



SUDBURY CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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SOUTH / CENTRAL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE
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MINUTES of the **1st PUBLIC MEETING** of the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) for the East Planning Area, of the Sudbury Catholic District School Board which was held in the Amphitheatre of St. Charles College, 1940 Hawthorne Drive, in Sudbury on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 from 7:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.

Board Representation Present:

ARC Chairperson Roland Muzzatti, Superintendent of Employee Relations and Schools
ARC Secretary Steve Rinaldi, Project Coordinator

School Representation Present:

Pius XII

Louisa Bianchin, Principal
Shelley Sloan, School Council Chair
Cathy Manuel, Community

St. Albert Adult Learning Centre (ALC)

Cassandra MacGregor, Vice-Principal
Ann Brisebois, School Staff
Francine Dubreuil, Student Representation

St. Andrew

Melody Henry, Principal
Mary Smith, School Council Chair
Lucille Szalai, Community
Dyan Pyott, School Staff

St. Bernadette

Nicole Snow, Principal
Dan Bronicheski, School Council Chair
Mike McKeever, Community
Colette Perrin, School Staff

Community Representation

Father Remi Hebert, Diocesan Representation

Board Resource Present

Senior Board Official Dennis Bazinet, Acting Superintendent of Business and Finance
Coordinator Denis Faucher, Manager of Facility Services
Facilitator Lygia Dallip, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd

St. Charles College

Patty Mardero, Principal
Catherine Ross Gonko, School Council Chair
Sandra Gobbo, Community
Claire Morrison, School Staff

St. John

Tricia Dowdall-Cirelli, Principal
Amanda Gagne, School Council Chair
Tina Madore, Community
Tara Large, School Staff

St. Mark

Sharon Oliver, Principal
Donna Kotanko, School Council Chair
Stacey Kennedy, Community
Carole Remillard, School Staff

St. Paul

Sharon Oliver, Principal
Jennifer Rocca, Community
Natasha Folino, School Staff

St. Raphael

Vickie McGuire, Principal
Phil Farmer, School Council Chair
Jen Bailey, Community
Ted Keehn, School Staff

10/29/2009

“SCHOOLS TO BELIEVE IN”

Absent:

Mark Simeoni, Senior Planner, Greater City of Sudbury
Katrina Chevrier, Student Representation, St. Albert A.L.C.
Anne-Marie Savage, School Council Chair, St. Paul School
Leonard Foucault, School Staff, Pius XII School
Clara Steele, RPIC Representative

Recording Secretary

Sharon Cormier

Call to Order:

Roland Muzzatti, ARC Chair, called the meeting to order @ 7:05 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Roland Muzzatti, ARC Chair, led the group in an opening prayer for guiding presence.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Muzzatti welcomed the general public in attendance and thanked everyone for attending. He extended a thank you to Mrs. Patty Mardero, Principal of St. Charles College (SCC) and her staff for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments. Mr. Muzzatti requested all attendees to sign the attendance sheet and to note their school affiliation. Copies of the meeting agenda and blank School Valuation Framework Reports for the East Planning Area were available.

Mr. Muzzatti, informed all present of the change in format for this year's accommodation process in that Trustees of the Sudbury Catholic District School Board (SCDSB) will be attending public meetings. Mr. Muzzatti stated that the trustees would be there in the capacity of observers only in order to receive and hear the same information that is presented to the public and he introduced and welcomed Jody Cameron, Board Chair Person and Barry MacDonald Vice-Chair to this evening's meeting.

Mr. Muzzatti introduced the ARC Steering Committee as Dennis Bazinet, Acting Superintendent of Business and Finance, Denis Faucher, Manager of Facility Services, ARC Coordinator; and Steve Rinaldi, Project Coordinator, ARC Secretary. The Chair acknowledged and introduced all other ARC Committee members that were present and thanked them for their commitment to the Accommodation Review process.

Mr. Muzzatti stressed that questions were welcome throughout this evening's presentation and that all feedback and input was crucial to the review process in order to provide first class learning opportunities for our children.

PURPOSE, MANDATE AND INTENT OF ACCOMMODATION REVIEW

Mr. Muzzatti provided the public with a brief overview of the purpose, mandate and intent of the Accommodation Review. Mr. Muzzatti shared that 63 of the 72 provincial school boards are experiencing declining enrolment, that a total of 129 schools are currently under review and that 15 of those schools belong to the Sudbury Catholic District School Board. Mr. Muzzatti further explained that all four boards in the Sudbury are experiencing the effects of declining enrolment.

Chair Muzzatti emphasized that the Accommodation Review is a process to determine the future of the Board's
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schools. He once again emphasized that feedback and input from the public is essential in the review process in order to make the best possible recommendations to ensure that our students are provided with the best possible learning environment.

Mr. Muzzatti stated that clear parameters have been established regarding the Accommodation Review process and that the Ministry of Education guidelines, together with the Board' regulations, are available on the ARC's website at www.sudburycatholicschools.ca . The Chair encouraged the public to read these documents as they form the basis of the Accommodation Review process.

The Chair outlined the three main responsibilities or duties of the ARC:

1. Generate a School Valuation Report;
2. Study/Analyze the data within the School Valuation Report; and
3. Provide recommendations on accommodation options for Board consideration.

In order to fulfill these duties, Mr. Muzzatti then outlined the four tasks to be performed by the ARC:

1. The customization of the School Valuation Framework;
2. To provide public information and access to information;
3. To provide an opportunity for community consultation and public meeting; and
4. To present to the Director of Education a comprehensive School Valuation Report and recommendations for Board consideration.

Mr. Muzzatti emphasized that the Accommodation Review Committee is only able to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is responsible for making the decisions. Mr. Muzzatti explained that in addition to the ARC recommendations, the Trustees may also receive recommendations from the Senior Administration Team comprised of the Director of Education and the four (4) Superintendents, the Director of Education independent of the Senior Administration Team, and members of the general public. The Chair informed the public that the Trustees would vote on the recommendations at the Board Meeting scheduled for May 25, 2010.

Mr. Muzzatti stated that the ARC for the East Planning Area is comprised of forty-three (43) members consisting of school, community and Board representatives. The Chair explained and identified the thirty-six (36) school representatives consisting of the principal, a parent council representative, a community representative and a staff member for each school and the three (3) Regional Representatives consisting of a representative from the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie; a representative from the City of Greater Sudbury; and a representative from the Regional Parent Involvement Committee (RPIC) as voting members of the ARC (currently in the process of finding a replacement for Clara Steel whose present commitments make her unavailable). The chair identified the four (4) representatives from the SCDSB consisting of the ARC Chair, ARC Senior Board Official, ARC Coordinator and ARC Secretary as non-voting members.

Mr. Muzzatti explained that the purpose of all public meetings was to provide the public with a venue to receive information as well as affording them the opportunity to provide input and feedback but that it was not the forum for public presentations. He stated that members of the public wishing to present recommendations to the Trustees for consideration must submit a request in writing. He stressed that ARC recommendations are the bedrock of all presentations and that other presentations, for Board consideration, must provide a rationale for any recommendations that differ from those of the ARC.

Mr. Muzzatti explained that this public meeting and each subsequent public meeting has been scheduled to provide the community with the opportunity for input into specific components of the review process. Community input was encouraged by the Chair through questions at the public meetings or by submissions to the ARC email or voicemail, and stated that all questions and submissions will be presented to the ARC for consideration and response. The Chair stated that written briefs concerning the Customized School Valuation Framework Report presented tonight would be accepted for ARC consideration until 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 13, 2009.

Mr. Steve Rinaldi, ARC Secretary, reaffirmed the ARC's mandate to provide public information and easy access to information and that in order to fulfill this mandate all working meetings are open to the public.

Mr. Rinaldi stated that whenever possible the Board will endeavor to provide resource information for ARC working meetings, to be available on the ARC website 48 hours prior to meetings. Mr. Rinaldi stated that ARC information is posted and available on the Board's website, also questions and or comments can be submitted for ARC consideration by email and/or voice mail, or at any of the scheduled public meetings. Any concerns or questions submitted for consideration will be brought to ARC members at the next meeting for response.

TIMELINE REVIEW / MEETING SCHEDULE

Chair Muzzatti then shared the timeline and meeting schedules for the Accommodation Review process and stated that all public meetings would be held at St. Charles College and that the ARC Working Meetings would be rotated throughout the schools within the planning area. Mr. Muzzatti explained that the date, time and location of public meetings would not be changed but working meetings which were approved by the ARC members, may be subject to change based on member availability. The audience was advised by the Chair to check the Board website for any revisions to dates, location and times for working meetings. All ARC working meetings will commence at 6:00 and all public meetings at 7:00 p.m.

Mr Muzzatti stressed that the accommodation review process is a transparent and open process. The general public is welcome at any working meeting of the ARC committee. Any comments, concerns or questions from the general public at a working meeting can be submitted to an ARC representative for response.

Mr. Muzzatti stressed that April 27, 2009 is the date for public presentations to the Board of Trustees and the submission deadline of application to make a presentation to the Board is April 20, 2010. May 25, 2010 is the date that has been scheduled for the Trustees to vote on the recommendations received. Mr. Muzzatti also explained that June 24, 2020, is the deadline date for a Ministerial Review.

BOARD AND SCHOOL PROFILES

Mr. Dennis Bazinet, Acting Superintendent of Business and Finance, ARC Senior Board Official provided an overview of the Board, its staffing, planning areas and school programming offered at various schools. A short synopsis of the Board's funding model and a brief explanation of the impact of this funding on the Board's budgeting process was presented. Mr. Bazinet added that updated information will continually be made available on the Website as the review process continues. Mr. Bazinet outlined the challenges now facing the Board as being declining enrolment, school utilization, declining revenues for school operations and administration, and the deteriorating physical conditions of the schools, and as a result, the Board is in a position whereby it cannot continue to operate and maintain all of its schools. Mr. Bazinet stated that currently the Ministry of Education is funding the SCDSB for junior and senior Kindergarten based on half day attendance but is looking at implementing changes effective September 2010 to funding based on full time but this funding change would not be significant enough to change the overall picture. He also stated that the implementation of changes to the top up funding by the Ministry of Education will result in an additional loss of revenue to Board which in turn will result in an additional shortfall of dollars required to operate and maintain the infrastructure. In concluding, Mr. Bazinet indicated that the Accommodation Review process has provided the Board with an opportunity to engage in constructive dialogue for the exchange of ideas in order to generate solutions to meet these challenges and find innovative solutions to meet the needs of our students.

REVIEW OF THE VALUATION FRAMEWORK

Mr. Muzzatti presented the audience with an overview of the background and development of the Sudbury Catholic District School Board's generic School Valuation Framework Report. It was explained by Mr. Muzzatti that the School Valuation Framework Report assesses a school's value to the student, to the Board, to the community and to the local economy, with the most emphasis on the value to the student. Mr. Muzzatti also explained that this report focuses on qualitative vs. quantitative assessments for each value. He further explained that the ARC members for

East planning area have made some minor changes to the generic form by including additional factors for valuation by the ARC members and stressed that items could only be added to the generic form and that nothing could be deleted.

PRESENTATION OF CUSTOMIZED VALUATION FRAMEWORK

Mrs. Patty Mardero, Principal and member of the ARC Committee for St. Charles College presented an overview of the customized Valuation Framework Report for the East planning area. Mrs. Mardero stated that the indicators for the value pertaining to the student remained the first and foremost priority in the customization of the Valuation Framework Report. Mrs. Mardero explained how the Customized School Valuation Framework is based on a series of yes / no answers and allows for difference between elementary and secondary schools. Mrs. Mardero stated that several indicators were added to the Valuation Framework for the East and these additions were highlighted on the sample Valuation Report. Each of the four sections within the valuation framework report – value to the student, value to the Board, value to the community and value to the economy were then briefly outlined and highlighted by Mrs. Mardero.

The following question was posed and responded to by Mr. Muzzatti:

- Q. Is this now complete or is there any opportunity to add more things?
- A. That is the purpose of tonight's meeting. It is to provide you with a blank form before we fill it out for your input and comments. If you have any comments they will be brought to the ARC at our next working meeting and we will consider your comments and it will be up to the ARC members to decide, by voting, if they want to make any amendments, revisions or other changes.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The Chair opened the floor to questions from the public.

The following questions were posed and responded to by Mr. Muzzatti:

- Q. I was always curious why the Ministry only funds for half time when we do have full time kindergarten ? What is the reasoning?
- A. Because that is all they are offering. It's up to a Board if they want to go full day and if a Board does decide to offer full day senior kindergarten then they have to find the money to do it from other areas of their budget.
- Q. Are there a lot of other Ontario boards that only choose half day SK?
- A. There a lot of them that do. You have to remember the real reason for that is the Education Act says that the compulsory age for school attendance is from 6 to 18. It is not the law for 4 or 5 year olds to go to school, so if you want your 5 year olds to go to school the Ministry says we are only going to pay for half a day. That is the dilemma that we find ourselves in.

The following question was posed and responded to by Mr. Muzzatti:

- Q. I have two children that attend St. Raphael School. Are you going to try to accommodate one school or all three schools that are in the Sudbury area? What is going on with that?.
- A. This committee will present accommodation options on January 13, 2010 but we are not at that stage yet At Public Meeting #3, alternative options will be presented to the public and once again you will have the opportunity to comment on those options at that time. We are now at the stage where we are sharing information and we are going to determine the value to school to each respective community.

The following question was posed and responded to by Mr. Bazinet:

- Q. It was mentioned that the funding model would be changing for next year to a certain degree that will likely mean less revenue. I was wondering if the revenues that are projected for 2022 take this into account or are these last year numbers and honestly what is the point of projecting 15 years into the future? Why not 5 years or 10 years?
- A. A couple of different reasons. In terms of when we looked at the enrolment projections, the Ministry was asking multiple Boards to look at 10 and 15 year projections because they are looking at a very high level as to what currently exists and what will be needed for the future.

In terms of the funding, essentially there are changes that do occur year over year without a doubt. We needed a starting point and the information in this package is from 2008/2009. As we speak there is already updated information on the website. We are currently just finalizing the financials for the 2008/2009 school year which will be sent to the Ministry in November of this year. There is definitely a timing issue in terms of how accurate the information is.

In terms of what the Ministry has indicated to us, yes they are looking at funding the four and five year olds on a full day basis, which is helpful because we have been providing, all northern boards basically, have been providing full day kindergarten programs where as many, many southern boards do not.

In terms of other changes that are on the not so positive side, is the revenues that are going towards the school operations for your heating and lighting. There is currently a top amount more or less saying that if your school is at 80% utilization based on your enrolment and what the Ministry says you should have in the that school they will give dollars for your heating, lighting and your cleaning as if you had 100% utilization. But they are changing that incrementally over the next couple years, saying no you should be moving from 80 to 85 %, and upwards of the that value, which is negative for us, it is a loss of revenue for us. It is geared to asking communities to come together and take a serious look at their infrastructure and what is needed for the future.

On the positive side, if you look at the challenges we faced in the South Central Planning Area and the positive outcome, change is very difficult and we are not understating how difficult that is, but if you have schools that were built in the 50's or 60's, they are very old and if you can look at gaining newer teaching spaces that are more conducive to current curriculum and projected curriculum, those are positive outcomes. There will more additional financial information as we move forward

The following questions were posed and responded to by Mr. Muzzatti:

- Q. I noticed that the filled in Valuation Report will be presented at the next Pubic Meeting.
- A. At the next Public Meeting on November 25, 2009 completed School Valuation Reports will be presented. We will bring the completed Valuation Framework back to the public for their input, their feedback and their comments.
- Q. The four people who represent our schools will be filling this out prior to the next public meeting?
- A. Yes, that is the next step.

REMINDERS / SUMMARY

Community input was again encouraged by the Chair through questions at the Public Meetings or by submissions to the ARC email or voicemail and stated that all questions and submissions will be presented to the ARC for consideration and response. Mr. Muzzatti reminded the public that any written feedback, questions or comments from this meeting would be accepted until 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 13, 2009.

The Chair stated that the next public meeting would take place at St. Charles College, on November 25, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at which time the completed School Valuation Framework Report for each school within this Planning Area would be presented for public input and will be the basis for the ARC recommendations.

Mr. Muzzatti thanked everyone present for their participation and attendance at the first public meeting for the East Planning Area and wished everyone a Blessed Thanksgiving.

CLOSING PRAYER

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Muzzatti adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Roland Muzzatti, Chair
Sudbury Catholic District School Board

Recording Secretary
Sharon Cormier