



# SUDBURY CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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**MINUTES** of the 12<sup>th</sup> **WORKING SESSION** of the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) for the East Planning Area, of the Sudbury Catholic District School Board (SCDSB), held in the gymnasium of St. Andrew Elementary School, 1305 Holland Road, in Sudbury, on February 24, 2010, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:55 p.m.

## **Committee Members in Attendance:**

### **Board Representation:**

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

### **School Representation:**

#### **Pius XII**

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

#### **St. Charles College**

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

#### **St. Albert Adult Learning Centre (ALC)**

Laura Kuzenko, Principal  
Ann Brisebois, School Staff  
Katrina Chevrier, Student Representative

#### **St. John**

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

#### **St. Andrew**

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

#### **St. Mark**

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

#### **St. Bernadette**

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

#### **St. Paul**

Sharon Oliver, Principal  
Anne-Marie Savage, School Council Chair  
Jennifer Rocca, Community  
Denise Filipovic, School Staff

#### **St. Raphael**

Vickie McGuire, Principal  
Ted Keehn, School Staff  
Jen Bailey, Community

### **Community Representation:**

Fr. Remi Hebert, Diocesan Representative

### **Committee Members Regrets:**

Cassandra MacGregor, St. Albert ALC  
Francine Dubreuil, St. Albert ALC  
Phil Farmer, St. Raphael

Natasha Folino, St. Paul  
Mark Simeoni, Greater City of Sudbury  
Clara Steele, Regional Parent Involvement Committee

2/25/2010

**General Public in Attendance:**

Allison Dufour, St. Albert A.L.C.

**Call to Order:**

The ARC Chair, Mr. Roland Muzzatti, Academic Superintendent, called the meeting to order @ **6:02** p.m.

**OPENING PRAYER**

The Chair led the group in an opening prayer for guiding presence.

**WELCOME**

Mr. Muzzatti welcomed the group to ARC Working Meeting #12 and thanked everyone for attending. He also thanked Mrs. Melody Henry, principal of St. Andrew Elementary School, and her team for hosting the meeting and providing the food and refreshments.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOVED BY** T. Dowdall-Cirelli and **Seconded by** C. Ross-Gonko

“**THAT** the agenda for today’s February 24, 2010 Working Meeting #12 be approved as presented.”

**CARRIED**

**ARC BINDERS**

The Chair reviewed the updates to the ARC binders as including the minutes from Working Meeting #11, minutes from Public Meeting #4 and this evening’s presentation package.

**APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**MOVED BY** S. Sloan and **Seconded by** A. Gagne

“**THAT** the minutes for February 3, 2010 Working Meeting #11 be approved as presented.” **CARRIED**

**MOVED BY** T. Large and **Seconded by** T. Keehn

“**THAT** the minutes for February 17, 2010 Public Meeting #4 be approved as presented.” **CARRIED**

**REVIEW OF PUBLIC INPUT**

Mr. Muzzatti reviewed the input received after Working Meeting #11 that included the letter to parents from the Pius XII School Council Chair together with twenty-seven (27) responses, the evidence/research in support of JK to grade 8 programming, and nine (9) emails submitted for ARC consideration. Mr. Muzzatti stated that of the nine (9) emails received, one (1) contained the contact information for the regional parent council chair for the Ottawa Catholic School Board, four (4) supported maintaining status quo for Pius XII Elementary School, three (3) supported maintaining status quo for St. Andrew Elementary School, and one (1) supported the implementation of grade 7 to 12 programming.

Mr. Muzzatti then reviewed the input received after Public Meeting #4 that included a suggestion from Lygia Dallip, Watson and Associates, to revise the recommendation text within the Draft ARC Report to the Director, the petition received from St. Charles College students, a hard copy of a voice message left on the ARC mailbox by a St. Raphael Elementary School supporter, and three (3) emails submitted for ARC consideration. Mr. Muzzatti stated that of the three (3) emails received, two (2) supported maintaining status quo for St. Andrew Elementary School location and programming, and one (1) proposed a new accommodation option for this planning area.

## **FINALIZE ARC REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR**

Chair Muzzatti led the group in reviewing the Draft ARC Report to the Director presented at Public Meeting #4, with a new paragraph added to page 5 that summarizes the comments heard at Public Meeting #4, and called for any proposed additions, revisions or deletions the committee would like to make.

**MOVED BY** C. Ross-Gonko and **Seconded by** M. Henry

**“THAT** a new Recommendation #4 be added to this report calling for status quo for all nine (9) schools in the East Planning Area.”

**DEFEATED**

Committee comments in favour of this motion stated that a status quo recommendation would allow the Board to better deal with the changes and challenges of other planning areas, while comments not in favour of this motion stated that given the data presented, the current political and economic climate, and the future condition of our schools, it would be unwise to recommend that Trustees not make a decision.

Prior to the vote on the above motion, the following questions were posed by committee members and responded to by the Chair:

- Q: Were we not told at the start of the accommodation process, that status quo was not an option?  
A: This was a statement made based on the data presented to the Board as part of the Watson Report, together with the possibility of Ministry funding for a new school.
- Q: Can Trustees ignore the recommendations presented and formulate their own recommendations?  
A: The Director can choose to support the ARC recommendations, or propose something else. Traditionally, the Trustees don't propose accommodation recommendations, they decide which recommendation to accept.
- Q: It is implicit in the nature of recommendations that the Trustees always have the option of deciding not to decide any recommendation, although I feel we have a better chance of obtaining Ministry funding now rather than after the next accommodation review. Is it mandated that an accommodation review be undertaken every five (5) years or is this a guideline?  
A: This is not stated within the Board's Regulation BR#10, but is stated within the Ministry Guideline document concerning accommodation review. There could be circumstances by which the Board would necessitate the accommodation review of a school or schools, but not to continually put communities through this extensive process.

Prior to the vote on the above motion, the following questions were posed by committee members and responded to by Mr. Denis Faucher, Manager of Facility Services, ARC Facilitator, and Mr. Dennis Bazinet, Acting Superintendent of Business and Finance, ARC Senior Board Official:

- Q: We have two schools with sections that are Prohibited to Repair (PTR), does the Ministry give us direct funding to repair these? Does the Board have to make a special request for the construction of a new school?  
A: Mr. Faucher : PTR funding no longer exists as a program, although sections that were deemed as PTR, can be included in a business case. Having no long term plan for the East Planning Area makes the management and investment of capital dollars in these schools very difficult as it would be wasteful to invest in schools that may be ultimately closed. Choosing to decide in five years is not good management. Yes, I understand the comment that these decisions are a trade-off between the bricks and mortar and the students, but while the school is the students, these students need good bricks and mortar in order to learn effectively.

Mr. Bazinet: We have been meeting over a number of months, and there is no question that you, as a committee, will decide what recommendations to put forth to the Director. You must now ask yourselves if you want to have the opportunity to influence the Trustee's decision or are you willing to relinquish this to administration. Analysis on the status quo has been done and we do not believe that this is a sustainable option for this organization. There is no harm in speaking with the Ministry regarding the future because without a good business case submitted, our Board will be left out when the next announcement of funding is made.

Q: Do the Trustees have a timeline governing when a decision must be made on recommendations for this planning area?

A: Mr. Bazinet: The ARC process is defined with specific timelines, with the expectation that a decision will be made, although as decision makers, they have the full spectrum of time required to make a good decision.

Prior to the vote on the above motion, the following question was posed by committee members and responded to by the Chair:

Q: At the May 25, 2010 Board Meeting, can the Trustees choose not to decide?

A: A decision will be made at that Board Meeting. It could be to accept, revise, or place a condition on a presented recommendation, or even to defer the decision to a later date.

After the vote on the previous motion, the following question was posed by committee members and responded to by the ARC Secretary, Mr. Steve Rinaldi:

Q: Will the Director and the Trustees see the documents contained within tonight's presentation package?

A: As per the table of contents of the Draft ARC Report to the Director, the committee's recommendations, the minutes of all meetings and the School Valuation Reports are included in the final report. Including any other documents to the final report is up to the ARC.

**MOVED BY D. Pyott and Seconded by C. Ross-Gonko**

**“THAT** a new Recommendation #4 be added to this report proposing that grade 7 and 8 students from St. Raphael Elementary School move to St. Bernadette Elementary School, St. Andrew Elementary School remains JK to grade 6 with regular track programming, current St. Bernadette Elementary School students move to St. Raphael Elementary offering JK to grade 6 dual track and Special Education programming, with St. Raphael Elementary School downsized by demolishing the PTR portion of the school.”

**DEFEATED**

Committee comments in favour of this motion stated that a number of schools have already been closed in New Sudbury, and it maintains several ideal school communities, while comments not in favour of this motion stated that this scenario does not seem to address the issues of declining enrolment, excess capacity or aging buildings; it would require significant renovations to St. Bernadette (washrooms, gymnasium, lockers, daycare) to accommodate grade 7 and 8's; and adds an additional transition for these students.

**MOVED BY C. Remillard and Seconded by S. Sloan**

**“THAT** the supporting documentation from the presentation package for Working Meeting #12 be presented to the Director with the ARC Report to the Director.”

**WITHDRAWN BY MOVER AND SECONDER**

**MOVED BY C. Remillard and Seconded by S. Sloan**

**“THAT** a new Tab #4 be added to the ARC Report to the Director to include all submissions received from non-ARC members.”

**CARRIED**

**MOVED BY M. Henry and Seconded by C. Remillard**

**“THAT** the first and fifth bullet describing Recommendation #1 within the Draft ARC Report to the Director, current page 8, be revised to read as follows:

- The Prohibitive to Repair sections of Pius XII Elementary School are demolished and reconstructed with a capacity to provide regular track JK to grade 8 programming;
- Demolition of the existing St. Bernadette Elementary School, and the construction of a new “Green” dual track JK to grade 8 elementary school on the St. Bernadette Elementary School site to include the current students from St. Raphael, St. Andrew and St. Bernadette Elementary Schools.”

**CARRIED**

**MOVED BY T. Keehn and Seconded by C. Perrin**

**“THAT** the last bullet describing Recommendation #1 within the Draft ARC Report to the Director, current page 8, that identifies Recommendation #1 and #2 as preferred be deleted.” **DEFEATED**

**MOVED BY D. Kotanko and Seconded by S. Oliver**

**“THAT** the first and fifth bullet describing Recommendation #2 within the Draft ARC Report to the Director, current page 14, be revised to read as follows:

- The Prohibitive to Repair sections of Pius XII Elementary School are demolished and reconstructed with a capacity to provide regular track JK to grade 6 programming;
- Demolition of the existing St. Bernadette Elementary School, and the construction of a new “Green” dual-track JK to grade 6 elementary school on the St. Bernadette Elementary School site to include the current students from St. Raphael, St. Andrew and St. Bernadette Elementary Schools.”

**CARRIED**

**MOVED BY L. Foucault and Seconded by C. Remillard**

**“THAT** the second and sixth bullet describing Recommendation #3 within the Draft ARC Report to the Director, current page 22, be revised to read as follows:

- The Prohibitive to Repair sections of Pius XII Elementary School are demolished and reconstructed with a capacity to provide regular track JK to grade 6 programming;
- The Prohibitive to Repair section of St. Raphael Elementary School is demolished and reconstructed with a capacity to provide dual track JK to grade 6 programming to include current students from St. Andrew and St. Bernadette Elementary Schools. Reconstruction at St. Raphael to also include site improvements to provide adequate parking and bus routes.”

**CARRIED**

**MOVED BY N. Snow and Seconded by D. Bronicheski**

**“THAT** the Supporting Rationale #3, of Recommendation #3 within the Draft ARC Report to the Director, current page 22, be deleted.” **DEFEATED**

Committee comments in favour of this motion stated that to name St. Raphael Elementary as a flagship for New Sudbury does not truly reflect how well all other schools under review are valued, while comments not in favour of this motion stated that St. Raphael Elementary does have a tradition as a flagship school.

**MOVED BY M. Henry and Seconded by D. Bronicheski**

**“THAT** only the first sentence of Supporting Rationale #3, of Recommendation #3 within the Draft ARC Report to the Director, current page 22, be deleted.”

**CARRIED**

**MOVED BY T. Madore and Seconded by A. Gagne**

**“THAT** the Draft ARC Report to the Director, be accepted as amended and presented to the Director on March 3, 2010.”

**CARRIED**

Mr. Bazinet stated to the group that the Ministry of Education’ guideline clearly reads that whenever possible schools should be subject to an accommodation process once every five (5) years.

### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

There were no questions posed and Chair Muzzatti noted no outstanding issues to address.

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

Mr. Muzzatti reviewed the remaining timeline with the group, identifying that with the submission of the ARC Report to the Director, the work of the committee was at an end.

Mr. Muzzatti congratulated and thanked the group on behalf of himself, the Director and the Board, for the gift of their time and expertise to provide guidance in a very extensive, complex and emotional situation. Mr. Muzzatti further stated that he felt very fortunate and privileged to work with a group of well intentioned, honourable and committed people.

The Chair stated that Board staff would make the amendments to the ARC Report to the Director and distribute to the committee by Friday, February 26, 2010 together with the minutes of tonight’s meeting, and asked that any proposed revisions be submitted by Monday, March 1, 2010.

Mr. Muzzatti stated that on March 23, 2010, the Director will present the ARC Report, together with the Director’s Report to the Board, and outlined the process for making other presentations to Trustees for the Board Meeting scheduled for April 27, 2010, as well as the Special Board Meeting scheduled for May 25, 2010 where decisions will be made. Chair Muzzatti further stated that the location for these three (3) Board meetings will be held at a location to be determined.

Members of the committee thanked members of the ARC Steering Committee consisting of Chair Muzzatti, Mr. Bazinet, Mr. Faucher and Mr. Rinaldi for their assistance and leadership in supporting this committee in the completion of its mandate. Particular thanks went to Mr. Muzzatti while eligible to retire from the Board last year, chose to stay on to assist with the Accommodation Review of the East Planning Area.

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Chair Muzzatti led the group in the closing prayer.

**MOVED BY M. Henry and Seconded by A. Brisebois**

**“THAT** tonight’s Working Meeting #12 be adjourned.”

**CARRIED**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Roland Muzzatti, Chair  
Sudbury Catholic District School Board