Potential Closure of St. Dunstan

Sent: Monday, December 14, 2015 11:58 PM
To: del Rosario, Luz
Cc: PAR - Info; bdelaney.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
Attachments: Chart.pdf (114 KB)

Dear Ms. del Rosario:

I wrote to you back in 2010 when I lived in the St. Herbert School boundary. At that time, I raised concerns about the low academic performance of the school and the EQAO trend showing it was on the decline. Turning around a school takes time and after six years, St. Herbert has still not materially improved.

We decided to move rather the wait for a potential turnaround at St. Herbert, and moved slightly west to the St. Dunstan School boundary. We chose to have our son attend St. Dunstan based on its academic record and other feedback (Fraser Institute and other Parents). Overall, the experience at St. Dunstan has been very positive and our son enjoys school. It has a great community feel and bullying is not an issue. It goes to say that Mr. O’Neill is a high performance Principal that drives his staff to move Catholic education forward in Peel.

When we learned that St. Dunstan was potentially earmarked to be closed by the Planning Department, we were very disappointed given that we moved away from St. Herbert due to its low academic rating.

If we consider the three guidelines from the Ministry of Education on Pupil Accommodation, I question how much thought was given to these scenarios:

1. Student Well Being - Splitting the students between St. Herbert and St. Bernadette will impact the community that has been developed by students, parents and teachers. We need to consider the long term impact to our decisions.

2. Academic Achievement - I have attached a PDF comparing all the schools considered in the St. Dunstan scenarios and St. Dunstan is the academic leader (year over year) when compared to St. Herbert and especially St. Bernadette. How can we close the school that is leading the way for Catholic Education in the area? Schools are not airlines and all seats are not created equally. This is clear by the EQAO results and as measured by the Fraser Institute. We can always disagree on metrics but these are the key performance indicators outlined by the Ministry of Education.

3. Financial Viability - I appreciate that facilities management can be complicated but we should consider more than the cost per square foot when it comes to us defending Catholic education in Ontario.

It’s now been six years and St. Herbert needs an academic intervention to get to good. We ask that St. Dunstan not be closed and the Board consider other options in delivering holistic education services to our children.

Thank You,

--- Below is our last communication from 2010 on St. Herbert ---

From: [redacted]
To: cathy.saytar@dpcdsb.org; luz.delrosario@dpcdsb.org; maria.belmonte@dpcdsb.org
Subject: RE: Concerns about St. Herbert Elementary School
Date: Wed, 7 Apr 2010 23:58:59 -0400

https://webmail.dpcdsb.org/...PdAADi8A9SFLxQRqbQmbkJuShyAAAAyMdhAAAJ8a=Print&pspid=1452542567275_10268587[1/11/2016 3:03:01 PM]
Hi Cathy,

Thank you for your quick and detailed response. It seems a plan has been devised to help out the school. I will wait for next year's results to make an appointment with the Principal. As this will provide quantitative results for discussion.

As the Peel Board of Education is performing significantly better than the St. Herbert, I hope that this matter is considered serious by the Principal and the Board. These types of results hurt Catholic Education support.

Thanks Again,

From: Cathy.Saytar@dpdcsb.org
To: Luz.delRosario@dpdcsb.org; Maria.Belmonte@dpdcsb.org; [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, 30 Mar 2010 16:39:07 -0400
Subject: RE: Concerns about St. Herbert Elementary School

Hello [REDACTED],

Trustee Luz del Rosario forwarded me your email and concerns about the EQAO 2008-2009 data of St. Herbert School.

2008-2009

EQAO Grade 3     Reading: 41%
                  Writing: 56%
                  Math:  44%

EQAO Grade 6     Reading: 68%
                  Writing: 71%
                  Math:  65%

I am the family of school's superintendent and am pleased with the administrators effort in improving student achievement this year.

It is nice to see that you are a former graduate of Dufferin-Peel.

The best person to speak to about the school improvement plan of St. Herbert School is the principal Mrs. Belmonte. She would be most pleased to review her plan to improve the scores. Mrs. Belmonte was appointed the principal at St. Herbert beginning in September 2009.

Mrs. Belmonte and team have had regular conversations with the director, myself, the Program department staff throughout the course of this academic year. I have been most pleased with Mrs. Belmonte's commitment to this process.

As you can imagine the results from the EQAO is a snapshot in time of students' learning. Many other assessments take place throughout the course of the year.
Currently, staff is working on the following to improve practice:

**School Improvement Focus**
*establish tracking mechanisms for monitoring student learning and informing instructional practice
*collaborative planning / assessing to ensure consistency
*creation and use of instructional tools (anchor charts, rubrics)
*Focus on Ministry directives - A1, A2 (student learning & achievement); B2 (Instructional leadership); C1 (Assessment & Evaluation); D6 (Curriculum & Instruction)

**Literacy:** 2 hour literacy block, balanced (shared and guided daily), explicit teaching, Differentiated Instruction, moderated marking, common planning time, anchor charts, exemplars, instructional rubrics, gradual release of responsibility

**Math:** bancho, three-part lesson, UMCL, CSI, 7 processes, manipulatives, explicit teaching, DI, moderated marking, common planning time, anchors, exemplars

**Learning strategies**
(rubric refinement, precision teaching):
Common rubric (and/or rubric), common language, consistency of terms, DI, homogeneous and heterogeneous groups, flexible groupings

**Teaching Learning Critical Pathway:** 6 week cycle, pre and post assessment, grade consistency, divisional focus, common rubric, teacher moderation

**Teacher Moderation:** common rubric, leveled exemplars, student debriefing, consistency of terminology, continue to plan instruction and assessment to address student learning needs

**Staff engaged in a variety of professional development opportunities**

**Grade level:** PAR, Moderated marking, planning cross curricular links, data walls, PM, common language

**Division:** common focus (school goal), pre and post assessments for TLCP, using literacy room resources, data walls, CASI

**Staff meetings:** Literacy/Numeracy Focus, Speaker (Marla Newton) from the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat

Please contact Mrs. Belmonte at the school and arrange an appointment to discuss the staff’s effort in improving school improvement. I am extremely impressed with the St. Herbert’s staff commitment to student improvement

Thank you for your interest in Dufferin-Peel.

We look forward to serving your child.

Cathy Saytar

-----Original Message-----
From: del Rosario, Luz

https://webmail.dpcdsb.org/...PdAADI8A95WLxQRqbQmbjKuShyAAAAyMdhAAAJ8a=Print&pspid=_1452542567275_10268587[1/11/2016 3:03:01 PM]
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2010 3:24 PM  
To: Saytar, Cathy  
Subject: FW: Concerns about St. Herbert Elementary School

Hi Cathy,

Could you please respond directly to [redacted] and copy me and Maria.

Thanks very much...Luz

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2010 3:00 PM  
To: del Rosario, Luz  
Subject: Concerns about St. Herbert Elementary School  
Dear Mrs. del Rosario:

My name is [redacted] and my family lives in the St. Herbert Elementary School boundaries. I am also a Roman Catholic with my property taxes assigned to the Catholic Board. As a graduate of the DPRCSSB, I enjoyed most of my time, and value the education I received as a child. (I attended John XXIII, St. Matthew, Father Michael Goetz and St. Francis Xavier).

A few years ago, my family moved to the area and knew that our child would more than likely attend St. Herbert as that would be his catholic school. Recently, we have been reviewing the provincial scores for both St. Herbert and respective Peel Board school. It is shocking to see the poor results by Grade 3 and Grade 6 students at this school. The scores show the school is well below provincial standards, performing almost at the half the performance of the public school and much lower than schools I attended as a child.

As business professional working for [redacted] I understand that metrics can be made to look good or bad. However, the control metric of trending is the real indicator of the capabilities of the teachers, principal and school itself. St. Herbert is showing a reduction of almost 40% results over three years. This basically tells the reader that there is a instruction problem in the JK-Grade 3 levels at that school. My ask of you is can you explain why this school has fallen behind its Catholic peers? What is being done to address the problem? Status quo of the existing Teachers and Principal is not working and not helping children in our community.

Thank You,

[redacted]

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Stay in touch. Get Hotmail & Messenger on your phone.
Dear Madam / Sir,

I am writing to you to urge reconsidering the closure of St. Gertrude Catholic School and proceed with options that do not involve such a large student volume. We are in complete disagreement with the proposal.

Closing St. Gertrude means:

- Closing a school that based upon all unbiased reviews is considered flagship school of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board, ranking consistently among the top performers in the region.
- Impacting a large number of special needs students that will suffer mentally when moved from a place where they feel safe.
- Impacting the largest number of students out of all available options.
- Moving the maximum number of students from a modern classroom environment to temporary containers and split classes.
- Severely impacting the St. Francis Xavier Church community programs because of the close interaction with St. Gertrude Catholic School.
- Forcing parents to abandon their promise to raise children in the Catholic faith as the distances to the new school will be to large resulting in enrollment in public schools.
- Impacting the largest number of parents in terms of student transportation, work and after school arrangements, etc.

We will be making our views clear to all involved staff at upcoming reviews and require a personal response from you to this letter.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
To whom it may concern,

As a concerned parent from St. Gertrude Catholic Elementary School, I am extremely disappointed to hear that St. Gertrude is being considered in this Accommodation Review Process. St. Gertrude has a high academic ranking in the Fraser Institute Report and EQAO results, the school itself has a strong French Immersion program and has an incredible school community consisting of students, teachers, parents, administration, the parish and community members.

Reviewing each of the profiles for the schools being reviewed in the East Credit Mississauga area, St. Gertrude has the highest utilization rate. Based on the high utilization rate, academic ranking in the Fraser Institute Report and EQAO results, in addition to a huge French Immersion program, how is it possible to consider St. Gertrude in the process? Can someone please provide me with an explanation. What is the criteria that has been used to determine option 1.

Seeing as this process is transparent, can I please request the following information:

- The utilization rates for all schools in the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board
- The number of special needs students in the 8 schools in the East Credit Mississauga Pupil Accommodation Review Process

As a concerned parent, I will be a strong supporter during this process to reinforce the need to keep St. Gertrude operating as a school in our community.

Thank you in advance. I look forward to further communication regarding this process.

Parent, St. Gertrude Catholic Elementary School
Good Afternoon,

We are writing to you today to voice our concerns regarding the possible closure of St. Dunstan Catholic Elementary School through the Pupil Accommodation Review. We have two children who attend St. Dunstan in grade 4 and FDK and we are greatly disheartened with the news of the potential closure. We are sure the board will be receiving countless emails from parents of other schools that are under review, but we wanted to make sure that we express our feelings regarding St. Dunstan so that we know we did everything possible to prevent the school from closing.

We have lived in the Creditview and Eglinton area for the last 12 years, in the same house on Rosebush Road. We specifically moved to the area after we were married because of its central location and peaceful neighbourhoods, easy access to public transit, shops, St. Dunstan and St. Joseph, in the hopes we would have children and that they would attend Catholic school. I am a full time working mother who commutes daily via Mississauga Transit and GO Transit to downtown Toronto and does not drive. Having St. Dunstan accessible via public transit, as it is right off the main road (Creditview) allows for me to be able to reach the school and my children when/if required. My husband works shift work at Pearson Airport and is not always available to leave work to get to the school if needed. The school is within walking distance from our house which makes it convenient for my mother, who helps look after the children, to be able to get to school in an emergency if required.

Our daughter has been at the school since Junior Kindergarten, and has been thriving at St. Dunstan. At an early age she was having difficulties with her speech and we were able through the school to get her speech therapy. This happened because the staff at St. Dunstan care about the students and helping them achieve success. They pay attention and listen to parents concerns, which helped move forward the request for speech therapy. Our daughter completed the EQAO testing last year and did extremely well. She was an introvert and a only child for 5 years before our son was born. We were concerned that she may have a hard time adjusting at school as she was never around many children (was not in any sort of daycare). St. Dunstan has become her home away from home as she feels cared for and comfortable in the environment with the teachers and staff. This year our son started JK in the full day kindergarten program at St. Dunstan. Again we were concerned about his transition, as he is a late year child and was starting school at 3.5yrs old with no daycare experience. His teachers made all the difference in his transition to school given the first two weeks were challenging getting him adjusted. He is doing so well and we are so blessed to have the wonderful teachers of St. Dunstan to help us through the transition.

This is not only about convenience of the location of the school or the fact that it has great teachers/principal, St. Dunstan is one of the top rated schools academically compared to the other schools in the review. It also has a higher student population than some of the other schools noted. Why aren't these schools being targeted for closure, with the students being relocated to St. Dunstan? As well, it is a school that has the YMCA daycare attached that provides before and after school programs which helps make the lives of many families a little be easier! We are hoping that all is taken into consideration in making this decision.

There are so many challenges families face these days and the one piece of mind we had was that our kids are attending a school where they feel included, loved and supported. We always thought our kids would grow up attending St. Dunstan with their current classmates, teachers and staff in an environment that is safe and supportive. If we have to uproot our children because someone made a decision that did not take in account all factors, we wanted to make sure that we made known our feelings and opinions, which we know is in line with many other parents of St. Dunstan students. We wanted to make sure we
Pupil Accommodation Review and the Possible Closure of St. Dunstan Catholic School

did something so that we can explain to our children that we tried to do something to save their school.

We hope that this letter will be shared appropriately to further iterate the concerns of the many parents/families of St. Dunstan.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
16 December 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

We are strongly opposed to the closing of St. Gertrude School and moving French Immersion program to different location. Currently we have two children attending St. Gertrude School. One is in Grade 5 F.I. and the other is in Grade 7 F.I. We chose this school as it was close to our home and because of good ratings. My older daughter was in the first F.I. class so we had a chance to see how the program evolved from the beginning. Over the last 6,5 years F.I. is better every year. We thought D. P. C. D. S. B. is interested in succeeding with F.I. not destroying it. We would never think that the Board will put St. Gertrude School on preferred option to be closed. We do not understand why. There are still two more F.I. classes to be added for the 2016/17 so there will be enough students. The program works very well in the school and now instead of growing even more it will be jeopardized. When you move the program it will be as starting from the beginning. St. Gertrude School and teachers have big experience how to run F.I. program, they have more resources than they had at the beginning. Another issue is what happens with siblings when one of them is in F.I. and the other is in regular English program? They will be going to two different schools? I think the decision to move F.I. program is rushed and shortsighted. F.I. program does not provide transportation. (Extended French students have transportation). When you move the program to different school you will lose more F.I. students as not everybody will be able to have their children in different school. We are not sure if we will be able to find transportation on the way back from St. Gregory School (as from what I heard the program is supposed to be moved to). For now we have everything planned and it is working but only at St. Gertrude location. St. Gertrude absolutely should not be on the list of the schools to be closed. It should not even be considered. Take under review schools that have low percentage of students. St. Gertrude is at 86 percent with 2 more F.I. classed to be added next year. We demand that you reverse your decision to close St. Gertrude School and move F.I. program. We knew from the beginning that there is no transportation for F.I. students but the possibility of the program being moved was not mentioned when we were signing up our children. We had to find a solution when our younger daughter was not chosen in lottery and she had to go for a year to St. Pio of Pietrelcina before we could transfer her to St. Gertrude. There is issue of transportation, there is issue of lottery when siblings do not have priority getting in and now on top of that you are thinking of moving the F.I.
program. This is like step backward for F.I. students. We are getting really frustrated by the Board decision. Please take this letter under consideration and do not close St. Gertrude School.

Yours truly,
Hello this is [redacted] from st.gurtude grade 5 Mrs. [redacted] class I would like to tell you

1. The teacher will not be happy because they need to find a hole new job and it's very hard to
2. the kids in the school with French emergency is very big here and it's just fine the spray it is
3. the kids will need to go in a brand new school and get new friends with can be hard to make new ones
4. this school has many activists and good learning if you need help
5. if the school close down what will we do with it thug soo big and we prbaly canpan distory it

Regard 

Student [redacted]

Sent from my iPad
Could not help but wonder how St. Dunstan made it in all three proposals for closure. The incredible atmosphere and academic quality must have been overlooked when making such a huge decision.

Please explain to me how we do not meet your criteria to stay open.

Looking forward to your reply.

I am available at your convenience by email or by phone.

Sent from my iPhone
St. Dunstan

To the trustees of DPCDSB, Bob Delaney and Harinder Takhar,

I am writing to you all on the subject of the proposed closing of St. Dunstan elementary school. As a teacher in Dufferin-Peel I understand that many of the schools in east credit are underused and some schools must be closed in order to best use financial resources. In all three proposed plans St. Dunstan is listed as a school for closure. Choosing St. Dunstan as one of the closure schools makes very little sense.

St. Dunstan is listed as the 57th ranked school in the entire province according to the Fraser Report. This is much higher than any of the other schools in the east credit area. The EQAO scores at the school are very high and student achievement is also high in general. The school is also one of the higher attended schools in the area at about 64% capacity. Finally the school is much newer than many of the other East credit schools and the per student expense is on the lower end of the spectrum. Despite all this St. Dunstan is the only school listed to be closed in all three proposals. How does this make any sense either financially or based on student achievement?

I write to you not only as the parent of a one year old who would be going to St. Dunstan when he reaches kindergarten, but also as a graduate of St. Dunstan myself. The school was excellent while I was a student, and many of those excellent staff members remain. The school atmosphere was always positive and is the kind of school I want my son to go to. One of the reasons we moved back into the area was so that my son could attend St. Dunstan since it is such a wonderful school and have his grandma pick him up at lunch time and after school since she also lives in walking distance. We are very disheartened to hear of its perspective closing especially when it makes so little sense.

Again, I completely understand that a few schools need to be closed but St. Dunstan should not be one of them.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Regarding St. Dunstan Pupil Accommodation Review

Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2015 9:39 AM
To: PAR - Info

Dear School Board,

I am a parent of two children who go to St. Dunstan Elementary school.

I was deeply saddened by the news of the Pupil Accommodation review that was conducted earlier this year. I had originally moved into this neighborhood because of the Fraser ratings of St Dunstan school being the highest consistently year over year. Over the course of five years, St Dunstan Teachers and Mr. O’Neil have provided enormous support in the academic growth of my children. Their support during EQAO testing has been exceptional. Few teachers provided their personal time to help the kids prepare and excel at the test. The principal and the staff have always been very receptive to any issues that I may have with my children and addressed any concern promptly. The school truly feels like a part of my family. I did not even realize how much it means to me and my family. We are both working parents and it is hard to juggle time for new hurdles in our life. This is truly a cause we are willing to make time for and provide any support to work an amicable solution to have this school not have to close. I truly believe in the following statement “for it is in and by these schools that the Catholic faith, our greatest and best inheritance, is preserved whole and entire.” I truly wish the board would reconsider options other than its closure. It is well managed establishment. Why break up something that does so much good.

Please do let me know if there is anything else I could do.

Regards
Please see below for a number of questions related to the published staff report. I am one of the two school representatives for St. Gertrude and have consolidated some of the community questions below. Please let me know if you have any questions.

I can be contacted at [redacted] if you would prefer to talk through any of the questions below.

With thanks in advance,

Chris Helme

The first part of the report shows that historical forecasts have been significantly inaccurate. The report then presents a new student forecast upon which all of the subsequent analysis is based. With a history of large forecast inaccuracies, what has changed 'systemically' to make new forecast more credible?

The report shows a shortfall of funding estimated at $1.5M annually – then options presented are screened against a criterion reading 'Options which do not achieve an increase in overall utilization greater than 20% at each of the receiving schools in the first 5 years of the recommendation to consolidate are not identified as recommended options'.
- Please outline the rationale of adding an additional constraint to the initial $1.5M problem statement
- Please correlate the increase of 20% utilization criterion (in this case) to a dollar amount (e.g. increasing enrollment as several small schools may not contribute sufficiently to achieve the objective)
- Please indicate how much Option 1 saves annually based on the existing recommendation

The report does not seem to capture the cost of the over-capacity situation created at the receiving schools. Please outline the additional costs (e.g. portables, etc.) that were considered and where they can be found in the report.

What happens with vacant properties? What costs are associated with these properties, time to disposal and assumed capital gains? Do funds recovered from sale of these properties return to the DPCDSB? Can they be allocated back to supporting future capital requirements for existing schools?

Review of the cost analysis summary raises some questions:
- As they appear together in the summary, does the DPCDSB not differentiate between capital investments and operating costs?
- Is the planning group assuming that the current capital requirement for each of the schools will be an ongoing 'fixed' annual cost? Is this a reasonable assumption? Are there any 5 year capital requirement forecasts available?
- Has anyone vetted the list of capital requirements to validate that they are essential?
- Please provide the details with respect to the economies of scale planned for in Option 1 as they seem fairly limited in the report itself.
As a parent of 2 students attending St. Dunstan Elementary School, I am writing to you to express my utter dismay and disappointment regarding the notice I received informing us of the Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR) report, in which our school, St. Dunstan Elementary school, is proposed for closure.

Facts

I would like to start by following the 3 principles and the order they are in:

1. Student well being
2. Academic achievement
3. Financial sustainability

1. Student well being

According to reports on the effects school closings have on displaced students, "Some parents said that they are no longer able to volunteer or participate in their receiving schools; others do not get information about school events or meetings; still others feel unwelcome. For some parents, the exclusion was physical—they were no longer allowed to volunteer in their children's classrooms or schools and did not have the same access to teachers and administrators as they had in the school that was closed. Many parents mentioned that they no longer were allowed to speak to teachers or administrators without an appointment. And children still feel traumatized a year after school closing.

"The children have experienced a persistent sense of pain and loss as a result of this, as have the parents, who were not only very involved in their old schools but a number of them talked about how they are now excluded from their new school."

2. Academic achievement

Even though it may be common knowledge by now, it cannot be stated enough that the average academic performance of children of St. Dunstan is ranked at 8.7 out of 10.

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

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

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

St. Dunstan is also known to be ranked at no. 3 in all of Mississauga.

If other children are brought into St. Dunstan they will only gain from it, not the other way round.

As stated in reports, "students who re-enrolled in the weakest receiving schools experienced an achievement loss of more than a month in reading and half-a-month in math. Meanwhile, students who re-enrolled in the strongest receiving schools (those in the top quartile) experienced an achievement gain of nearly one month in reading and more than two months in math."

3. Financial Sustainability

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

The conclusion is that schools which achieve top academic performance, are well utilized and show positive growth projections such as St. Dunstan, are considered for closure while those that underperform, are underutilized and are costly to operate will remain open.

Is this truly what we want for our children, our community and our province?

Our family’s story
Before my husband and I moved in the area 3 years ago, the decisive factor for buying a house here was the school itself. A long term investment of more than half a million dollars in a property is not something you can do and undo easily. We expect our sons to graduate from the...
Schools we planned them to go to.
My oldest son enrolled as an ESL student. But even this is too much of a description as he had
only just learnt to speak English, 6 months prior to enrolling into St. Dunstan. With the
support and help of his teachers and ESL teacher he is now thriving. He has reached an overall B
mark level and continues to improve thanks to the encouragement he receives on a regular basis.
Ripping him away from the comfort and stability he has found in St. Dunstan, will have a long
term psychological effect on his state of mind and ultimately his academic performance.
Also, one of his teachers identified that he had issues with his eyesight. Thanks to her, my son
has been seeing an ophthalmologist and with his help his eyesight has improved by 25% in one year
only. This again, contributes enormously to a child’s academic performance.
My youngest son considers St. Dunstan his home from home. He knows nothing else. He went to
daycare there and now an SK student. Even though he is the youngest in his class (as a December
baby) his results are almost a year higher than expected. He deserves to receive the highest
standard of education which we have planned for him through our responsibility as parents.
By closing St. Dunstan, my children and all the children in this school will lose. They’ll lose
their sense of belonging, their confidence, the attention and the high education standard their
teachers give them every day, which will shape the adults they’ll become tomorrow.

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

If you would like more information regarding the proposed closure of St. Dunstan, please do not
hesitate to contact me or our group of concerned parents at savest.dunstan@gmail.com.
Thank-you for your commitment to protecting the quality of education for our children for
generations to come.

I appeal to your good judgement and common sense to reconsider this option based on all of the
above and keep our school open.


https://webmail.dpcdsb.org/...PdAAl8a9SWLxQRqBQmbkJUShyAAAAyMdrAAAJ8&a=Print&pspid=1452543289068_587969603[1/11/2016 3:14:59 PM]
Pupil Accommodation Review

To whom it may concern;

As a parent of a student attending St. Dunstan Elementary School AND a resident of East Credit community in the city of Mississauga, I’m writing to express my extreme concern with the current pupil accommodation review (PAR) taking place by the Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board.

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

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

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

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

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

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

My spouse and I specifically moved into this area to enroll our children at St. Dunstan. This school has a small community feeling that we are so impressed with.

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

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

https://webmail.dpcdsb.org/...PdAAD8A95W/LxQrBQmbKuShyVAAYMdsAAA3&a=Print&pspid=_1452543361885_934887019[1/11/2016 3:16:12 PM]
Pupil Accommodation Review

Thank you for your commitment to protecting the quality of education for our children for generations to come.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

NOTE: This e-mail message is intended for the named recipient(s) above, and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and/or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you have received this message in error, or are not the named recipient(s), please do not read the content. Instead, immediately notify the sender and delete this e-mail message. Any unauthorized use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. The Peel District School Board and sender assume no responsibility for any errors or omissions in the content or transmission of this email.
To Whom It May Concern,

As a parent of a student attending St. Dunstan Elementary School and resident of East Credit community in the city of Mississauga, I am writing to express my concerns with the current pupil accommodation review (PAR) taking place by the Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board.

We have read through the materials that have been provided to us about the potential school closures. If the school were to close, I can sincerely say that we will be either sending our kids to a private school or moving to another area of the GTA, an option we are strongly considering as a result of the recent news.

I ask that you please take action to ensure that the desired outcomes of the PAR policy; namely high student achievement, high utilization and responsible budgets, are brought back into the focus of this process.

Thank-you for your commitment to protecting the quality of education for our children for generations to come.

Sincerely,
December 22, 2015

Dear _______

When we moved into our new house some few years ago with our new child, we were pleased to find that there was a Catholic school located nearby. Only after this same child began to attend St. Dunstan Elementary School did we learn just how wonderful it was, both the physical building and the staff. We were thrilled.

And when we heard that the PDCSB had announced plans to close St. Dunstan, we were shocked. And dismayed. Not only by the content of the announcement, but more by the lack of clear evidence and reasoning to demonstrate why this closure is necessary.

So now we ask: why is there such a push to close St. Dunstan Elementary School? (3 proposals for the Pupil Accommodation Review and only St. Dunstan has the dubious honour of being named in all three.) What data was used to arrive at this conclusion? The numbers released to the public on the Board website do not point to a compelling reason to close this school; it is not the worst in its relative categories when compared to the other schools named (some of which were not nominated for closure at all). If these numbers are not the driving force behind these three proposal options, then what is? If the point of the PAR is to start a dialogue with parents and the community, then we all need to use the same language and be aware of the same criteria and evidence in order to do so. Failure to provide a sound, open basis for the Board’s reasoning and ultimate decision in the coming months will likely lead to perceptions of unfairness, lack of transparent accountability and suspicion about secretive agendas.

I am confident that a beneficial option can be reached, but not without questions being answered first:

The questions:

What data was used to reach this conclusion that closing St. Dunstan is a viable option?

Why such a strong focus on this one particular school?

What other characteristics may have influenced the decision process: timing, location, etc.?

Has there been a review or involvement by parties other than Board members or the Ministry of Education? If yes, who were these parties and what is their interest in the process and decision?

I look forward to hearing your response to my, my family’s and my community’s concerns.

Sincerely,
January 3rd 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

My family moved into the area six years ago with the plan that both of our children attend St. Dunstan. The St. Dunstan family of administration, teachers and students is a fantastic community where both of our children started their educational and spiritual journey. Our children are excelling academically due to the wonderful teaching staff and they love having the opportunity to walk to their local parish where they continue to grow spiritually. Closing St. Dunstan does not guarantee that they will have such a supportive network helping them reach their fullest potential. In this regard we would definitely have to explore other educational options.

The board’s “preferred option” will split the students from St. Dunstan and relocate them to St. Bernadette and St. Herbert, the only 2 schools in the area with less than 50% utilization and EQAO scores among the worst in the area. If this occurs, I will be forced to explore other education alternatives for...
Closing of St. Dunstan Elementary School

both of my children, including options outside of the catholic school system. Thus, the long-term utilization of area schools and the sustainability of the board’s revenues from local taxation will not be solved by this approach.

The more appropriate approach should be to protect schools like St. Dunstan that have high academic achievement, high utilization and are showing positive projected growth in enrollment and utilization. I ask that you clarify your position regarding the PAR policy; namely high student achievement, high utilization and responsible budgets.

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

Sincerely,
Dear Planning Members,

Kindly follow up if you have any advice regarding some questions and comments sent to you early last December about the Initial Staff Report of East Credit Pupil Accommodation Review. Would you consider Option 2 or modified Option 2A as described in the email below? I attached again the comparison chart of school rankings and the proposed modified school boundary.

We had a meeting last December at St. Gertrude with a large audience. Aside from the angry and upset emotions from the parents and teachers, we are questioning the grounds of Staff's first recommendation to close St. Gertrude. St. Gertrude has a very good school performance. The utilization rate is the highest among the eight schools studied. The utilization rate can be higher as more and more parents are considering the FI program. For the past few years, the practice is that the parents have to draw a lottery to be enrolled in the FI and many kids are unfortunately put in the waiting list. Instead of cutting, the recommendation to the Board should request more funding to offer more FI classes to meet the demand.

Secondly, it is a simple fact that the teachers, students, and parents of FI and regular English program in St. Gertrude are integrated and inseparable. It is the joint effort of both English and French staff to make St. Gertrude continuously excel herself. The students have friends and siblings in different programs at St. Gertrude. For parents with two or more kids in separate FI and English classes, it will be a disaster to manage dropping off and picking up kids in different schools after implementing Option 1. Although Option 1 seems to have the most savings, the saving is not that much considering the overall budget over the next 10 years. Furthermore, two schools will be over utilized (as much of 119%) as shown in Option 1.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Regards,

[Signature]

On Wed, Dec 9, 2015 at 11:16 PM, [Name] wrote:

Attention S. Cox, J. Rogers, and K. Koops

Regarding: Initial Staff Report- PAR 2015- East Credit

Dear Planning Members:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regards,
[BULK] Save St. Dunstan Elementary School (Pupil Accommodation Review)

Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 12:39 AM
To: del Rosario, Luz; Pascucc, Mario; Mazzorato, Marianne; bdelaney.mpp@liberal.ola.org; PAR - Info; Abbruscato, Anna; O'Toole, Esther; Iannicca, Bruno; Thomas, Thomas; Hobin, Sharon

Monday December 29, 2015

Mississauga, Ontario

L5M 3K7

Re: Pupil Accommodation Review (Possible Closure of St. Dunstan Elementary School)

To whom it may concern:

I wanted to start to this letter by introducing myself. My name is [REDACTED] and I am a constituent residing in the Mississauga-Erindale riding. My two children attend St. Dunstan Elementary school which is currently identified under assessment for closure by the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, due to the recent Pupil Accommodation Review.

I was shocked and disappointed that our school board, in conjunction with the City of Mississauga, would be working toward closing St. Dunstan. Our school has ranked the highest in academic standing with the Fraser Institute of academic performance; among all 8 documented schools under review in the East Credit Education Service Area. St. Dunstan's Education Quality and Accountability Scores outperformed all of the eight listed schools. Not only are St. Dunstan's EQAO scores outstanding; the Pupil Accommodation Review publicly forecasted that St. Dunstan will be one of the top utilized schools by 2025.

As a concerned parent and constituent I am questioning how this closure fits into the Wynne and Trudeau governments plan to foster the "Places to Grow Act"? Closing a productive and flourishing academic institution of this stature goes against the fundamental principles of a strong and growing community. I was fortunate to have served in the political domain at all three levels of government for over sixteen years, and I have seen government initiatives evolve such as the "Places to Grow Act."

Therefore, local governments and school boards are obligated to respond to the federal and provincial governments' expectations of accommodating the needs of a growing community by efficient use of infrastructure. Closing St. Dunstan will infringe on this Act's philosophy of promoting the highest quality of life for current and future Ontarians. After serving in the public sector, I left my career to attend to the medical needs of my first born child. My daughter is now eight years old and has attended St. Dunstan School since five years of age. The administration and teacher personnel supported our concerns with our daughter feeling secure and comfortable attending school before and after she started going to school. We feel blessed that both our children feel confident, safe, motivated to learn, and have the opportunity to actively participate in the St. Dunstan school community.
Our daughter has received Special Needs programming since the beginning of last year. The classroom teacher, special needs resource teacher, and school volunteers helped a struggling reader flourish and utilize her strengths and skills to overcome academic challenges. Our 5 year old son has been attending St. Dunstan for almost 2 years and has received excellent learning opportunities and guidance in his educational formative years.

My volunteer opportunities at St. Dunstan encouraged me to change careers and go back to school to study in the field of special needs education. My husband and I moved from the City of Vaughan to start a family and receive academic stability and spiritual support from the St. Dunstan School Community. We had put much planning and research in our decision to live in an area that would ensure the highest quality of life for our family; especially for our children.

Since learning of this potential closing for our school, the parents of the St. Dunstan community have become mobilized to challenge this decision. We intend to work as a group and as individuals to work towards keeping our school open. I was truly inspired and humbled by the concern and passion of the parents of our school when I saw how ready they were to fight for our children’s educational needs; particularly in keeping St. Dunstan in our community. As lifelong learners in the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, my husband and I have a great respect for the board and its members; we know we can count on your strong consideration in this very important matter.

We have a strong faith that the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board will re-evaluate the Pupil Accommodation Review Reports and be convinced that a strong and growing community that supports the Catholic families of the Mississauga Erindale and Streetsville riding means St. Dunstan Elementary serving the Catholic community for years to come.

Thanking you in advance for your attention to the concerns of the [Redacted] and the growing St. Dunstan family and community.
Proposed Closure of St. Dunstan

To Whom it May Concern,

As a parent of two boys (Grade 1 and 4) attending St. Dunstan Elementary School, I’m writing to express my extreme concern with the current pupil accommodation review (PAR) taking place by the Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The board’s “preferred option” will split the students from St. Dunstan and relocate them to St. Bernadette and St. Herbert, **the only 2 schools in the area with less than 50% utilization and EQAO scores among the worst in the area**. One of the reasons we chose to purchase our home in this area was the strong performance and reputation of St. Dunstan. If it were to close I will be forced to explore other education alternatives for my sons, including options outside of the catholic school system. Thus, the long-term utilization of area schools and the sustainability of the board’s revenues from local taxation will not be solved by this approach. The more appropriate approach should be to protect schools like St. Dunstan that have high academic achievement, high utilization and are showing positive projected growth in enrollment and utilization.

Proposed Closure of St. Dunstan

Sincerely,