



SUDBURY CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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MINUTES of the 7th **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. John Elementary School, 181 William Street, in Garson, on December 2, 2009, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Committee Members in Attendance:

Board Representation:

Chairperson	Roland Muzzatti, Academic Superintendent
Senior Board Official	Dennis Bazinet, Acting Superintendent of Business and Finance
Coordinator	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
Sandra Gobbo, Community
Claire Morrison, School Staff

St. Albert Adult Learning Centre (ALC)

Laura Kuzenko, Principal
Ann Brisebois, School Staff
Katrina Chevrier, Student Representative
Francine Dubreuil, 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
Meghan O'Reilly, School Staff

St. Bernadette

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

St. Raphael

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

Community Representation:

Clara Steele, Regional Parent Involvement Committee

ARC Resource

Cynthia Clarke, Watson & Associates, ARC Resource

Committee Members Regrets:

Fr. Remi Hebert, Diocesan Representative
Mark Simeoni, Greater City of Sudbury
Cassandra MacGregor, St. Albert ALC
Nicole Snow, St. Bernadette

Catherine Ross-Gonko, St. Charles College
Carole Remillard, St. Mark
Natasha Folino, St. Paul
Jen Bailey, St. Raphael

12/22/2009

General Public in Attendance:

Nora Gauthier, Pius XII
Megan Murphy, Pius XII

Stephanie Van Druenen, St. John
Lillian Lebo, St. John

Call to Order:

Chair Muzzatti called the meeting to order @ 6:05 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 #7 and thanked everyone for attending. He also thanked Mrs. Tricia Dowdall-Cirelli, principal of St. John Elementary School, and her team for hosting the meeting and providing the food and refreshments.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOVED BY M. Henry and **Seconded by** L. Szalai

“**THAT** the agenda for today’s December 2, 2009 Working Meeting #7 be approved as presented”.

CARRIED

ARC BINDERS

The Chair reviewed the updates to the ARC binders that included minutes from the last ARC Working Meeting, the Watson and Associates Reports from November 29, 2008 and September 2, 2009, boundary maps, and this evening’s presentation package.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOVED BY M. Smith and **Seconded by** L. Szalai

“**THAT** the minutes of the 6th Working Meeting be revised on page 2, within the Approval of the Minutes section, second motion, to show that Maria Middleton is a parent of St. Andrew School.”

CARRIED

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

“**THAT** the minutes of the 2nd Public Meeting be approved as presented. ”

CARRIED

REVIEW OF INPUT FROM PUBLIC MEETING #2

The Chair led the group in reviewing the comments submitted at Public Meeting #2 held on November 25, 2009. These comments included two (2) written and one (1) email submission in support of the current St. Andrew Elementary School programming and community.

WATSON & ASSOCIATES PRESENTATION

Mr. Muzzatti introduced Cynthia Clark, Associate Director, from Watson and Associates Economists Ltd to present the methodology, analysis and results of the demographic report and subsequent enrolment projections supplied to the Sudbury Catholic District School Board within the Watson and Associates Economists Ltd September 2, 2009 report.

Ms. Clark spoke to the provincial reality that enrolment is in general decline, how this trend is expected to continue, and the direct affect this will have on the Sudbury Catholic District School Board. Ms. Clark outlined how provincially, the majority of facilities have relatively low utilization rates, require significant capital investments to maintain, and that most Board's are looking at fewer, larger schools as a solution.

Ms. Clark then presented the background to the enrolment projections as being based upon examination of historical grade structure ratios, elementary/secondary apportionment, Greater City of Sudbury and Statistics Canada population summary, anticipated development in the Greater Sudbury Area, and system-wide demographic and enrolment trends.

The following question was posed by a committee member and responded to by the presenter, Ms. Clark:

- Q. Has your firm (Watson and Associates) conducted a study as to the impact the on-going 4-laning of Highway #69 will have on this community and its' prospective growth?
- A. Our empirical evidence has shown that while most communities have economic development projects, most do not relate to increased school age children.

Mr. Muzzatti thanked Ms. Clark for providing the group with a provincial accommodation review prospective, and providing some clarification to the enrolment projections we will be utilizing for our alternative accommodation option discussions.

Chair Muzzatti informed the group that the community development information requested of the City of Greater Sudbury's Planning Department, would be forwarded to the group and discussed at our next Working Meeting.

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Mr. Muzzatti stated that the ARC Steering Committee, consisting of the ARC Chair, Secretary, Coordinator, and Senior Board Official, had discussed alternative accommodation options for the East Planning Area, for the ARC's consideration. These options recognized the philosophies of establishing a Multi-Media Resource Centre tied with grade 7 to 12 school programming at St. Charles College, in alignment with the Ministry of Education's "Student Success Initiative".

Mr. Muzzatti defined the Multi-Media Resource Centre as the hands-on equipment and training that would enable the Board to provide both elementary and secondary students with 21st century skills and learning opportunities directed towards all career pathways. This centre could also create partnership opportunities with the local community regarding further uses of this facility.

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

- Q. Could the Multi-Media Centre you have described include Performing Arts programming?
- A. These centres are intended for more technology based programming , but yes, it is possible.
- Q. Does including a Multi-Media Centre mean JK to 12 programming?
- A. Not exclusively, but we will examine the grade 7 to 12 programming shortly.

Ms. Cynthia Clark stated that the Multi-Media Centres constructed in the Halton school district included many technology based components such as a mini-wind tunnel, media development and exploration of renewable

resources, as well as partnerships with local business, that has contributed to more than 80% of the students from the school going on to professional careers.

Mr. Muzzatti followed with a brief explanation of the alignment of grade 7 to 12 school programming with the Ministry of Education's "Student Success Initiative" direction that effective programming must be viewed as a continuum that minimizes the number of times a student would transition as he/she progresses from JK to Grade 12. Mr. Muzzatti also stated that with the larger population of Grade 7 & 8 students and the proximity of the secondary school, the following program enhancements are possible:

- Access to specialized facilities (technology areas, cafeteria, double-gym, etc)
- Expansion of program offerings and flexible spaces to meet changing program needs (grade 7&8 instrumental music)
- Expansion of resources in classrooms.
- Interaction with a larger community of learners.
- Larger blocks of uninterrupted teaching time/blocks (elimination of recess breaks for grades 7&8)

Prior to the examination of the preliminary alternative accommodation options, the Chair took time to outline where the ARC was in the accommodation process, stressing the importance that these options and the upcoming discussion is in preparation for the next Public Meeting, and do not form the ARC's final recommendation to the Board. The Chair stated that the ARC will use the next Working Meetings to decide which of the alternative accommodation options most effectively address the challenges such as declining enrolment through to 2022 which results in significant surplus capacity in this planning area.

Mr. Muzzatti presented the first four (4) preliminary options as contained within the Watson and Associates Economists Ltd November 2008 Report, page iv, as follows:

- Option #1 Marymount Secondary students to St. Charles College (Grade 7 to 12)
Multi-Media Centre at St. Charles College
St. Andrew students to St. Raphael
4-unit Portapak at St. Raphael
- Option #2 Marymount Secondary students to St. Charles College (Grade 7 to 12)
Multi-Media Centre at St. Charles College
St. Andrew students to St. Raphael
All grade 7 & 8 programming to St. Charles College
8-unit Portapak at St. Charles College
St. Bernadette students to Pius XII
- Option #3 All Grade 7 & 8 programming to St. Charles College
4-unit Portapak at St. Charles College
St. Andrew students to St. Raphael
St. Bernadette students to Pius XII
- Option #4 Grade 7 & 8 from Pius XII and St. Raphael programs to St. Charles College
Multi-Media Centre at St. Charles College
St. Andrew students to St. Raphael
St. Bernadette students to Pius XII

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

- Q. Some of these options include schools in other planning areas. How can we consider these?
- A. Yes, an issue does exist when considering these options as presented.
- Q. Options #3 and #4 show St. Bernadette students moving to Pius XII. Does this mean Pius XII would become dual-track?
- A. Yes.

Q. Option #3 identifies Portapaks. Are these acceptable by our Trustees?
A. Portapaks or portables are included in some of these options, and have been deemed unacceptable as an accommodation solution by our Trustees.

Q. Does Watson and Associates suggest renovations with these options?
A. Yes.

Q. Would the Board consider retrofitting or renovating a school deemed to be prohibitive to repair (PTR)?
A. We have two (2) sections of schools that qualify as PTR. These are the original section of St. Raphael and the original and first addition to Pius XII. Therefore, potential accommodation options may include demolition of the PTR sections.

Chair Muzzatti then presented three (3) preliminary options put forth for ARC consideration, as variations of the options proposed by Watson and Associates within their November 2008 report, as follows:

Option #5 Grade 7 & 8 from Pius XII and St. Raphael programs to St. Charles College
St. Andrew students to St. Raphael

Option #6 Grade 7 & 8 from Pius XII and St. Raphael programs to St. Charles College
St. Bernadette students to St. Raphael

Option #7 Grade 7 & 8 from Pius XII and St. Raphael programs to St. Charles College
St. Andrew and St. Bernadette students to St. Raphael

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

Q. Is the construction of a Multi-Media Centre included with options #5, 6 and 7?
A. Yes, this centre would be included at St. Charles College as part of the grade 7 to 12 programming.

Q. Can we build a JK to 6 school at the St. Charles College site, modeled after the solution for the South/Central Planning Area?
A. This would have to be an additional option put forth for committee discussion.

Q. Do options #5, 6 and 7 leave St. Mark Elementary status quo?
A. Yes, our JK to 6 programming would remain within the three (3) classrooms we lease from the Conseil Scolaire Public du Grand Nord l'Ontario, at their school in Markstay. Additionally, there are no proposed changes to programming for St. John or St. Paul in these options.

Q. When would these proposed changes take place, as St. Charles College is currently fully utilized?
A. Trustees will approve recommendations with timelines for development, depending on the extent of the changes. For example, a two (2) year timeline was directed for the South/Central while the North/West Planning Area was placed on a longer implementation timeline. Remember that the Ministry looks at a class loading of twenty-one (21) students in a classroom at all times throughout the day.

The following questions were posed by the committee and responded to by Mr. Denis Faucher:

Q. Is there a specific square foot per student calculation for capacity associated to that twenty-one (21) students per classroom number?
A. A regular elementary classroom is approximately seven-hundred and thirty (730) to seven-hundred and fifty (750) square feet, with possible occupancy of thirty-five (35). These are the calculations included in a new school design.

- Q. For our classrooms at St. Charles College that are larger than the regular elementary size, is there consideration to cut these in half or renovate the interior of the school to re-size?
- A. There is a lot of discussion and architectural planning that would be required prior to making these decisions, including defining the requirements for the Multi-Media Centre.

- Q. Why would we choose option #5 or #6, when option #7 appears to affect more schools?
- A. These options propose the introduction of JK to 6 students to St. Raphael. Depending on the number of students, additional funds may be required to construct a new addition to the school, which would include the demolition of the older PTR section.
- Q. Do options #5, 6 or 7 require the use of portables? Do they leave a playground area at St. Raphael?
- A. These are issues to be examined by the group, although the consideration was that portables would not be utilized and that the play areas would be incorporated into the final design.

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

- Q. Would all students have access to the proposed Multi-Media Centre?
- A. This centre would be accessed as part of the Grade 7 to 12 programming.
- Q. In the South/Central Planning Area, is the Multi-Media Centre part of St. Benedict Secondary School?
- A. At this time, the decision remains whether the Board will proceed with an addition to the existing school or with a separate, two-school plan for the St. Benedict campus site.

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

- Q. If construction is required for these options at St. Raphael, where do you accommodate the displaced students?
- A. We would not proceed with the demolition or closure of any school without a place for the students to go. A transition plan would be developed that considered the construction timeline, and the possible use of alternative space at another school.

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

- Q. There is a southern Ontario model with different school boards building schools on a large property with common gymnasium, labs and music rooms. Has this been examined for Sudbury, given that other boards are currently conducting accommodation reviews?
- A. Trustees from the local boards have not indicated or directed that this is a direction they are interesting in pursuing.

Ms. Cynthia Clark, from Watson and Associates, added to this discussion that there are many varied agreements between boards for providing student programs that include sharing facilities, and in some cases sharing facilities with private commercial businesses such as condominium developments with schools within. Ms. Clark stated that shared sites are very difficult to manage if a comprehensive agreement is not in place that outlines critical issues concerning insurance, liability and responsibilities.

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

- Q. Is there a possibility with this process to discuss these options with other boards, to examine the joint construction of a new shared school?
- A. At this point in the process, the table is open for ideas. Several years ago when construction of Bishop Alexander Carter Catholic Secondary School in Hanmer was underway, similar discussions took place, with no success. Additionally, no other boards have contacted our board to discuss this option.

After some further discussion by committee members that this possibility should be investigated, Mr. Muzzatti stated that further discussion would take place at the Board level, with a response brought to the group.

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

Q. St. Mark and St. Bernadette Elementary Schools both seem to be running with high deficits. Why?

A. Funding is not received from the Ministry on a per school basis, although we are still required to provide the support staff necessary to operate. In general, funding is provided based on the total student population of the Board, therefore when we provide these reports trying to define the individual costs, we have to perform some averaging to capture true costs. The big issues are the size, condition and student population of the building.

Q. There are additional funds that are received to operate schools like St. Mark are there not?

A. True, some funds are provided, but do not entirely make up for the actual costs.

A committee member added that a shared site may negatively impact school identity.

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

Q. For options #5, 6 and 7, why are the grade 7 and 8 students from St. John and St. Paul not included in the grade 7 to 12 programming at St. Charles College?

A. These options were presented for ARC consideration, looking at alternative accommodation options for the entire planning area.

A committee member identified that the planning development information to be presented to the ARC would be very useful when looking at accommodation options as it will show where the new development and therefore new students may be situated. Ms. Cynthia Clark stated that Watson and Associates utilized city development information when preparing the enrolment projections.

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

Q. Why is all the development for options #5, 6 and 7 targeted at St. Raphael?

A. The development took into account the available space at this school.

Q. Why is St. Albert not mentioned in these options?

A. Options #5, 6 and 7 were variations of the Watson and Associates reports that recommended re-location of St. Albert programming only with the closure of St. Andrew.

Q. The boundaries currently in place for New Sudbury need to be addressed and may address a lot of the problems.

A. Boundary changes are part of the accommodation process and can be included in the final recommendations to the Board.

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

Q. Including the Grade 7 and 8's from St. Raphael and Pius XII only to St. Charles College doesn't make sense. Why not all the schools?

A. These options are for your consideration only, based on the Watson and Associates report. The intent of these options is to begin the accommodation options discussion.

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

Q. Could the Multi-Media Centre be built on the St. Bernadette site?

A. This could be proposed, although the intent of the Multi-Media Centre's programming is as a component of grade 7 to 12 programming.

NEXT MEETING DATES

Chair Muzzatti closed the meeting by again thanking the committee and reminded the group that the next meeting would be Working Meeting #8, to be held on **Wednesday, December 9, 2009 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Paul Elementary School , 1 Edward Street North, Coniston.**

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

“THAT the East Planning Area ARC Working Meeting #7 be adjourned”.

CARRIED

CLOSING PRAYER

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05pm.

Roland Muzzatti, Chair
Sudbury Catholic District School Board