St. Gregory Community Proposal
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WHAT WE KNOW TO DATE:

• $4.5 Million shortfall for the entire board.
• $1.5 Million savings coming from our East Credit PAR review.
• A very high 33% “solution” sourcing from only 8 schools, with a total of 148 schools as a whole within the board.
• We need to reduce excess capacity within East Credit area.
• To date, there has been no interest/proposals for the empty schools once closed.
FACTS ABOUT ST. GREGORY:

• St. Gregory is the ONLY school North of Britannia under PAR.
• If St. Gregory were to close this would seriously harm our neighbourhood, and change the entire demographics with the loss of the only Catholic school.
• St. Gregory has potential to expand our boundaries, with an option of extending north of 401. We could provide bussing to students to/from the future pedestrian bridge at 2nd Line.
• St. Gregory is 1 of 2 schools within PAR that is part of the Mississauga Brampton Central Family of Schools.
• St. Gregory is 1 of 3 schools within PAR that has a 3 lane Kiss N’ Ride area.
ST. GREGORY: NETWORK CONSIDERATIONS:

• Our next north school is St. Julia, which is very close to capacity! There will be a permanent traffic closure of 2nd Line when it becomes a bicycle/pedestrian bridge in the future.
• We propose to extend our boundary to 2nd Line, allowing the students / parents affected to feed into St. Gregory.
• It is the utmost importance to keep communities intact, while maintaining a strong Catholic representation.
• Schools located on major routes are more viable for alternative uses over sites located deep within residential areas.
• East/West flow or movement of students is safer and involves shorter trips. The two largest roads through the study area are Britannia and Eglington, both of which are major commuter routes and also Region of Peel designated truck routes. Avoiding the North/South flow over these routes should take priority!
• The Credit River on the western edge of the study area, handcuffs the viability of schools located close to it as it limits study area expansion to the west. Hence all movement is Easterly or to the North or South.
• The area North/West of St. Gregory (Kenninghall, Falconer, River St, Old English Lane) houses students that currently are bussed to St. Joseph’s in Streetsville.
• We propose to extend our boundary to accommodate the families living in that area, attend St. Gregory. With a possibility of saving incurred costs with bussing.
POTENTIAL IMPACT TO DPCDSB:

• Increasing or at a minimum maintaining students numbers in the DPCDSB needs to be priority moving forward.
• The DPCDSB needs to makes decisions that will not negatively impact or push additional students out the DPCDSB system
• Our school community can confirm that we have lost at least 2 families (total of 4 children) in the recent school years to FI program “next door” offered at a Peel School.
• When we say “next door” we are referring to St. Gregory and Britannia Public School being side by side, separated only by a playground.
• The concept of DP schools being “next door” to PS is not exclusive to us! It is a very common practice.
• Seriously consider how many more families will choose this option for convenience, over staying within Dufferin Peel Schools.
• With school closures, come the possibility of an even lower pupil place ratio that is unforeseeable!
• Keeping Catholicity in the area of East Credit is utmost in importance!!
• We cannot lose sight of the implications of school closures on Catholicity!!
Grade 8 OCSGE SURVEY:

• Data reflects the attitudes of grade 8 students in Dufferin-Peel.
• The following six themes were each cited by more than 10% of the students when asked what they liked best about their Catholic Elementary School
  1) Having, making, being with friends, new people
  2) Caring and supportive staff
  3) Perspectives related to positive personal growth
  4) Extra-curricular, clubs, teams, sports, activities, special events
  5) Welcoming, safe, supportive, respectful, accepting school community
  6) Learn about, appreciate, live catholicity in school

Source: DPCDSB presentation – Our Catholic Journey: Achieving the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations through Catholic Community Culture and Caring.
ABSENCE OF LONG TERM PLAN:

• DPCDSB Proposed Options #1, 2, 3 have St. Raymond as a feeder school.
• Out of the 8 schools under review, St. Raymond is the ONLY school that cannot accommodate portables!!
• Where is the long term plan?? What if the bricks and mortar of the existing school is not enough?
• Short sighted decisions – impact future on generations, affecting children, communities and schools...we need to be prepared for the future!!
• Has there been an environmental study done on the locations in and around St. Raymond and St. Valentine as a result of the former landfill site??
ABSENCE OF LONG TERM PLAN:

• If St. Gregory was to close and students move to St. Raymond (as proposed within Option #3) a major disconnect will occur.
• Our Grade 8 graduating class will be split in two when moving to secondary school.
• St. Raymond students will go to St. Joseph, and St. Gregory students will go to St. Marcellinius.
• The intersection of Britannia and Whitehorn is a dangerous intersection, with 8 lanes of traffic, heavy commuter volumes, busses and truck traffic - extremely dangerous route, endangering the safety of all students!
• Britannia used to be 80 km/hr in this location, and in recent years has gone down to 70km/hr. However cars speed along this road as if it were a highway!
ST. GREGORY SUPPORTED OPTION:

• St. Gregory supports Option #5 as proposed by the families of the St. Dunstan community.
• Option #5 proposes to:
• Close Our Lady of Good Voyage and move students as a unit to St. Raymond.
• Close St. Herbert and move students as a unit to St. Bernadette.
• Add French Extended to St. Dunstan.
• This option is preferred for various reasons:
  1. Closes only 2 schools of 8, reducing the impact on children within a school community.
  2. Strong Catholic presence in ALL East Credit ...West of Creditview, East of Mavis, North of Britannia and South of Eglington.
  3. Focuses on keeping children together as a unit moving to a neighbouring school.
  4. No added costs of $1.5M to add Kindergarten classrooms as proposed within Options #1, 2, 3.
  5. This proposal also leaves room for any new review to accommodate possible growth within East Credit.
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

• We encourage a strong Long Term Plan Accommodation be made to prevent any further disruption to the learning journey of our young children within DPCDSB!!

• There has not been a formal census in more than a decade! Very disheartening to know school closures are based on out of date projections.

• In recent years within our community we have seen a change in families having 3 children...3 is the new 2!!

• We encourage the Board of Trustees to choose an option that leaves room for any new growth within East Credit and surrounding areas.
Thank you for your consideration!!

Questions