



SUDBURY CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

165A D'YOUVILLE STREET, SUDBURY, ONTARIO P3C 5E7
SOUTH / CENTRAL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE
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MINUTES of the **12th WORKING SESSION** of the Accommodation Review Committee for the South/Central planning area, of the Sudbury Catholic District School Board which was held at St. Michael Elementary School, 41 Samson Street, in Sudbury on Thursday, February 26, 2009, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Board Representation Present:

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

School Representation Present:

Corpus Christi School

John Tarini, Principal
Liza Gigliotti, School Council Chair
Herman Reich, Community
Daniela Visentin, School Staff

St. Benedict C.S.S.

Guy Mathieu, Principal
Allison Catalano, School Council Chair
Judy Way, Community
Maurizio Visentin, School Staff

St. Theresa School

Maria DeMarco, Principal
Geraldine Meskell, School Council Chair
Kim Lacoste, Community
Mirella Fleury, School Staff

Marymount Academy

Karl Dreger, Principal
Pat Shewring, School Council Chair
Jeannine Scagnetti, Community
Claire Morrison, School Staff

St. Francis School

Lorrie Petryna, Principal
Cathy Kulos, School Council Chair
Sandra Frappier, Community
Lise Malette, School Staff

Community Representation

Fr. Larry Rymes, Diocesan Representative
Clara Steele, Regional Parent Involvement Committee
Paul Baskcomb, Greater City of Sudbury

Board Resource Present:

Coordinator Denis Faucher, Manager of Facility Services
Senior Board Official Dennis Bazinet, Manager of Financial Services

St. Christopher School

Enzo Del Riccio, Principal
Michelle Watkins, School Council Chair
Karen Bennett, Community
Pierre Dumont, School Staff

St. David School

Diana Salvador, Principal
Jennifer Brohart, School Council Chair
Claude Piche, Community
Tina Timpano, School Staff

St. Michael School

Sherry Bortolotti, Principal
Cindy Vintinner, School Council Chair
Dr. Scott Keenan, Community
Sarah Smith, School Staff

St. James School

Lucie Cullen, Principal
Dan Stargratt, Community
Leslie Stepancich, School Staff

St. Joseph School

Enzo Del Riccio, Principal
Jenny Herbert, School Council Chair
Rosanne Roque, Community
Irene Dembek, School Staff

General Public

Carmela Pitman, St. Francis School
Mary Ellen Castrechino, Corpus Christi
Andrea Belash, Corpus Christi
Jennifer Reich, Corpus Christi
Diana Colilli, Corpus Christi
Joanne Guizzo, Corpus Christi
Stacey Heaphy, Corpus Christi
Sheila Nosich, Corpus Christi
Lina Harvey, Corpus Christi

Bernadette Wroblewski, Corpus Christi
Russell Wroblewski, Corpus Christi
John Cimino, Corpus Christi
Sabrina Cimino, Corpus Christi
Joe Cimino, Corpus Christi
Lucia Taskinen, Corpus Christi
Ida Krueger, Corpus Christi
Debra Luison, Corpus Christi

Absent:

Hugh Lee, Superintendent of Business and Finance
Norman Soucy, St. James School
Sue Horvath, St. James School
Ben Benson, St. Theresa
Graziella Visentin, Corpus Christi

Call to Order:

Mr. Muzzatti called the meeting to order @ 6:10 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Mr. Muzzatti led the group in an opening prayer for guiding presence.

WELCOME

Mr. Muzzatti welcomed the group to the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) Working Meeting and thanked Sherry Bortolotti, Principal, and her staff at St. Michael Elementary School for hosting this meeting. Mr. Muzzatti extended an additional welcome to the members of the public in attendance and reminded that those not part of the ARC were present as observers to the process only.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOVED BY P. Shewring and **Seconded by** G. Meskill

“**THAT** the agenda for today’s February 26, 2009 Working Meeting be approved as presented”.

CARRIED

ARC BINDERS

The Chair presented the updates to the ARC binders, which included the minutes from the last working meeting and last public meeting, and the handout of today’s presentation.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETINGS

Minutes of February 12, 2009 Working Meeting #11

Members of the ARC noted that the following amendments were required:

1. St. David was represented at that meeting by Diana Salvador and Nancy Costanzi.
2. St. Francis representative Cathy Kulos was replaced by Carmela Pitman.
3. St. Christopher/St. Joseph representative Enzo Del Riccio was replaced by Pierre Dumont.

MOVED BY C. Steele and **Seconded by** M. Demarco

“THAT the minutes of the South/Central Accommodation Review Committee Working Meeting #11 held February 12, 2009 be approved as presented and amended”.

CARRIED

Minutes of February 19, 2009 Public Meeting #4

Members of the ARC noted that the following amendments were required:

1. St. David representative Kim Leblanc was in attendance.
2. Page 3, #5, correct error in spelling of Corpus Christi school.

MOVED BY M. Watkins and **Seconded by** C. Kulos

“THAT the minutes of the South/Central Accommodation Review Committee Public Meeting #4, held February 19, 2009 be approved as presented and amended”.

CARRIED

REVIEW OF PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Muzzatti provided the group with a report generated by staff, for ARC consideration, that categorizes the numerous email submissions, included within the presentation package, received from the public in response to the Public Meeting held on February 19, 2009. Mr. Muzzatti explained that the comments from each email was reviewed and may have been counted in more than one (1) category.

Mr. Muzzatti stated that the majority of the submissions identified public support for not splitting school communities, with forty (40) of the forty-four (44) submissions specific to Corpus Christi Elementary School community.

Mr. Muzzatti stated that the concern raised within category 7 suggesting there is ‘renewable funding available’, and that there was an email sent to Ms. Nancy Whynot, Director of Capital Programs Branch of the Ministry of Education requesting clarification. Mr. Muzzatti stated that the response suggested there is no additional funding known to be available to school boards at this time.

In response to the new accommodation option proposed within the comments from category 3, Mr. Muzzatti suggested that initial examination of this proposal showed that the current St. Francis facility could not accommodate the assigned population.

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

- Q. Can we get the enrolment numbers for the new accommodation option proposed in category 3?
A. These numbers were very preliminary, but the basics were that the Grade 7 and 8 population would be a challenge, although transitioned over time, the enrolment may fit.
- Q. Is it out of the question to have portables used as a temporary solution for this?
A. We should look to limit the possibility of portables. Perhaps phasing of the transitions would assist

- Q. The submitted proposal is very similar to the original ARC options #1,2,3. If these were considered at one time, and the enrolment numbers were possible then, why not now?
- A. All we are suggesting is that preliminary examination looks like this will be a challenge to fit in our existing facilities.

- Q. If St. Francis was changed to a JK-6, would it then fit?
- A. It may, but this depends upon timing.

FINALIZE ARC REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Muzzatti reviewed that the deliverable for the ARC is to finalize the ARC Report to the Director of Education.

MOVED BY L. Malette and **Seconded by** S. Keenan

“**THAT** amendments to the ARC Report to the Director be completed by staff to address corrections to grammar and spelling”.

CARRIED

MOVED BY C. Kulos and **Seconded by** L. Malette

“**THAT** the proposed addition on page 5 of the ARC Report to the Director be accepted as presented”.

CARRIED

Mr. Muzzatti stated that the next steps for completing the report include updating the document to include the ARC’s decision from tonight’s Working Meeting, distribution to all ARC members and acceptance of the revised report by email, with submission to the Director on March 5, 2009.

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

- Q. What are the repercussions of reviewing the current ARC recommendations?
- A. The generation of any new recommendations would require an additional Public Meeting.

- Q. If we re-examine options from Public Meeting #3, is additional Public Meeting required?
- A. Perhaps, the intent is that the public should be presented with the ARC’s recommendations prior to submission to the Director.

- Q. Would supporting grandfathering for students affected by the new boundaries mean the families or the students?
- A. Yes, traditionally grandfathering has included the household, not just the individual student.

- Q. What is our mandate to provide the Board?
- A. The mandate is to provide a finalized ARC Report to the Director complete with School Valuation Reports.

- Q. I am not sold on two (2) schools with Dual-track programming with a limited number of students (120). Would the Ministry prefer one (1) school? I don’t understand the Ministry well enough to make this recommendation.
- A. Not entirely sure, although we are confident that a business case can be made based on Recommendation #1 and #2. All the discussion we have had with Ministry representatives indicates that the request is for a sensible business case that addresses the current excess capacity.

- Q. Can you make a business case for any two (2) schools?
 A. We are confident a business case can be made for Recommendation #1 and #2.
- Q. Are you saying the case for two (2) big schools is sellable, with boundary issues secondary?
 A. Yes, this is possible, but would require that the business case includes a long-term plan that addresses the excess capacity, and resolves the identified Prohibitive to Repair (PTR) schools.
- Q. My concern is with having French Immersion at two (2) sites. How is the school utilization determined at a Dual-track school?
 A. The On-the-Ground (OTG) capacity does not calculate based on programming stream, although there could be attributing factors for other special programming.
- Q. Could grandfathering exist for all schools in the Planning Area?
 A. Grandfathering is intended for existing households that are impacted by boundary changes. Including this option for all schools would create many issues in ensuring our school utilization is maximized.

MOVED BY M. Fleury and Seconded by G. Meskell

“**THAT** a bullet be added to page 6 of the Draft ARC Report to the Director amending Recommendation #1 to reflect the ARC's support for grandfathering of the current school communities when implementing the new enrolment boundaries for the South/Central Planning Area”.

CARRIED

MOVED BY J. Way and Seconded by C. Morrison

“**THAT** a bullet be added to page 6 of the Draft ARC Report to the Director amending the Supporting Rationale for Recommendation #1 to reflect the ARC's support for grandfathering”.

CARRIED

MOVED BY C. Kulos and Seconded by G. Meskell

“**THAT** a bullet be added to page 10 of the Draft ARC Report to the Director amending the Implementation Challenge for Recommendation #1 to reflect the ARC's support for grandfathering that identifies that introducing grandfathering options may present challenges in maximizing the capacity of St. Francis and the new St. Benedict school”.

CARRIED

MOVED BY M. Visentin and Seconded by D. Stargratt

“**THAT** bullets 1,2,3,4,15 and 24 from the Implementation Challenges for Recommendation #1 be deleted as they are no longer relevant with the adopted boundary grandfathering option”. **CARRIED**

MOVED BY C. Piche and Seconded by D. Salvador

“**THAT** a bullet be added to page 8 of the Draft ARC Report to the Director which states, ‘This recommendation supports the School Board mission statement that the Board accepts that its schools exist primarily to assist parents in the fullest possible development of their children’”.

CARRIED

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

- Q. The enrolment tables for the Recommendations may change based on the grandfathering option.
Who will revise?
- A. Staff will adjust these tables to reflect your support of grandfathering.

MOVED BY C. Piche and Seconded by D. Salvador

“THAT a bullet be added to page 15 of the Draft ARC Report to the Director with new Supporting Rationale which states, ‘According to Professor Ken Leithwood of the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education at the University of Toronto, in his report titled *A Review of Empirical Evidence About School Size Effects*, the new St. David Elementary School would benefit students because, “Students who traditionally struggle at school and students from disadvantaged social and economic backgrounds are the major benefactors of smaller schools.”

CARRIED

MOVED BY S. Frappier and Seconded by A. Catalino

“THAT a bullet be added to page 18 of the Draft ARC Report to the Director which states, ‘The restructuring of boundaries to effectively maximize the school capacities at all schools will be the responsibility of the Board”.

CARRIED

The Chair acknowledged the direction from the ARC to amend the Supporting Rationale and Implementation Challenges for Recommendation #2, to include the ARC’s support for the grandfathering of school communities.

MOVED BY H. Reich and Seconded by L. Gigliotti

“THAT we extend this meeting past 8:30 p.m., to a 9:15 p.m. adjournment”.

CARRIED

MOVED BY H. Reich and Seconded by L. Gigliotti

“THAT the ARC reintroduce Option #1, presented from Public Meeting #3, to be included in the ARC Report to the Director as Recommendation #3”.

DEFEATED

MOVED BY C. Piche and Seconded by P. Shewring

“THAT we accept the Draft ARC Report to the Director as amended, for submission to the Director on March 5, 2009”.

CARRIED

MEETING SCHEDULE

Mr. Muzzatti acknowledged and thanked the group for all their hard work, dedication and expertise in completing this document, for Board consideration. The Chair identified that this Accommodation Review process was new for everyone involved, and thanked and congratulated the group again.

Mr. Muzzatti stated that the minutes from tonight's meeting and the revised ARC Report to the Director will be distributed to the ARC prior to its submission on March 5, 2009. Mr. Muzzatti outlined the next steps of the Accommodation Review process as including:

- submission of the final ARC Report to the Director;
- Senior Board Staff's review and analysis of ARC Report to the Director;
- Director Presentation to the Board of the ARC Report, Staff findings and Director's recommendations;
- Special Board Meeting for public input and recommendations to Trustees; and
- Special Board Meeting of Trustees to vote on recommendations.

Mr. Muzzatti acknowledged that the Catholic Education Centre's boardroom would not accommodate the attendance of all the stakeholders for both the North/West and South/Central Planning Areas. Therefore, the Special Board Meetings would most likely be scheduled for a location to be determined.

Mr. Muzzatti confirmed that an email detailing the location and time of these Special Board Meetings would be sent to the ARC, when determined.

Chair Muzzatti outlined the public opportunity to provide input included not only the four (4) Public Meetings, but also at the Special Board Meeting of April 28, 2009, where presentations can be made, in response to the ARC's, Board Staff's, and the Director's recommendations. Mr. Muzzatti stressed the importance of submitting an application is outlined within the Board Regulations - BR20 and BR20A, in order to be on the agenda for the April 28, 2009 Special Board Meeting. Mr. Muzzatti stated that the next Special Board Meeting, to be held on May 26, 2009, is when Trustees will vote on accommodation recommendations for both the North/West and South/Central Planning Areas, and that public presentations would also be possible.

ARC members added that they appreciated the assistance and guidance provided by the Chair and Board Staff in completing this accommodation review process.

CLOSING PRAYER

Mr. Muzzatti led the group in the closing prayer for guidance.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY J. Way and **Seconded by** A. Catalino

"THAT the ARC working meeting be adjourned."

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm

Roland Muzzatti, ARC Chair
Sudbury Catholic District School Board