



SUDBURY CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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MINUTES of the **3rd PUBLIC MEETING** of the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) for the East Planning Area, of the Sudbury Catholic District School Board held in the Gymnasium of St. Charles College, 1940 Hawthorne Drive, in Sudbury on Wednesday, January 13, 2009 from 7:00 p.m. 10:30 p.m.

Board Representation Present:

ARC Chairperson	Roland Muzzatti, Superintendent of Employee Relations and Schools
ARC Secretary	Steve Rinaldi, Project Coordinator
Senior Board Official	Dennis Bazinet, Acting Superintendent of Business and Finance
Coordinator	Denis Faucher, Manager of Facility Services

School Representation Present:

Pius XII

Megan Murphy, Vice-Principal
Shelley Sloan, School Council Chair
Cathy Manuel, Community
Leonard Foucault, School Staff

St. Albert Adult Learning Centre (ALC)

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

St. Charles College

Aaron Barry, Vice-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

ARC Resource Present

Cynthia Clark, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd
Daniel Del Bianco, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd
Jean McHarg, Academic Superintendent

1/19/2010

“SCHOOLS TO BELIEVE IN”

Absent:

Mark Simeoni, Senior Planner, Greater City of Sudbury
Father Remi Hebert, Diocesan Representation
Louisa Bianchin, Principal, Pius XII
Colette Perrin, School Staff, St. Bernadette
Patty Mardero, Principal, St. Charles College
Anne-Marie Savage, School Council Chair, St. Paul School
Clara Steele, RPIC Representative

Recording Secretary

Natalie Lillie

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, INTRODUCTIONS AND REVIEW OF INFORMATION

Mr. Muzzatti welcomed the general public in attendance and thanked everyone for attending. He extended a special thank you to Mrs. Patty Mardero, Principal of St. Charles College and the St. Charles College community for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments.

Mr. Muzzatti requested all attendees sign the attendance sheet and to note their school affiliation. Chair Muzzatti reminded everyone that they should have a copy of tonight's meeting agenda and the minutes from the last public meeting. Mr. Muzzatti informed the attendees that there would be five (5) packages available at the conclusion of the meeting. These packages included resource materials from Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., the 2008 Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. Report, the 2009 Update Report, the demographic information that was presented to the ARC members by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., and information regarding the Multi-Media Centre/Technology Plaza. He notes that these additional resources can also be obtained through any member of the ARC, including school Principals.

Mr. Muzzatti introduced the members of the ARC Steering Committee, members of the ARC Committee and the two trustees that were present. The Chair stressed that the Trustees were at the meeting as observers only and for information purposes so that they would have all the proper information they will need to make future decisions regarding accommodation options.

Mr. Muzzatti reviewed the agenda for tonight's Public Meeting #3 and informs the attendees that this agenda has been approved by the ARC members. Mr. Muzzatti goes on to review the minutes from Public Meeting #2, and informs the attendees that these minutes are for review only and that have already been approved by the ARC members.

Mr. Muzzatti outlined what the purpose and expectations are for the Public Meetings. Chair Muzzatti then reviewed in detail what the mandate was from each of the previous Public Meetings and for tonight's Public Meeting. The Chair identified three (3) major challenges that the Board faces: declining enrollment, surplus spaces, and aging buildings.

ACCOMMODATION CONSIDERATIONS

Mr. Muzzatti outlined the philosophical considerations that the ARC group considered when developing accommodation options as being the establishment of a Multi-Media Centre at the secondary school, alignment of grade 7 to 12 programming with the Ministry of Education's "Student Success Initiative" and current JK to 6, JK to 8 and grade 9 to 12 programming.

The following question was posed by the public and responded to by the Chair:

- Q. Why is there such a decline in enrollment at St. Charles College? Is this due to low enrollment at the elementary level or due to the facility itself?
- A. It is due strictly to enrollment.

The following questions were posed by the public and responded to by Ms. Cynthia Clark, Watson and Associates:

- Q. Is the reduction you are showing due to the low enrollment at the JK- 6 level, or due to the loss of Grade 7 and 8 students going to Marymount Academy?
- A. All of the enrollment data is taken from the enrollment of JK children and follows how they progress until Grade 6, then from Grade 7 to Grade 8. Certainly a small portion of this reduction would be due to some students who attend Marymount Academy beginning in Grade 7.

- Q. Does this information include before Marymount Academy became a Grade 7-12 school?
- A: No, Marymount Academy has been a Grade 7-12 school for the past 10 years. Annually, St. Paul might lose six (6) to seven (7) girls to Marymount Academy.

- Q. Why the decline in French Immersion enrollment at St. Raphael?
- A. St. Raphael is still officially a dual-track school. The program was suspended due to the lack in the number of students to offer a viable program, those students have the choice to go to St. John for French Immersion or remain at St. Raphael in the English program. This decision was made in September 2008.

- Q. How do you factor in low French Immersion enrollment into your projections?
- A. You have to look at historical enrollment of French Immersion in all schools Board wide. Also you must look at the decline in the French Immersion program along with the overall enrollment levels. The low French Immersion trends are consistent province wide.

- Q. What kind of factors go into making projections?
- A. The driving factor is the number of kids enrolling into JK versus the Grade 8 students leaving the Board. There is a higher number of students graduating and leaving the Board at the Grade 8 level than students coming into JK. A second factor is the issue of Sudbury having two (2) English Boards and two (2) French Boards. Depending on who builds the new school etc., will affect enrollment at those respective Boards.

Another factor is community demographic trends from the Census. The number of homes in the area and the number of students in those areas are tracked over time. Province wide shows that people are not having as many kids as before. The decline in enrollment at the elementary level ultimately affects the enrollment at the secondary level.

- Q. When you mention the success of other school's Grade 7-12 programming, is Marymount Academy the only comparison you have made or are there other comparisons of schools outside of the Sudbury Area that you have used? Marymount is a girl's only school, so the social dynamics would be very different than at a regular school.
- A. We mostly looked at schools in the immediate area; there are several schools that have the Grade 7-12 option. When Bishop Alexander Carter was being built, St. Anne's was a dry-run for Grade 7-12 programming. In the beginning people were very skeptical, however, when they went back to the old programming several students objected. It is an evolutionary thing, Grade 7 and 8 students feel that they don't fit with the JK-6 group and would like to be with the Grade 9-12 group even though they only had limited contact with the older students at special events.

The following question was posed by the public and responded to by the Chair:

- Q. So they would have a separate area in the school? My concern is that the older students would have a negative effect with regards to intimidation and self-esteem on the Grade 7 and 8 students.
- A. The model in Sudbury has the Grade 7 and 8 students in a separate wing taught by elementary teachers, with some interaction during special events.

Chair Muzzatti called Mrs. Clark from Watson & Associates Economists Ltd to the podium to bring a provincial perspective to the audience with regards to the success of Grade 7-12 programming. Cynthia explained that there are currently a number of Boards in Ontario with schools that offer Grade 7-12 programming and JK-12 programming. Many parents feared in the Grade 7-12 environment the negative effects that the older students might have on the younger ones; however the documentation shows that these schools who have had these systems for 10-15 years, that the opposite was true. The Grade 7 and 8 students were often mentored by the Grade 11 and 12 students.

The following questions were posed by the public and responded to by the Chair:

- Q. At most it shows that there are three (3) classrooms projected to be vacant at St. Andrew's school. This shouldn't be an issue when you compare it to the fact that some of the students require the one-on-one that they receive. Are you willing to say that it is cost effective even though some kids will suffer due to school closures?
- A. We are trying to look at the best opportunities to meet the needs of the most students. The same opportunity for one-on-one time will be available at any school at this Board. Regardless of the school or school location the Ministry class caps regarding primary are still in effect & Ministry average Board class sizes Grade 4-8 are in effect.

The following questions were posed by the public and responded to by Mrs. Clark:

- Q. Regarding one of the previous questions about the decline in French Immersion enrollment, are those statistics based at all on the fact that there are less Catholic people sending their kids to Catholic schools?
- A. Yes, this has been found true across the province. One of the largest schools in Ontario has seen a 50% decrease in the last six (6) years in their school enrollment. This is in part due to the number of immigrants entering our country who are not Catholic supporters, and the matter of there being fewer kids in households.

- Q. Was the revised data from Watson's November 2008 report the same data used in tonight's projections?
- A. Yes

- Q. In the November 2008 report one of the options was that all Grade 7 and 8 students go to secondary school, and Marymount Academy remained status quo. Under option d3 at the back of the report with all Grade 7 and 8 students to go to secondary I would like you to clarify that the projected enrollment for 2009/10 was to be 874 students, which is status quo?
- A. Yes, it would be based on the current Grade 9-12 status quo, before the shift to Grade 7-12 programming.

- Q. In continuation of the last question, in today's presentation package under the current status quo the number states 936, but the actual number is higher. Could you explain some of the anomalies in that data?
- A. The enrollment of 936 students was the actual enrollment numbers from October of this current school year, the projected number by Watson would be subject to variations, which explains why the numbers are different.

- Q. Besides the Catholic Board saving money, what are the benefits of integrating the Grade 7 and 8 students with the Grade 9-12 students? What are the pros and cons?
- A. The advantages are listed on slide 8 of the presentation. The cons would depend on the individual. There is often the fear of change and the fear of negative influences from the older students.

The following questions were posed by the public and responded to by Mrs. Jean McHarg, Academic Superintendent:

- Q. With regard to Grade 7-12 programming, would it be safe to say that the JK-6 students would be missing out on the positive influences from the Grade 7 and 8 students?
- A. You could say that, they could also have some negative influences on them as well.

- Q. Do you think the impact of Grade 9-12 students have more of a negative effect on Grade 7 and 8 students? We want to know that you haven't made the same decision yet that you made at St. Benedict's to become Grade 7-12 programming?
- A. The decision at St. Benedict's was not made until the end of the accommodation review process. We want to know the public's feelings, we want your input.

Ms. Clark commented on the concerns surrounding the idea of Grade 7-12 programming by providing her past experience with a school Board in London, Ontario considering sixty-four (64) school closures and implementing Grade 7-12 programming. Mrs. Clark stated that nowhere in her firm's research did the parents from other school boards who had implemented 7 to 12 programming feel, two (2) or three (3) years later, that there were negative effects.

The following question was posed by the public and responded to by the Chair:

- Q. I feel that from an academic standpoint there will be many positive effects to the Grade 7 and 8 students attending the St. Charles College because of the new facilities that will be available to them at the secondary level. My concern is with the negative social aspects. We had to sell our home nearby St. Charles College due to the fighting, drugs, smoking and language issues we had. Is there going to be segregation and special supervision at the school? What will be done to protect the students on the school grounds and leaving the school grounds?
- A. The model that has been put in place with 7-12 programming, the Grade 7 and 8 students are usually in a different wing. The reality is also that Grade 7 and 8 students that want to be exposed to the negative social influences will do so whether they are in a 7-12 environment or a 9-12 environment.

The following question was posed by the public and responded to by Ms. Clark:

- Q. What measures will be taken to separate the students before school and after school, when they are outside of their separate wing in the school? Will they have separate buses?
- A. With regards to the Toronto area aspect, which has many more issues, the research says that there were no parents who said two (2) to three (3) years down the line that the Grade 7-12 programming was a mistake. You would want to have a discussion with Board staff as to how that can all be handled.

Mr. Muzzatti commented that many of the issues that are being brought forth will be looked into further once a decision has been made. He reminds the attendees that what they are being presented at tonight's meeting are options brought forth by the ARC group to be explored, no decisions have been made at this point.

The following question was posed by the public and responded to by the Chair:

- Q. With regard to Grade 7-12 programming, what type of extra support will be provided? These are eleven (11) year old kids who are impressionable and will require more guidance counseling in an environment like that. We need to know that these types of issues will be sorted out before any decisions are made.
- A. Thank you, we hear your concern.

The following questions were posed by the public and responded to by Ms. Clark:

- Q. I think that St. Charles College should remain status quo. I don't understand how they can predict the enrollment to drop so rapidly by 2020. As a St. Charles College student in 1986 we had to move locations to Garson to accommodate the influx of students, and back then they predicted the school wouldn't survive. We have since moved here to Hawthorne Street and our numbers have continued to increase. Our open houses indicate an interest in our school. I don't see how your projections can suggest such a dramatic decrease in enrollment. I feel as though you are giving up on St. Charles College.
- A. In the presentation made to the ARC members we informed them there was a decrease in enrollment of 34% at the elementary level from 2001 to the present. Unless we can attract more students from the Public Board or French language Boards these numbers will continue to fall into the secondary level. This is true all across the province.
- Q. With regard to the status quo from all the elementary schools in 2009 it shows a total enrollment of 1, 479 students and then in 2022 it shows 1, 470 students. How can you say that the numbers will continue to decrease at the elementary level?
- A. In around 2017-18 the babies of the echo-boomers come into factor. They start to increase the number of students coming into our elementary school this starts to stabilize the secondary level for a few years. There's never a flat-line trend. There are a number of factors that go into predicting trends.

- Q. What would cause the flat-line at the secondary level if we're maintaining at the elementary level?
- A. The bulk of students you had in the elementary have now entered into secondary, so for at least the next 5-7 years you will have significant decline in secondary enrollment, due to that decrease of 34% at the elementary level. These numbers will continue to decrease if you don't draw them into our Board.
- Q. So you're saying we will have an increase in enrollment at the elementary level?
- A. Yes, because the government is introducing early learning programs this will increase the number of JK and SK students who will follow through. Until they reach the secondary level in twelve years from now the secondary numbers will continue to decline.

The following question was posed by the public and responded to by the Chair:

- Q. With regards to the 7-12 programming, they did that research because there is a decrease in enrollment, so they need to close schools, but we need to place the 7 & 8 students elsewhere in a safe environment. When it comes to St. Raphael it seems the only options are to make it a JK-6 school or close it. My concern is what will happen with those 7 & 8 students? I don't believe that integrating the 7 & 8's is the same as having JK students with 7 & 8's.
- A. Thank you. We are going to go through each of the five (5) options and you will see where the 7 & 8's will go.

The following questions were posed by the public and responded to by Ms. Clark:

- Q. What's the projected population growth in the Pius XII area? There is growth in the subdivisions and the numbers show a decline in enrollment of about 5%, could you explain this projection?
- A. It takes the construction of 4,000 new homes in a five to 7 year period to make up one elementary school.
- Q. Has the construction of these new buildings been factored into these projections? There will be enough children of school age to fill at least two classrooms. What's the historical transition loss of students to other Boards from Grade 6 to high school?
- A. Usually in the Catholic Board there is a slight increase in numbers from Grade 8 to 9. From Grade 6 to 9, statistically the number of parents who remove their kids from the Board due to school closure is very low.
- Q. What is the transition from Grade 8 to high school?
- A. Many Public Boards lose a slight number of students to Catholic Boards. It depends on the school and area.

The following questions were posed by the public and responded to by the Chair:

- Q. What are the problems the Public Board has had with these transitions? For example in Lively, they have 7-12, what are their problems?
- A. I'm not aware of any particular problems from that Board.
- Q. What about the marketing programs, are we going to sell our schools? I think we have a big transition loss, and that worries me. The problem I have with the centralized school system we're moving towards is loss of students. How can we validate this? How are we going to convince the parents to drive their kids into town in order to remain with the Catholic Board? If you could look into all of this it would make me sleep better at night. In terms of marketing with the new Multi-Media Centre, I don't think that alone will be enough to attract students to our Board.
- A. These are all ongoing issues, which are always a topic for debate. However, that's not really our focus for this evening. Once a decision has been made there will be marketing and communications strategies put in place.
- Q. What are the stats of the Grade 8 Marymount students who stay there for Grade 9?
- A. There is no data available for those figures tonight. Marymount belongs to a different planning area.
- Q. What about the 7-12 school in the Valley? Did the Board not visit another 7-12 school in another area before the decision to change St. Benedict's to a 7-12 school? Were there any retention problems from Grade 8 to 9?
- A. I don't recall that particular fact surfacing. We will be sure that the ARC will receive that answer to that question.

Mr. Muzzatti reminded the public that these are options put forth by the ARC group; they are to be reviewed with feedback before the ARC will make any recommendations. These are just some of the alternatives to show the public and to obtain their input. He informs the attendees that it took the ARC members three meetings to come up with the five (5) options, and they started with 19.

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Mr. Muzzatti outlined the current status quo at each of the schools in the East Area. Mr. Bazinet explained the data table that accompanies the status quo. Mr. Bazinet concluded that the main concern of the Board with the current status quo is that at both the elementary and secondary levels, there is a prediction of low utilization rates in our facilities and declining enrollment. Mr. Bazinet then presented the Accommodation Review Committee's option #1 and #2.

The following questions were posed by the public and responded to by Mr. Bazinet:

- Q. Looking at St. Raphael in a few of the projected years they will be above capacity. What will they do with all their extra students?
 - A. It is unlikely that these schools closures and changes will be in effect during 2010, it will likely happen at the earliest in 2011 and onward. If during the next twelve months there are more students than projected we might have to incorporate an additional expansion to a new school. There is an option of incorporating more classroom space with the addition of a Multi-Media Centre.

- Q. With regard to statistic if St. Charles is going to have the expansion and renovations will this increase capacity?
 - A. It might, depending on what is done. If we add regular classrooms it will affect the OTG, if the changes don't create loaded spaces it won't affect the OTG.

- Q. While the renovations are being done what happens to the school? I don't think two months over the summer is enough to complete the necessary changes. Will there be a work stoppage, or delay in a school year?
 - A. The logistics of implementation will take into account everything you just described.

The following questions were posed by the public and responded to by Mrs. McHarg:

- Q. One of the pros to the 7-12 programming is offering gym space to the Grade 7 and 8 students. However, there is already not enough space for the high school students as it is. Will there be an addition of a second gym? This is not a feasible pro.
 - A. Timetabling and effective use of space has already come into conversation over this matter.

- Q. Have they or will they take into consideration the social adjustment for the students of the 2 schools who will have to join a school that is already united?
 - A. This is part of the implementation plan. Once a decision has been made out of the options then the implementation plan and strategy will begin. If they approve of 7-12 programming then we will deal with the social aspects and transitioning.

- Q. I think these Public Meetings are great for us to listen and comment but I don't know if you really take our opinions into consideration? If we can make our statement we don't want 7-12 programming in the East end.
 - A. Thank you.

- Q. I want to share my experience. About 9 years ago when Sacred Heart closed I had to send my three kids to three different schools. It was a scary experience, but you need to talk to people, the teachers. Once the decision is made that's what you will have to do.
- A. Thank you.

The following questions were posed by the public and responded to by the Chair:

- Q. When we talk about all the Grade 7 and 8 students going to St. Charles College, could the females still attend Marymount?
- A. Yes. Thank you for the clarification.
- Q. How will the logistics work with regards to lunchtime supervision, guidance counseling? Of all the options there are none with a straight French Immersion school, why? I would like to see it as an option.
- A. The logistics will be a part of the transitional plan once the Trustees make a decision, all the questions fall under privy of the collective agreement so it will be maintained by the collective agreement. It was the decision of the ARC to remove the straight French Immersion as an option based on majority voting. Your comment has been recorded and will be brought back to the ARC for further review.
- Q. If my kid's school closes where will my kids go?
- A. It depends on which option gets selected. We will go through all the options which will explain all the possibilities.
- Q. What are the stats to say that my kids will be as comfortable in a Grade 7-12 environment? I find it hard to believe that my kids would feel as safe with Grade 9-12 students as they are with JK-8 students. I would have to see something very compelling to change my mind.
- A. Thank you.
- Q. My concern with this option is with the lack of space in the gym as well as the music room. There is already not enough space, will would need more space to accommodate. Where will the students go if there are no renovations made to the school?
- A. Once a decision has been made there will be another round of consultations regarding the input we've received from staff and parents for the layout and logistics of the decision.
- Q. Did the ARC take into consideration the effect of the 300 or more students that will be coming into St. Charles College? Where will they find more teachers? From my understanding the Public Board pays more than the Catholic Board.
- A. There are Grade 7 and 8 teachers at Pius XII, St. John, St. Paul and St. Raphael. Not under the current agreement, the salaries are similar. If they do pay more it is off by a dollar or two.

Mr. Muzzatti stated that in Options 1 and 2 the ARC has made the accommodations to fit all the current students into our current buildings, with the possibility of some school closures. Mr. Bazinet then presented the Accommodation Review Committee's options #3.

The following questions were posed by the public and responded to by the Chair:

- Q. With the subject of implementation, a decision can't be made alone on paper statistics. If there is going to be an implementation phase it must be proven that you can implement what you say you can. It can't be looked at and dealt with after a decision is made, you must deal with the grey area beforehand. In options 3-5 a new school is being proposed, do we have the money to do this?
- A. We don't have that money today. Once the Trustees make that decision we would make a business case to the Ministry and they would decide whether or not to grant us the money. If there is no money granted we would come up with a Plan B.
- Q. Do you have a Plan B in effect?
- A. No decisions have been made. We feel that based on experience the Ministry will listen with the closure of three schools to grant us the funds to build a new school, but nothing is guaranteed.

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

- Q. Options 1-3 all have St. Charles College as a 7-12. My first concern is with the segregated area for the 7 and 8's, where will this area be? There will have to be a capacity change or we will be short of classrooms. My second concern is with Special Education at St. Raphael School. They have the highest number of Special Education students why wouldn't we put all the Special Ed students together in one centralized place.
- A. With regard to Special Education one of the other options addresses this. With the additional space concern adding a new gym or music room won't change capacity. The students would go to a separate wing and we're referring to more classroom space, it would be a controlled environment in the same building.

The following questions were posed by the public and responded to by the Chair:

- Q. Option 3 compared to Option 1 all three 7 and 8 students go to a new school. Is that the only difference?
- A. In Option 1 there is no new school, there is also a change in boundary with French Immersion.

- Q. Who is recording our concerns?
- A. There is a minute taker and the meeting is being recorded.

Mr. Bazinet then presented the Accommodation Review Committee's options #4 and Mr. Muzzatti identified the differences between Option 3 and 4 as follows:

- in both there is a new "Green School"
- in both there is a potential for a Jk-12 campus
- in both there are three (3) school closures
- in Option 3 only the Grade 7 and 8 students from the city go to St. Charles College
- in Option 3 it remains status quo for the single communities
- in Option 4 all the Grade 7 and 8 students go to SCC

The following questions were posed by the public and responded to by the Chair:

- Q. If the numbers go over 100% for the utilization rate, will they put portables at St. Charles College?
- A. No, we will not present an option with portables to the Trustees.

The following questions were posed by the public and responded to by Mr. Bazinet:

- Q. My concern is making decisions based on these predictions. This option shows a loss of 267 students from 2010-2022, and if you look at the current status quo there is roughly the same loss predicted. If there's a flat line at the elementary level why is there a loss predicted at the secondary level? In addition to this concern, I am disappointed with the options for St. Albert; to be determined is not an option. I hope you will bring forth some option for St. Albert before this process is over.
- A. The report we compiled from November 2008 has the historical data for all the elementary schools by grade. For example, St. John school Grade 3 through 8 in 2006 totaled 218 students. The number of students dropped the following year to 180, and dropped to 159 to following year. They were losing about 30 students per year. So if you retain those students and don't bring in many JK students, the numbers will continue to decrease over time. That brings us back to the 34% decrease at the elementary level. If the government had not approved the full day learning the numbers would have continued to drop at the elementary level in our projections. We expect to bring up the numbers at the elementary level.

- Q. In this option where will the Special Education students go from St. Raphael and Pius XII? Will they go to St. Charles College for Grade 7 and 8, because there won't be room?
- A. The Special Education classes remain as is. The projections for Special Education don't fluctuate much at the elementary or secondary levels. The Special Education program will continue as is.

Mr. Muzzatti identified the differences between Option 3, 4 and 5 as follows:

- all three have the new "Green School"
- all three have a JK-12 campus
- all three involve three (3) school closures
- Options 3 & 4 involve Grade 7-12 programming with Multi-Media Centre
- Option 5 is status quo secondary programming

The following questions were posed by the public and responded to by the Chair:

- Q. Looking at the options presented tonight, this is the only option that allows my kids in Grade 7 and 8 to remain at the elementary level. Looking at the philosophies presented, I don't believe that the building of a Multi-Media centre is considered a "philosophy". This is not a viable option as it goes against your two first philosophies, and this is the only option that would keep me sending my kids to this Board. How do you think this option will fit hand in hand with your two (2) philosophies later on?
- A. The ARC felt it was important to come to the public with an option that maintained status quo secondary programming. You are right regarding the philosophies, Grade 7-12 programming and the Multi-Media Centre go hand in hand. They are interdependent options.
- Q. Is there something I could access that explains the ends that the philosophies are trying to meet? I have several questions on them, not the technology designs but the background behind these philosophies.
- A. We don't have anything for you now. It has been noted.
- Q. In this option St. Charles College remains status quo, with no new Multi-Media Centre being built. Will the new "Green School" have multi-media facilities?
- A. All new schools have smart boards, internet, books, computers, etc. The idea behind the Multi-Media Centre was to be able to provide a central space to permit flexible groupings where students could work on projects at the same time using different media.
- Q. Why would the Grade 9-12 students be deprived of that in this option?
- A. Our philosophy was to present the Multi-Media Centre as part of the Grade 7-12 programming.

The following questions were posed by the public and responded to by Mr. Bazinet:

- Q. I have two (2) children at St. Andrew and in every option you propose its closure. In all options the kids are sent to bigger schools, I chose St. Andrew because it was smaller. I'm afraid of the shock my son will have going into JK at a large school. Will the JK students be more secluded from the rest of the school?
- A. With the new early learning program coming to our Board, the Ministry's proposal is to change the way of the classroom, and teachers of those students. Also they recognize the need to provide capital dollars to renovate schools in order to accommodate the children. The Ministry has recognized the need to look at the JK-SK population differently than the Grade 1-8 students in an elementary school.
- Q. They are not going to just put them in with the rest of the population and let them suffer?
- A. The discussion at the ARC level and the Boards is interested in presenting recommendations to the Director that make sense, that are sustainable, that meet the needs of the public and students, and that factor in all the input we receive. Ideally we would have one (1) or two (2) recommendations that meet the most of these needs as possible.

The following questions were posed by the public and responded to by the Chair:

- Q. I would like to comment further on the last question with regard to JK students being with older students. As it stands the young ones are quite secluded in their own respective areas, with a controlled level of association with older students who are carefully chosen to be "reading buddies", etc. That is the way the system currently works.
- A. Thank you.
- Q. In options 3, 4, and 5 what is the timeline for the new school to be built?
- A. Once a decision is made you are looking at a minimum of two (2) years from the approval from the Ministry. Let's say the decision is made in May of this year the school could be built by September of 2012.
- Q. In options 1 and 2 either way St. Bernadette closes. If this is implemented by the 2011 school year the kids coming into Grade 6 will be changing schools again the following year in 2012, and again potentially in 2014 if they chose to go to a different high school. How will we help transition those Grade 6 students?
- A. There would have to be some work done with transitioning. There would have to be some transitional activities and strategies inputted. These would be discussed by the principals and the staff of both schools.

The following question was posed by the public and responded to by Mrs. Clark:

- Q. You mentioned there being research on the 7-12 programming. Where can I find this information to weigh the pros and cons? Are there actual studies done?

- A. We obtained some of this information from the Thames Valley School Board in London, Ontario. You can find dialog of parental input on the internet. There are no studies done. All Boards usually have their data on their website.

The following questions were posed by the public and responded to by Mr. Bazinet:

- Q. Can you clarify if option 5 is chosen, would there be any renovations made to St. Charles College?
- A. The technology improvements would be no problem, the renovations would not be likely. We would maintain the facility and of course we would maintain the Health and Safety Regulations.

- Q. It is clear to see that many of the parents are emotionally charged with the concern of their Grade 7 and 8 children being placed amongst Grade 9-12 students. Will you be bringing anything back to the forum regarding these concerns that the public has brought forth to you at tonight's meeting? If I trust you with my children's safety I would hope you could provide me with more feedback and assurance.
- A. The way this works is that questions asked here needing further answering gets brought back to the ARC group for further review. The ARC deals with the input and feedback, and they will decide how to respond to the five (5) options based on the input received. Thank you for your input, it has been noted.

The following questions were posed by the public and responded to by Ms. Clark:

- Q. If there are no studies done and you say that the Grade 7-12 programming has been successful, where is this based from? Did anyone interview a principal, the parents? Are there minutes? Is this the only School Board you got information from?
- A. We asked other school Boards for information on their experience, and their input. There is not one study or site that you can base all of this information on. The information was collectively gathered from thirty (30) or more school's research that still indicated success two to three years later.

- Q. Can I get a list of the 30 of 40 School Boards that you contacted?
- A. I don't have a list of those with me. I had a client do that research back in 2003, so it would need to be updated to supplement more recent experience.

- Q. I don't think it's fair to say it's been successful if the numbers are reflecting from back in 2003. Society and technology has changed greatly over the last seven years.
- A. I do education research every day and I can't tell you of a research paper that I've seen in Canada or even The U.S.A where parents or students have said 7-12 programming was a failed programming structure or environment, in 2003 or any other timeframe.

- Q. I know a school in southern Ontario that has converted and it has been a nightmare with bullying, etc. These parents want their kids removed from this environment now.
- A. That would be a good example to bring forward, I have not heard about this issue. There are lots of positive examples you can draw from as well.

The following questions were posed by the public and responded to by Mr. Bazinet

- Q. Will the new school be built on the current property of St. Bernadette?
- A. Yes, there is a portion of land that we would need to obtain from the City of Sudbury but we don't view that as a problem to obtain that. We have not determined exactly where the boundaries for that school will be because we have not determined which option will be even considered for recommendation.

- Q. While this new school is being built where will the St. Bernadette students go?
- A. Depending where the school would be it could be an option for the kids to remain at that school. They could temporarily be moved to St. Raphael School. Those are the things that would have to be looked at once a decision has been made.

The following questions were posed by the public and responded to by the Chair:

- Q. If you have to move those kids to St. Raphael School that would mean a lot of transition again.
- A. Correct. We would have to look at transitioning those kids properly.

- Q. I would like to share my own personal experience of attending a 7-12 high school. Going from my elementary school to high school provided me with more experience to more sports and new activities,

more access to computers and technology. I personally had a great experience. We need to look at the pros to this and not just focus on the cons.

A. Thank you.

Q. Was there any talk to our French Public Board colleagues with regard to Hanmer High's retention? From what I've been told they have a very difficult time retaining students from Grade 8 to Grade 9.

A. No, but Board wide historically we retain 75% of our students graduating from Grade 8 to Grade 9.

The following question was posed by the public and responded to by Mr. Denis Faucher:

Q. Currently how many schools are classified P.T.R (prohibited to repair) in this area? In five (5) years from now how many schools in the area will be deemed P.T.R?

A. To date we have 54 Million in assets to go towards replacement. In five (5) years from now we have a projected replacement value of 43 Million. Our F.C. I. (facilities condition index) is very high, so we will need to repair and renovated our schools. More specifically, to date there are three (3) non P.T.R schools. In five (5) years from now St. John and St. Charles College will be the only non PTR schools in the East Planning Area.

Ms. Clark stated that there are no capitals dollars currently available at the Ministry of Education, with their deficit. In this province the population is aging which results in less tax dollars coming in. We are trying to make them understand that there will be less money in the future available than there has been in the past for schools. There is no funding source for upgrading and technology improvements at St. Charles College right now. In order to convince the Ministry of Education to provide the necessary funding I need to show them that you are willing to help save costs elsewhere with the closure of schools, which means they won't need to spend the \$54 million in replacing those schools. There will have to be the consideration of doing less with fewer dollars over time.

The following questions were posed by the public and responded to by Ms. Clark:

Q. I would like to know if there is any information regarding post secondary success rates of students who were exposed to multi-media facilities versus those who were not.

A. My daughter attended an all girls JK-12 school with multi-media resources. When she entered into JK most girls were graduating with an Arts degree. Most girls wanted to stay at home and start a family. In 2004, 80% of graduates were entering into pre-med, pre-law and engineering. In North America and the U.S the largest single investment being made by private enterprises is building these types of technology plaza media centers. There is a belief in the industry that every student will have to have some type of post secondary education in order to get a job within the next ten (10) years. Research from across the globe indicates most students in developed countries are tuned into the global world through various technology devices most of the time, except when they are at school. Many school boards start implementing the use of multi-media resources and working collaboratively as early as the Grade 3 level. The other part of the research would say that there six (6) particular skills that most employers would expect students to have in the next number of years. They obtain more critical thinking and collaborative skills that come out of this environment.

REMINDERS / SUMMARY

Mr. Muzzatti informed the public that we are about 75% of the way through this Accommodation Review process. The Chair stated that the next working meeting would take place at Pius XII, on January 20, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. At this time the ARC members will take the public input from public meeting #3 and based on this input decide if we will revise the options. Mr. Muzzatti reminded the public that they are welcome to attend the working meetings but that they are only there as observers. If they wish to convey their personal input they can do so with the ARC Representative from their school community before or after the working meetings.

The Chair reminded the public of the following upcoming meetings and their purpose:

February 3, 2010 working meeting #11 will take place at St. Albert Learning Centre from 6-8 pm. The ARC will take the feedback from the options and decide which recommendations they will present to the public.

February 17, 2010 public meeting #4 will take place at ST. Charles College from 7-9 pm. The ARC will present the public with the draft of ARC recommendations for the Director, for public input.

February 24, 2010 working meeting #12 will take place at St. Andrew School from 6-8 pm. The ARC will take the feedback and refine the recommendations.

March 3, 2010 the ARC will present their recommendations to the Director of the Board.

March 23, 2010 the Director will present the ARC recommendations along with her own to the Trustees.

April 27, 2010 the public will have the opportunity to attend and present their feedback to the decision makers.

May 25, 2010 the Trustees will vote on the recommendations.

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 must be submitted to the Board within 48 hours from tonight's Public Meeting to be considered at the next ARC Working Meeting on January 20, 2010.

Mr. Muzzatti thanked everyone present for their participation and attendance at the third public meeting for the East Planning Area and wished everyone a nice weekend.

CLOSING PRAYER

Mr. Muzzatti led the group in a closing prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Muzzatti adjourned the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

Roland Muzzatti, Chair
Sudbury Catholic District School Board

Recording Secretary
Natalie Lillie