



Northeastern Catholic District School Board

"Living our Catholic Faith to shape success for all of our learners."

FINAL RECOMMENDATION OF THE TIMMINS PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Introduction

School boards in Ontario are experiencing declining enrolment. Pupil Accommodation Review is a process the Board undertakes to determine the future of a school or group of schools in order to remain accountable, fiscally responsible, and able to continue to offer the best possible programs for all students.

Background

At the November 25, 2015 Board of Trustee meeting, senior administration presented a detailed report to the Trustees of Northeastern Catholic on the recommendation to place Timmins Schools/Facilities, Sacred Heart School, St. Paul Catholic School, O’Gorman Intermediate Catholic School, O’Gorman High School, ACCESS Centre and 101 Spruce Street North (Catholic Education Centre) under accommodation review.

Senior Administration commenced with five possible options and one preferred option as required by the Ministry of Education. The report clearly defined information on property, repairs completed, enrolment, staffing, school activities, transportation, etc. Senior administration ended with a recommendation for the Trustees to consider at the end of the process.

The Director of Education struck an Accommodation Review Committee which was discussed at the Board Meeting in December 2015 and consisted of the following stakeholders:

- Glenn Sheculski, Director of Education
- Andrew Marks, Community Relations Officer/Secretary
- Erika Adam, Manager of Financial Services
- Dave Horton, Manager of Plant
- Colleen Landers, Trustee (Adhoc)
- Laura Belisle, Staff Member, Sacred Heart School
- Robert Dupont, Parent, Sacred Heart School
- Ted Weltz, Principal, O’Gorman High School
- Peter Corbett, Teacher, O’Gorman High School
- Roger Courville, Parent, O’Gorman High School
- Betty Pichette, Principal, St. Paul School
- David Rosso, Teacher, St. Paul School
- Karen Cheff, Staff Member, St. Paul School
- Kim Belair, Parent, St. Paul School
- Roslyn Gauthier, Principal, O’Gorman Intermediate School
- Fred Salvador, Trustee (Adhoc)
- Ron MacInnis, Trustee (Adhoc)
- Darren Berthier, Principal, Sacred Heart School
- Angela Baker, Teacher, Sacred Heart School
- Jackie Harkins, Teacher, O’Gorman Intermediate School
- Michele Mahaffy, Staff Member, O’Gorman Intermediate School
- Mary Duizer, Parent, O’Gorman Intermediate School
- Sharon Maisonneuve, Vice Principal, ACCESS Centre
- Laura Kelly, Teacher, ACCESS
- Luc Lamarche, Parent

The community consultation was held by members of the PAR on January 7, 2016 when it hosted the City of Timmins council members and Mayor Steve Black.

At the first committee meeting of the PAR in January, the initial staff report was presented as were changes in the policies of the board and procedures on conducting an accommodation review.

The committee received all the information that was presented by Senior Administration to the Board in November 2015 along with possible options. The committee was presented with all pertinent documents necessary to proceed.

First Public Meeting – Monday, January 25, 2016

The first public consultation was held at St. Paul Catholic School at 6:30 p.m. There were 22 members of the public in attendance. The Director opened with a prayer and introduction of the PAR committee members. There was a power point presentation that reviewed the PAR including the original board motion, the mandate of the committee, PAR terms of reference, communication protocols, Northeastern Catholic District School Boards' Guiding Principles, Vision and Mission statements, Belief and Value statements.

It was noted that five options were included in the initial staff report and all relevant information was shared. The public was advised that no preconceived ideas or solutions have been defined. The PAR recommendations will come out of the process and be presented to the Board of Trustees. The importance of public participation and feedback was stressed at the outset and that all meetings were open to the public.

An overview of meeting dates were outlined and how individuals could provide feedback to the working committee, either through hand written submissions on Feedback Forms provided, online at www.ncdsb.on.ca anytime or by contacting Andrew Marks, Community Relations Officer/Secretary of the PAR Committee.

There were questions/concerns asked and answered at this meeting including why St. Joseph School was not a part of the PAR. The reason is it falls outside the boundaries and receives funds that allow it to be supported (10km or greater from another school).

Second Public Meeting – Wednesday, February 17, 2016

The second public meeting was held at Sacred Heart School at 6:30 p.m. There were approximately 47 public in attendance at this meeting. A power point was presented that reviewed five options along with the preferred (as per MOE) and the majority containing School Information Profile data.

There were questions/concerns from the public, one notably being concerns around super schools and dual track. It was noted that options do not include a "super school" as enrolment in a super school is upwards of 500. For the most part, students enrolled in French Immersion in our Board are currently in dual track. St. Paul and Sacred Heart schools are both single track English and French Immersion respectively.

The public was again reminded how important feedback is and given dates and times of upcoming meetings.

Third Public Meeting – Tuesday, March 22, 2016

The third public meeting was held at O'Gorman Intermediate Catholic School at 6:30 p.m. There were approximately 17 members of the public present.

It was presented at this meeting that there was an addition of a sixth option that included Sacred Heart remaining. The six new options were then reviewed by all present.

There were questions/concerns around potential staffing issues and how the committee would come to a decision that would then be recommended to the Board of Trustees. It was stated that the working committee would review all input received either by questions at meetings, or by other means and come to a vote on preferred options. There are no preconceived notions prior to this happening. They take all data/information into account.

There were no further recommendations from the public at this meeting.

Fourth Public Meeting – Tuesday, April 5, 2016

The fourth and final public meeting was held at O’Gorman High School at 6:30 p.m. There were approximately 16 members of the public present.

The six working committee options were reviewed along with two additional options. A hand-out containing pros and cons of each option was reviewed with financial implications for all of them. The Director presented the recommended options to the public present.

All present were reminded of the continued process. Glenn thanked the public for their continued cooperation and input during this process. He also acknowledged the effort and hard work of the Pupil Accommodation Review committee

Recommendations from the Pupil Accommodation Review Committee for Timmins Schools/Facilities, Sacred Heart School, St. Paul Catholic School, O’Gorman Intermediate Catholic School, O’Gorman High School, ACCESS Centre and 101 Spruce Street North (Catholic Education Centre) are as follows:

Primary - Option 2

New Dual Track FDK to Grade 5 School, Dual Track Grades 6 to 8 at O’Gorman Intermediate Catholic School

Secondary – Option 5

Dual track FDK to Grade 4 at St. Paul Catholic School, Dual Track Grades 5 to 8 at O’Gorman Intermediate Catholic School

Both options see the closure of Sacred Heart School in Timmins

A public delegation was invited and scheduled to make an appearance at tonight’s meeting (April 20, 2016) of the board to the Northeastern Catholic District School Board of Trustees.

The final decision of the Board will be made at the Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, May 25, 2016 immediately following Committee of the Whole (approximately 6:30 p.m.).

All public and community members are welcome to attend.