

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
Holy Names High School
1400 Northwood St., Windsor**

A G E N D A

1. Call To Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Recording of Attendance
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Disclosure of Interest - Pursuant to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

6. Presentations: *None*

7. Delegations:

Individuals or groups wishing to make a presentation at the meeting are asked to contact Executive Assistant Beth Marshall by noon the day prior to the meeting at (519) 253-2481, extension 1289 or beth_marshall@wecdsb.on.ca. Information about the Board's accommodation review process and all reports relevant to the review are available on the Board's website at: www.wecdsb.on.ca. The public is also invited to provide written input to Paul A. Picard, Director of Education at the Windsor Essex Catholic Education Centre, 1325 California Avenue, Windsor, ON N9B 3Y6 or director@wecdsb.on.ca.

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After reviewing the delegation requests, the agenda will be revised to include the names of the delegations and posted to the Board's website by 4:00 pm Monday May 26, 2014.

8. Action Items: *None*

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9. Communications: *None*

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- a. External (Associations, OCSTA, Ministry)
- b. Internal (Reports from Administration)

10. Unfinished Business: *None*

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11. New Business:
 - a. Report: Director of Education’s Follow-Up Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Tecumseh Area, Including St. Gregory, St. Peter and St. Pius X Catholic Elementary Schools (P. Picard) 1-129
 - b. Report: Director of Education’s Follow-Up Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Riverside Area, Including F.J. Brennan High School, St. John Vianney, St. Jules, St. Maria Goretti, and St. Rose Catholic Elementary Schools (P. Picard) 130-225
 - c. Report: Director of Education’s Follow-Up Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Central Windsor Area, Including Catholic Central High School, Immaculate Conception and St. Angela Catholic Elementary Schools (P. Picard) 226-235

12. Committee Reports: *None* --

13. Notice of Motion: --

14. Remarks and Announcements:
- a. Chairperson
 - b. Director of Education
 - c. Board Chaplain

15. Remarks/Questions by Trustees

16. Pending Items: *None*

17. Future Board Meetings: *Unless stated otherwise, all meetings will be held at the Windsor Essex Catholic Education Centre - 1325 California Avenue, Windsor beginning at 7:00 p.m.*

- Tuesday, June 10, 2014 – Special Regular Board meeting at CEC, **8:00 pm**
- **Monday**, June 23, 2014

Committee of the Whole Board In-Camera Meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm (closed sessions).

18. Closing Prayer

19. Adjourn to Committee of the Whole Board In-Camera meeting, if required:

20. Adjournment

Barbara Holland
Board Chairperson

Paul A. Picard
Director of Education & Secretary of the Board



1325 California Avenue
 Windsor, ON N9B 3Y6
 CHAIRPERSON: Barbara Holland
 DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION: Paul A. Picard

Meeting Date:
 May 27, 2014

BOARD REPORT

Public **In-Camera**

PRESENTED FOR: Information Approval

PRESENTED BY: Senior Administration

SUBMITTED BY: Paul A. Picard, Director of Education

SUBJECT: **DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION'S FOLLOW-UP REPORT ON THE ACCOMMODATION REVIEW STUDY FOR THE TECUMSEH AREA, INCLUDING ST. GREGORY, ST. PETER AND ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Director's Follow-Up Report on the accommodation review study for the Tecumseh Area, including St. Gregory, St. Peter, and St. Pius X Catholic Elementary Schools be received for information; and

That approval be given to the recommendations of Senior Administration as follows:

That effective June 30, 2014, St. Gregory Catholic Elementary School shall close, and effective September 2014, students shall transition into a consolidated Catholic school community at St. Pius X; with any short term capacity issues addressed through the temporary use of portables/modular classrooms;

That St. Peter Catholic Elementary School shall remain open into the foreseeable future as a JK – 8 school; and

That an Integration Committee, composed of representatives from both the St. Gregory and St. Pius X communities, be immediately established in order to plan for and implement the positive integration of students and staff.

SYNOPSIS:

Special public meetings of the Board were held on Wednesday, April 16, 2014 and Wednesday, May 7, 2014, where the public was provided an opportunity to make presentations to the Board concerning the Director's Report and Supplementary Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Tecumseh area, including St. Pius X, St. Gregory and St. Peter Catholic elementary schools. The public was also invited to provide written input to the Director of Education with respect to his reports and/or the Accommodation Review Committee's (ARC's) report.

Pursuant to Board Policy A: 05 and Procedure Pr: 05 that address pupil accommodation review studies, Administration is required to prepare a follow-up report to report on and respond to the representations made by the public. After consideration of input received, Administration presents its final recommendations for approval.

As prescribed within Board policy and procedure, the Board of Trustees will make its decision regarding the school accommodation recommendations after consideration of the ARC's Accommodation Report, the Director's Reports, the Director's Follow-up Report and community input.

BACKGROUND COMMENTS:

Prior to the special meeting for public input on April 16, 2014, the Board received the Director's Report which included, as appendices, the ARC's School Information Profiles, the ARC Report, the information package provided to the ARC, minutes of the ARC meetings, and written input received by the Director. All of this information was made available to the community prior to the meeting, through the Board's public website.

Notice of the special meeting for public input, as well as notice of the May 27, 2014 meeting, where the Board would make its decision regarding the school accommodation recommendations for the Tecumseh area, were provided via school newsletters, letters to the school community, the Board's website, and the local news publications.

With consideration for input received shortly before the special public meeting, the Director presented verbally at the outset of the meeting a supplementary alternative accommodation option. To allow meaningful consult with the community on that option, the Director presented a supplementary report which was presented at a second special public meeting on May 7, 2014.

The school communities were well represented at the public meetings, expressing genuine interest and concern for their children's education. (Minutes of meetings, with written submissions attached, are included with this report).

Senior Administration has carefully considered the valuable input received through the public meetings, as well as written submissions forwarded to the Director subsequent to the meetings (attached).

Administration has been criticized by some in the St. Gregory school community for ignoring the Accommodation Review Committee recommendations and the submissions of members of the community, as they passionately advocated to defer the closure of St. Gregory to allow time to determine if development would occur in the future which would address capacity issues; to defer the closure to allow time to explore possible joint use agreements and boundary reviews; and most recently at the meeting of May 7, 2014, a number of

St. Gregory representatives presented in support of a deferral of the closure of St. Gregory to pursue French Immersion, phased in over time.

Administration has not “ignored” the communities’ recommendations. All input has been seriously considered, however, Administration must make a recommendation that is consistent with the Education Act, the guidelines/directives of the Ministry of Education, as well as Board Policy and Procedure, and must present a recommendation that is in the best interest of the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board system.

The Challenge to the System:

There is currently excess capacity of 4,364 spaces throughout the system, with a forecast for declining enrolment for the upcoming school year of 900 students. This creates a direct decrease in the funding available for student programming; for special education; for faith formation. To address this challenge, Administration must plan and make recommendations to the Board that focus operations, towards maximizing opportunities for all students in the Board’s jurisdiction.

The Board’s System Approach:

Prior to Supervisor Hartmann’s Report , “Engaging Our Future, Ensuring Financial Stability”, issued in April 2013, which called for the Board to explore areas for possible school consolidation, the Board had been involved in a system review, having previously conducted accommodation review studies in East and West Windsor, Fontainebleau, and Lakeshore. Administration’s recommendations and Board decisions were consistently based on consideration for the guiding principles of the Board’s accommodation review policy and procedure, which include the following:

The Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board is committed to achieving the greatest good for the greatest number of its students and their families. All planning decisions will: be implemented in keeping with the Board’s mission and will be mindful of the best and most prudent use of all of the resources available to the Board.

In applying this system approach, Administration and the Board have reviewed schools throughout the Windsor/Essex County area, considering consolidations of underutilized schools that “make sense”. In doing so, the Board has heard from other school communities, passionate about their school and their desire to keep their school open, but has had to make the difficult decision to close some of those schools and to consolidate communities for the “greatest good”.

Keeping an underutilized school open is at a “cost” to all other schools and students in the system. As part of “system” planning, the Board has in specific instances approved the maintenance and monitoring of underutilized schools, where the “cost” to the system could be mitigated through meaningful joint use agreements and/or where the “cost” could be justified to address a situation where the school location was such that it was the only Catholic school presence in a specified area, and where closure/consolidation would severely impact a community’s ability to access Catholic education.

In applying this approach consistently and fairly through the system, Administration can not recommend the maintenance of both St. Gregory and St. Pius X Schools. A consolidation of these two schools “makes sense”. The Board has heard from the St. Pius X Catholic community that it will welcome students and families currently attending St. Gregory. In closing St. Gregory, students will have access to quality Catholic education

in a facility less than two kilometers from the existing St. Gregory building. Further, with the maintenance of St. Peter, the Town of Tecumseh will be served by two Catholic Elementary Schools, JK – 8.

Having heard from the community and the Municipality, Administration had presented for consultation with the communities at the May 7, 2014 meeting an alternate accommodation option for a consolidation of JK – 6 at St. Pius X; a middle school grades 7/8 at St. Gregory, with a joint use agreement to assist in offsetting the underfunded operational costs of maintaining both schools. This option was presented by Administration in response to the St. Gregory community's request for a deferral of the closing of St. Gregory; while attempting to mitigate the cost to the system of the deferral. As indicated through the consultation, neither the St. Pius X nor St. Gregory communities felt this was in the interest of students and families, and therefore Administration has not brought this option forward as a recommendation.

The Accommodation Review Committee, in its recommendation for status quo of all three Tecumseh area schools, also recommended that the Board consider the possibility of French Immersion (including dual track) "at one, some, or all of the Tecumseh ARC schools". A number of presenters at the special public meetings encouraged the Board to investigate the possibility of French Immersion in Tecumseh and possibly "phasing in" French Immersion either at St. Gregory or St. Pius.

Considering these presentations, and having heard of a desire for Catholic French Immersion programming in the Forest Glade, East Riverside, Tecumseh, and Lakeshore areas, Administration recommends to the Board that a system study be conducted commencing in the 2014/2015 school year to determine if in fact a void exists for French language programming and where that could be best addressed in our Catholic school system.

Despite some concerns with the proximity of two neighbouring French Language Catholic elementary schools, and the risk of competing against St. Pius X (being so closely located) for the same potential enrolment, Administration would recommend that the St. Gregory facility be closed in June 2014, but not be declared surplus to the board for the 2014/2015 school year, so that it would be available should the Board in its "system" study determine that it would be the suitable location to address a system need for French Immersion.

In applying a consistent, fair, system approach, in bringing forward accommodation recommendations, Administration cannot recommend a deferral of the closure of St. Gregory, pending investigation of the possibility for or "phasing in" of French Immersion as a solution to the underutilization of the two elementary schools. The continuing "costs" of deferral to the system cannot be justified. The cost savings that can be realized by the consolidation of St. Pius X and St. Gregory as of September 2014 are in the "best interests" of the system.

Although understanding the passion of the communities and their dedication to their area schools, Administration brings forward this recommendation in the best interest of the system, while ensuring all students in the Tecumseh area have access to quality Catholic Education, with the maintenance of two Catholic elementary schools: St. Peter, south of the E.C. Row Expressway, and St. Pius X, north of the E.C. Row Expressway.

All students within the St. Pius X and St. Gregory consolidated boundaries can be accommodated at the St. Pius X facility, with the use of portables/modular classrooms in the

short term. Administration will continue to monitor enrolment at the consolidated school to determine whether expansion of the facility becomes necessary. The St. Pius X facility is located on 5.03 acres of property, providing ample area for expansion.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

As detailed within the Report

TIMELINES:

The Board to make its final decision on the Accommodation Review Study of the Tecumseh Area at the May 27, 2014 Public Board Meeting.

APPENDICES:

- Minutes of the Special Board Meeting April 16, 2014 meeting (with written submissions attached)
- Written submissions received in the consultation process subsequent to the Special Board Meeting of April 16, 2014.
- The DRAFT Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of May 7, 2014 meeting (with written submissions attached) for public review. The May 7, 2014 Minutes will be approved at the May 26, 2014 Regular Board meeting.
- Written submissions received in the consultation process subsequent to the release of the Director's Followup report.

REPORT REVIEWED BY:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:	Review Date:	May 13, 2014
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EXECUTIVE SUPERINTENDENT:	Approval Date:	May 13, 2014
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION:	Approval Date:	May 13, 2014



1325 California Avenue
Windsor, ON N9B 3Y6
CHAIRPERSON: Barbara Holland
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION: Paul A. Picard

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, April 16, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
St. Anne Secondary School
1200 Oakwood Dr., SS #3, Belle River, ON**

MINUTES

PRESENT

Trustees: F. Alexander B. Holland (Chair)
M. DiMenna, Vice-Chair B. Mastromattei
F. Favot L. Soulliere

Rev. L. Brunet, Board Chaplain

Regrets: Trustees Courtney, McMahon and Macri and Student Trustees Dellosa and Ellepola.

Administration: P. Picard (Resource) E. Byrne
J. Bumbacco P. King
C. Geml P. Murray
M. Iatonna C. Norris
S. O'Hagan-Wong
M. Seguin
J. Ulicny

Recorder: B. Marshall

1. Call To Order – Chair Holland called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.
2. Opening Prayer – Fr. Brunet opened the meeting with a prayer.

Chair Holland assured members of the audience that the Board meeting was designed specifically to receive public input on Administration's Recommendations for the Tecumseh area.

Chair Holland outlined the delegation process and time limit and also mentioned trustees will remain after the meeting to speak to the members of the community.

3. Recording of Attendance – Trustee Courtney sent her regrets due to a work commitment. Trustee McMahon sent his regrets due to the birth of his grandchild. Trustee Macri sent his regrets due to a work commitment. Student Trustee Ellepola was absent due to a work commitment and Student Trustee Dellosa was absent due to illness.

4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Trustee DiMenna and seconded by Trustee Favot that the April 16, 2014 Special Regular Board meeting agenda be approved as distributed. Carried

5. Disclosure of Interest - Pursuant to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act: *None*

On behalf of Trustee Macri, Chair Holland disclosed Trustee Macri's interest in relation to agenda item 6a) Director of Education's Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Tecumseh Area, including St. Gregory, St. Peter, and St. Pius X Catholic Elementary Schools due to his sons' employment and did not participate in the discussion or vote on any question raised on that item.

6. Communications:

- a. Report: Director of Education's Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Tecumseh Area, including St. Gregory, St. Peter, and St. Pius X Catholic Elementary Schools

Moved by Trustee Mastromattei and seconded by Trustee Soulliere that the Board receive as information the Director's Report on the accommodation review study for the Tecumseh Area, including St. Gregory, St. Peter, and St. Pius X Catholic Elementary Schools; and

That the Board receive public input concerning the Director's Report, and the matters that are addressed in it and in the Accommodation Review Committee's (ARC's) Report. Carried

Director Picard reviewed the data and provided insight into the analysis leading to the Tecumseh area recommendation.

Director Picard indicated consolidating schools allows the Board to realize significant savings in staffing and operation costs (approximately \$573,463). be that as it may, administration is prepared to offer a short term conceptual framework towards the deferral of the closure of St. Gregory Catholic Elementary school.

The Components:

1. Consolidation of all JK to 6 students from St. Pius and St. Gregory at the St. Pius site, effective September 2014 – No portables required.
2. Consolidation of all Grade 7 and 8 students from St. Pius and St. Gregory at the St. Gregory site for the period of 2014-2016 (June).
3. Acknowledgement from the Community and the Town of Tecumseh that:
 - a) This does not reduce the overall Board excess student spaces;
 - b) There is an annual funding shortfall of approximately \$210,000;
 - c) A joint use agreement is confirmed on terms satisfactory to the Board, similar to that entered into by the Board and the Woodslee Community Association, which would include provision for an annual payment to the Board of \$105,000.

4. Recommend that the Board absorb the remaining facility cost for St. Gregory (\$105,000 +) for the period of two years with consideration in April 2016 for a further deferral of the closure of St. Gregory, based on enrolment numbers at that time pending a finalized joint use agreement.

Director Picard thanked Trustee Soulliere and Superintendent Murray for developing this scenario.

7. Delegations:

Delegations Regarding Accommodation Review Committee's and Director of Education's Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Tecumseh Area, including St. Gregory, St. Peter, and St. Pius X Catholic Elementary Schools

- i) Students, Kyle and Calder Chinnery from St. Gregory School to speak about student concerns regarding the Director's report.

Kyle Chinnery commented on the closure of St. Gregory school and students separated from their friends; bullying; the fear of the unknown; new residential development; physical activity; support of the Town of Tecumseh; and suggested to trustees they reject or amend the Director's recommendation.

Calder Chinnery commented on longer bus rides; new residential development; mega school; and the fear of not being welcomed at a new school;

- ii) Community Representative, Jacques Anctil to speak about enrolment, student achievement and preserving Catholic Education.

Mr. Anctil commented on his educational background; years of experience; and the *modern* school.

- iii) Town of Tecumseh Mayor, Gary McNamara to present information in support of a deferral of the recommendation to close St. Gregory Catholic Elementary school in June 2014.

Mayor McNamara supports the *Save Our School* Parents Group to defer the closing of St. Gregory school until June 2016 and encouraged the Board to engage in discussions with the Town of Tecumseh municipality for a joint use agreement.

- iv) Parents, Heather Mullins and Danielle Chinnery from St. Gregory school to discuss the Director's recommendations to place portables at St. Pius School.

Danielle Chinnery and Heather Mullins do not support the use of portables at St. Pius as a viable option for the following reasons: safety and quality of education, outdoor supervision, site security; and potential injuries.

- v) Parent, Mike Rohrer to speak to the Director's recommendation to close St. Gregory School and suggest working with community partners, including the Town of Tecumseh.

Mr. Rohrer apologized to Director Picard for his comments in The Windsor Star.

Mr. Rohrer commended the Director for considering other options and commented on preserving community school; separation of families; the ARC process; and encourage the administration to engage in discussion with the Town of Tecumseh for community use agreement.

- vi) St. William Catholic Elementary School Council Member, Jennifer Kehoe to represent the St. William School Council which rejects the Tecumseh ARC recommendation to include St. William in a boundary review.

Jennifer Kehoe does not support a boundary review in the Lakeshore area and believes the St. William school community would have been included in the ARC process if a boundary review was an option.

- vii) Parent, William Altenhof from St. Gregory school to speak on the topic “Benefits and Impact of Right-Sized Schools to Students, Schools, the Board and Community”.

Professor Altenhof provided research on the benefits of Right-Sized schools, citing higher achievement levels; extracurricular participation and character development; attendance rates; reduced feelings of alienation and loneliness; increased respect towards fellow students; stronger student engagement; and positive concept of the school and better understanding of the value of education. Professor Altenhof mentioned the recommendation to close St. Gregory school lacks value to the student.

- viii) Parent, Phil Baluyot from St. Gregory school to speak on Enrolment Estimations and Projected Population Growth for the Tecumseh (St. Clair Beach) area related to the information provided in the Director of Education’s report.

Mr. Baluyot suggested the Board reconsider the recommendation and commented on the new residential growth and resale homes and changing demographics within the St. Gregory area.

- ix) Parent, Luciano Carlone and Marlo Bondy from St. Gregory school to request financial data to support the Director of Education’s recommendation on the Accommodation Review study for the Tecumseh area.

Mr. Carlone and Ms. Bondy mentioned the Director of Education has failed to provide adequate quantitative financial information and analysis for the Trustees to make an informed decision and also fails to articulate how the recommendation fits into a greater long term plan. They request the Trustees reject the recommendation.

- x) Parent, Maria McCann from St. Gregory school to speak on the importance of Catholic Education and the possibility of French Immersion programs within the School Board.

Ms. McCann addressed the option of French Immersion and how St. Gregory Catholic Elementary school emulates and perpetuates the Catholic values by which our Board is founded on and what makes the community a unique family.

- xi) Parent, Cynthia Villella from St. Gregory school to express concerns about the safety of increased bussing and traffic if the ST. Gregory students attend St. Pius Catholic Elementary school AND
Patti Bastien and Buck Sleiman from St. Gregory school to express views on boundary adjustments.

Ms. Villella concerns on the safety of bussing included the cost of bussing students; the traffic on Lacasse Road; lack of bus bay; the ARC process; and requested Trustees to have faith in the community.

Mr. Sleiman and Ms. Bastien suggested the Board consider a boundary adjustment to include the Fontainebleau area to create balance between schools.

- xii) Parent, Don Rodzik from St. Gregory school to express concern over the potential closure of St. Gregory school as a taxpayer and parent.

Mr. Rodzik, as a taxpayer, reminded Trustees of their responsibilities; does not discount the necessity for the Board to be fiscally responsible although the focus to save money may jeopardize the quality of education; suggested, within time, St. Gregory school will return to full capacity.

- xiii) Community Member, Paul Bistany to express concerns over the closure of St. Gregory school.

Mr. Bistany is in support of the Save the School Parents Group to defer the closure of St. Gregory school and suggested a more thorough detailed plan should be implemented before a decision is made.

Chair Holland mentioned administration and Trustees welcome comments and/or concerns. Chair Holland invited Trustees to remain after the meeting to speak to members of the audience.

- 8. Closing Prayer – Fr. Brunet closed the meeting with a prayer.
- 9. Adjournment - There being no further business, the Special Regular Board meeting of April 16, 2014 adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Approved

Barbara Holland
Board Chairperson

Paul A. Picard
Director of Education

Presentations
from the April 16, 2014
Special Board Meeting
at
St. Anne High School

Hello, my name is Kyle Chinnery, I am twelve years old, in grade six and I go to St. Gregory School. I am here tonight to give my opinion on the potential closure of my school. Personally, I would ask the Trustees to please listen to what is being presented this evening, not only from myself but from the parents who have worked tirelessly to save our beloved school and do the right thing: REJECT or AMMEND the Director's Recommendation.

A lot of people seem to think that your decision has already been made -- I sure hope that's not true. You need to listen to what we all have to say. There are so many reasons, and I'm going to give you just a few, to keep our school open, that it seems almost unreal that we are even in this review.

First, if a change is made, kids may be separated from their friends. If children have to go to a new school, where the kids going to that school have already developed friendships, the new people might feel like the outsider. Making the respective children feel unwanted and unwelcomed. Furthermore, with a larger school, if children want to try out for sports teams, i.e. soccer, volleyball, track and field, etc., there will be a lesser chance of making the team because of the higher number of students. So, please, I want to experience the fun and companionship of making a school team again -- and I would like to continue going to school with my friends -- give us this opportunity -- keep St. Gregory's the way it is! REJECT or AMMEND the Director's Recommendation.

Second, comes the aspect of bullying. In very severe cases, bullying can cause suicide or depression. In a small school, like St. Gregory's, bullying is very uncommon because everyone has developed a bond and alliance that only small schools can have. In larger schools, more bullying occurs because not everyone has the bond -- because not everyone knows each other. How would you like it if your child or children came home everyday, complaining of bullying, being teased or physical abuse? This is reality, not a movie, if you don't want your kid or kids to be bullied, please, REJECT or AMMEND the Director's Recommendation.

The fear of the unknown is also bothering a lot of us kids. We think about it every time we see a Save our School sign or our parents have to attend another meeting -- it's always there. Not knowing what is going to happen to us, where will we go, will we be with our friends, what will happen to our teachers..... We are one of the smaller schools -- luckily for us, with that comes a real sense of belonging.... These questions bother and frustrate us and we worry about it and we know our parents do to..... How can you knowingly put us in this situation?

Third, as many of you are aware of, there is a ton of new residential development occurring within the St. Gregory boundary -- over 200 new homes. This is the first time in years that our area has seen growth to this extent. To put this into perspective, if just one child from every five houses comes to St. Gregory's, that is forty new kids! That is more than enough children to put the school above the "magic number". That also provides more money to the local economy, in turn, attracting new residents, which makes for a greater school attendance.

The report that you paid thousands and thousands of dollars to have done – even shows that in a couple of years we are going to be OK -- so why not just leave us alone and let this happen.

The year I started JK was the last time that the board took boundary away from St. Gregory to give to St. William because they were the school at the time that was under enrollment. Why did you take away more of our boundary for St. William – you had already done this twice and leave us with such a little area? Why was it OK then to ‘take from Peter and give to Paul’ so to speak – wouldn’t changing the boundaries be a really simple way to fix this?

Next, kids whom usually walk or bike (physical activity that we are supposed to get) to school will have to take a bus or be driven if a change is made. This will not only be bad for our health with a decrease in our activity level but will also have a bad effect on our environment because the extra vehicles on the road will generate more carbon monoxide and pollution, which hurts our environment. At St. Gregory's, we have earned the designation of being an eco-school, meaning we are environmentally friendly. We pride ourselves on this accomplishment and don't want it undone by putting extra vehicles on the roads. So, if you don't want to produce more pollution, please, REJECT or AMMEND the Director's Recommendation.

Also, we have political backing, my Mayor McNamara, fully supports our fight to do the right thing and keep our school open. He recognizes fully the value of our school to the community. Upon completion of the new Church -- our school will become the only Catholic presence in St. Clair Beach. The Town of Tecumseh has shown over and over again that they are trying to reach out to the board and find a solution – take the olive branch -- work together. There is too much good at our school and our Mayor, town, taxpayers, all acknowledge the value of our school to the community.

My parents chose to enroll us in the Catholic School board so that we had a foundation of Catholic faith in our education. If you close our school – there is NO Catholic identity in St. Clair Beach -- NONE!!!! You say that the things that are most important are the Value to the Student and to promote and protect Catholic Education -- how is closing my school doing any of these things? It seems to go against everything that you say is important and that you stand for. I know the Ministry said that you need to do a review – but I think there are so many reasons that you can go back to them and confidently say that at this time the only thing that makes sense is to REJECT or AMMEND the Directors Recommendation.

Our school ranks very high in testing, has the eco designation, is involved in our Community with things like the Terry Fox run and obviously are a group of students, parents and teachers that really care about each other -- how many other schools can say that?

2

Three years ago, we had our libraries closed. Therefore, librarians lost their jobs, how would you like it if you didn't have a job, so you couldn't feed your family or put a roof over your head or weren't able to let your kids play hockey? If you close this school, some teachers will lose their jobs. You can take our libraries, but NOT OUR schools!! KEEP ST.GREG'S OPEN!!!

Thank-you for letting me have this time to speak. I hope this gives you a fresh perspective on this important issue. Thanks to our parents who have done so much work to keep their children in a good place -- our school -- St. Gregory's. Thank-you again and PLEASE make the right decision, I started school as a Sabre and would like to graduate as a Sabre -- do the right thing, REJECT or AMMEND the Directors Recommendation.

3

Calder Chinnery -- WECDSB Board Meeting -- April 16th, 2014

Hello, my name is Calder Chinnery. I am a Grade 3 student at St. Gregory School. I do not want my school to close. Here are some reasons why:

- I will have a longer bus ride, which means I will have a longer school day
- When the weather is nice, sometimes we are allowed to ride our bikes to school, which is really special. I won't be able to do this if we have to go to another school that is further away from our house
- There are 250 new homes being built in our boundary – some of these are sure to be young families with little children that may go to our school. A few new students would be a good thing to help us reach the 'magical' 85%

BUT

I really don't want to be in a 'mega' school because I won't have as much of a chance at making a school team and might even be bullied. I want to be part of

a school where the teachers and the principal know everyone by name.

- The kids at the other school have been together for a long time. We will be the outsiders and may not be made welcome.
- They may not want us there as much as we don't want to be anywhere else than St. Gregory.
- Our school is like family. This has been my home away from home since I was 4. I like my school and I love my teachers.
- I like that we are all in the same building. I don't want to be put in a portable -- separated from others....
- If we have to go to a different school, I may not be with my friends and that would make me really, really sad – but also, really mad at the Trustees for making a really bad decision.

When you decided to represent me, my friends and my family as Trustees -- part of your job is to look for the best value to the student(s) and to promote and protect Catholic Education. I don't understand

how closing my school is doing either of these things.

Please really listen to the facts that our parents have given you. This is information that our parents have spent hours getting ready for you, reading documents and checking and double checking to make sure anything being put forward is accurate and properly presented. I would like to thank all of our parents who have done such a great job, taking our best interests to heart and trying to do the right thing and Save our School.

PLEASE don't make me leave St. Gregory School....

When each of you is making your decision -- I really, really hope that you will make the right decision and vote to REJECT or AMMEND the Directors recommendation.

If you need to, maybe you should ask yourselves

W W J D -- What would Jesus Do?????

3

**WECD SB Special Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 16, 2014 at 6:00 pm
St. Anne's High School, Lakeshore**

*Mayor
Gary McNamara*

Time limit is 5 minutes.

Board Chaplain will stand at 4 minute mark to indicate 1 minute left.

Good evening Madam Chair, Trustees, ARC
Committee, Parents and Supporters of St. Gregory
School.

Thank you for providing this forum to hear from
community stakeholders in response to the Director's
Report on the Accommodation Review for the Tecumseh
Community of Schools.

I am speaking in support of the recommendation
tabled by the 'Save Our School Parents Group' to defer
the closing of St. Gregory Catholic Elementary School until
June 2016 and for the board administration to engage in
discussions with the municipality for a Joint Use
Agreement.

The Town recognizes this matter to be the responsibility of the Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board.

However, the results of its decisions will impact the Tecumseh community, which is of interest and concern to the municipal council

Any decision will have far reaching implications and there exist many emotionally charged issues and concerns among all of the stakeholders.

This issue has mobilized the St. Gregory Community to seek out and identify potential solutions to the challenges raised. I commend these members for taking a thoughtful and proactive approach to this matter.

I believe the interests of community stakeholders are critical and need to be considered, evaluated and pursued.

Many opportunities have been identified, in support of St. Gregory School continuing to serve the Tecumseh community; all of which have merit and should be thoroughly evaluated.

Some of these opportunities are short term solutions which could be developed in support of a long term plan.

It is therefore essential to allow adequate time for further consideration and discussion of these potential opportunities to determine future actions and timing for effective implementation.

Town Council adopted Resolution RCM-149/14 on April 15, 2014, which reads:

THAT Town Administration be authorized to work with the WECD SB administration [planning & financial] to develop a concept plan and identify community stakeholders to support a proposed deferral of the closing of St. Gregory's School and to allow time to explore options and partnerships to support keeping the school open.

The Town is offering its assistance to collaborate with public sector partners and engage potential private sector interests to address the challenges at St. Gregory School.

In conclusion, on behalf of the residents and businesses in the Town of Tecumseh, we propose support for the deferral of the closure recommendation, in order to allow adequate time to exhaust all potential alternatives in addressing the challenges related to St. Gregory School, including short and long term remedies, opportunities and solutions.

QUOTE:

“My own heroes are the dreamers, those men and women who tried to make the world a better place than when they found it, whether in small ways or great ones. Some succeeded, some failed, most had mixed results... but it is the effort that's heroic, as I see it. Win or lose, I admire those who fight the good fight.”

— George R.R. Martin (author)

Danielle Chinnery & Heather Mallins

In the Director's recommendation, St. Gregory and St. Pius students are to be accommodated through the use of portables. Parents are significantly concerned by this recommendation and strongly disagree that this is the best way to manage excess capacity of students.

██████████, indicated at the 3rd public ARC meeting on January 7th, 2014, that school additions would be built prior to student amalgamation and students would not be placed in portables. ██████████ clearly stated that the "board prefers additions rather than portables." The First Annual State of the Board Address, released on January 28th, 2014 confirms this preference citing "a reduction in the number of portable classrooms in use" as a recent accomplishment of the business department. Correspondingly, it is evident that the recommendation from the Board is completely contradictory to the public statements ██████████

The combined enrolment of St. Gregory and St. Pius as indicated by the WECDSB at the 2nd public ARC meeting, following amalgamation, would be 823 students. Noting that St. Pius has an on the ground capacity (OTG) of only 653 students, 170 students would require portables. Based upon this data and information from the other sources (the Ontario Early Years and Latchkey Day care programs), we have estimated that at least 6 portables and as many as 8 portables would have to be constructed to accommodate this overflow of students. This is a large number of students and staff segregated from the main school. Additionally, if these portables are new, given data from a Windsor based, well respected Architectural firm, each unit would cost \$80,000; resulting in a total estimated cost of half a million dollars.

Quality of education and safety as it relates to both staff and students are of significant concern to parents if portables are to be implemented. Portables force students to learn in a segregated environment and prohibit classroom clustering to allow for sharing of limited resources, team teaching, more effective use of time for resource staff, and collaborative planning by grade team members. Another critical negative result of the implementation of portables is the reduction of green-space, play area, and parking at St. Pius.

Portables make outdoor supervision and site security difficult due to decreased site lines. As of the Fall of 2013, all elementary schools are required to follow the Safe Welcome Program. At present, it is the understanding of Tecumseh parents that have utilized programs such as the Ontario Early Years at St. Pius, that this program has not been initiated to date. A memorandum released by WECDSB on August 27th, 2013 introducing this program indicates that security feature such as swipe access are not guaranteed to be provided to students and staff in portables. There is concern that the Safe Welcome Program may not be utilized with the use of portables, and if so, to the same capacity that it is for the main building.

Health and safety is also a concern of parents as portables increase the rates at which students are unsupervised and the potential for injury related to falls in icy inclement weather conditions as they enter/exit buildings to use washrooms and other educational facilities/resources. Finally, mould is often a common problem associated with portables due to the nature of their construction.

At the 3rd public ARC meeting ██████████ indicated that he felt it was "a myth that we are losing students to the public board". The most important point parents would like to make to Trustees and the Director is that parents will choose the public board over portables. Our community is unique in that D.M. Eagle is located only 1.3 km from St. Gregory School and has a right sized elementary school

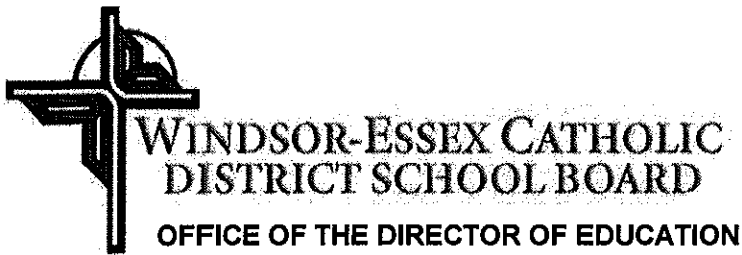
population of less than 300 students. Many parents have expressed an interest in sending their children to a small, academically excellent school within the vicinity of St. Gregory.

The decision to amalgamate and the use of portables are very difficult for our parents to accept as a viable option for their children and themselves. The Director's report failed to provide any appropriate site plan for the safe and effective implementation of portables nor comment on the additional costs associated with these units.

The incredibly short timeline provided in the Director's recommendation, to close St. Gregory School, install portables, and implement an Integration Committee to plan for the amalgamation of St. Gregory and St. Pius schools, in the opinion of the SOS, seems very unrealistic.

I would like to thank all the parents on our committee who have worked so diligently to allow us to provide such solid arguments founded in fact(s) -- you are all to be commended.... We have seen how much our school has to offer -- not only our children, but children yet to come.

Thank you to all involved in the ARC process -- for your time -- and your commitment to find the best solution which in turn will benefit our children -- which at this time seems to be to REJECT or AMMEND the Directors recommendation.



1325 California Avenue
Windsor, ON N9B 3Y6
CHAIRPERSON: Barbara Holland
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION: Paul A. Picard
Telephone: (519) 253-2481 FAX: (519) 253-4819

Engaging our Future

First Annual State of the Board Address
Tuesday January 28, 2014

Introduction

It is my pleasure to welcome you all here tonight for our first annual State of the Board Address.

The comprehensive report we are presenting to you this evening is an incredible story of success. It also clearly addresses the challenges we have faced together, as a Catholic education community, throughout the last year.

The report is entitled: "*Engaging Our Future.*"

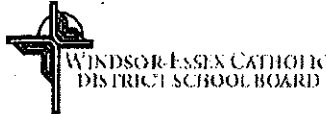
Our goal through the presentation of this report is to assure our students and their parents or guardians that we are wholeheartedly committed to continuing our proud tradition of providing exceptional Catholic education.

Three years ago the Board of Trustees directed board staff to develop a plan to address some of the financial, operational and human resources issues facing the Board, understanding that the resultant plan would be both unpopular and difficult to implement. The report before you is very much a product of their courage and vision.

The story, however, involves far more than finance and operational processes. It is very much about the successes of dedicated teachers and support staff. Principals and vice-principals had incredible pressure placed upon them to manage the instructional process and in so doing to place this Board among the highest achieving Boards in the Province of Ontario. It is also a story of relationships and public confidence. Working and collaborating with our Catholic education partners at the local and provincial levels has led to a greater sense of public confidence in the work of our board in its mission.

The Senior Administrative team present here this evening was challenged to embrace a vision that identified the students of the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School board as learners who, guided by the teachings of our faith, can demonstrate academic excellence at the highest levels.

The story you will hear this evening is an incredible story of success as we look to Engage Our Future.



4. CAPITAL PLAN PHASING

Based on the noted criteria and considerations, the recommended phasing of the capital plan, not including any recommendations that may arise out of current and future accommodation review processes, is provided as follows:

4.1 Windsor – South Central

2016-17 Secure funding from the Ministry of Education for the construction of a new school building opening in 2016-17 to replace the existing, aging Catholic Central High School building, which is prohibitive to repair and which no longer provides an appropriate learning environment for students.

4.2 Windsor – West

2014-15 Secure funding from the Ministry of Education to retrofit the Catholic Education Centre to facilitate the relocation of the entire student population of St. John Catholic Elementary School to that site for the 2014-15 school year.

4.3 Miscellaneous Projects

Post 2016-17 Construct an 8 classroom addition at Holy Names Secondary school to replace portables.

Construct a 9 classroom addition at existing St. Anne French Immersion site to replace portables.

Construct a 4 classroom addition at St. Peter to replace portables.

Construct a track and a football field at Holy Names Secondary School.

Construct a new LaSalle Elementary School, if and when enrolment warrants.

5

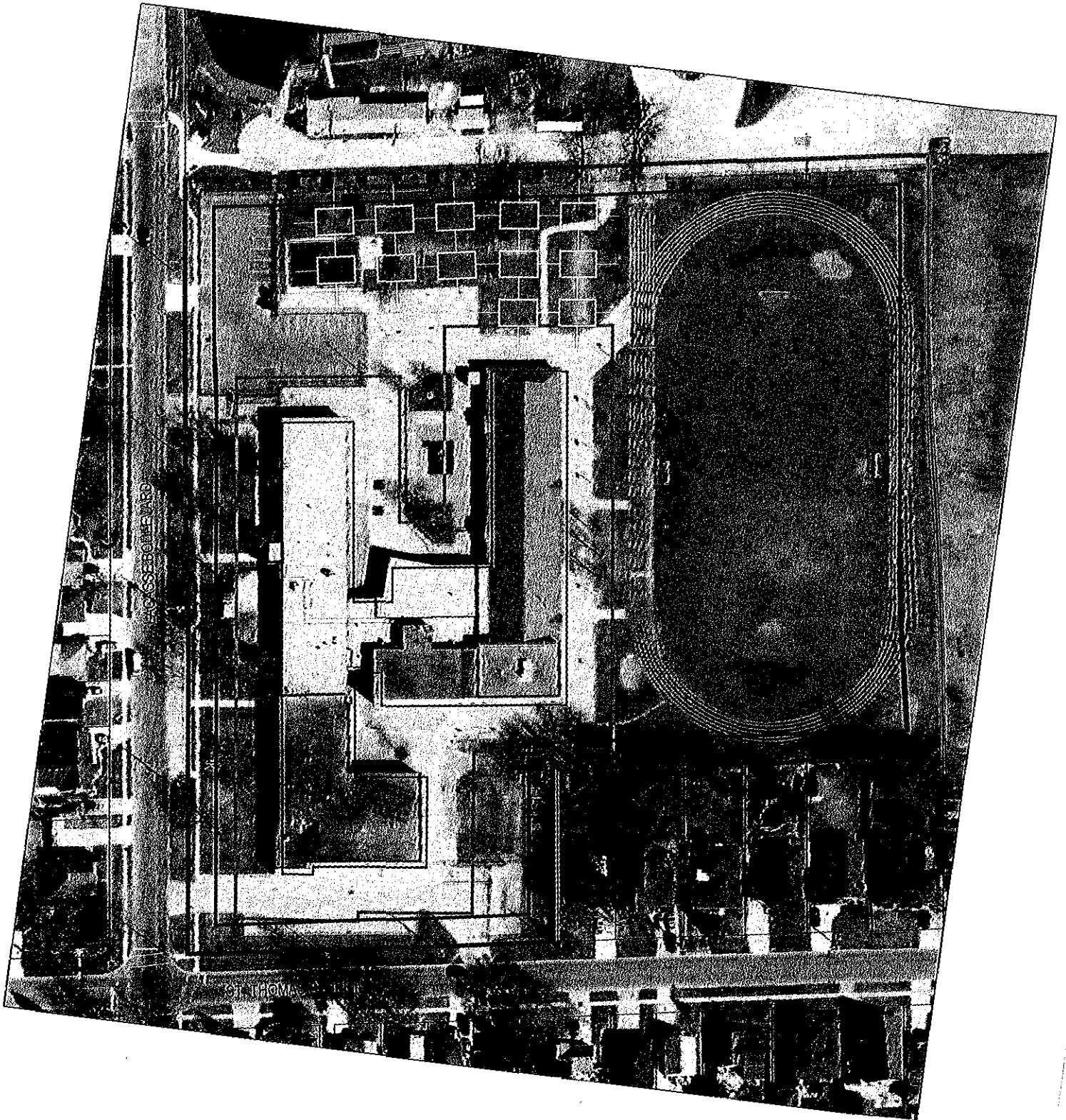


5. CAPITAL PLAN PROJECTS AND COSTING

PROPOSED SCHOOL YEAR OPENING	PROJECT	ESTIMATED COST (\$)
2016-17	Construct a new high school to replace Catholic Central.	35,000,000
2014-15	Retrofit the Catholic Education Centre to accommodate students from St. John (Windsor).	1,500,000
Post 2016-17 (To Be Determined)	Construct an 8 classroom addition at Holy Names Secondary School to replace portables.	4,000,000
Post 2016-17 (To Be Determined)	Construct a 9 classroom addition at St. Anne French Immersion to replace portables.	4,500,000
Post 2016-17 (To Be Determined)	Construct a 4 classroom addition at St. Peter to replace portables.	2,000,000
Post 2016-17 (To Be Determined)	Construct track and football field at Holy Names Secondary School.	2,000,000
Post 2016-17 (To Be Determined)	Construct new LaSalle Elementary School.	13,000,000
	TOTAL	\$62,000,000

Note: Cost estimates are for planning purposes only. Specific funding to be determined by Ministry of Education at time of approval.

6




7

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**

April-15-14 2:14:43 PM

Title: **Re: Delegation Confirmation April 16, 2014 - Rohrer : Win...**

Page 1 of

From: **"Mike Rohrer"** [redacted] 4/15/14 1:47:12 PM 

Subject: Re: Delegation Confirmation April 16, 2014 - Rohrer

To: **Beth Marshall**

Cc: **"Don Rodzik"** <DRodzikJr@narmco.com>
"Gary McNamara" <garysgolf1@gmail.com>
"Guy Dorion" <gdorion@tecumseh.ca>
"Tony Haddad" <thaddad@tecumseh.ca>

Attachments:  Response_to_Board_Rec_Final.pdf / Uploaded File (516K)

Thanks Beth. Could you kindly submit the attached document as of my submission for the official record. Additionally, could you ensure the Director receives attached with specific attention to the following requested amendment:

i) RECOMMENDATION

The Director amend the recommendation to state the following:

That St. Gregory Catholic Elementary School be scheduled for closure in June 2016 and the school community shall be accommodated at St. Pius effective September 2016, subject to and unless of the following:

That administration enter into discussions with the Town of Tecumseh toward arriving at a mutually agreeable joint use agreement through which the municipality would lease available space at both St. Gregory and St. Pius in an attempt to find a suitable tenant for these facilities, or a suitable utilization rate is achieved within this timeframe.

With thanks,

Mike Rohrer

1a)

**Save Our School Parents' Response to the WECDSB Report Recommendation on
the Accommodation Review Study for the Tecumseh Area**

April 10th, 2014

To: WECDSB Trustees,

i) RECOMENDATION

The Director amend the recommendation to state the following:

That St. Gregory Catholic Elementary School be scheduled for closure in June 2016 and the school community shall be accommodated at St. Pius effective September 2016, subject to and unless of the following:

That administration enter into discussions with the Town of Tecumseh toward arriving at a mutually agreeable joint use agreement through which the municipality would lease available space at both St. Gregory and St. Pius in an attempt to find a suitable tenant for these facilities, or a suitable utilization rate is achieved within this timeframe.

1. Foreword

Parents of the St. Gregory Save Our School (SOS) initiative overwhelmingly felt the need to respond to the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board (WECDSB) Administration's Report Recommendation associated with the Tecumseh Accommodation Review Study (ARS). The recommendation put forth by the Board is completely contrary to the recommendation put forward by the Tecumseh Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) despite the fact that it was documented and clearly stated that Board Administration commended the ARC and community for the thorough and comprehensive research, analysis, and dissemination of information relative to this process.

It is critical to note that on the onset of the ARS the Board Administration clearly defined and set priorities to which the most appropriate recommendation(s) would be formulated. These included:

- a) value to the student
- b) value to the school board
- c) value to the community, and
- d) value to the local economy

The Board set an emphasis on item (a), value to the student, over all priorities when formulating and considering a recommendation. The purpose of the ARS was to engage community, obtain public input, and generate thorough discussions to make the best possible decision regarding schools and their potential closure.

As evident by the Tecumseh ARC report, these priorities were carefully used to formulate their recommendation. The Tecumseh community of schools and associated stakeholders provided significant input at all public ARC meetings. In total, 36 delegates strongly supported the recommendation to keep St. Gregory, St. Pius, and St. Peter as status quo. The research completed by these community groups resulted in significant qualitative and quantitative information, which was then distilled by the Tecumseh ARC and integrated into their recommendation which included:

Maintain Status Quo for St. Gregory, St. Pius, and St. Peter and Encourage the Board to Undertake a Boundary Review in the Tecumseh and Surrounding Areas. Explore Shared Services within the Community to Enhance Unused Space.

With the following supplementary recommendation:

The committee also recommends further investigation, consultation and study to explore French Immersion (including dual track) at one, some or all the Tecumseh ARC schools.

Upon receiving and thoroughly reviewing the recommendation from WECDSB senior administration, the SOS community group is of the opinion that the established metrics provided by the board to the Tecumseh ARC and school communities at the beginning of the ARS, were not followed by Board Administration in establishing their recommendation and as a result, the report demonstrates clear evidence of failure to follow the established metrics. Details to justify this are provided in subsequent sections within this document. Of critical importance is the significant lack of quantitative financial data to justify their recommendation. Requests for such quantitative financial data occurred very early in the accommodation review process (Oct/24/2013 ARC committee meeting, Nov/14/2013 ARC committee meeting, public meeting). Yet to date, no financial data has been provided nor is included in the Board's recommendation report.

The following sections provide detailed information and document the serious concerns of the SOS group regarding the WECDSB recommendation report. The SOS has also communicated closely with the Town of Tecumseh and received information of significant opportunities which could form partnerships between the Town of Tecumseh and the WECDSB and allow for the use of under-utilized space within schools considered in the Tecumseh ARS. These potential opportunities are articulated within this document. Perhaps these strategies to solve the issue of under-utilized space may also be applied to other regions within Windsor/Essex County to address school closures.

2. Potential for Joint Use of an Underutilized Facility

Parents associated with S.O.S. are disappointed in comments provided in the Board's recommendation for Potential for Joint Use of an Underutilized Facility. In particular, the statement that claims "There is no indication at this time of the possibility of a viable joint use partnership that would provide the Board anywhere near sufficient revenue to offset the costs it is currently incurring in operating empty spaces in these school." Elected officials of the Town of Tecumseh and its administration met with WECDSB administration during the Tecumseh ARC process and in advance of the ARC's final report. Mayor McNamara and his council have communicated a strong desire and financial backing to support the Tecumseh schools experiencing underutilized space. It is also critical to note that Councillor Guy Dorion, representing Ward 2 from the Town of Tecumseh, has been an active member of the Tecumseh Accommodation Review Committee.

The Mayor of the Town of Tecumseh also presented at the 2nd public ARC meeting to announce the Town's commitment and willingness in partnering on a solution with the Board. Further to this, at the April 8, 2014 Town of Tecumseh public council meeting, the Town passed a resolution directing its administration, specifically its planning and finance departments, to engage the WECDSB administration and its elected Trustees to work towards a solution, a partnership between the Town and the WECDSB, that will see both the St. Gregory and St. Pius sites remain open. The community is not acutely aware of the specific details of the discussions between the Town of Tecumseh and the WECDSB's representatives, however, we are encouraged by this willingness to communicate and work together to form a partnership that will enhance the quality of Catholic Education and the community of Tecumseh.

3. Lack of Quantitative Financial Data to Support the WECDSB recommendation

Parents of the SOS were disappointed to note the complete lacking of quantitative financial data to support the recommendation provided by the WECDSB. The Director's report does not provide tangible financial consideration of the implications for communities and local economies. A proper financial analysis for deciding to close a school should include, but may not be limited to the following:

- a) Current costs and revenue under current situation compared to projected costs and revenues, 3 to 5 years out, with assumptions
- b) One-time costs (construction, demolition, moving, traffic lanes to accommodate bus congestion etc.)
- c) Opportunity costs (loss of property location in a growing community)
- d) Incremental costs (busing, utilities, increased R&M schedule etc.)
- e) Legacy costs (maintenance and security of closed facilities)
- f) Unexpected or indirect costs (counselling for displaced/distressed children, loss of volunteers, loss of fundraising initiatives by CSC)

- g) Unexpected or indirect loss of revenue (families choosing to leave the Catholic Board or families choosing to stay within the Catholic Board but re-direct their property tax support to the Public Board, etc.)

Without any significant financial data to support the consolidation of St. Gregory and St. Pius Schools, parents of the SOS are of the opinion that the Director's recommendation is not justified nor warranted.

The SOS also acknowledges that the Director's report does not articulate the \$5.4 million surplus realized during the 2013-2014 school year as announced at the recent State of the Board Address. It also does not articulate the \$5.2 million surplus projected for the 2014-2015 school year (also presented within the recent State of the Board Address). Given that St. Gregory School exhibits stellar performance with regards to EQAO scores and exceptional evaluation within the Fraser Institute report as an elementary school, it is only appropriate that the Board would invest into St. Gregory School to maintain and potentially further enhance its exceptional performance. Additionally, further investments into other Windsor/Essex County Catholic Schools to emulate St. Gregory School's learning environment would also assist with improving performance and ratings of other WECDSB schools. Such investments and enhancements could have a significant positive impact on the utilization rates within all Catholic schools in Windsor/Essex County.

The SOS identified a significant discrepancy in the Facility Condition Index (FCI) and 10 year renewal cost for St. Gregory School from the Director's recommendation and previous information provided by the Board. The Director's recommendation report notes a FCI and 10 year renewal cost of 48.6% and \$3,926,084, respectively. Yet the Board previously indicated that for St. Gregory School the FCI and 10 year renewal costs were established to be 19.87% and \$1,604,855. The lower values of the FCI and 10 year renewal costs were verified by Mr. Mario Iatonna at the committee ARC meeting on December 10th, 2013.

Given that a FCI greater than 30% represents a threshold for concern, Mr. Iatonna indicated, at the committee ARC meeting on December 10th that the FCI rating for St. Gregory, St. Pius, and St. Peter Schools were not going to be a determining factor on the closure of any of the schools in the Tecumseh ARS.

Parents of the SOS campaign were always of the opinion that they were told correct values of the FCI and 10 year renewal cost. To see such a significant increase in the recommendation from the Director was very surprising. Clearly these discrepancies are a concern.

4. Enrollment Estimations and Projected Population Growth

Recently, the Tecumseh and St. Clair Beach areas have been a low supply/high demand location for new and resale homes. New home developments were not available for all demographics. Younger Tecumseh residents want to remain Tecumseh residents, but many were forced to move to surrounding, second choice areas due to a lack of new/used homes. Empty-nesters were not moving out of their

larger homes because their only choice was to move out of Tecumseh. Now, new home developments are available for both growing families and downsizing empty-nesters.

It is also important to note that the Town of Tecumseh was not consulted by Watson and Associates Economists Ltd. regarding their work undertaken in the development of the document entitled "Enrolment Projections and Demographic Trends" for the WECDSB. This statement was provided by Brian Hillman, Director, Planning and Building Services from the Town of Tecumseh.

4.1. St. Clair Shores Estates

There are approximately 554 new lots or residential units currently approved for development, including 52 family homes in St. Clair Shores Estates in Lakeshore, which were not included in the Director's Report. These lots sold out to builders in one day. Rauti Custom Homes and Lakeland Homes both stated they already have over half of the new homes sold to families and both builders expect to be sold out before the end of 2014.

4.2. The Estates of Lakewood Park (on the site of Lakewood Golf Course)

There are 109 new lots available on the former Lakewood Golf Course. According to lot owners Lakeland Homes, customers are committing \$40,000 deposits to reserve lots without having house plans, purchasing agreements, and construction pricing in place. This speaks to the high anticipation and demand for this development.

4.3. Former St. Anne's High School and Manning Road Condominiums

There are 114 new townhomes/semi-detached homes being developed in the former St. Anne's High School and on Manning Road this year, geared toward empty-nesters. Based on interest from Tecumseh residents, empty-nesters from Tecumseh, desire to sell their larger family homes. This will help our community regenerate with younger families by providing resale homes that will be more affordable than building new.

Development on the south side of the expressway should also be taken into consideration. There are hundreds of new lots developing in 2014 and 2015 within the current St. Peter boundaries. There are also hundreds of acres of developer-owned properties which will provide growth in the future. St. Peter School is already near capacity and with the projected increase in their school population, as stated in the Director's Report, their enrollment would increase to 623 students in 15 years, in a building that accommodates only 362 students. It is a distinct possibility that St. Gregory or St. Pius boundaries could be expanded in the future to relieve overpopulation of St. Peter School.

It is critical to note that because St. Gregory and St. Pius schools do not have Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) this year, their JK/SK students only counted towards one-half a student. Based on this year's data, had the JK/SK students represented a whole (as opposed to a half) St. Gregory would be at 85% capacity (with a student population of 343 students), and St. Pius would only need 17 more students to reach 85% capacity.

It is important to note that both St. Gregory and St. Pius Schools are the last two institutions **within** the Tecumseh area without FDK for this past academic year. Commencing September 2014, both **schools** will have FDK, which will increase utilization rates.

5. Boundary Review

The WECDSB recommendation report references a boundary review being completed in the **1970's** between St. Gregory and St. William schools to accommodate low enrollment concerns at St. William. Information from the Board was requested on the timing of past boundary reviews, but **unfortunately** no information was provided. The SOS, has obtained information indicating that boundary reviews between these two schools have occurred in the 1970's, late 1980's, and as recent as the **2006/2007** school year. Clearly, boundary reviews have been used and continue to be used to contribute **towards** assisting with school enrollment issues. The use of boundary reviews and re-alignments was indicated by the WECDSB administration, in the state of the Board address on January 28th, 2014, to **be** an effective method of addressing changing demographics.

L.A. Desmarais has multiple portables and is noted to have a capacity of 336 [2013 Watson report] with projected utilization rates of 130%, 140%, 147%, 152%, 148%, and 146% over the school years of 2014/2015 through 2019/2020, respectively [2013 Watson report]. The nearest school to accommodate the excess students is St. Pius which is under capacity. L.A. Desmarais students living east of Banwell are geographically closer to St. Pius. H.J. Lassaline, the school west of L.A. Desmarais, currently has utilization rates of 98% and projected rates of 102%, 105%, 109%, 110% and 110%, for the school years of 2015/2016 through 2019/2020 [2013 Watson report]. The impact of a thorough boundary review, would certainly assist these schools which are under- and over-capacity. This has not been considered in the WECDSB report.

L.A. Desmarais is not in the family of schools with W.J. Langlois as indicated in the Board report. According to the Board website [obtained from <http://www.wecdsb.on.ca/school-schoolist.html>] L.A. Desmarais' family of schools include: H.J. Lassaline, St. Anne French Immersion, and St. Joseph's High School. L.A. Desmarais was not part of an ARC that resulted in the closure of St. Alexander [obtained from <http://www.wecdsb.on.ca/pdf/arc/20112012/P120515.pdf>], as noted in the Director's report.

6. Right Sized Schools

The Board's mission is ***to strive, as a partnership of school, family and parish, to provide our students with a quality Catholic education rooted in Gospel teachings, enabling all to grow to their potential.***

This mission statement is designed so that parishes, schools, families and students are intentionally connected at a 'local' level. This intentional connection is what makes Catholic education **stand** out because Catholic education, at its very core, is rooted in the value of community. By its own design, any

change to such a system, including school closures, will be felt profoundly by not only the parish, the school, the students and their families, but by the neighbourhood and surrounding community.

St. Gregory School is an exemplary model of the net effect of such supportive partnerships which is directly correlated to the fact that is an effectively sized elementary school.

As outlined in the Altenhof presentations, dated November 13th, 2013 and January 7th, 2014, given at the 2nd and 3rd Tecumseh public ARC meetings, right-sized schools bring value to the student, the board, the community, and the local economy. For elementary schools it is well established that an effective sized school has a student population between 300 and 500 students. The information presented in this document and the Altenhof presentations have been extracted from peer-reviewed publications where research was completed within Ontario, outside of Ontario yet within Canada, and the United States.

Right sized elementary schools exhibit higher rates of achievement and extracurricular participation and character development. Additionally, students attending such schools exhibit reduced feelings of alienation and loneliness, including reduced incidents of 'bullying', and increased respect towards fellow students. Stronger student engagement also occurs at right sized elementary schools. Higher attendance rates, positive concepts of schools, and a better understanding of the value of education are both quantitative and qualitative benefits of right sized elementary schools.

Class disruption, theft, aggressive behaviour, and substance abuse are all less likely in right sized schools which generate significant value to the school board. Additionally, to benefit the board, school safety is higher in smaller schools and these sized institutions are associated with higher levels of teacher commitment and sense of responsibility for student learning.

As value to the community, effectively sized elementary schools exhibit a stronger link between the student and the community and students develop a positive attitude and commitment to their community. Additionally, these sized schools are more cost effective on a per capita student basis, than larger schools; thus, the return on investment from the taxpayer is greater. Finally, parents are more likely to know the principal and teachers, be informed about their children's progress, and participate more fully in school activities.

Parents of the SOS were very disappointed to note that the Director's recommendation did not include any examination of the "Value to the Student" within the Board's recommendation. As dictated by the Board regarding the metrics to which recommendations would be formulated, "Value to the Student" was noted to be first and hold a strong emphasis over all other metrics. The consolidation of St. Gregory at St. Pius (two right sized elementary schools), would generate an institution with a population well over the range of an effective sized elementary school.

7. Busing Issues

With the amalgamation of St. Gregory and St. Pius Schools, additional busing to transport students would be required. Currently, there are three (3) regular buses and four (4) buses (3 regular and 1 special), operating from St. Gregory and St. Pius Schools. It has been projected by the Board and authors of this report, who are familiar with busing, that three (3) additional buses would be required to transport St. Gregory students to St. Pius School. At cost of \$40,000/bus, the amalgamation of these two schools would result in an additional projected cost of \$120,000 for bus transportation alone.

Further, there are other critical transportation concerns which must be addressed. Manning Road is considered a traveling hazard for walking students. Therefore, anyone east of Manning Road would be required to be transported by bus. Additionally, there are many students currently attending St. Pius that are within St. Gregory's boundaries. Therefore, they will be now eligible for busing, but may not be in these projected totals as they are current students that have opted out of transportation. The students, when they become within the boundary of St. Pius, will be eligible for transportation.

Furthermore, transportation safety concerns, at St. Pius, include the lack of available parking space to accommodate the current buses. This issue would be further exasperated with the 6 additional buses, would have to line up on two of the Town of Tecumseh's main roads, Lacasse and St. Thomas. This traffic impediment would most likely cut off the flow of traffic at these high traffic roads and increase the potential for danger, for those few students, who do walk to/from school. The "Kiss and Ride" area is currently managed at Lacasse Park, which is not on school grounds. Another critical issue is that parking for staff and/or visitors and/or parents will be significantly compromised.

Additionally, given the cost per student, as provided by the WECDSB, for St. Gregory and St. Pius as \$7,216 and \$7,404, respectively, under the assumption that 334 students are now to be transported to St. Pius, further operating expenses of \$62,800 would result. These combined additional transportation and operating expenses total \$182,800/year, which does not include any further costs associated with portables. The Director's recommendation report provided no analysis on the cost implications of transportation and operating expenses.

It is important to note, that upon completing research on past busing activities at St. Pius, when the school had a significantly large student population (greater than 800 students), only four (4) buses were used to transport students as a number of students walked to and from school. Under the proposed amalgamation between St. Gregory and St. Pius, approximately 10 buses would be required for transporting students to and from St. Pius. Certainly, this would generate traffic congestion and logistic issues.

8. EQAO Results and Fraser Institute Rankings for St. Gregory School

As presented at the 3rd public ARC meeting on Jan/7th/2014, the EQAO scores for St. Gregory, St. Peter, and St. Pius, are illustrated in Figure 8.1(a), (b), and (c), respectively.

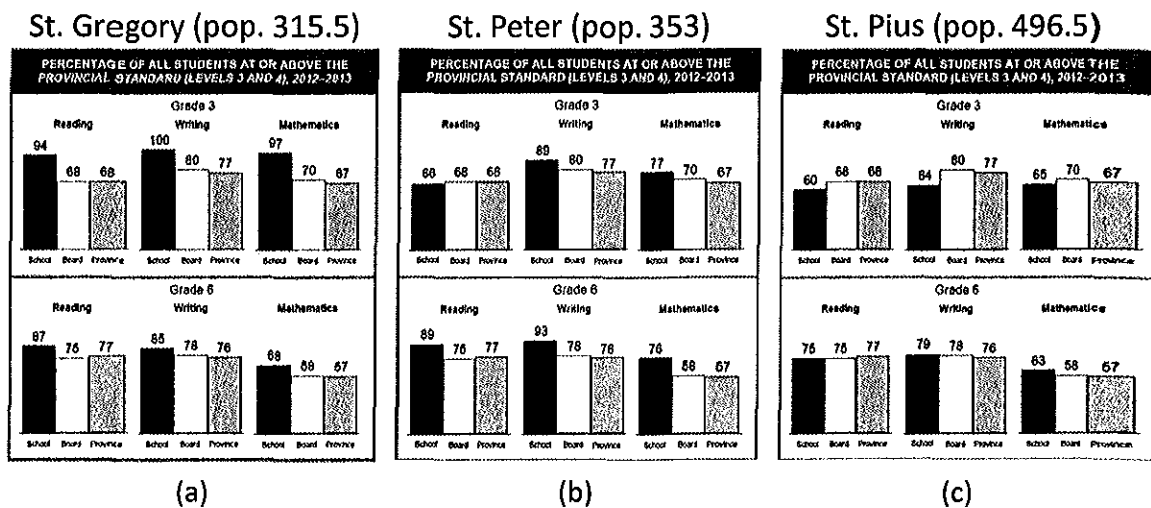


Figure 8.1: EQAO scores for grades 3 and 6 at (a) St. Gregory School, (b) St. Peter School, and (c) St. Pius School.

It is evident from this information that performance in grade 3 in all subjects is stellar for students from St. Gregory. Performance in Grade 6, at this school is very good, noting that St. Gregory students are consistently higher than Board and Province performance. This performance level is also consistent with students from St. Peter School in grade 6. Grade 3 students from this institution perform below Board and Provincial averages in reading, yet score above average in the other two topics. Performances from grade 3 students at St. Pius are consistently lower than Board and Provincial averages. Typically performances of grade 6 students at this academic institution are at or are slightly above Board averages.

The exceptional performances noted for both grades and all topics at St. Gregory school assist with raising the WECDsB average and illustrate the productive and capable students being formed at St. Gregory School. Given the cost per student at each school (St. Gregory - \$7,216, St. Peter - \$7,346, and St. Pius - \$7,404), an analysis was previously completed, and presented at the 3rd public ARC meeting, to illustrate that on average a student at St. Gregory School better performs a St. Peter's student by 13% and a St. Pius' student by 34%. Clearly the return on investment for a taxpayer/parent/caregiver is much greater by sending their children to St. Gregory. The WECDsB should promote such exceptional EQAO scores as surely these performance levels would attract parents and students and thus enhance utilization rates.

It is also important to note the Fraser Institute rankings of the three schools within the Tecumseh ARC. The Fraser Institute rankings provide quantitative assessment of a school's academic performance. Within the 2012/2013 academic year rankings for St. Gregory, St. Peter, and St. Pius were 276/3030, 862/3030, and 1670/3030, respectively. These scores place these institutions in the top 9.1 percentile, 28.4 percentile, and 55 percentile, respectively. It is evident that St. Gregory is an exceptionally

performing academic institution where it is noted that this school is 7th of Windsor/Essex County elementary schools considering by public and private type.

The SOS recommends that announcement and articulation of such exceptional EQAO scores and Fraser rankings be made to the surrounding areas of these schools to further enhance utilization rates.

9. Portables

In the Director's recommendation, St. Gregory and St. Pius students are to be accommodated through the use of portables. Parents are significantly concerned by this recommendation and strongly disagree that this is the best way to manage excess capacity of students.

Superintendent of Corporate Services, Mr. Mario Iatonna, indicated at the 3rd public ARC meeting on January 7th, 2014, that school additions would be built prior to student amalgamation and students would not be placed in portables. Mr. Iatonna clearly stated that the "board prefers additions rather than portables." The First Annual State of the Board Address, released on January 28th, 2014 confirms this preference citing "a reduction in the number of portable classrooms in use" as a recent accomplishment of the business department. Correspondingly, it is evident that the recommendation from the Board is completely contradictory to the public statements of Mr. Iatonna and the Director.

The combined enrolment of St. Gregory and St. Pius as indicated by the WECDSB at the 2nd public ARC meeting, following amalgamation, would be 823 students. Noting that St. Pius has an on the ground capacity (OTG) of only 653 students, 170 students would require portables. Based upon this data and information from the other sources (the Ontario Early Years and Latchkey Day care programs), we have estimated that at least 6 portables and as many as 8 portables would have to be constructed to accommodate this overflow of students. This is a large number of students and staff segregated from the main school. Additionally, if these portables are new, given data from a Windsor based, well respected Architectural firm, each unit would cost \$80,000; resulting in a total estimated cost of half a million dollars.

Quality of education and safety as it relates to both staff and students are of significant concern to parents if portables are to be implemented. Portables force students to learn in a segregated environment and prohibit classroom clustering to allow for sharing of limited resources, team teaching, more effective use of time for resource staff, and collaborative planning by grade team members. Another critical negative result of the implementation of portables is the reduction of green-space, play area, and parking at St. Pius.

Portables make outdoor supervision and site security difficult due to decreased site lines. As of the Fall of 2013, all elementary schools are required to follow the Safe Welcome Program. At present, it is the understanding of Tecumseh parents that have utilized programs such as the Ontario Early Years at St. Pius, that this program has not been initiated to date. A memorandum released by WECDSB on August 27th, 2013 introducing this program indicates that security features such as swipe access are not

guaranteed to be provided to students and staff in portables. There is concern that the Safe Welcome Program may not be utilized with the use of portables, and if so, to the same capacity that it is for the main building.

Health and safety is also a concern of parents as portables increase the rates at which students are unsupervised and the potential for injury related to falls in icy inclement weather conditions as they enter/exit buildings to use washrooms and other educational facilities/resources. Finally, mould is often a common problem associated with portables due to the nature of their construction.

At the 3rd public ARC meeting Mr. latonna indicated that he felt it was "a myth that we are losing students to the public board". The most important point parents would like to make to Trustees and the Director is that parents will choose the public board over portables. Our community is unique in that D.M. Eagle is located only 1.3 km from St. Gregory School and has a right sized elementary school population of less than 300 students. Many parents have expressed an interest in sending their children to a small, academically excellent school within the vicinity of St. Gregory.

The decision to amalgamate and the use of portables are very difficult for our parents to accept as a viable option for their children and themselves. The Director's report failed to provide any appropriate site plan for the safe and effective implementation of portables nor comment on the additional costs associated with these units.

The incredibly short timeline provided in the Director's recommendation, to close St. Gregory School, install portables, and implement an Integration Committee to plan for the amalgamation of St. Gregory and St. Pius schools, in the opinion of the SOS, seems very unrealistic.

10. Public Confidence in the WECDSB

With the acknowledgement by the WECDSB of the very comprehensive analysis completed by the Tecumseh ARC, which carefully followed the four metrics of evaluation established by the Board, the SOS is very disappointed and frustrated to see such a contrary recommendation put forth by the Director. Additionally, the Board's report fails to provide any form of a quantitative, detailed, financial assessment as to why it has arrived at its recommendation. Sadly, the lack of any statement and thorough analyses on the benefits and impacts to students, which was established as the most important metric of consideration, is also evident in the Board's report. This complete lack of information and failure to follow Board's established criteria gives serious concern regarding transparency in the process and ultimately negatively impacts the public's confidence in the WECDSB. Parents of the SOS would like to see the Trustees, who have been elected by the public, to support the Tecumseh ARC recommendation which will then reaffirm the Board's desire to increase public confidence in this Board as mentioned in the State of the Board Address on January 28th, 2014

10.1. Failure of the WECDSB to provide answers and data to questions asked during the ARS

As previously indicated, in many cases, the public and ARC committee member(s) has/have requested information relevant to the ARS process. For example, quantitative financial data has been requested by delegates and members of the ARC committee to justify the potential closure of St. Gregory School and its amalgamation with St. Pius. Such information was never provided and given the lack of information presented within the Board's recommendation report many individuals question as to whether or not any financial analysis exists.

At the 2nd public ARC meeting, in a presentation given by William Altenhof, four questions regarding the conflict between the established benefits of right sized elementary schools and the initial recommendations put forth by the Board and the ARC were presented. These questions were:

- a) If "value to the student" takes priority over all other considerations, why is the ARC/Board considering the consolidation of institutions which will result in large schools with a population to approach, or exceed, 1000 students?
- b) Why would the ARC/Board put forth and consider any options which would eliminate any exceptionally performing school(s), specifically St. Gregory?
- c) Small academic institutions, at the elementary level, contribute towards superior school staff. Provide rationale as to why the ARC/Board would put forth and consider any options which would reduce the quality of their teachers and staff?
- d) If the WECDSB's "system priority" is to create welcoming, inclusive, and safe environments, which is typical of a small elementary school, why would a large elementary school, which exhibits higher rates of bullying and other volatile environments, be considered?

At both the 3rd and 4th public meetings William Altenhof, inquired as to why his questions were not answered. Sadly no information was provided to the delegate by the Board's representatives. To date, no answers to these questions have been made available on the Board's website or communicated to the delegate.

The lack of answers to these challenging questions, presented above, and others not listed, gives rise to concerns associated with transparency and confidence in the WECDSB.

Information regarding the potential implementation of French Immersion programs had been requested from the Tecumseh ARC from the onset of the ARS as indicated in both the committee and public meeting minutes. According to meeting minutes, Board Administration failed to provide any information on French Immersion to the Tecumseh ARC. While the Director's report did make reference to French Immersion at St. Gregory and St. Pius Schools, the document failed to acknowledge the demand for French Immersion in the vicinity of St. Peter School. It is known that Tecumseh Vista is experiencing a significant increase in interest associated with the French Immersion program. In addition, recent comments in the Windsor Star by Board Superintendent Emelda Byrne highlighted the demand for French Immersion in Windsor and Essex County and the need to respond to this demand as

an effective means to increase the utilization rates within the WECDSB. The SOS is of the opinion that such an opportunity should be considered, prior to the closure of any school, as it directly affects schools within the Tecumseh ARS.

10.2. Failure to acknowledge and document the impact to the Tecumseh community and the local economy

Another serious concern for the SOS and the Tecumseh community is the lack of details associated with the impact to the community and the local economy contained with the Director's recommendation. Both of these points have been established as relevant items of consideration when formulating a recommendation, yet little or no information or details are provided. Once again, this lack of attention to details within the recommendation results in significant concerns associated with confidence towards the WECDSB.

11. Conclusion and Request

We respectfully request the following.

The Director amend the recommendation to state the following:

That St. Gregory Catholic Elementary School be scheduled for closure in June 2016 and the school community shall be accommodated at St. Pius effective September 2016, subject to and unless of the following:

That administration enter into discussions with the Town of Tecumseh toward arriving at a mutually agreeable joint use agreement through which the municipality would lease available space at both St. Gregory and St. Pius in an attempt to find a suitable tenant for these facilities, or a suitable utilization rate is achieved within this timeframe.

Good Evening Trustees, Parents, and members of the community

My name is Jennifer Kehoe and I am here on behalf of the St. William's Catholic School Council.

Our council has been an active participant in these meetings since it was first suggested that a solution to the Tecumseh ARC process could be found by reviewing the boundary of St. William's school. At two previous public ARC meetings, we have put forward our opinion that amongst other arguments, we are against any boundary review, as our school too, continues to face declining enrollment.

Tonight, I am here to put forward some additional reasons why we cannot support a boundary review. Firstly, the St. William's school community was never invited to participate in the Tecumseh ARC. In our opinion, this means it was never the Board's intention to include our school community in this process. The recommendation for boundary review came from the Tecumseh community and not the Board. To include our school community at this point in the process, when it was approximately 75% complete, is simply not fair. St. William's school council continues to have faith in the school board administration that if their data suggested a boundary review was a viable option, they would have invited us to participate from the beginning.

Further, in 2012, as part of the ARC for the Lakeshore family of schools, a boundary review, which included St. William's, was recommended and is currently pending. Therefore, as the Director's report on the Tecumseh ARC states, St. William's cannot lose students on both its eastern and western boundaries to fill schools in Tecumseh and Lakeshore. It certainly does not make sense for a school that is not overcapacity.

And so it is for these reasons that I am here tonight to let the Trustees know that the St. William's Catholic School Council vehemently opposes a boundary review which will affect our school. We would like to thank the Director for his report, and would like to thank the parents and trustees for their commitment to this very difficult process. The families affected by this process continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

Thank you

/

Benefits and Impact of Right-Sized Schools to Students, Schools, the Board, and Community

William Altenhof, Ph.D., P.Eng.

April 16th, 2014

1.

Presentation Outline

- WECDSB mission
- Recent successes
- Considerations applicable to the review
- Relevant, peer reviewed, and recent literature
 - Impact on the students, school, WECDSB, and community at St. Gregory School
- Summary

WECD SB Mission Statement

- *The Board's mission is to strive, as a partnership of school, family and parish, to provide our students with a quality Catholic education rooted in Gospel teachings, enabling all to grow to their potential. [1 – WECD SB mission statement]*
- Catholic education is intended as a mutually supportive partnership within the specific and respective responsibilities of each partner: home, school, and parish. ***The common factor that involves us all in this noble enterprise is the child/student.*** [2 - Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association]
- **Board's Vision and Goals are based on two priorities:**
 - **Faith Development**
 - **Student Achievement**

Successes to be Proud of

- Enrollment in Catholic Education is increasing in Windsor/Essex County [3 - MOE]
 - MOE notes elementary student enrollment as:
 - 2013/2014 – 12,654
 - 2014/2015 – 13,747
 - Almost a 9% increase – significant!
- Obtaining financial stability [4 – State of board report]
 - \$5.4M accumulated surplus in 2012/2013
 - Additional \$5.2M by end of current fiscal year
 - \$10.6M accumulated surplus by end of August
- Student achievement [4 – State of board report]
 - Student achievement significantly exceeded provincial average (EQAO)

Considerations of the Review

- **Value to student**
 - **Emphasis on this criterion**
- Value to the school board
- Value to the community
- Value to the local economy

In the reviewed literature the definition of “right sized elementary schools”

$$300 \text{ students} < n_{\text{students}} < 500 \text{ students}$$

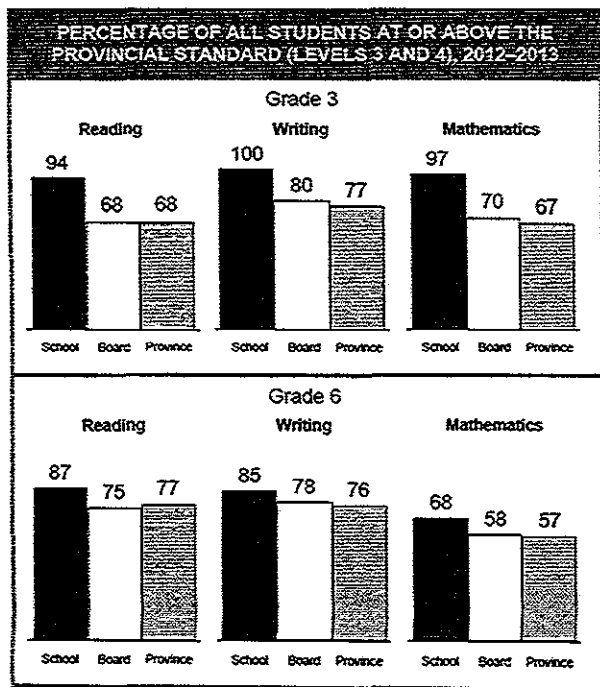
- Relevant Literature – Value To the Student

- “Right sized” elementary schools exhibit higher rates of...
 - Achievement [Leithwood, Archibald, Bickel, Ebert, Kuziemko, Lee, and Ma]
 - Extracurricular participation and character development [Coladarci, Cotton, and Wasley]
 - Attendance rates [Cotton]
- Students at “Right sized” elementary schools have:
 - Reduced feelings of alienation and loneliness [National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities].
 - Increased respect towards fellow students [Meier].
 - Stronger student engagement..
 - “...As school size decreased, school connectedness increased” [Cotton, McNeely, and Huling]
 - Positive concept of school and better understanding of the value of education
- Reduced incidences of “bullying” through greater parental involvement [Ma, National Centre for Educational Statistics, and Zane].

- Relevant Literature - Value To the Student - continued

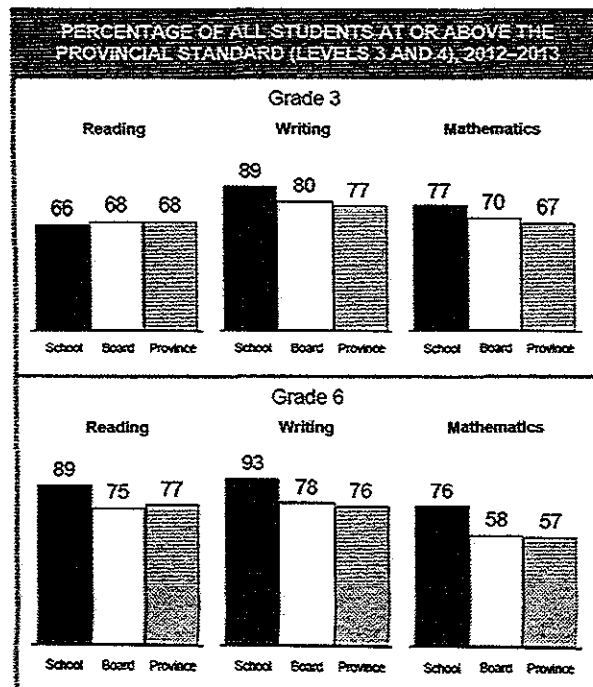
- From the reviewed literature, large sized schools did not enhance the quality of a student's education at the elementary level.
- St. Gregory provides an excellent academic value to students**
- Promoting such a school will attract students and families – success breeds success**

St. Gregory (pop. 315.5)



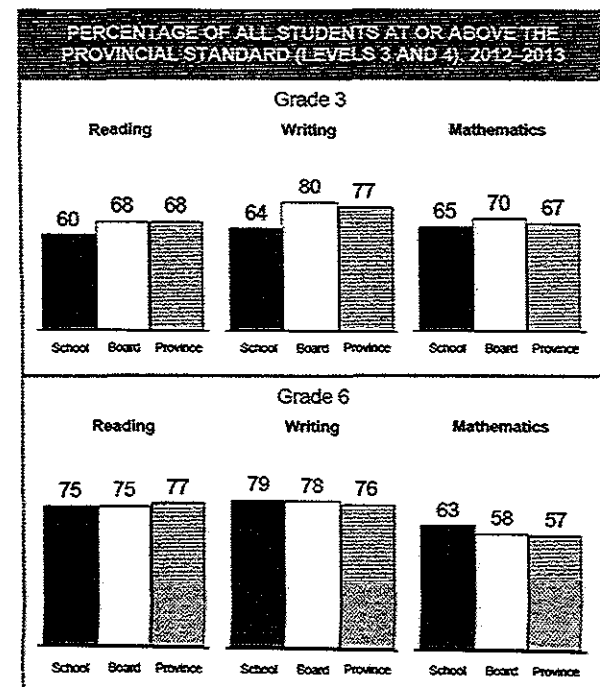
(a)

St. Peter (pop. 353)



(b)

St. Pius (pop. 496.5)



(c)

- Relevant Literature – Value To the School Board

- Class disruption, theft, aggressive behaviour, and substance abuse are all less likely in right sized elementary schools [Cotton].
- School safety is higher [National Centre for Educational Statistics, Zane, Meier, Duke and Williams].
- Higher levels of teacher commitment and sense of responsibility for student learning [Lee, Rosenblatt].
- **“Cost efficiency is no longer justification for large schools....small schools are more efficient and cost-effective.”** [Leithwood and Jantzi].

- Relevant Literature – Value To the School Board

- WECDSB has provided 2013-2014 estimated cost per pupil [minutes of 2nd public Tecumseh ARC meeting]:
 - St. Gregory - \$7,216
 - St. Peter - \$7,346 (\$130, 1.018x St. Gregory)
 - St. Pius - \$7,404 (\$188, 1.026x St. Gregory)
- Fraser Institute Ratings (ratings across Ontario):
 - St. Gregory – top 9.1 percentile
 - St. Peter – 28.4 percentile
 - St. Pius – 55 percentile
- Cost and academic performance:
 - St. Gregory provides exceptional value to the school board

- Relevant Literature – Value To the Community

- Stronger link between the student and the community [Leithwood and Jantzi].
- Students at right sized elementary schools develop a positive attitude and commitment to their community [Wasley and Lear].
- St. Gregory community involvement
 - Music program at nursing homes and community living
 - Raking leaves for residents of Tecumseh
 - Rock band performances on Camp Day at Tim Horton's
 - St. Vincent de Paul
 - And many others....
- **St. Gregory School provides many benefits to the local communities**

Summary

- Acknowledge and appreciate community input to the WECDSB and Tecumseh ARC recommendations.
- WECDSB recommendation lacks value to the student (criterion weighted greatest)
- Consolidation of St. Gregory at St. Pius, resulting in significantly larger institution, **WILL NOT BENEFIT STUDENTS, TEACHERS, SCHOOL BOARD, AND COMMUNITY.**
- Specific to St. Gregory School – why change an exceptionally performing elementary school?
 - **A model school to BE EMULATED**
- **With a \$10.6M surplus, investing in such a stellar school like St. Gregory, will benefit all**

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SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, April 16, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
St. Anne Secondary School 1200 Oakwood Dr., SS #3, Belle River, ON

Presentation by: Luciano Carlone and Marlo Bondy

Request for financial data to support Director of Education's Report/Recommendation on the Accommodation Review Study for the Tecumseh Area, including St. Gregory, St. Peter, and St. Pius X Catholic Elementary Schools.

While Mrs. Bondy and I stand here before you tonight as parents of children attending St. Gregory's School we also stand here as property taxpayer's of the Town of Tecumseh contributing to the education levy and taxpayer's of the Province of Ontario contributing to the Ministry of Education budget. I make note of our taxpayer status because we have elected you our Trustees to be stewards of not only a quality faith based education for our children but also of our education tax dollars. It is our opinion that the Director's report does not provide adequate quantitative financial information and analysis for you our elected Trustees to make an informed decision on the recommendation he has put forward. Additionally the report provides no consideration of the implications for communities and local economies, two of the four priorities of the Board to which any recommendation is to be measured against. A proper financial analysis for deciding to close a school should include, but is not limited to the following:

- a) Current costs and revenue under current situation compared to projected costs and revenues, at least 3 to 5 years out, with assumptions
- b) One-time costs such as construction, demolition, moving, and new traffic lanes to accommodate bus congestion.
- c) Opportunity costs such as the loss of property location in a growing community.
- d) Incremental costs such as busing, utilities, and increased R&M schedule.
- e) Legacy costs such as maintenance and security of closed facilities.
- f) Unexpected or indirect costs such as counselling for displaced/distressed children, loss of volunteers, and loss of fundraising initiatives by CSCs.
- g) Unexpected or indirect loss of revenue such as families choosing to leave the Catholic Board or families choosing to stay within the Catholic Board but re-direct their property tax support to the Public Board.

Without any significant financial data to support the consolidation of St. Gregory and St. Pius Schools, we are of the opinion that the Director's recommendation is not justified nor warranted.

Given that St. Gregory School exhibits stellar performance with regards to EQAO scores and exceptional evaluation within the Fraser Institute report as an elementary school, it is only appropriate that the

Board would invest into St. Gregory School to maintain and potentially further enhance its exceptional performance. Additionally, further investments into other Windsor/Essex County Catholic Schools to emulate St. Gregory School's learning environment would also assist with improving performance and ratings of other Windsor/Essex County Catholic schools. Such investments and enhancements could have a significant positive impact on the utilization rates within all Catholic schools in Windsor/Essex County.

Lastly, we ask: What is the greater plan of the Board and how does the closure of St. Gregory's fit into the greater plan? In the Director of Education's 2013-2014 Strategic Directions and System Priorities he states: *"Post Supervision we will engage our partners in Catholic Education towards the development of a new multi-year strategic plan which will be unveiled as part of the second annual report on the State of the Board in January 2015."* Why does the Board not have a long term plan now? January 2015 is over eight months away but yet a school will be closed in the next two months. What is the greater plan and how does St. Gregory closure fit into the plan? Without a long term plan the Catholic Board will eliminate itself through a death of a thousand cuts.

On the basis that that the Director of Education has failed to provide adequate quantitative financial information and analysis in his report for you our elected Trustees to make an informed decision and has further failed to articulate how his recommendation fits into a greater long term plan that his recommendation to close St. Gregory School be rejected.

APRIL 16TH, 2014
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING, WECDSB
ST. ANNE HIGH SCHOOL

By Maria McCann

First of all, I would like to say thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak this evening. This is a difficult time for all and I would like to acknowledge and say thank you to the Director, Trustees and Administration for your patience. I also want to thank Tecumseh Mayor McNamara, Councilor Dorion and their staff for their support. There was always a representative of the Town attending our SOS meetings.

I would like to also thank the Administration for making St. Gregory School take part in an ARC process. As the secretary of St. Gregory Parent Council for the last 6 years, our goal has been to involve our parents. With this ARC process, we have engaged our parents to a whole new level and this process has helped galvanize our school community into a stronger family who stands together united with the same goal of providing what is best for our children and to save our school family.

As I previously said in the past, we mean no disrespect to any other school. We recognize that there are many good things happening in other schools. However, we can only talk about what we know and from our own personal experiences at St. Gregory School. I have heard comments that there is a public perception by some that St. Gregory parents are bullies and offensive. We apologize if we have given you this impression and if we have offended anyone. We are a group of passionate individuals who deeply care for what happens to our unique school community. We are a tight knit family and we want to remain that way.

We are a family of amazing principal, secretary, teachers, EA, support staff, janitors, parish staff, parents and students who work together to make each day special for our students, staff and the community around us. When we are not busy fighting for survival; St. Gregory family, lives each day by showing God's mercy in our words, in our actions and in our prayers both within our school walls and outside in the community at large. We are family and hopefully by the end of my presentation you can understand why we are so passionate.

There are two items I would like to tackle tonight: one is French Immersion and the other is how St. Gregory School emulates and perpetuates the Catholic values by which our Board is founded on and what makes us a unique family to be replicated.

One of the Tecumseh ARC recommendations was the introduction of a French Immersion program to one of the Tecumseh ARC schools. The Director's response states that this is not a good option because we would be competing against Sainte Marguerite -d'Youville and Sainte Antoine. We believe that this would not be competing because these two schools belong to the French Catholic Board and are full French. The other concern is competing with other schools in our Board. Out of 38 elementary schools, only four are French: Christ the King in South Windsor, St. Anne's in central Windsor, Queen of Peace in Leamington and St. Mary's in Maidstone. Out of 9 secondary schools, 4 have French Immersion programs: Cardinal Carter in Leamington, St. Anne's high school in Lakeshore, St. Joseph's HS and Villanova high school. Out of these four high schools, St. Anne's High School is the only high school that does not have any of its feeder schools with a French immersion program. As a parent volunteer on St. Anne's High School Parent council, this concerns me because in order for St. Anne's High School to sustain and grow their French immersion program, I believe it should be imperative to make either St. Piux or St. Gregory a French immersion school. According to an article posted in the Windsor Star on April 4th, 2014 states that French immersion programs at Canadian public schools outside of Quebec have increased by 28% since 1991. The Greater Essex County District School Board has had an increase of 35% in their French immersion program since 2011. Essex County is in a good position as we have the room to accommodate all the request

for French immersion while the rest of Canadian cities have to have lotteries because the demand exceeds the spots available. In the same article a public board spokesperson said that the high demand for French immersion has caused capacity issues at some schools. We can see that with the two new public schools Vista and Lakeshore Discovery who are overcapacity and are using portables and are having additions planned even though they have just been built in the last couple of years. We believe that this option should be looked at seriously.

If I would include all of our personal stories about why St. Gregory School is family, I could write volumes. For tonight's purpose, I am only going to talk about one story. It is a story of a man's love for his wife of 42 years and the school that gave the gift of a Christmas miracle. I had the pleasure of spending two hours last night interviewing this man whose name is Gary for my presentation. When I left his home, I was more proud than ever in being a St. Gregory School parent. In December 2011, on the last day of school before Christmas holidays, Gary called our school asking for a group of students to sing Christmas carols. The principal was very uneasy about accommodating him as it was such short notice. But she went with her gut instincts as well as her Christian values and granted this request. In less than 30 minutes, the students were assembled on the side walk. Gary pulled up in his car, rolled down his window and the students sang Christmas carols to his wife. A short while after he had left the school to go home, the principal, our parent council Chair and students took all the poinsettias that were around the school and the food trays that we had and brought them over to his house. He was so impressed by the kindness shown by our school in granting his wife's dying wish that he asked the grade 8 students to sing at her funeral. She passed away on January 31, 2012.

If you attended the 3rd public ARC meeting, you may remember me talking about this story. What I did not share with you that evening is that Gary hated our school. A couple of years ago we had a problem with asphalt falling apart and kids throwing it in his yard. One day Gary got really mad and picked up a whole bunch of pieces and put it in a box and placed the box on the principal's desk. Kids were afraid to go near his property. I remember my children coming home and telling me that they lost their ball in the mean man's backyard. One of my children once

even asked me to go to his door and ask for the ball back and I told my son that I wasn't going to go talk to the mean guy. Gary told me last night that if the school was burning down he would bring a fan to help it burn down faster.

Then a Christmas miracle happened. The current principal, knowing the past history decided to demonstrate what Catholic education is all about. She decided to show mercy and forgiveness and in so doing many lives have been transformed. Gary was so appreciative of how our school showed love and mercy towards him and his family that he has come to the school many times for visits. He has given the students a plague to say thank you. On his wives birthday on April 24, 2012, he bought pizza for the whole school and they all gathered together and had a party in her memory.

The students have reciprocated his kindness. On his wedding anniversary, February 14, 2012, Gary was told to go to the back of his fence. He didn't know why but he went. He was met by a teacher and a group of students who gave him a package of Valentine Cards written by the students and a plate of cookies he could eat as he opened his cards. This was his first anniversary without his wife and the students didn't want him to feel alone.

Gary told me last night that "we Catholics have the market cornered on kindness." When the school planted trees at the back of the property, one tree was planted in her memory. For the month of January 2012, students would run up to Gary's property, wave to his wife as her bed was near the window. They would check up on her and report back to the principal on how she was doing. This happened couple times a day for a month. The whole school community gathered around this couple and adopted them into our family. Last night he told me that there isn't anything he would do for St. Gregory School community and he is here tonight showing us his support.

In the Director's First Annual State of the Board Address, entitled "Engaging our Future", it states that "faith formation tops our list of priorities as a Catholic School System. It is the critical component at the epicenter of all we do." St. Gregory is a living example of how we place faith formation at the epicenter of all we do. There is something magical about St. Gregory School. This Christmas

miracle is one example of how we live out our Christian values in our community. Not only do we emulate Christian values but we also perform academically. As you have seen, our EQAO scores are above the Board and above the Province. We are also ranked 276/3030 schools putting us in the top 9.1 percentile in the province. Why would you want to close a school that performs so well? We are a vibrant school. The reason why we achieve so well is because we work very well together and that we are a family.

These possible school closures are damaging the confidence towards the Board. Instead of closing right sized schools, we need to work together to find solutions to solve the problems. One is low enrollment but I am sure there are other problems that need to be addressed. One question would be: how many kids are in the public system that would really belong to the Catholic Board? Why these students did choose to go Public? I have had discussions with several families in the past trying to convince them to stay in catholic education but they didn't and they haven't returned. When Bob Upgreen talked to the Board, administration, staff and parents in 2011 he talked about giving a WOW experience to the staff, parents and students. We need to co-operate together to find solutions because by making decisions that are upsetting to parents, further ruins the confidence in the Board and gives ammunition to those who feel we should have one Board.

Windsor-Wessex Catholic District School Board
Special Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 16, 2014

Delegate: Mrs. Cynthia Vilella, St. Gregory School, Co-Chair, St. Gregory CSAC

Good Evening, Mr. Picard, Elected Officials and Board Members.

My name is Cynthia Vilella and I come before you tonight as a parent and a community member of the Tecumseh family of schools to strongly advise against Director Picard's report to consolidate students of St. Gregory School with St. Pius school at the St. Pius site. As Co-chair of our Catholic school advisory committee, I have been closely involved with the ARC and I have also been an active member of the Save Our School Parent Committee that speaks to you all tonight.

A list of priorities set forth by you, the WECDSB, clearly states that recommendations would be formulated to include all of the following:

- Value to the student
- Value to the school board
- Value to the community
- Value to the local economy

The concern that I would like to address is the increase in bussing that will be required at St. Pius to accommodate all of the students. Currently St. Gregory and St. Pius use 3 and 4 buses respectively. To transport the St. Gregory's students safely to St. Pius, it is accurate to state that ALL of the students will be requiring bus transportation. A small number of students that are currently at St. Greg's that will be within ambulatory boundary really just counter balance the number of students St. Pius currently has that get self transported...therefore the needs for bussing will increase at St. Pius by 110%...to a total of 9 buses. At a cost of \$40,000 per school bus that comes to an increase of \$120K per year for bussing alone. Also the cost per student is greater at St. Pius by \$188, increasing the annual cost of adding 334 St. Gregory's students by \$62,800. A combined total with bussing of \$182,800 per year. We appreciate that these numbers may have been considered, but is the Board's solution to balance them out, relying on laying off teachers, administration support or custodians?

My concerns however go well beyond cost....it is about the safety of our children, not only arriving on the bus, but those walking to school and being driven. Lacasse Blvd. is a very busy through street that has had 4-way stops added at St. Thomas due to the danger of the volume and nature of it being a school district. There is currently very limited parking available for staff and visitors, how will more vehicles be accommodated? In 1997, during St. Pius' last expansion, it was documented in town minutes that construction of a proper bus bay was to be done to safely load and unload our students. However, today, 2014, there still does not exist a bus bay, but just a curb cut-away on Lacasse and the buses are to pull through an already full and small parking lot. Vision on Lacasse is impaired during these busy times in the morning when 3 buses are arriving....what is going to happen when you triple that number. It has already been confirmed that staggering bus arrivals will not be an option due to the distance they will be travelling. Kiss and ride is currently done off-site at neighbouring Lacasse Park...as a parent, I want to be able to know that my child is securely on school property when they are dropped off...this is not ideal but in place. We do not feel that value to the student has been considered or appreciated if specific promises were made back in 1997 that still have not been fulfilled and now the same problems addressed are going to be compounded with additional buses.

In addition to my concern of safety regarding bussing, I also have a concern about the Accommodation Review Process, which the Windsor Star writes today... that the Ministry of Education will re-examine this process. We all appreciate that schools running well below capacity are a hindrance and financial burden to the budget, but the problem is not being solved by fragmenting and isolating communities that have very viable and academically successful programs and fixing these silos independently of looking at the WHOLE body.

Why is the priority not to look at the school buildings that are deemed not suitable for repair and address them first... these parents and students are aware of the situation and sensitive to the objectives and open to better options in most cases. But to isolate schools and communities that don't have problems is does not "make sense". Status quo does have a place in this process....it is unreasonable for your goal to be to close 1 or 2 schools within every family of schools you choose to review in any given year....are communities are worth more than a lottery pick of who will be unlucky enough to fall within this process next year!

Back in September, when this process started....we as parents and community members were sceptical of this process. There were strong rumors that supported that a decision to close St. Gregory was already made and those of us that voiced this concern were sternly put in our place. Numerous times over the last 8 months, both verbally and in print it has been stated:

...The Accommodation Review Studies are in place for administration to put forth recommendations and to welcome community input, public feedback, and promote discussion. This invited input is used to amend or develop alternative options. We have made this easy for you, as we have come together, township, parents, community partners, educators and developers and have exchanged ideas and goals for this community... all of which require ALL three schools to remain status quo. Despite being passionate about our cause, we have remained objective, goal oriented, professional, respectful, and first and foremost, innovative to assist you in the process of sustaining both St. Gregory and St. Pius. We have embraced this ARS and used our Catholic and Christian values to build an even better community....we TRUSTED you with this process...now TRUST us with these ideas and concrete attainable solutions! Let our work and the work that we can do in collaboration with you be a superb example to our children and to other communities of what can be accomplished as a result of this process.

We TRUSTED you, now you have to FAITH in us!

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, April 16, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
St. Anne Secondary School 1200 Oakwood Dr., SS #3, Belle River, ON

Presentation by: Patricia Bornais and Buck Sleimen

While I understand and acknowledge that boundary adjustments are not considered in the ARC process, it is incumbent upon all of you, our elected Trustees to consider all options before making a major decision like closing a school. In this instance, moving boundaries is a cost efficient solution in solving the lack of student utilization at St. Pius and the OVERCAPACITY issue at L.A.Desmarais.

Boundary reviews have been used and continue to be used to contribute towards assisting with school enrolment issues. The use of boundary reviews and re-alignments was indicated by the Board in its 2013-2014 Strategic Directions and System Priorities to be an effective method of addressing changing demographics.

MAP - I would like to start by reviewing the school boundary map [which has been provided to you]. I am a visual person and if you are like me a quick look at the boundary map while considering the following facts will lead you to the conclusion that a boundary adjustment is a cost efficient solution to the lack of student utilization at St. Pius and the OVERCAPACITY issue at L.A.Desmarais.

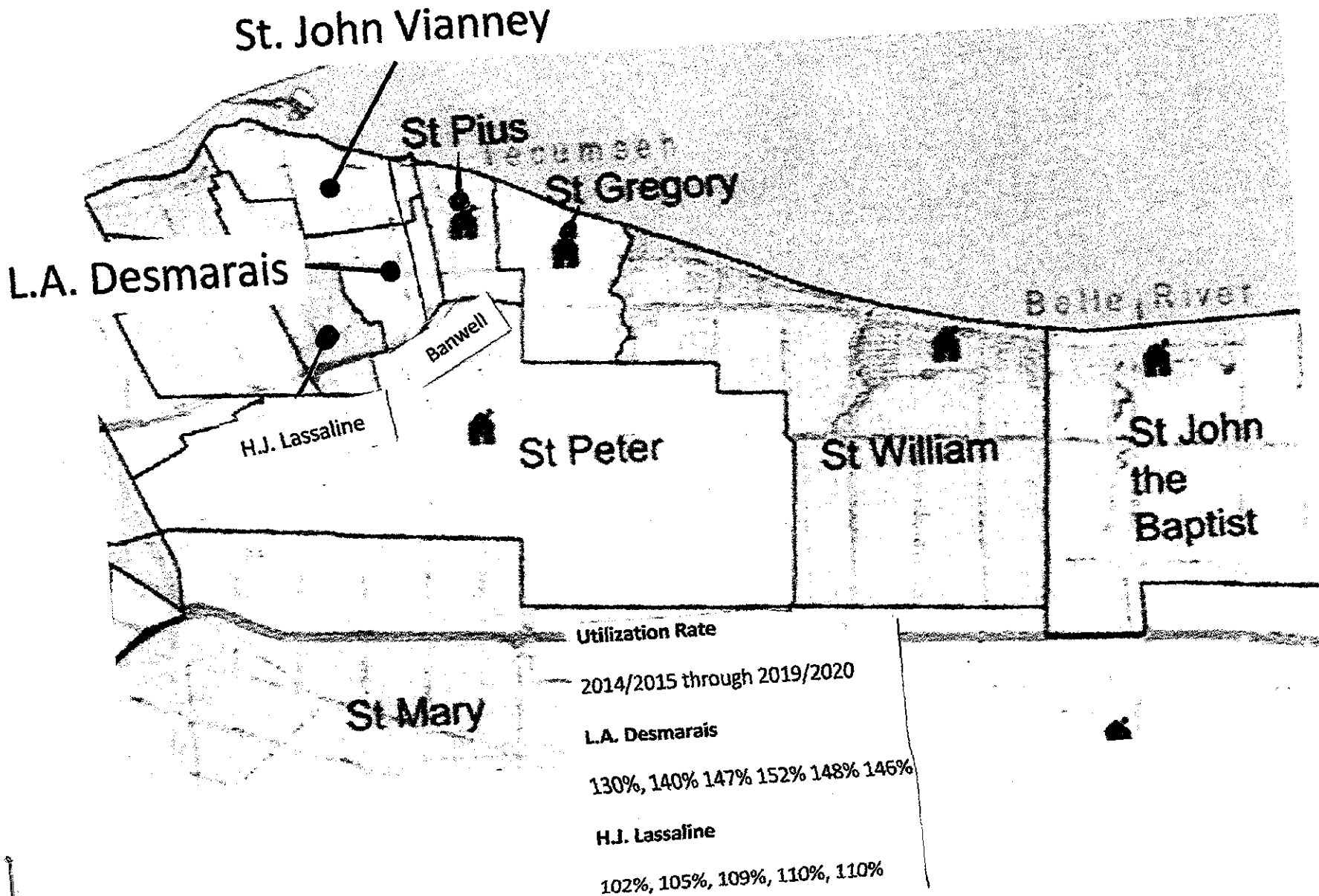
L.A. Desmarais has multiple portables and has a capacity of 336 [2013 Watson report] with projected utilization rates of 130%, 140%, 147%, 152%, 148%, and 146% over the school years of 2014/2015 through 2019/2020, respectively [2013 Watson report]. The nearest school to accommodate the excess students is St. Pius which is under capacity. L.A. Desmarais students living east of Banwell are geographically closer to St. Pius. H.J. Lassaline, the school west of L.A. Desmarais, currently has utilization rates of 98% and projected rates of 102%, 105%, 109%, 110% and 110%, for the school years of 2015/2016 through 2019/2020 [2013 Watson report]. A thorough boundary review would certainly assist these schools which are under- and over-capacity. This has not been considered in the WECDSB report.

It is obvious that the boundaries must be move to support and accommodate the St. Pius under capacity problem. The solution is there, black and white; the board must consider a major undertaking of boundary adjustment. "Does this make sense"?

A boundary adjustment creates balance between schools. In the director's report, it is projected that the current St. Gregory School will see an increase in enrollment. If St. Gregory were to close, what school will take up the projected increase? Would St. Pius not be operating above full capacity?

In Closing: Your recommendation states that the Ministry's SBEM initiative must look to consolidate schools where it is possible to do so without lowering programming standards or diminishing opportunities for students. Does your recommendation not contradict this initiative? Does a combined elementary school with over 800 students and portables not result in lower program standards and diminish opportunities for students?

Current School Boundaries



Speech for Board Trustees

April 16, 2014

Good evening, my name is Don Rodzik and I along with my wife Amber am parents to 3 boys who attend St. Gregory in the Grades of 6, 4 and 1. Like many parents here today, we are extremely disappointed with ~~the Director's~~ ^{The Director's} decision to not follow the recommendation of the ARC committee and ~~unilaterally make the decision~~ ^{decided} to close St. Gregory and merge it with St. Pius.

I want you think back to when you first decided to be a School Trustee. **Did you sign up to be a Trustee to close schools?** I am inclined to say **"NO"**. I am sure the reason why you decided to dedicate your time was so that you could assist others within the Catholic Education system, the students, parents, facilitators and administration in the ward which you represent. I hope it was to advocate and promote Catholic Education and to provide support to the Board and its students in order to increase the **quality** of education within Windsor/Essex County.

The Director has put forth a proposal for consideration that focuses **purely on saving money**. As a taxpayer, I do not discount the necessity to be fiscally responsible. However, we must rationalize at what expense are we willing to jeopardize this responsibility, and are we succumbing to a **short term gain** for a **long term loss**.

Taxpayers and constituents expect that their tax dollars are to be spent responsibly, with a reasonable return on their investment into the province for the betterment of the community in which they live and to provide and improve on the essential services that tax payers and community members hold dear to their hearts as fundamentals to our society.

We as taxpayers and constituents who have chosen Catholic Education to service our children's future are **deeply** concerned. We are concerned because the Director has chosen to **consolidate** Catholic Education in the community, where short term rationales outweigh the long-term benefits.

Currently, St. Gregory is **marginally** under utilized. In any other industry, 80% capacity would **NOT** be seen as a factor for closure of a facility. More importantly, the Board's own data indicate that **within** a reasonable period of time St. Gregory will return to 100% capacity. This begs the question – **WHY RUSH?**

We as tax payers, your constituents, are petitioning you to Fight for Catholic Education – to stand up for **WHY** you decided to be a trustee in the first place. To promote the benefits of Catholic Education, **NOT** consolidate it to improve **surplus budgets**. A solution is viable here, but the only thing it needs is **TIME**. The Catholic Education system teaches of the necessity of having Faith in the Lord our God. We, the parents, the children, members of this community and Tecumseh taxpayers have this FAITH, and we have FAITH in you, our Trustees to make the right decision.

The St. Gregory community and Tecumseh taxpayers have **united** to find a solution that will assist in balancing the Boards fiscal agenda through Community partnerships and at the same time extending the potential closure of St. Gregory to allow for planned growth within the community to boost enrollment. As a tax payer, the last thing anyone should want is to **scrap** a valuable provincial asset that produces a quality product. As you have heard today, St. Gregory ranks amongst the top schools in Ontario. It is what tax dollars are collected to promote, it's a model for the rest of the system to emulate.

I understand that over the last several years the Board and Trustees have been bogged down with finding ways to control cost. I applaud you all for being firm on many difficult decisions that have allowed you now to be in a much stronger financial position, a **surplus position**. But before you make a

decision on St. Gregory, I again ask you to re-think **WHY** you decided to be a Trustee. Was it to **close** schools and consolidate Catholic Education, or was it to **FIGHT** for its survival? In St Gregory's case, there is an option. If we continue down the road of closing schools for short term gains, we will **be** heading toward a **greater** consolidation. A consolidation that will eventually end taxpayers right **to** a quality Catholic Education system, such as St. Gregory.

In the spirit of this most important week in the Catholic religious calendar, let us join together to **resolve** and to reconcile in the interest of the Children. Decisions will be more clear when all trustees **are** given time to review all options and discuss them openly. Therefore, after hearing the proposals **spoken** here tonight and based on the logical information provided, **WE HAVE FAITH in YOU**, our Trustees, that you will see the **LIGHT** within ST. Gregory School and its Community as a **beacon for FUTURE GROWTH**.
our Director's Slogan for 2014
A quality, faith driven school, **ENGAGED IN ITS FUTURE**, servicing its taxpayers at the **highest** level.

3

A couple points to ponder

Notes
Points of Interest

VALUE WITH ANY BUILDING IS MAXIMIZED BY FILLING IT.

1) IF ST. Gregory's were to close (ie)

- 1) * NO VALUATION ON THE EMPTY BUILDING ^{REML} DOES ANYONE KNOW IF THERE WOULD BE A BUYER?
- 2) * COST TO CARRY FIGURES NOT KNOWN (ie UTILITIES INS. ETC.)
- 3) * COST OF PORTABLES ^{TO ST. PIUS} NOT KNOWN (TO PURCHASE + set up)
- 4) * COST TO REMOVE PORTABLES NOT KNOWN
- 5) * COST OF ADDITION TO ST. PIUS NOT KNOWN

* USUALLY SOLD WITH ORDER MARKET VALUE! HAS BEEN GIVEN

6) * TIME FRAME FOR THE REALIZATION OF AND ADJUSTMENT BY FACULTY AND STUDENTS TO ADJUST (NOT KNOWN) what is that value?

2) - ALTHOUGH young students CAN ADAPT TO CHANGE over a shorter period of time, THERE IS A Greater time period adjustment for adults (ie) teachers, administrators, etc.

* ASK YOURSELF HAS ALL OF THIS BEEN CONSIDERED and/or calculated in a common environment? SHARED.

SEE CHART UTILIZATION RATES

3) EXCESS CAPACITY OF 18% across the entire school system, yet St. Gregory's is a mere 6% less than the 85% threshold for full top up funding. Would someone care to rationalize those percentages?

Why ARE ENROLMENT projections ~~so~~ such a long time period? ^{FOR} currently

- So in theory, since St. Gregory's is 79% utilized, it operates at a 94% efficiency rate? ^{at the 15% correct?}

- A LOT OF "PROJECTIONS ARE NOTED (NOT NECESSARILY REAL #'S) Utilization rate is applied.

MAKE NOTE OF PAGE 4

Paul Bistany

NOTES




1) While ST. Gregory's ~~was~~ stays open
 AND further studies ^{ARE} ~~were~~ conducted
 AND a ^{TRUE} 2 year ^{or more} extension was given to
 better understand previous long term
 projections to actually realize the
~~clarity~~ ^{REALITY} of said projections ~~and the~~
~~community~~
 and more precise calculations and
 costs were derived from a more
 thorough, detailed plan. Our community
 would be an even better place to
 learn, work and play.

Respectfully Submitted
 Paul Safary




Written submissions received
in the consultation process
subsequent to the
Special Board Meeting
of April 16, 2014

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**
 Title: **Proposed Disruption of St. Pius Community for a "Tempo...**

April-23-14 4:45:46 PM
 Page 1 of ;

From:  Joe Canuck  Apr-18-14 10:22:20 PM 
 Director of Education

Subject: Proposed Disruption of St. Pius Community for a "Temporary fix"

To:  Eileen Belanger  **Beth Marshall**  Paul Picard
 Director of Education

Dear Mr. Picard,

My name is Joelle Long, and I am a parent of three students in the St. Pius district of Tecumseh. I am writing to you today to implore you **to not make the changes suggested on the last Public Board meeting on April 16th 2014. (sending gr 7, 8 from St. Pius to St. Gregory)**

The St. Pius community feels it was blindsided by the new "brainchild" announced at the April 16th meeting concerning the Grade 7 and 8 children from St. Pius moving to the St. Gregory site. This was never on any agenda for any of the public meetings.

We, as a community realize these are painful, difficult decisions to make. The ARC team only came up with STATUS QUO ideas, so we realize the need to come up with something, but splitting up families is **NOT** the right answer.

Siblings often support each other in the school system, and a younger sibling most definitely looks up to his/her elders as mentors for proper behaviour at school. The amount of young children that walk to and from school with their older siblings is countless. and parents rely on this connection to get their younger children to and from school safely. What happens to a Grade 2 student now that he OR she doesn't have an older sibling to walk with? The benefits of keeping siblings together are displayed in various areas of research from education, to adoption agencies.

Interesting when reading most articles on Keeping Siblings Together. "that keeping students and their families together is commonly viewed as desirable. Everyone benefits: students, parents, and the school...Sibling preference keeps families together and promotes program stability, strength, and success." By Daunna Minnich, Parent, Palo Alto Unified School District, Palo Alto, CA I guess our Catholic Board is not thinking about this.

From another article on Keeping Siblings together..."Sibling relationships help children achieve developmental milestones as well as provide emotional support, companionship, and comfort in times of change. When children are separated from their siblings, the research indicates that a number of children feel "they have lost a part of themselves" By Emily Kernan

Trina Hurdman, a Calgary Board Trustee thinks..."I feel very strongly that we need to support our families as much as possible and we need to keep siblings together in the same school as much as possible." . by Jeremy Nolais Calgary is dealing with overcrowding, but they are trying to keep sibling together as much as they can.

There are plenty of other reasons we DO NOT want to send our Grade 7 and 8 classes to your "middle school". The St. Pius computer lab is a terrific facility, that the students and teachers have worked on perfecting for years. There is even a Computer Specialty Teacher at St. Pius. Now, the same students that have worked on perfecting this lab, are being taken away from it! What kind of resources is this Grade 7 and 8 school going to have? Will they have as many extra -curricular activities that they have at their current site- Chess Club, Choir? (for the non- athletic types) How will the athletics suffer? We keep hearing that these changes will better their education and experience, but it sure doesn't seem that way. Why are you disrupting two school communities, and impacting a larger part of the Tecumseh Area?

We as a community do not want our tax dollars to go towards a "temporary fix". We are concerned about where these funds will come from. We are concerned about funds being raised, and the building closing anyway.

There were many propositions during this process, but this was one landed in the lap of the St. Pius community at

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**

April-23-14 4:45:46 PM

Title: **Proposed Disruption of St. Pius Community for a "Tempo...**

Page 2 of :

the "last hour" , with no time for "our" community to have a voice. We do realize these are difficult decisions to make, and we want to have the faith is our trustees to make the right ones, but hidden agendas are causing us to "lose our faith" in the Catholic school system. I have spoken to many families ready to move their children to the Public Board to avoid this logistical mess. If enrollment is down in the Catholic Board, the problem will just get worse. I implore you to make the right decision, that has been discussed at all of the prior meetings. Not the "new agenda" that we feel has not been explored at great enough length.

Thank you for taking the time to serve our community, please listen to our voice.

Sincerely,

Joelle, Mark, Gianna, Jessica and Eric Long.



Town of Tecumseh BRIEFING NOTE

Re: WECDSB – ARC Reports

BACKGROUND:

- At the Council meeting on April 8, 2014, Council adopted Motion RCM-149/14:
THAT Town Administration be authorized to work with the WECDSB Board's administration [planning and financial] to develop a concept plan and identify community stakeholders to support a proposed deferral of the closing of St. Gregory's School and to allow time to explore options and partnerships to support keeping the school open.
- Previously, the Accommodation Review Committee [ARC] issued its report and recommendations to the Director of Education, titled, *Study of St. Gregory, St. Peter and St. Pius Catholic Elementary Schools* in March 2014. It includes:
 - *Option 1 - Maintain Status Quo for St. Gregory, St. Pius and St. Peter and encourage the Board to undertake a Boundary Review in the Tecumseh and surrounding areas. Explore shared services within the community to enhance unused space.*
 - *Supplementary Recommendation – The Committee also recommends further investigation, consultation and study to explore French Immersion [including dual track] at, some or all of the Tecumseh ARC schools.*
- The Director of Education, Paul Picard, issued his report and recommendations to the Board of Trustees in response to the ARC Report, with the following recommendations:
 - *That St. Gregory Catholic Elementary School be closed effective June, 2014, and the school community at St. Gregory be consolidated at St. Pius X Catholic Elementary School effective September, 2014, with students to be accommodated in the short term, through the use of portables;*

- *The Board apply to the Ministry of Education through the School Consolidation Capital (SCC) program, for capital for the construction of an addition to support the consolidation; and*
- *That an Integration Committee, comprised of representatives from both the St. Gregory and St. Pius communities, be established immediately to plan for and implement the integration of the two Catholic school communities; and*
- *That St. Peter Catholic Elementary School remain open as a JK to 8 Catholic elementary school.*

CURRENT SITUATION:

- *On April 10, 2014, the Save Our School Parents Response to the WECDSB Report Recommendation on the Accommodation Review Study for the Tecumseh Area was sent to the WECDSB Trustees. It contained the following recommendation:*
 - *The Director amend the recommendation to state the following:*
 - *That St. Gregory Catholic Elementary School be scheduled for closure in June 2016 and the school community shall be accommodated at St. Pius effective September 2016, subject to the following:*
 - *That administration enter into discussions with the Town of Tecumseh toward arriving at a mutually agreeable joint use agreement through which the municipality would lease available space at both St. Gregory and St. Pius in an attempt to find suitable tenant for these facilities, or a suitable utilization rate in this timeframe.*
- *The WECDSB held a special meeting of the Board of Trustees on Wednesday, April 16, 2014 at 6:00 pm at St. Anne Secondary School. The agenda was to discuss the future of the Tecumseh Community of Schools.*
- *The Director of Education, Paul Picard gave opening remarks in which he announced a willingness to change his recommendation to close St. Gregory School, with certain conditions.*
 - *That the Board receive as information the Director's Report on the accommodation review study for the Tecumseh Area, including St. Gregory, St. Peter and St. Pius X Catholic Elementary Schools; and*
 - *That the Board receive public input concerning the Director's Report and the matters that are addressed in it and in the Accommodation Review Committee's [ARC] Report.*

- Following the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees, an opportunity for additional public input is available prior to the Board meeting on May 27, 2014 to vote on the report and recommendations for the Tecumseh Schools.

ACTION REQUIRED:




- Consistent with Motion RCM-149/14, Town staff consider opportunities to broker potential stakeholder partnerships for tenancy at St. Gregory School
 - *to work with the WECDSB Board's administration [planning and financial] to develop a concept plan and identify community stakeholders to support a proposed deferral of the closing of St. Gregory's School and to allow time to explore options and partnerships to support keeping the school open.*
- Obtain input from Town Council on potential assistance and concerns relative to the latest recommendation regarding St. Gregory and St. Pius Schools.
- Meet with community stakeholders to formulate a concept plan for potential users and tenants at St. Gregory School.
- Meet with staff from the WECDSB to review conditions of Director of Education's latest recommendation to the Board of Trustees on April 16, 2014.
- Following the above, develop a draft Concept Plan for review and discussion with Town Council prior to the Board of Trustees meeting on May 27, 2014.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- That the CAO be directed to continue to work with community stakeholders and staff of the WECDSB toward the development of a *Concept Plan* to support deferral of the closing of ST. Gregory School until June 2016.
- That a report be submitted to Town Council prior to the WECDSB Board of Trustees meeting on May 27, 2014.

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**
 Title: **Fwd(2): Idea : Windsor-Essex CDSB**

May-12-14 1:27:36 PM
 Page 1 of :

From:  **Beth Marshall** 
Sharon O'Hagan-Wong
 Wendy Daniel 

Subject: Fwd(2): Idea

To:

Cc:

rec'd April 23/14

----- Original Message -----

Hi Sharon,

Thanks for taking the time last Wednesday night to speak with me at length with regards to French Immersion. I still feel French Immersion is the way of the future. Looking at our 2 neighbouring public schools with French Immersion they are bursting with students and therefore portables!! It saddens me that our schools don't have the same problem.

My concerns, which I expressed to you is, we will continually lose students to the public board. Parents today want convenience, that is quite evident in our everyday life. If they have a choice to either have their kids walk or ride their bike to school over taking a bus they will take the nearby school. I look around at church every week and look for young families coming to church.....they are becoming fewer all the time. This concerns me immensely! Obviously Catholic education is not a priority to them!

An idea I had was to make St. Gregory or Pius French Immersion and English. I understand Tecumseh Vista has an English stream and French Immersion stream. Why can we not?

Repeatedly at our ARC meetings we asked for an information night with regards to French Immersion and we were never provided any information on it. This is a possible solution and it didn't seem to hold any water at our meetings, why?

If we could offer both languages we would be the only Catholic school in the Northshore with both tracks. Our boundaries could reach to St. Mary's boundary. I think we would not only see our enrolment go up but would also see students come over from the public board also. Parents in our community would not have to bus their kids to Vista they instead could ride their bikes to school!

St. Anne's does not have any of their feeder schools with French Immersion, this makes it difficult to maintain that program if we are feeding them the students to keep their program successful!

I emailed Lisa Souillere my ideas with the hope this idea can be at least looked at. It is quite obvious numbers are showing French Immersion works, I just don't understand why we haven't jumped on board yet!

My youngest daughter is in Gr 8 now so I have no selfish reason to fight to keep St. Gregory's open. All you have to do is look at our scores, look how successful academically we are doing, too me it just doesn't make sense. You have one of your most successful schools in the board and a school the board should be so proud of and the board is ready to throw in the towel.....it just saddens me!

I have been at the school for 16 years now, I have been through the years with the mediocre principals and our school suffered. We finally have reached our potential and the board is ready to pull the rug out from underneath us!!

With the savings from the other ARC's can they not do a trial for 2 years with this dual track system of French Immersion and English?

I hope the board will at least look at this as an option.

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**

May-12-14 1:27:36 PM

Title: **Fwd(2): Idea : Windsor-Essex CDSB**

Page 2 of :



Feel free to call or email me with your opinion on this idea. I will continue to work very hard to find a solution that would benefit everyone in our Tecumseh community.

Thanks,
Wendy Daniel

Sent from my iPad

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**
Title: **Fwd(2): 11 th hour : Windsor-Essex CDSB**

May-05-14 2:30:39 PM
Page 1 of

From:  **Beth Marshall** 
Sharon O'Hagan-Wong
Wendy Daniel <~~wendy@stmatthias.ca~~>

Subject: Fwd(2): 11th hour

To:

Cc:

----- Original Message -----

Hi Sharon,

My wheels are still spinning and I am so hopeful we can still come up with a solution for the whole community. Another idea I wanted to run by you.....after seeing 9 buses lined on Banwell Rd waiting to turn onto the expressway at 3:30 today, 9 buses....we could only hope and wish one of our schools would have that!

Is it possible to make St. Pius a French Immersion starting next September? 2014/2015. Phase out the English program each year. Pius then would be in direct competition to Vista. Change the boundary for French Immersion to include St. Gregory boundary and then St. Gregory would encompass English boundary which includes St. Pius. Basically, French Immersion boundary would be the 2 boundaries combined into 1 boundary and the English side would be the 2 boundaries into 1. By doing that one school would not be pulling students into their school. This would give you both an English and French Immersion Catholic school in both communities.

I understand Christ the Kings enrollment has been declining and they are implementing French Immersion even when Notre Dame is a kilometre away.....I am sure our scenario cannot be too different the Christ the King.

As for the costs that the board will incur for the next school year until this would be implemented, the town has offered to work with the board and had offered to help with some of the costs.






Please let me know what you think, somehow I am sure we can find a solution!!


Wendy Daniel

Sent from my iPad

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**
Title: **Re: One correction : Windsor-Essex CDSB**

May-05-14 2:30:55 PM
Page 1 of

From:  **Sharon O'Hagan-Wong**
Subject: Re: One correction
To:  Wendy Daniel < >
Cc:  **Colleen Norris**  **Beth Marshall**

May-05-14 2:10:29 PM 

Wendy Daniel < > writes:

In my last email I sent to you it should have been the French Immersion to start for the 2015/2016 school year. That gives the board 1 year to implement. The savings that will be lost for the 2014/2015 year could maybe be split with the town.

Thanks,
Wendy Daniel

Sent from my iPad




Sharon O'Hagan-Wong
Superintendent of Education
Student Achievement K-12
Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board

"Learning together in faith and service"

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Printed by: **Beth Marshall**
Title: **Fwd: Tecumseh Review : Windsor-Essex CDSB**

May-12-14 11:23:18 AM
Page 1 of

From:  **Beth Marshall** 
"Michael Hebert" 
Director of Education

Subject: Fwd: Tecumseh Review

To:

Cc:

Attachments:  Attach0.html / Uploaded File (8K)

rec'd April 25/14

----- Original Message -----

Good Day All

On behalf of the CSC of St. Pius X, we wish to thank you for our opportunity to present our concerns on May 7th.

We understand that you have concerns in that the Pius community remained quiet through this whole process, kindly do not confuse silence with indifference. All through the process the two most glaring recommendations were status quo OR consolidating St. Gregory with St. Pius. Both recommendations were well received by our council. A status quo position clearly was an acceptable option. The consolidation...and we use that word as oppose to merger or amalgamation, meant two great communities would have an opportunity to work as one.

St. Gregory was extremely vocal and put in an incredible amount of work to try to sustain their current status. They were well organized and quite passionate.

As much as in the end our approach was viewed as indifferent, we like to feel that our quiet position did not take away from St. Greg's efforts.

On April 29th through our regularly scheduled council meeting, we are encouraging all families to come out to express how this new consideration will affect their own family.

We look forward to address our Pius families' concern on May 7th.

Value to the child with an addition of value to the family remains our paramount concern.

We are consistent in our belief that at the end of this process, this total community will remain strong.

Thank you for your time.






As Always, Enjoy Your Day

Michael Hebert

St. Pius X CSC-Chair

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**
Title: **Fwd(2): IB Programme at St. Gregory School : Windsor-E...**


May-12-14 11:16:13 AM
Page 1 of :

From:  **Beth Marshall**  Sharon O'Hagan-Wong  Andrea Altenhof  

Subject: Fwd(2): IB Programme at St. Gregory School

To:

Cc:

Attachments:  Attach0.html / Uploaded File (5K)

rec'd April 28/14

----- Original Message -----

Mrs. O'Hagan-Wong,

My wife and I want to thank you and the trustees for taking some time to speak with us at the conclusion of the meeting on the 16th. After taking some time to enjoy Easter with our family and friends, we have put our thinking caps back on and are trying to come up with a solution to help stop the declining enrolment in our Catholic Schools and in particular in the Tecumseh Area where parents have a number of academically achieving schools and choices of French Immersion, Full French and brand-new buildings.

As you have already witnessed, our family is very devoted to our Catholic Faith and also to Catholic Education, having both graduated from Catholic elementary schools and high schools. In looking at some of the decisions that the board has made in the recent past that is creating an increase in drawing students towards Catholic Schools, the decision to implement an International Baccalaureate Programme at Assumption appears to have done just that.

In researching the IB opportunities at www.ibo.org, as referenced on the Assumption application form, there is an opportunity to begin this programme at the elementary level. St. Gregory school, with its current success on the EQAO testing and Fraser Institute rating would surely be a great location to implement this learning environment. In addition, an open boundary will also help to increase enrolment at St. Gregory. Further to that, the already well stocked musical instrument supply provided by St. Gregory PAC, and speciality teacher established at this school will fit well with the expectations of the IB programme.

We would like to hear your opinion on this. As you know, all of our efforts in keeping St. Gregory school open will only strengthen the Board's commitment to preserving the identity of Catholic Schools especially at a time when there is a movement towards one public system. Preserving St. Gregory school and showing a strong commitment towards Catholic Education is sure to be a defining moment for this Board. One that is sure to attract more of our students back to our system.

Mrs. O'Hagan-Wong, we know this is a busy time, but we would greatly appreciate your response to

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**
Title: **Fwd(2): IB Programme at St. Gregory School : Windsor-E...**

May-12-14 11:16:13 AM
Page 2 of :

this idea.



Kindest regards,



Bill and Andrea Altenhof

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




Printed by: **Beth Marshall**
Title: **Supplemental Accommodation Recommendation St. Piu...**

May-05-14 8:32:35 AM
Page 1 of

From:  Connie Kempe < >
Director of Education

May-03-14 9:51:25 AM  

Subject: Supplemental Accommodation Recommendation St. Pius / St. Greg

To:  Eileen Belanger  Beth Marshall  Paul Picard
 jim_mcmahon@wecdsb.on.ca  barbara_holland@wecdsb.on.ca
 mary_dimenna@wecdsb.on.ca  fred_alexander@wecdsb.on.ca
 joan_courtney@wecdsb.on.ca  john_macri@wecdsb.on.ca
 bernie_mastromattei@wecdsb.on.ca  lisa_soulliere@wecdsb.on.ca
 Director of Education  suptstudentachievement@wecdsb.on.ca
 supthr@wecdsb.on.ca  suptcorporateservices@wecdsb.on.ca
 penny_king@wecdsb.on.ca  patrick_murray@wecdsb.on.ca
 sharonhaganwong@wecdsb.on.ca  mike_seguin@wecdsb.on.ca
 joanne_shea@wecdsb.on.ca  john_ulicny@wecdsb.on.ca
 frank_favot@wecdsb.on.ca  emelda_byrne@wecdsb.on.ca

We strongly urge you to reconsider your most recent recommendation to separate our children. We have two boys at St. Pius and our family will be significantly impacted by such a decision. As two working parents we depend on our older son to care for our younger son before, during, and after school.

We understand that due to the Ministry's demand to optimize resources you must make changes, but, we implore you to not make one that will split our children. Logistically it will simply be unmanageable and force us to relocate. We absolutely do not want to leave the Catholic system where our beliefs and values are shared, but what you are proposing will leave us with no choice.

"Savings...while enhancing the learning experience of our learners" is what you said you wanted to achieve...we thought you did with your original recommendation.

We can appreciate how difficult this process must be and pray that The Lord grant you wisdom when making your final decision.

Thank you,

Greg and Connie Kempe

Sent from my iPad



1325 California Avenue
Windsor, ON N9B 3Y6
CHAIRPERSON: Barbara Holland
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION: Paul A. Picard

DRAFT
SPECIAL REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
St. Anne Secondary School
1200 Oakwood Dr., SS #3, Belle River, ON

MINUTES

PRESENT

Trustees:

J. Courtney	J. Macri
M. DiMenna, Vice-Chair	B. Mastromattei
B. Holland, Chair	J. McMahan
	L. Soulliere
F. Dellosa Student Trustee	
Rev. L. Brunet, Board Chaplain	

Regrets: Trustees Courtney and Favot. Student Trustee Ellepola

Administration:

P. Picard (Resource)	P. Murray
J. Bumbacco	C. Norris
M. Iatonna	J. Ulicny

Recorder: B. Marshall

1. Call To Order - Chair Holland called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
2. Opening Prayer – Fr. Brunet began the meeting with a prayer.

Chair Holland assured members of the audience that the Board meeting was designed specifically to receive public input on the Director’s Supplemental report, the grade 7 and 8 model for the Tecumseh area.

Chair Holland outlined the delegation process and time limit and also mentioned trustees will remain after the meeting to speak to the members of the community.

3. Recording of Attendance – Trustee Courtney sent her regrets due to a work commitment. Trustee Favot sent his regrets due to a work commitment. Student Trustee Ellepola sent her regrets due to attending a conference.

4. Approval of Agenda

AMENDMENTS:

Clerical error: Item 7g) Tellard should read Tellerd

Moved by Trustee DiMenna and seconded by Trustee Macri that the May 7, 2014 Special Regular Board meeting agenda be approved as amended. Carried

5. Disclosure of Interest - Pursuant to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

Trustee Macri disclosed interest in relation to agenda item 6a) Director of Education's Supplemental Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Tecumseh Area, including St. Gregory, St. Peter, and St. Pius X Catholic Elementary Schools due to his sons' employment and did not participate in the discussion or vote on any question raised on that item.

6. Communications:

- a. Report: Director of Education's Supplemental Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Tecumseh Area, including St. Gregory, St. Peter, and St. Pius X Catholic Elementary Schools

Director Picard indicated the supplemental accommodation option was two-fold in its intent. First, to engage the Catholic community in the Tecumseh area in a dialogue with respect to issues surrounding capacity, projections and fiduciary responsibility.

Second, is in response to the Town of Tecumseh's parallel engagement to the process suggesting that it was the will of all in the community to find a way to maintain two Catholic schools within two kilometers of one another.

Director Picard mentioned he looked forward to receiving input regarding the possibility of consolidating grade 7 and 8 students at the St. Gregory site and JK to grade 6 students at the St. Pius X site. The consolidation could affect the necessary financial savings when coupled with a joint usage agreement.

Moved by Trustee Mastromattei and seconded by Trustee Soulliere that the Board receive as information the Director's Supplemental Report on the accommodation review study for the Tecumseh Area, including St. Gregory, St. Peter and St. Pius X Catholic Elementary Schools; and

That the Board receive public input concerning the Director's Supplemental Report.
Carried

7. Delegations:

Delegations Regarding the Director of Education's Supplemental Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Tecumseh Area, including St. Gregory, St. Peter, and St. Pius X Catholic Elementary Schools

- a. Parent, Danielle Chinnery from St. Gregory School to speak about possible sharing of staff and resources that may help reduce the Board's shortfall funding reported in the Director's supplemental report.

Ms. Chinnery spoke to the savings she believed could be realized by the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board if the Board would match the cost per student of the Director, Associate Director and the Superintendent positions with the coterminous boards. Ms. Chinnery discussed the possibility of French Immersion at St. Gregory school.

- b. Parent, Francine Herlehy from St. Gregory School and ARC member to address the Director's revised report recommending the consolidation of JK to 6 student to St. Pius and grades 7 and 8 students to St. Gregory.

Ms. Herlehy commented on the ARC process and requested to maintain the schools as is with continuing monitoring.

- c. Parent, Cynthia Villella from St. Gregory School does not support the Director's amended report.

Ms. Villella compared the ARC process to receiving diagnoses of a life threatening disease and supported French Immersion as a compromise moving forward.

- d. Parent, Mike Rohrer from St. Gregory School to speak to community partnerships.

Mr. Rohrer commented on the necessity to work together as partners to develop a strategy and find common ground. Speaking to reports in the Globe and Mail that suggest a 12% increase in French Immersion, Mr. Rohrer also suggested French Immersion at St. Gregory school.

- e. Parent, William Altenhof from St. Gregory School to speak about the financial and emotional burdens of the supplemental recommendation put forth by the Director.

Mr. Altenhof, from a financial and emotional point of view, does not support the grade 7 and 8 model. Mr. Altenhof also does not support the Town of Tecumseh using tax dollars to assist with cost of the grade 7 and 8 model. He suggested French Immersion at St. Gregory school.

- f. Parent, Dr. Geoff Butler from St. Gregory School to speak about the effects of the supplemental option on large families.

Dr. Butler spoke to family complications that may arise if the grade 7 and 8 model was implemented and requested trustees to consider the options presented by the community.

- g. Parent and Parent Council Member of St. Pius, Karen Tellerd to speak about the before and after school effects of having a separate school for grade 7 and 8 students.

Ms. Tellerd spoke to the potential complications of before and after school day care, leadership, mentorship and planned activities/events if the grade 7 and 8 model was implemented for St. Gregory and St. Pius.

- h. Parent and Parent Council Member of St. Pius, Joelle Long to explain how separating the senior grades in a JK-8 school impacts the daily activities of the teachers and students, as well as the burden to the parent volunteer base.

Ms. Long voiced concerns regarding mentoring, grade 7 and 8 extra-curricular activities offered at the St. Gregory site, morale and spirit of senior grades, specialty programs, parent volunteers and the mental well being of students, staff and parents.

- i. Parent and Parent Council Member of St. Pius, Scott Briscoe to speak to the effects of a potential two year deferral and the effects on the grade 7 and 8 students.

Mr. Briscoe expressed his opposition to the potential two year deferral and questioned the logic of the grade 7 and 8 model in terms of disruptions to families.

- j. Parent and Parent Council Member of St. Pius, Connie Kempe to address the grade 7 and 8 model and the effects on the family.

Ms. Kempe rejects the grade 7 and 8 model and supports the original recommendation of consolidating St. Gregory and St. Pius students at St. Pius based on the resources and supports that would be available at the school for all of the students. She assured all that everyone would be made welcome at St. Pius.

8. Future Board Meetings: *Unless stated otherwise, all meetings will be held at the Windsor- Essex Catholic Education Centre - 1325 California Avenue, Windsor beginning at 7:00 pm.*

- MONDAY, May 26, 2014 – Additional Board meeting at the Catholic Education Centre.
- Tuesday, May 27, 2014 – ***Meeting will be held at Holy Names High School, 1400 Northwood St., Windsor at 7:00 pm.***
- MONDAY, June 23, 2014

Committee of the Whole Board In-Camera Meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm (closed sessions).

9. Closing Prayer – Fr. Brunet closed the meeting with a prayer.
10. Adjournment - There being no further business, the Special Regular Board meeting of May 7, 2014 adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

NOT APPROVED

Barbara Holland
Board Chairperson

Paul A. Picard
Director of Education and Secretary of the Board

Presentations
from the May 7, 2014
Special Board Meeting
at
St. Anne High School

Good evening,

Danielle Chinnery

I am going to speak to savings that could easily be realized by the WECDSB if this board was to match the cost per student of the Director position, the Associate Director (this position does not exist within the public board) and the Superintendent positions to those of the GECDSB.

We have approx. 15,000 fewer students in our board, but according to figures found in the Public Sector Salary Disclosure Document, prepared by the Ministry of Finance for the Province of Ontario -- we pay approx. \$37.00 more per student in salaries associated JUST with the positions listed previously.

If you multiply the \$37.00 by the approx.. 20,000 students in our board -- the realized savings would be just over \$740,000.00 -- nearly ¾ of a Million dollars....

What do we receive for this additional administrative cost: reduced resources, reduction of teacher and support staff, loss of our libraries and now the possible closure of our school(s).... Doesn't seem like money well spent....

Seems like we may have too many Shepherds compared to the amount of Sheep in our flock....

There is however, another VERY viable option, that could be easily implemented following the mold of St. Mary's school (which was also previously slated for closure, and is now seeing growth) -- the addition of French Immersion -- and the grading out of the English. This would benefit not only our school, but also PIUS and St. Annes -- a win/win for our children, three Catholic Schools, our Communities, the WECDSB and Catholic education as a whole and help secure future enrollment numbers....

Instead of handing our children over to the public board either due to closure of schools or programs such as French Immersion -- not being offered -- Let's become PROACTIVE and bring our Catholic children back into the fold....

Both TECE and LAKE are under boundary adjustments for the school year beginning September 2014 due to the growth of the French Immersion program to the extent that in addition to TECE and LAKE, now BRPS and FG will also have the French Immersion track.

ALL of the students attached to these schools, would be within boundary for a French Immersion program should it be implemented in our School.

Since its conception in September of 2011 -- TECE has seen a growth in the FI program to the tune of a realized 55% increase in enrollment to date....

How many of these students are from Catholic families that would love to have the element of a Faith based education for their children, but currently have to make a choice French OR Faith -- WHY not give them BOTH?

Within the WECDSB you have realized the viability of this program with the growth that has been realized at ANNFI to the extent that CTK (which was well-under the 85% utilization rate) is having FI implemented for September of 2014 to help reduce the over-population at the ANNFI location and bring the utilization rate up at CTK.

If it is viable solution/option for CTK , it SHOULD also be a viable option for St. Gregory?

This program as stated previously would be beneficial to St. Gregory, St. Pius and St. Annes in that:

St. Anne's would finally have a French Immersion feeder school

The St. Gregory site would implement the FI program, beginning with JK/SK and Grade 1 (as has been done previously within the board) with the existing English program students being graded out....so that they can graduate as Sabres from their beloved school....

AND

The St. Pius site would see increased enrollment in becoming the English site and accommodating ALL NEW English students within the combined boundaries.

This would be a tremendous benefit to our board, our children and our community.

You have stated previously, that it would be irresponsible to do anything other than close our school -- based on the above, it would be irresponsible for you not to implement this very viable program and keep our Catholic identity flourishing.... Our school and school community have too much to offer and you have too much to lose by not giving this recommendation strong consideration.

DO NOT let the Public board reap all the benefits of being the ONLY French Immersion program available to our Catholic families.

Let's realize the benefits of FAITH and FRENCH combined and not make it a choice that sadly, currently, our Catholic families are having to make....

Presentation to Board of Trustees – May 7, 2014
Francine A. Herlehy, Parent/ARC Member, St. Gregory

- My name is Francine Herlehy and I am grateful for the opportunity to speak to the Director's revised recommendation;
- I appreciate the complexity of the issues before you and I remain optimistic that you, as Trustees of catholic education, will make a decision guided by faith, reason and integrity;
- I am I opposed to the consolidation of St. Pius and St. Gregory in the manner proposed by the Director;

By way of background, I offer the following information to enable you to have some context for my remarks in relation to this recommendation.

- Last spring, I was selected to represent the St. Gregory school community in the ARC process; it has been inspiring to see three school communities, parents, principals, non-teaching staff representatives and community stakeholders come together to undertake the tasks entrusted to us;
- As an ARC Committee, we were assisted by members of our school communities and the broader community who shared their views, their concerns and their research at public meetings, town hall type gatherings, by emails, through phone calls and also random meetings around town;
- We prayed before each meeting; we worked tirelessly, collaboratively, and creatively; we stayed true to our catholic values and our commitment to catholic elementary education;
- As an ARC, we also had access to Board staff at our meetings and were told that additional Board staff would also be available to assist us as we gathered information and formulated our recommendation;
- Trustees, you should know that as ARC members, we often felt unsupported by the Board staff in our work; we were told that

information was not available; we were promised information that was only provided after significant delay; we were often told to be patient; we were told that the staff was supporting 3 ACRS simultaneously and did not have time to address all of our concerns; we were told that there was difficulty identifying board resource people in a position to respond to our inquires; in fact, by the end of the process, we had met only one staff representative from the Board;

- We recognized, at every stage of the process, the fiscal realities faced by the Board; we attempted to consider the business case for each option – as you know, at times we had 5 options before us and many other sub-options under consideration;
- We were hampered in our ability to really address those fiscal realities; we asked for actual and projected expenses related to staffing and operations and we were provided with “Cliff Notes” instead; summaries rather than data; it is hard to contemplate how a group of lay people could be expected to fully consider options and make recommendations in the absence of a true business case for evaluation;
- Only when Minutes of the meetings made their way to the Board website were we provided with much of this information. As you may know, one public meeting was delayed because the Committee had grown frustrated by the lack of timely production of documents and felt we could not proceed further without that information;
- For members of the ARC Committee, this process was never about a building – it was always about catholic education and maintaining strong catholic faith communities in our elementary schools;
- We were proud of our efforts and our final recommendation;
- We were lead to believe that our recommendation to maintain status quo, explore French immersion, consider boundary reviews in the surrounding areas and explore community

partnerships was sound and reasonable in light of the information made available to us;

- Our recommendation falls squarely within Board Policy P RA-05 which indicates the Director is authorized to recommend that the schools be maintained and monitored;
- We were disappointed with the Director's initial Report recommending the closure of St. Gregory's; we learned then that the Director never viewed status quo as anything other than untenable;

Now to the Directors' Revised Recommendation

- The speaking notes from April 16 refer to "***frustration beyond belief that only when threatened with school closure does there seem to be a willingness to seek solutions***"; that was troubling to hear;
- as a tax payer and separate school supporter, I have always trusted the Board to "*make the best and most prudent use of all of the resources available to the Board*" (see Policy A:05 Pupil Accommodation Review);
- I am not sure when or how the fiduciary duty of the Board and its' Administration was transferred to the ARC or the Community at large;
- On April 16, 2014, we learned, as a community, for the first time, that the Director was altering his recommendation; it was apparent that the efforts of the ARC Committee had been largely ignored; it was interesting to hear that the figures we had requested for months during the public meeting stage of the ARC process had suddenly been available to those involved in the formulation of this revised recommendation - apparently over the course of a weekend or a matter of days;
- It appears to me that the promise of no portables is driving this recommendation; it is a temporary fix at best; I believe it to be

no more than a ruse to advance the Administration's recommendation and ultimate goal of closing St. Gregory;

- the Terms of Reference for the ARC process required consideration of the 4 components of the School Information Profile
 1. value to the student
 2. value to the school board
 3. value to the community
 4. Value to the local economy –
with value to the student considered and weighed above all other components; it is near impossible for me to reconcile how those components are met in this proposed recommendation;
- This recommendation further divides our school communities and in many cases, divides families; it hampers any future efforts to recruit new catholic families to our area and to our schools; it places the blame on changing demographics or the failure to properly plan for those changes on the children attending these schools;
- It is troubling to see that we still have only a short term plan for elementary education in the Tecumseh Area;
- We have the heard the Public Board's short and medium term plan for their schools in our community; we have witnessed the community support behind those plans – largely because of the transparency of their process; their decisions have created stability for those families selecting public education; our process has done nothing more than create additional uncertainty about the future of catholic elementary education in Tecumseh;
- With all due respect to all Trustees and Board Staff, the division of our schools in this way is no solution; I would ask you, as our Trustees, to maintain the schools and to continue to monitor them – as is clearly authorized in your own Pupil Accommodation Review Procedure PR A -05 at paragraph 4.3 :

PR A O5 – paragraph 4.3 the Director's Report to the Board

reporting on the results of the public consultation process and providing an analysis and recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

The recommendation(s) contained in the report shall consist of one or more of the following:

a) To maintain the schools and to continue to monitor them;

- Just to be clear, I oppose the consolidation of St. Pius and St. Gregory in the manner proposed by the Director;
- St. Gregory is situated in a growth area for a School Board that has many schools located in areas where further development is not possible – I urge the Board to defer any decision on this matter for two years, to allow the benefits of the recent housing developments and the community's continued effort to generate community partnerships, and recruitment of new catholic students;
- I encourage the Board to fully consider the viability of French immersion at St. Pius and/or St. Gregory as there is an obvious demonstrated interest in this offering and it is not being met.
- That is not to say that we should compete with the French catholic board; I simply recommend the Board consider offering a full array of educational options to our Tecumseh families;
- French Immersion has generated untold increases in enrollment in the public school system;
- I note as well that while French Immersion is offered at St. Anne's High School, St Anne's currently does not have a feeder elementary school to provide French immersion candidates;
- Alternatively, the Trustees are urged to defer the closure of St. Gregory until such time as the implementation can be carried out without the use of portables at St. Pius;
- Obviously, this is an emotional issue for many of us; we are married to our school communities; it must always be about more

than just a building – it must be about our children being educated in a catholic faith community; it must be about recognizing and rewarding the successes of our principals and teachers and our children

- Last time we gathered, we heard a parent say “if you show someone death, they will choose illness”; that has stuck with me in the days since that meeting; I believe we have options for healing;
- I am a taxpayer, I am a supporter of the catholic school board; I am a voter; I will always look for solutions; I will always do what is in the best interests of my children; I will always choose catholic education; but I will also demand that the Board entrusted to deliver these programs acts in a manner that is both fiscally responsible and in the best interests of our children, all the while keeping with our core catholic values;
- I continue to pray that our Trustees will give full and fair consideration to all information available and do what is right and defensible.
- I thank you for your kind attention this evening.

May 7, 2014

My name is Cynthia Vilella and I come before you again tonight as a parent and community member of St. Gregory School.

There was a statement made by a fellow parent at the last board meeting on April 16, that although I feel was an accurate analogy of our current situation, it has been quoted, misunderstood and used against us. That statement was "...when presented with death....one may choose illness" (Mike Rohrer).

I would like to take a few moments and present a situation to the Board of trustees based on my background in healthcare, oncology and palliative care.

You are in your doctor's office for a routine appointment. You are confronted with a result from a minor test that indicates you have a malignant mass that is life threatening and will require treatment. They have not used the word CANCER....as this would give a different message....much like this ARS procedure....as it used to be named the School Closure protocol until 2009 when its' name was changed to decrease panic.

They have told you that the extensive treatment over the course of 10 months would be grueling, frustrating, time consuming, and take time away from your family, but would give you a chance of surviving your illness. They stress to you that despite the 10 months of hell that you were about to face it would be worth it, because this treatment has been studied and used in the past and you can trust that it will be effective. When you ask about the financial burden of the treatment, your physician states, don't worry, this will not effect finances.

The months carry on....you are not able to work, you are too sick to enjoy the things that make you happy, or spend time with family....and more importantly this promising treatment is not showing to have any improvement on your malignant mass....as your treatment nears the end, you are now being hit with the untold financial burdens...the expenses that if only your doctor told you about them....your plan and your decisions may have been different or in the least very much more thought out.

Your doctor tells you at your last visit that despite your efforts, you are going to die. So see the statement the Mike Rohrer made is actually quite accurate....when faced with illness or death....most of us would choose illness....however illness does not mean to have no quality of life, but the chance to live with our illness and prepare for the road ahead. Spend quality of time with our family and our friends. Plan memorable events knowing that they might be our last.

The families and community members of St. Gregory School have recognized that despite our well articulated research and comprehensive strategies to keep our school open as status quo, that this is not possible. Unfortunately, if our Accommodation Review Committee had been given more detailed information early on in this process about the financial goals of administration, our decisions and recommendations most likely would have been much more focused and possible more parallel on those goals. But like most communication, if key components are eliminated, it is very difficult to make an informed decision. Just like that patient that is not given the information that the drugs are still in the research phase so they are therefore not financially covered, the best supportive medications are not financially covered, you will be too sick to go to work, therefore you will have

to be on disability... the list goes on and I think you can all see the point I am trying to make. Accurate communication is what makes transparency equal TRUST.

So here I am today....clarifying that St. Gregory's school does not choose illness in the sense that we would choose our school to stay open only to see our families and friends separated from one another in the proposed K-6 and 7/8 model. We DO NOT support Mr. Picard's amended report. But what I am stating is that we would except illness in the sense that would like to have the opportunity to work with you, the administration on a treatment plan that would see a French immersion program started at St. Gregory School to benefit the entire Tecumseh community!

We as a community and school family have been forced to enter the grieving process. DENIAL, ANGER, BARGAINING, DEPRESSION and finally ACCEPTANCE.

We are far from acceptance but I feel we are getting closer to a suitable compromise that can be a win-win plan for both the Board and the communities. French Immersion is growing by leaps and bounds every year within our community. In discussing this plan with only a few individuals early this week, I already have a list of 12 children that would enter this program! And I am only one person.

Imagine if your physician gave you the name of your illness and told you that you needed to look into your own treatment plan. And if they didn't answer your questions at your appointments, but told you they would post the answers on the hospital website. Do you think that this should be an acceptable standard of care for yourself or a loved one?

This process is flawed, we know it, you know it and the Ministry knows it. We need a more constructive approach in certain communities to creatively maintain catholic education and possibly expand other programs into the system to create a product that will attract students back into our schools. The Town of Tecumseh is a French community....French Immersion is a reasonable program to bring to this community.

We were told at the beginning of this process to embrace it and trust it....we did....and we want to be given the opportunity to embrace a new French immersion program at St. Gregory school and are committed to work closely with administration to ensure it flourishes within our community.

The most important thing for any patient is HOPE!

We do not accept the death of our community's educational institution and catholic landmark, we want to continue to share in our academic achievements and our catholic faith together. Our treatment plan of French Immersion is a CURE! There will understandably be expenses associated with implementing this program, but like all successes the investment is worth the gain. The potential success for a French immersion program in the town of Tecumseh does not come with a price tag....it is priceless!

William Althouse

May 7th, 2014

I would like to firstly thank the Board and Trustees for their time and efforts in this critically important process and for giving me the opportunity to once again speak, specifically in addressing the Board's supplemental recommendation.

Firstly, from a financial point of view the supplementation recommendation is flawed. The shifting of all grade 7 and 8 students, from St. Gregory and St. Pius, to St. Gregory will lower the Utilization Rate from 79% to 54%, at this school. And with the new ministry funding 'top-up' model, will result in funding to 65% of the school's capacity. Consolidating all JK through grade 6 students at St. Pius, will result in a utilization rate of 89%, permitting funding, with the support of the ministry, to 95%. In the supplemental recommendation, a 41% short-fall in funding will be achieved. Compare this figure to the case where both academic institutions are left as JK through grade 8 will result in a short-fall of 15%. It is very clear and evident from an operating point of view, that it is far more appropriate to exploit the higher utilization rates.

On the topic of reduced teaching positions, to save costs, I question where this concept fits within the Board's Accommodation Review Study criteria.

As a taxpayer within the Town of Tecumseh, I support and acknowledge that partnership programs between the Town and various school boards exist. In many aspects of life we see how benefits are far greater when groups combine resources for communities. For example, I note the involvement of the Town of Tecumseh with the French School Board contributing towards the theater and soccer fields at L'Essor High School. Additionally, this own Board's involvement with the Town on the Baseball fields at St. Peter Grade School. However, I

provided solutions to strengthen Catholic Education and student enrollment throughout Tecumseh and potentially beyond to deal with declining enrolment.

The Tecumseh area needs a Catholic Elementary French Immersion school. St. Anne's High School has a French Immersion program but does not have a French Immersion feeder school. As a result, this program is not being run to its full potential. There is no effective way for this program to actively recruit students. The St. Anne's high school French Immersion program relies on students leaving the public French Immersion program or the Full French program from either the Public or Catholic Boards.

A phased in French Immersion program at St. Gregory School would be in the Board's best interest to attract more students to this school, especially at this critical time as new homes are being constructed and new and young families are entering into this area. Parents within Tecumseh are choosing French Immersion as witnessed by the rapid influx of students at Tecumseh Vista and Lakeshore Discovery. However, given a choice, many parents would prefer a neighbourhood community school like St. Gregory. The established positive reputation of this school with the added bonus of a phased-in French Immersion program would surely help to increase enrolment at this school. There is no other practical option available for families seeking Catholic French Immersion in this area.

Positioning of a French Immersion program at St. Gregory School is very wise as a large number of students, currently attending Tecumseh Vista and Lakeshore Discovery French Immersion, are located on the north shore of the Tecumseh/Lakeshore area. The position of the school, as well as its appropriate 'right-size' for an elementary school, should draw more students to St. Gregory.

In closing, the supplemental recommendation, offers no mechanism to provide value to the student, the board, the community, and the local economy. Nor does it promote sustainability of the schools. The splitting of the school communities will not only significantly reduce the values which the board, teachers, and communities have created but also result in no solid approach to increase enrolment. Options which have been presented to the Board, through the ARC, especially the concept of a phased-in French Immersion Program at St. Gregory School, should be considered as no one wishes to permanently close the doors to any exceptional Catholic elementary school. St. Gregory the Great, the namesake of our school, is the Patron Saint of students and teachers. There is no doubt that throughout this ARC process, St. Gregory has been instrumental in guiding our school community to find solutions to ensure that Catholic Education remain vibrant, accessible, and the best option for Catholic families and students in Tecumseh and the surrounding areas.

Thank you.

I'm Geoff Butler and I thank you for allowing me to speak. I have five children. Three currently attend St. Gregory's. If the proposed division of St. Pius and St. Greg's were allowed to unfold, next year I would have them enrolled in five different schools. Surely, all parents can appreciate the practical complications that having our children dispersed will involve. If this were the right decision, I would embrace it as a tool to teach my children about sacrifice for the greater good.

However, what is the greater good here? Should they see me go along with what I believe to be a faulty process and painful short-sightedness, or should I teach my children that they don't need to blindly follow where they are led, or accept actions that disrespect them or others?

At the last meeting my family wore shirts describing our intention to go to the public system should St. Gregory's close. I was informed by parents and members of this administration through multiple phone calls that it might be the wrong approach. If any of you would dismiss your objectivity and vote to oppose something simply because you were offended by the reality that some of us will face, then you have forgotten your purpose and are undermining this process. The duties of a trustee are many, but most importantly a trustee must:

- 1) Defend the trust
- 2) Be Loyal
- 3) Administer in the best interest of the beneficiaries (The children.)

The director has emphasized a number of times the need for the board to practice both transparency and accountability. I feel, this current process dishonours those very things.

First, I have spoken with administrative staff as well as trustees and the consistent opinion (off the record of course) was that this was a done deal and St. Gregory's was closing. If something is predetermined, then, irrespective of how much information is on a somewhat difficult-to-navigate website, this is not transparency.

Second, the purpose of the ARC committee was (I quote) "to report and make recommendations on future pupil accommodation options for the Tecumseh Area". To this end, the committee invested their time looking at issues that impacted on pupil enrolment. It is hard to reconcile this mandate with the solution put forth by the Director at the last meeting. There was no mention of savings as a result of no

longer 'topping up' to the golden 85%. No mention of savings for no longer running an inefficient building. This was simply the elimination of 7 jobs. If this process of pupil accommodation has been a smokescreen to justify cutting jobs then it should be reviewed. I guarantee you that the ARC committee and certainly the teacher's association would have handled this differently if the mandate had been "please report and make recommendations on the feasibility of cutting 5 teaching positions, 1 ECE position and 1 support staff position."

Furthering this sentiment is the minimal degree to which both schools are below the 85% threshold. They have both been hamstrung by the lack of full time JK and SK and yet still sit at a combined 77% capacity. If you simply apply the number of builds predicted by the town in the next couple years with the Watson report's rate of pupil growth you get 63-90 students entering the system. Please be aware that you, the trustees, will be closing a school that could sit at 83-85.6% enrolment. This is without considering border changes, french immersion, community partnerships or anything else.

However, is this what the board is looking for? I would ask the question and many others like it but there is no effective question and answer avenue to this process. Indeed, we are told in this 'open' process, what points of view this panel will indulge hearing. This only serves to frustrate everyone involved and reduces the ARC process to an exceptionally ineffectual posturing at public debate and parental involvement. It speaks again to the lack of transparency. Are we looking for 85% enrolment or is it actually 100%? How long does a school have to be below the 85% threshold before it is on the chopping block?

I have had to tell my children that it seems it's all about money. The solution to the current dilemma notes that eventually the portables at St. Pius will be replaced by a permanent addition. How much will that cost? Where are those numbers? Consider that the addition to Vista is estimated to cost \$13000000.

A large family operating at any household income must be aware of a budget. What can I teach my children about the budgetary priorities of this Catholic school board family? I can tell them that the budget for 2014-15 is \$239 758 463. A \$500,000 savings represents 0.2% of expenditures. I don't wish to dismiss the importance of this savings but to point out that this board chooses to spend this amount, the sum attached to the survival of our school community, 500 other times in one year. For example, the board offices cost 3.1 million dollars to upgrade. If that is worth a 3.1 million dollar investment then I think that 800 students, roughly

4% of your pupils, are deserving of similar commitment.

I pray that you recognize that the current process has been rushed, flawed and deserves more time if nothing else. You are, in haste, on the verge of throwing the babies out with the bathwater. There is a reason that faith development and student achievement are priorities above corporate management. You stipulate repeatedly that savings will allow the pursuit of programs that are good for the students but you fail to see that these programs are already in place at both St. Pius and St. Greg's.

You, are charged with a trust and a responsibility to be loyal to our children's best interests. Let them see an administration that invests in them... And in fairness... And in effective due process that is in alignment with this board's mandate and the spirit of Catholic education.

I tell my kids that too often, personal accountability is diluted in the anonymity of a group... Will *you* claim your vote without regret or reservation if years from now, a weaker board is scrambling to finance a new learning environment to replace the one it already had in St Gregory? If the Catholic board collapses into the public system, will you consider it a mystery, or be brave enough to identify the small missteps that lead us all there. Teach the children in this very large family; teach the community that watches, something good about the integrity of Catholic education.

Good evening everyone,

Firstly, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak to you this evening. My name is Karen Tellerd. I have 2 children that attend St. Pius school and I am here to speak to you about why we do not support the supplemental accommodation option of a separate school for Grades 7 and 8 students.

Upon having many discussions with fellow parents about this new recommendation a re-occurring theme continued to present itself. We are asking ourselves what VALUE would this add to my childs life? What VALUE would this recommendation bring to my family? Upon trying to answer that question we are seeming only to find challenges instead of ways that this will add value to our childs life and enhance his or her learning experience.

Today I have chosen to speak with you about only one of those challenges. The effect that this proposal would have on the before and after school lives of families.

I am an active parent in the school community, I am also an active parent in my childrens extra curricular activities. However I am a working parent as well. Being a working parent., or any parent for that matter requires a great degree of scheduling to make the household run properly. When many families are presented with the possibility of an older sibling being at a separate location from a younger sibling it creates substantial issues within the household in regards to getting children to and from school and after school care, as well as causes many to have safety concerns for the younger children.

How will the younger child in a family get to school if the older child is unable to assist with this process? What we would be looking at in a split school scenario is a large increase in bus transportation for many students. Where traditionally many older siblings would be responsible for walking younger siblings to school, or taking them to the bus stop, this would no longer be an option. Families would be left with several challenging scenarios.

- 1. The older sibling and the younger sibling are both taking the bus. With each student being at a different school we would potentially be looking at different pick-up times, or different bus stops, or different busses altogether. In many instances this would certainly leave a younger child standing alone waiting for the bus, or with nobody to walk them to the bus stop at all.**

2. An older sibling normally walks the younger sibling to school. With both students now being at separate schools, and at least one of the students very likely to be taking a bus and not walking at all, how than, will the younger child get to school or the bus stop?

This brings me to my second point which is before and after school childcare. The last several years we have been seeing the phasing in of full day learning for JK and SK students. This initiative while giving many of our youngest students an enhanced educational experience, has also done wonders to ease the burden of childcare for many families. With the proposed supplemental accommodation many families in our school community would once again be looking at adding the burden of childcare back into their lives.

In many families it is very common for an older sibling to collect a younger child from school, see them safely home and care for them until a parent is able to arrive. With many of our families being split between 2 schools the older child would be unable to assist with the younger child leaving many parents no option but to find before and after school care for the younger child.

When we are discussing older children assisting in getting younger children home safely, this is not something that occurs strictly with siblings. We have many children that walk home from school daily. I walk my own children home from school most days and I have had the absolute pleasure of watching the natural dynamic of the students from our school. The kids are often clustered together in groups and they

look out for one another. I have many times seen an older student assist a younger student crossing the street. I often see an older child wait at the bottom of the driveway to make sure a younger child gets all the way in the door safely. I have even seen some of our older students stand up for a younger student getting picked on while walking home from school. The natural leadership that these children display is nothing short of amazing. If we were to take away the senior students from the school this makes the experience of children walking home much different and many parents, especially those just transitioning a child into walking home independently, will have safety concerns that they did not experience when the senior students were also walking home.

Reflecting back on what I have said this evening, it could certainly be said

that we rely on the senior students in our school for a lot. Yet time and time again I have personally seen these children rise to the challenge. They have stepped up to the plate, so to speak, and made themselves invaluable to us as a community in both their practical assistance as well as the leadership that they display each and everyday both inside our school walls and out in the community.

I would ask that you consider this when you make your final decision.

Thank you so much for your time this evening.

Joelle Long
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St Pius X

Good evening, Trustees, Superintendents, Director and the Tecumseh school community. My name is Joelle Long, and I am the parent of three children currently enrolled at St. Pius X. I am here this evening to tell you why splitting our school diminishes the value of our child's education, and also the value of our Families as cohesive unit. The St. Pius community does not believe a split school is the answer. We believe strongly that our children's education will be impacted negatively by this decision, especially during the typical school day.

St. Pius X, as well as many other schools, take pride in the fact that the older students are mentors to their siblings, as well as other classmates in the school system. At St. Pius the grade 7's and 8's offer plenty of help for the teachers with primary grade students. The grade 6 and 7 students look forward to one day helping the students in the younger grades. How much mentoring will take place in the new 7-8 building? Peer Pals has been a terrific program for assistance and mentoring behavior in the school yard during recess periods. Senior grades at St. Pius X offer great assistance to the staff with general daily activities, Mass trips, lab time. The older children also help with houseleague sports which is a large program at St. Pius. Will there even be houseleagues in a K-6 school without the older students to support the program? What will happen to this mentorship when the two oldest grades are gone?

We as a community are extremely concerned about the extra-curricular activities that will be offered to the grade 7 and 8's in their new building. Currently, St. Pius X has a Chess Club, Math Team, Tech Team, Choir, as well as most of the major sports (basketball, soccer, vball, badminton) St. Pius math Team ranks 1st and 2nd with monthly test scores in the Essex county. Some of these smaller teams and clubs offer a great team experience to those not involved in athletic sports activities. How will such a substantially smaller teacher base at the new school be able to support ALL of these extra-curricular clubs, activities as well as regular duties such as yard duty? This brainchild doesn't sound like it could provide an enhanced learning experience for our children.

Our Community believes the Morale and Spirit of the senior grades will be diminished due to their low numbers. Without as many opportunities to be on teams, the bond is not formed like those in larger schools, with more teams and clubs to foster school spirit. What kind of pride can the children have going to a building which may not be around in two years? The senior grades at St. Pius X are currently in charge of organizing and executing Spirit Assemblies for the entire school. The Muskoka Experience is one of creating leaders, who will these 7/8 students be leaders for during their Catholic school journey? We want our older children to have the same experience and pride in organizing events like this for the younger children in their school. For anyone; teacher OR student, it's tough to gain enthusiasm for a temporary assignment and have Faith in our Future.

The St. Pius X computer lab is state of the art, and the students along with their Computer Specialty Teacher helped it develop and grow. Why should the same children that helped develop the lab, now be taken away from it? The senior lab helpers often help the younger students with "green screens" and videotaping. The Tech Team is an entity that has spawned from our Computer lab at St. Pius X. This team is currently in charge of setting up school masses, and assemblies at their school. This is a great source of pride for these students, a terrific asset for the staff, and is part of an enhanced learning experience

for all children. Will the 7/8 classes have a Computer Specialty teacher, and a state of the art lab assisting with these valuable skills heading into high school?

Last, but not least- the Parent Volunteer Base of split schools suffers greatly. At St. Pius we currently have a strong and committed volunteer group who donate their efforts during the day and throughout the year. You are now forcing parents to decide which event to attend, which sports team to drive for. We are now dividing our time between two schools; Pizza Day at one, OR driving for a field trip at another. Great school success comes from %100 investment in one school. One parent council, strongly motivated, highly involved and committed.

The drive to protect the Mental health of the child was supposed to be the focus recently in the Windsor Essex boards, with The ABC's of mental health website and Resources for teachers and Parents. Are we seriously focusing on the mental health of the child and their families by veiling their future with uncertainty? The St. Pius community interests do not reside in preserving a building, our interests remain with the preservation of our child's education and their family unit. We need to know our trustees can navigate us down the proper path, one of Greater enhanced learning in the Catholic school system together with our families at one school.

Good evening, Trustees, Superintendents, Director and the Tecumseh school community. My name is Scott Briscoe and I am a proud parent of two small children enrolled at St. Pius School. As a parent actively engaged in my children's school life, I felt compelled to attend every ARC meeting to keep abreast of what is happening.

I have spent my entire career working with businesses and organizations throughout North America and am now a Professor at St. Clair College. I must say, I have never before witnessed a process anything like what our local community is facing now in regards to these school closings.

I have been silent so far as I understood what was being done and accepted the outcomes based on the previous recommendations. The supplemental accommodation option put forth by the board involving splitting the schools into JK to grade 6 at St. Pius and grades 7 & 8 at St Gregory took everyone by surprise and I felt that I could not stay silent any longer.

You will hear and have heard many reasons why this is not a good idea and I would like to share my opinion on why I agree that this is not a viable option as it directly relates to the identity of each school and the students.

This process has succeeded in accomplishing only one thing - adding a divisive wedge into the collective of the community. It has pitted schools against schools and parents against parents. Instead of embracing change and preparing for an opportunity, students are now fearing the worst based on parental guided assumptions and hyperbole. It troubles me to see what has happened and the sad part is, it didn't have to be this way.

I grew up in LaSalle and moved to Tecumseh roughly 15 years ago when I got married. One of the main reasons I chose to move where I currently reside was the proximity to St. Pius School and the overall quality of the Catholic school system. I loved the "*togetherness*" of the community, the shared values and the core set of beliefs I knew would one day be shared with my children.

In the past ARC meetings, you have heard from countless people speaking to why moving children from a school is a bad idea. I am not going to begin to recap everything that was said because we have heard the same reasons at every ARC meeting. Yet, with all of the reasons stated and provided to the board for review, a supplemental accommodation option was put forth by the board that disregarded everything that was said. It was almost as if all of the "*testimony*" so impassionedly eloquated on the communities' behalf was overlooked without a second glance! Why is this?

How could the board feel that this is a suitable option? There is a reason why the ARC recommendations didn't include this option - it simply isn't viable for many reasons.

In our schools there is a large focus on school unity, cohesiveness, sharing, and mentorship. Our students are proud to be "*Pacers*" and I know that St. Gregory's are proud to be "*Sabres*".

The proposal at hand will single handily dismantle the identities of each school. You are going to take all of the lower grade students and place them at St. Pius and the higher grade students at St. Gregs. Not only

are you eliminating the peer mentorship element that is so important to the students but in many cases, you are separating siblings from one another.

This proposal includes a probationary period of two years to see if this works. I ask what the dominant criteria is for this evaluation. Increased enrollment? If so, enrolment where? I know the theoretical intent behind this (waiting to see if St. Gregs enrollment increases) but how does the Board envision this working if prospective incoming students of lower grades of St. Gregs will not actually be going to St. Gregs but rather to St. Pius! If this is the case, what if the parents don't want to uproot their children and disrupt their lives and just keep them at St. Pius? What do you do then? Force them to change schools?

I am trying desperately to understand the logic behind this proposal. For this two year period, where does St. Pius start and St. Gregs end? Where is the school spirit? The common cause? How vested will the students be if they know that in a short period of time, they may be gone? We are moving our older children to an island and robbing them of their chance to experience and grow as a leader. What about sports teams? Clubs? Assemblies, helper programs? Who will the younger grades aspire to? Who will they look up to as an example? A leader?

Scott Williams was once quoted as saying "*leaders develop more leaders*". I believe this is why students participate in the Muskoka Woods leadership trip. Who do you expect to lead the way for our younger children as no one will be left to fill this void. Younger students wait for the day when they will become the "*leaders*" of the school. With this proposal, these students will now face an entirely new reality. How excited will these students be if they know that when they reach grade 7, they will be shipped off to a different school?

I truly believe that this recommendation is an exercise in futility as any attempt to increase enrollment will be dampened by the reality of the situation. What family would enroll their children in a dysfunctional setup as the one proposed? Imagine a family consisting of children in grades 4 & 6 potentially moving into the area. They will both start in the same school, then they will be separated and possibly uprooted again in 2 years to end up where they started! Why would anyone choose to enroll their children and subject them to this type of atmosphere when alternative stable accommodations are available elsewhere? If you are entirely honest with yourself, would you? Would anyone here?

School is supposed to provide a solid foundation for our children, not one built on shifting land. I remember in one of the past ARC meetings, a St. Gregs parent stood up and said that the board hindered the schools efforts of increasing enrollment because parents were not willing to enroll their students in a school that could be closing in the very near future. How would what's proposed here change this?

I ask you, isn't that argument true here? Even more so? Not only could the school close, but the school itself will no longer be a school, rather a "layover" stop for students of grades 7 & 8 waiting for the inevitability of this doomed experiment. What is the incentive for these parents? Where is the connection for the students? There simply isn't one.

This recommendation is not viable for many reasons and at the end of the day, the only real winners here will be A.V Graham & DM Eagle. Thank you for your time and consideration.

St. Pius X Feedback to the Supplemental Accommodation Option Presented April 16, 2014: Explanation of the Silent Position and Follow-up

I understand, until now, you have not received feedback from our St. Pius X community. Please do not mistake our silence as one of indifference. You have had our attention since this process began. We have been observing and listening and opted to avoid the awkwardness your process generates by creating a school verse school mentality. Until now our St. Pius X community, aware of the fiscal reality of the WECDSB and the need for maximizing the effective use of Board resources, understood and welcomed both the plea for status quo as well as your original recommendation of consolidating the two Schools. However, today we cannot express strongly enough our opposition to your recommendation to split up our children for the reasons presented here tonight.

I can't comprehend how a Board who has historically supported the "grandfather rule" when making boundary changes to avoid splitting families, recognizing the negative implications, can now recommend such an action. Not only is this option less feasible and lacking sustainability, the negative impact will affect more families than either the status quo or full consolidation.

Our children grow so quickly and will be separated soon enough. Don't cause this to happen prematurely and lose valuable bonding opportunities as they care for each other both at school and at home. I urge everyone here to consider for a moment the value our children and families can derive from a larger school, such as less need for split classes, increased resources, activities and special programs, to name a few.

Unfortunately, the status quo was deemed an unreasonable option by the Board and although change is uncomfortable we adamantly cannot support this latest accommodation option and urge you to reconsider in favour of family and community unity. To be clear, in the best interest of our families, we at St. Pius firmly reject this recommendation and fully support the original recommendation of consolidation.

We have chose not to view it as a change to fear, but as an opportunity to revitalize and strengthen our children's learning environment. To quote my 12 year old son "it will be so cool to have more kids at school...I hope they like to play soccer". Behind his words were obvious feelings of excitement and optimism. Like my son, and others at St. Pius, we sincerely welcome and open our doors to the St. Gregory's community and invite them to join us in creating a positive Christian learning environment for all our children.

Thank you,

Connie Kempe
St. Pius X Parent
12638 Ballard
Tecumseh ON N8N 1J3
(519) 739-9520 / ckempe@cogeco.ca

Written submissions
received at the
May 7, 2014
Special Board Meeting

Writer: Shirley Dion, Parent, St. Pius

Rec'd at the May 7th
meeting

Friends and Families,

My son is a kindergarten student at St. Pius. Chances are that any outcome of this accommodation review will not directly affect him now. However, I am still compelled to speak to you tonight.

First, I want to clearly say that I do not support the recommendation of Kindergarten to Grade 6 at the St. Pius site and Grades 7/8 at the St. Gregory site. I agree strongly with the many reasons being presented this evening.

In the event that there is no other option than to merge the two schools, I want to express how important it is to have enough time to make a smooth transition for the sake of the children.

I can speak from our own experience. Our oldest son started kindergarten in 1992 in the Bishop Cody French Immersion programme and over the last 22 years as our other children have passed through their elementary years we have experienced our share of pizza days, family nights, PAC meetings and sadly—2 school closures.

The first closure came as the neighbouring school, St. Christopher, was outgrowing their aging building. It was decided to move the students into the Bishop Cody building and merge the Bishop Cody and St. Anne French Immersion communities at the St. Anne site. Although the decision to move was not easy for parents to accept, care was taken to ensure that the transition would be a positive experience. The students had the opportunity to meet several times, both in the Bishop Cody site and the St. Anne site. Parents were welcomed into the new facilities to become familiar with the new surroundings and teachers. By September, the children were excited to start school with all the new friends they had met. The time also allowed for logistics to be sorted through. This included portables being moved in, equipment and other French materials moved in, classrooms rearranged, class lists set and bus routes reorganized. Parental input was always respected.

The second full school closure was the closure of St. Andrew. This was a very rapid closure with no preparation for the children. This resulted in only a small number of parents accepting the Board's recommendation and moving their

children to St. Angela. A great number of parents moved their children to Hugh Beaton which is the neighbourhood public school.

Experiencing the two situations, I can tell you that the time invested to unite the two school communities is well worth it.

Next, I want to say that I am strongly in favor of exploring ways to bring the French Immersion programme to the St. Gregory site.

The French Immersion Programme at Bishop Cody started as a small school of children from Kindergarten to Grade 4 and expanded to its full program as the children advanced. It quickly grew to the point where a north/south boundary was established and St. Anne French Immersion opened. Families who enrolled their children in this program were very dedicated to it and sincerely appreciated the value of having French as a second language.

At the time when Bishop Cody and St Anne were consolidated, I was very involved in the school. I had the opportunity of knowing many parents personally. The biggest concern of the parents I spoke to, who decided not to follow the French Immersion programme was simply the distance and bussing to St. Anne.

I have always thought the growth of the French Immersion programme was stunted due to its location and limited capacity. I think that if French Immersion schools were more accessible the program would quickly gain momentum again.

I think that another French Immersion site at Christ the King is great! However, I think that the population of Tecumseh is growing and that a French Immersion presence is needed here too. I think that the proof is in the enrollment in the public schools and in their French Immersion programs.

You have the building, town support and a great group of parents willing to make this happen. I agree that French Immersion is a viable way to bring enrollment back to St. Gregory.

In concluding, I do recognize that due to shifting demographics, and ever-changing policies and budgets, tough decisions need to be made. I am concerned

at the effect this is having on our Catholic education. Numbers are constantly dropping and schools are continuing to close. I know that some of it is due to declining population, but there are far too many catholic children in public schools. We need to ask "why". Maybe now is the time to start thinking "out of the box." We need to stand up for our Catholic education and live up to the mission statement: "Learning together in Faith and Service". Schools are precious and we should be ashamed to let even one more gem slip away.




I strongly support education based in our Catholic Faith. I think it is our moral mandate to promote it!

**Correspondence received
subsequent to the release
of the Director's Followup Report**

Tecumseh - ARC

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**
Title: **Fwd: FW: Tecumseh ARC Recommendation : Windsor-Es...**

May-20-14 3:41:03 PM
Page 1 of :

From: **Beth Marshall** 
Barb Holland <Barb.Holland@hollandbenefits.com>
Subject: Fwd: FW: Tecumseh ARC Recommendation
To: **Beth Marshall**
Cc:
Attachments:  Attach0.html / Uploaded File (27K)  Attach0.html / Uploaded File (22K)

From: Steve Dufour
Sent: May-15-14 12:02 PM
To: Barb Holland; bholland834@gmail.com; Barbara Holland; mary_dimenna@wecdsb.on.ca; fred_alexander@wecdsb.on.ca; joan_courtney@wecdsb.on.ca; frank_favot@wecdsb.on.ca; john_macri@wecdsb.on.ca; bernie_mastromattel@wecdsb.on.ca; lisa_soulliere@wecdsb.on.ca; jim_mcmahon@wecdsb.on.ca

To all trustees

As parents of students currently attending St. Gregory we are very disappointed in the Directors latest recommendation to the Board in regard to the Tecumseh ARC process.

As a result of the ARC process, the Director is recommending, a "study be conducted commencing in the 2014/2015 school year to determine if in fact a void exists for French language programming and where that could be best addressed in our Catholic school system". He is also recommending, "the St. Gregory facility be closed in June 2014, but not be declared surplus to the board for the 2014/2015 school year, so that it would be available should the Board in its study determine that it would be the suitable location to address a system need for French Immersion."

The two recommendations above, makes us question if Administration has developed a long term plan for the Catholic French Immersion Program.

We hope that as Trustees making a critical decision which impacts hundreds of children and potential several communities, you have been provided with a clearer picture of exactly what the Director is recommending. Have you been provided with the answers to the following questions? If yes, can you please forward to the attached list of parents Administration's response to these questions. Please inform us if you are unable to provide responses to these questions as if you are not, we will request this information from Administration.

1) What is the plan if the results of the 2014/15 study referred to above, show that there is a need for French Immersion in the Tecumseh, East Riverside, Lakeshore, and Forest Glade communities? *Considering the success of the French Immersion program at Vista and Lakeshore Discovery it is highly likely the need exists. Vista has experienced a 55% increase in enrollment resulting in the implementation of French Immersion in Forest Glade. Lakeshore Discovery has experienced significant growth resulting in the introduction of French Immersion in Belle River beginning September, 2014.* Does this plan, if it exists impact the schools which are being considered for closure within the system? In the case of St. Gregory, the Director has made it public that he is not ruling out the possibility of utilizing the St. Gregory facility for French Immersion as he

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**

May-20-14 3:41:03 PM

Title: **Fwd: FW: Tecumseh ARC Recommendation : Windsor-Es...**

Page 2 of :

has recommended that the school not be declared as surplus. Does it make sense to close a school then one year later reopen it? How does this impact funding going forward? Does it make sense to have a school with only JK, SK and Grade 1 French Immersion, while a school two km's away has children in portables and is overcapacity? Would the plan include bringing back the St. Gregory children from St. Pius in order to maximize the funding for both schools? Is this the most cost effective way to introduce a French Immersion program? Is this approach in "the best interest of the system." How have other School Boards in the province introduced French Immersion programs? Based on our research, most school boards have dual tracked French Immersion programs in schools with available capacity, thereby increasing enrollment and maximizing funding. This list of questions above, leads us to two issues, that absolutely have to be addressed by Administration.

A) What is the long term plan for the French Immersion program in the Forest Glade, East Riverside, Tecumseh, and Lakeshore area at the elementary and high school level (as we understand the French immersion program at St. Anne's is in need of increased enrollment).

B) Does it make sense to prematurely close schools that will likely benefit from the plan, and/or provide the capacity to allow the school board to effectively and efficiently implement this plan?

2) The updated report indicates that the financial impact of the new recommendation is included in the report. However, this information is not in the report. As a result:

A) Have you been provided with the financial impact of the Directors follow-up recommendation?

B) More importantly, have you been provided with the potential financial impact of the introduction of French immersion in the communities mentioned above? This financial impact should not only be a short term projection but include a projection of future years as more Catholic families choose the French Immersion program offered by the Catholic Board versus attending a Public Board school.

We are sure you are aware that the Tecumseh Community has rallied together to keep all of the schools in our community open. The focused effort to ensure the French Immersion recommendation becomes the only logical recommendation has been inspiring. Here is a few examples of the efforts to date.

- 15,000 flyers will be direct mailed from Banwell to Orchard Park this Thursday & Friday informing all families about the possibility of a French Immersion program at St. Gregory's beginning in September, 2014

- Website has been developed to act as a portal to capture interested parents who wish to register in French Immersion in September

- 5,000 households will receive an auto call directing them to the web where they can register to show their interest in the French Immersion program at St. Gregory's

- Transient sign is up on Tecumseh and another to go up on Expressway directing families to the website

- Flyer distribution at fireworks this Sunday at Green Acres park next to the school

- Town presentation requesting partnership subject to introduction of French Immersion in September, 2014

As you can see from the above, the parents in this Community have already started the "study" that is referred to in the Director's report. **Why stop the momentum?** Let's work together and expand the study to all the areas identified in the Director's Report (Forest Glade, East Riverside, Tecumseh, and Lakeshore). **In the meantime, we think it would be premature to close any school that could benefit from the results of this study and provide capacity to support the French immersion program.**

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**

May-20-14 3:41:03 PM

Title: **Fwd: FW: Tecumseh ARC Recommendation : Windsor-Es...**

Page 3 of :

The effort by this community is truly inspirational and clearly demonstrates the commitment to partner with the Catholic School Board to offer Catholic families within our community and surrounding communities the ability to not have to choose between French Immersion and a Catholic education.

We are hoping we have your support on May 27th to introduce a French Immersion program at St. Gregory's and allow the current student body at St. Gregory's to remain intact. This initiative would benefit the Catholic community not only in Tecumseh but the surrounding communities as well. The success of the French Immersion program at St. Gregory, could lead to what is transpiring in the Public Board which is the need to introduce French Immersion programs at schools in the communities surrounding Vista and Lakeshore Discovery.

In closing, we make reference to a statistic brought forward at the May 7th public meeting, which is 400 Catholic children are enrolled in French Immersion programs at Vista and Lakeshore Discovery. The Board should do everything in its power to stop this number from increasing. The first step in this path, is to offer a French Immersion program within the communities that share Vista and Lakeshore Discovery boundaries. The results of all of the above activities (direct mail, auto call, distribution of flyers) will identify those families expressing an interest in a Catholic education that includes French Immersion. Let's give these families what they want...by not doing so, the number of Catholic children attending Public Schools offering French Immersion will continue to rise.

We would appreciate receiving your comments on this email.

Steve Dufour & Kelly Duquette-Dufour
John & Cynthia Villella
Todd & Kristine Thibert
Wendy Daniel
Teresa & Phil Baluyot
Dr. Geoff Butler
Sean & Maria McCann
Bill & Andrea Altenhof
Marlo Bondy
Francine Herlehy
Buck Sleiman
Barry and Michele Piquet
Tim and Christine Kawalec
Rob Miller
Danielle Chinnery
Kevin DiLuca
Danielle Dupont



1325 California Avenue
Windsor, ON N9B 3Y6
CHAIRPERSON: Barbara Holland
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION: Paul A. Picard

Meeting Date:
May 27, 2014

BOARD REPORT

Public **In-Camera**

PRESENTED FOR: Information Approval

PRESENTED BY: Senior Administration

SUBMITTED BY: Paul A. Picard, Director of Education

SUBJECT: **DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION’S FOLLOW-UP REPORT ON THE ACCOMMODATION REVIEW STUDY FOR THE EAST WINDSOR - RIVERSIDE AREA, INCLUDING F.J. BRENNAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, ST. JOHN VIANNEY, ST. JULES, ST. MARIA GORETTI, AND ST.ROSE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Director’s Follow-Up Report on the accommodation review study for the East Windsor - Riverside Area, including F.J. Brennan Catholic High School, St. John Vianney, St. Jules, St. Maria Goretti, and St. Rose Catholic Elementary Schools be received for information; and

That approval be given to the recommendations of Senior Administration as follows:

That effective June 30, 2014, St. Maria Goretti shall close and be deemed surplus to the Board’s future needs, pursuant to Section 194 (3) (a) of the Education Act, and boundaries be adjusted so that the boundary area of St. John Vianney be expanded to include the current St. Maria Goretti boundary area east of Lauzon Road; and the boundary area of St. Rose be expanded to include the current St. Maria Goretti boundary area west of Lauzon Road; with current St. Maria Goretti students having the one time option to select either St. John Vianney or St. Rose as the school they prefer to attend from September 2014 onward, with busing only available to the in-boundary school based on the new boundaries, as applicable, in accordance with policy;

That effective September, 2014, St. Jules and St. Rose shall become JK - 6 elementary schools; St. Jules accommodating all JK – 6 students within St. Jules’ current boundary, and St. Rose

accommodating all JK – 6 students within the St. Rose/St. Maria Goretti “adjusted” boundary;

That St. Rose remains open into the foreseeable future, as a JK - 6 school;

That St. John Vianney be maintained as a JK - 8 school;

That effective September 1, 2014, the new “Corpus Christi” middle school shall be established at the F.J. Brennan Site, and boundaries be established for the new school to accommodate grade 7 and 8 students within the St. Rose boundary (as adjusted) and the current boundary of St. Jules; with grade 7 and 8 students within the St. John Vianney boundary who are also within the Brennan High School boundary having the election to attend either “Corpus Christi” Middle School or St. John Vianney (JK – 8), with Board transportation provided in accordance with policy;

That grade 7 and 8 students affected by the previous closure of St. Alexander, who are currently attending St. Jules, be provided Board transportation between the former St. Alexander site and the “Corpus Christi” site;

That the boundaries for “Corpus Christi” Middle School and F.J. Brennan High School remain “open”, so that any students outside of the designated boundaries may register, acknowledging that Board transportation cannot be provided;

That for the 2014-15 school year, St. Jules students JK – 6 continue to be accommodated at the St. Jules site;

That for the 2014-15 school year, grade 7 and 8 students within the boundary of the consolidated St. Bernard/Our Lady of Lourdes be given the option of attending “Corpus Christi” Middle School at the F.J. Brennan site, with Board transportation provided in accordance with policy; and

That upon completion of the construction of a new school at the St. Bernard (Windsor) site scheduled for September 2015, St. Jules be closed and deemed surplus to the Board’s future needs, pursuant to Section 194 (3) (a) of the Education Act, and the student population be consolidated at the new facility with the merged St. Bernard/Our Lady of Lourdes communities; and that prior to the move to the new school the Board consult with the school communities of St. Bernard/Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Jules on the recommendation for establishing the new school as a JK to 6 school; with all grade 7 and 8 students from the communities attending “Corpus Christi” Middle School at the F.J. Brennan site, effective upon completion of the new St. Bernard (Windsor) scheduled for September 2015.

SYNOPSIS:

A special public meeting of the Board was held on Tuesday, April 15, 2014, where the public was provided an opportunity to make presentations to the Board concerning the Director's Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Riverside area, including F.J. Brennan Catholic High School, St. John Vianney, St. Jules, St. Maria Goretti and St. Rose Catholic Elementary Schools. The public was also invited to provide written input to the Director of Education with respect to his report and/or the Accommodation Review Committee's (ARC's) report.

Pursuant to Board Policy A: 05 and Procedure Pr: 05, that address pupil accommodation review studies, Administration is required to prepare a follow-up report to report on and respond to the representations made by the public. After consideration of input received, Administration has revised its previous recommendations and those revised recommendations for approval are detailed above.

As prescribed within Board policy and procedure, the Board of Trustees will make its decision regarding the school accommodation recommendations after consideration of the ARC's Accommodation Report, the Director's Report, the Director's Follow-up Report and community input.

BACKGROUND COMMENTS:

Prior to the special meeting for public input on April 15, 2014, the Board received the Director's Report which included, as appendices, the ARC's School Information Profiles, the ARC Report, the information package provided to the ARC, minutes of the ARC meetings, and written input received by the Director. All of this information was made available to the community prior to the meeting, through the Board's public website.

Notice of the special meeting for public input, as well as notice of the May 27, 2014 meeting, where the Board would make its decision regarding the school accommodation recommendations for the Riverside area, was provided via school newsletters, letters to the school community, the Board's website, and the local news publications.

The school communities were well represented at the public meeting, expressing genuine interest and concern for their children's education. Six (6) delegations spoke (Approved minutes of that meeting, with written submissions attached, are included with this report).

Senior Administration has carefully considered the valuable input received through the public meeting, as well as written submissions forwarded to the Director subsequent to that meeting (attached).

Based on consideration of feedback received, Administration has incorporated the following amendments into its initial recommendation:

- A clear statement that St. Rose will remain open as a JK – 6 school into the foreseeable future;
- That St. John Vianney remain a JK – 8 school (rather than JK – 6);
- That the recommendation for the closure and readjustment of St. Rose and St. John Vianney boundaries remain as set out in Administration's initial report, but that current St. Maria Goretti students have the one time option to select either St. John Vianney or St. Rose as the school they prefer to attend from September 2014 onward, with

busing only available to the in-boundary school based on the new boundaries, as applicable, in accordance with policy;

- That grade 7 and 8 students from St. John Vianney who are within the Brennan High School boundary have the election to attend either “Corpus Christi” Middle School or St. John Vianney (JK – 8), with Board transportation provided in accordance with policy;
- That grade 7 and 8 students affected by the previous closure of St. Alexander, who are currently attending St. Jules, be provided Board transportation between the former St. Alexander site and the “Corpus Christi” site;
- That the boundaries for “Corpus Christi” Middle School and F.J. Brennan High School remain “open”, so that any students outside of the designated boundaries may register, acknowledging that Board transportation cannot be provided.

Concern that Riverside Elementary Schools Are Being Consolidated to “Save” F.J. Brennan

Through the consultation, it was suggested that the recommendation for a consolidation of elementary schools, and the creation of a middle school at the F.J. Brennan site, was forwarded for the sole purpose of “saving” F.J. Brennan. As indicated by the Director in his initial report, this is not the case. The recommendations for these student accommodations are based on a consideration of how best to optimize programming for all students in the Riverside Area: JK through grade 12. Part of that consideration also included “saving” elementary schools. The Riverside elementary schools face specific challenges, separate and apart from F.J. Brennan’s. Regardless of any solution to address underutilization of the High School, the elementary schools could not be sustained “status quo” moving forward:

St. Rose

Administration agrees with the community on the value of St. Rose as a quality Catholic Elementary School in the Riverside Area, and has recommended that St. Rose remain open as a JK - 6 school. This is presented by Administration as a recommendation to “save” St. Rose and to maintain two Catholic elementary schools in Riverside. Through the consultation process, it was suggested that the Board leave St. Rose and the surrounding elementary schools “status quo”. However, Administration cannot support that recommendation for St. Rose, based on the enrolment forecast of Watson and Associates, which predicts a steady and consistent declining enrolment for the school, with a forecasted 64% utilization by 2024. While the Ministry of Education provides top-up funding to assist boards with the costs associated with excess space in underutilized schools, the level of funding has changed in 2014-15 such that schools with the most empty space will get lower levels of top-up revenue. Specifically, schools with less than or equal to 65% utilization, as is the case projected for St. Rose, will only generate top-up funding that recognizes 10% of their excess capacity (i.e. a school with a utilization rate of 65% would be provided school operations funding as if it were operating at 75%).

Administration’s original recommendation for keeping St. Rose open, with the consolidation of the St. Maria Goretti boundary west of Lauzon Road, was intended as an “investment” in St. Rose, having heard from the community on the value of the school and the potential for future development in Riverside. The provision for closure of St. Rose was included to provide a contingency plan should development not occur, and a situation arise where school communities could merge together, without additions, at the St. John Vianney site. Hearing the concerns expressed at the public meeting for any such provision, and considering that this contingency is not forecast through the 15 year projection provided by Watson and Associates,

Administration has amended its recommendation, keeping St. Rose open into the foreseeable future.

St. Maria Goretti

Again, Administration agrees with all community assessments describing St. Maria Goretti as a wonderful school. However, despite being the smallest facility, St. Maria Goretti is still not full, and in fact has the lowest utilization rate of the 4 area elementary schools. Leaving St. Maria Goretti "status quo" would cause a continued pressure to the system, with the school forecast for steady and consistent declining enrolment, to fall below 65% utilization (corresponding limited 10% top up funding as detailed above) in 5 years.

St. Jules

Administration also agrees with the community that St. Jules is very much valued for its quality programming and supportive Catholic community. However, the St. Jules facility has serious long term challenges, requiring significant capital investment. Even with that investment, accessibility cannot be achieved at the school. "Status quo" is not possible.

Maintaining the Elementary Schools "Status Quo" Not in the Best Interest of Student Programming:

School Based Expenditures (including custodial salary and benefits) for 2013-2014:

St. Maria Goretti:	\$171, 455 annual
St. Jules:	\$248, 660
St. John Vianney:	\$415, 648
St. Rose:	\$218,523

The Board receives a School Operations and Maintenance Allocation each year, which is intended to fully cover the above-noted expenses. School utilization is factored into the calculation of this allocation. With the underutilization of 3 of the 4 Riverside elementary schools expected in the 2014/2015 school year, the Board anticipates an allocation shortfall of 8.17% at St. Maria Goretti, and 5% at both St. Rose and St. John Vianney. Those shortfalls would be expected to increase with declining utilization rates: By year 6, shortfalls of 5% at St. John Vianney and St. Jules, 10% at St. Rose, and 29 % at St. Maria Goretti; by year 15, 11%, 6%, 27% and 32% at each of the respective schools. This increasing shortfall in operations cost coverage would draw against funding available for student programming.

Potential for savings in Staffing with the Proposed Accommodation Recommendation:

With decreasing funding to operate underutilized schools, the Board must look to consolidating school communities, towards arriving at staffing efficiencies. The "cost" of continuing the Riverside elementary schools "status quo" would be the Board's inability to effect savings of approximately 6 teaching positions or \$601,560 annually (\$540,000 in salary and \$61,560 in benefits). These savings would be realized with the consolidated model and available to be redirected to student programming.

Administration recommends this consolidation model for the Riverside elementary schools, not to "save" F.J. Brennan High School, but to ensure that funds available for student programming JK - 12 are maximized and not "needlessly" invested in continuing to operate

separate and underutilized buildings. Classes in the consolidated schools will be staffed in the same manner as they are throughout our system. Class sizes will not change, and the consolidations will prevent the Board having to consider the staffing of triple grade classes which would have had to be considered in the future if the elementary schools were to remain status quo.

Concern for Timelines and Whether the New “Middle School” Model is Ready for Implementation

As indicated in the Director’s Report, Administration brings forward the “middle school” model at a time when discussions have already taken place with community partners on developing means of better equipping our students with the technical education and skills to benefit them as they move into post secondary education and into the workforce:

- A conditional agreement has been reached with Central Park Athletics, contingent upon the decision of the Board with respect to the ARC study, for access to seven (7) state of the art classrooms, exclusive use of their rinks surrounding the instructional day for hockey skills development, and a commitment to expand the program to include the use of their proposed future indoor soccer field, gymnastics area and leadership development complex.
- Administration is prepared to move forward, partnering with St. Clair College and other innovative trades pathway partners.
- Administration is prepared to expand the release of the Google Applications for Education software suite that has already been successfully piloted with Chromebooks at St. Rose, with the intent of providing Chromebooks to the grade 7 and 8 students at “Corpus Christi”.
- Should a decision be made in May, Administration would recommend the immediate establishment of an Integration Committee to allow the Board to continue to work with the community to address specific concerns with respect to implementation of the new model. Consultation would include a series of open houses and Town hall meetings.

It is this type of programming that Administration recommends the Board expand, with funds made available through the more efficient operation of Board facilities. The Board is prepared to have the model operational for the 2014-2015 school year. The ARC study was initiated in May 2013. Through this school year, the Board has continued to operate underutilized schools. A further delay requires the Board to continue “status quo” in operations, without effecting staffing efficiencies, creating a continuing draw on funds which could be invested in innovative student programming offered through the proposed consolidated model.

Concern for a Division of the Current St. Maria Goretti School Community

Subsequent to the release of his initial report, the Director received considerable input from parents concerning the difficulty of dividing the St. Maria Goretti school population. In response to these concerns, the Director indicated at the outset of the special public meeting that he would be prepared to recommend consolidation of the entire St. Maria Goretti population at the St. Rose site.

However, the Director has also heard a number of concerns from families located within the St. John Vianney Elementary/St. Joseph High School boundaries and the St. Maria Goretti/St. Joseph High School boundaries. Should St. John Vianney become a JK to 6 school, these students would experience transitions from grade 6 at St. John Vianney; to grade 7 and 8 at "Corpus Christi"; and then to grade 9 at St. Joseph High School. Similarly, should the entire St. Maria Goretti boundary be added to the existing St. Rose boundary, students in the current St. Maria Goretti boundary east of Lauzon (within the St. Joseph Secondary boundary) would experience similar transitions.

Administration understands this concern and notes the objective of the Board's Boundary Review Policy:

"The objective of the school boundary policy shall be to achieve the greatest good for the greatest number of our students and their families. It shall be implemented in keeping with our mission and shall be mindful of the best and most prudent use of all resources available to us".

With that objective in mind, and to ensure that the elementary and secondary school boundaries are aligned, allowing for the least disruption and smoothest transition "for the greatest number of our students and their families", Administration recommends:

- that St. John Vianney remain a JK - 8 school; and
- that the St. Maria Goretti boundary be "split" in accordance with administration's initial recommendation: St. Maria Goretti boundary west of Lauzon Road be added to the St. Rose (JK – 6) boundary; while the St. Maria Goretti boundary east of Lauzon Road be added to the St. John Vianney boundary.

Administration understands the concerns for "splitting" the current St. Maria Goretti community, and will work with Integration Committees established at both of the consolidated communities at St. John Vianney and St. Rose, so that activities and programs are planned and implemented, allowing all St. Maria Goretti students smooth transition into welcoming, Catholic school communities. Further, Administration has included in its recommendation a one time option for all of the students currently attending St. Maria Goretti, to select either St. John Vianney or St. Rose as the school they prefer to attend from September 2014 onward, regardless of where they reside within the new adjusted boundaries, with busing only available to the in-boundary school based on the new boundaries, as applicable, in accordance with policy.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

As detailed within the Report

TIMELINES:

The Board to make its final decision on the Accommodation Review Study of the East Windsor - Riverside Area at the May 27, 2014 Public Board Meeting

APPENDICES:

- Minutes of the Special Board Meeting April 15, 2014 meeting (with written submissions attached).
- Written submissions received in the consultation process subsequent to the Special Board Meeting of April 15, 2014.
- Written submissions received in the consultation process subsequent to the release of the Director's Followup report.

REPORT REVIEWED BY:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:	Review Date:	May 1, 2014
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EXECUTIVE SUPERINTENDENT:	Approval Date:	May 2, 2014
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION:	Approval Date:	May 2, 2014



1325 California Avenue
Windsor, ON N9B 3Y6
CHAIRPERSON: Barbara Holland
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION: Paul A. Picard

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
F. J. Brennan Catholic Secondary School
910 Raymo Rd., Windsor, ON

MINUTES

PRESENT

Trustees:

F. Alexander	J. Macri
J. Courtney	B. Mastromattei
M. DiMenna, Vice-Chair	J. McMahan
F. Favot	L. Soulliere
B. Holland, Chair	

M. Ellepola, Student Trustee
Rev. L. Brunet, Board Chaplain

Regrets: Student Trustee Dellosa

Administration:

P. Picard (Resource)	E. Byrne
J. Bumbacco	P. King
C. Geml	P. Murray
M. Iatonna	C. Norris
	S. O'Hagan-Wong
	M. Seguin
	J. Ulicny

Recorder: B. Marshall

1. Call To Order – Chair Holland called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.
2. Opening Prayer – Fr. Brunet opened the meeting with a prayer.

Chair Holland assured members of the audience that the Board meeting was designed specifically to receive public input on Administration's Recommendations for the East Windsor - Riverside area.

Chair Holland outlined the delegation process and time limit and also mentioned trustees will remain after the meeting to speak to the members of the community.

3. Recording of Attendance – Student Trustee Dellosa sent his regrets due to illness.

4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Trustee DiMenna and seconded by Trustee McMahon that the April 15, 2014 Special Regular Board meeting agenda be approved as distributed. Carried

5. Disclosure of Interest - Pursuant to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.:

Trustee Macri disclosed interest in relation to agenda item 6a) Director of Education's Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Riverside Area, including F.J. Brennan High School, St. John Vianney, St. Jules, St. Maria Goretti, and St. Rose Catholic Elementary Schools due to his sons' employment and did not participate in the discussion or vote on any question raised on that item.

6. Communications:

- a. Report: Director of Education's Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Riverside Area, including F.J. Brennan High School, St. John Vianney, St. Jules, St. Maria Goretti, and St. Rose Catholic Elementary Schools

Director Picard reviewed the data and provided insight into the analysis leading to the Riverside area recommendations.

Addressing "On the Ground Capacity" Issues at Brennan:

Administration is proposing the transformation of F.J. Brennan Catholic Secondary School to the Brennan Centre of Excellence and Innovation. The Centre of Excellence will be made up of two distinct schools; F.J. Brennan Catholic Secondary and Corpus Christi Middle School. The schools will be separate entities in terms of organization and administration. They will be physically divided so that there is no general interaction between students of the two schools. Start and end times will be 30 minutes apart.

Corpus Christi Middle School

Located at the Brennan site but separate from the secondary school, will be Corpus Christi Middle School. The grade 7 and 8 students will be housed in their own dedicated facility but will have access to all of the learning supports that only a secondary school site can offer namely, Science Labs, Dance, Dramatic Arts, Photography (Digital Arts), Visual Arts and Fitness Training.

Specific School Concerns – St. Maria Goretti / St. Rose / St. John Vianney Catholic Elementary Schools

The proposed closure of St. Maria Goretti suggests relocating the students to two school sites in order to maximize occupancy at both receiving schools. Subsequent to the release of the recommendation, the Director received considerable input from parents concerning the difficulty of dividing the school population. Many indicated they understand the closure but struggled with the dividing the community. As such, administration's final recommendation will include the consolidation of all St. Maria Goretti JK to 6 students at the St. Rose site. St. Rose, in this scenario, would not close in the foreseeable future.

St. John Vianney would have some excess capacity but there is the likelihood of growth in the East Riverside area and, if need be, the expansion of the school boundary into the

Tecumseh area. There is availability of some flexibility at the St. John Vianney site.

St. Jules

From a facility perspective, St. Jules has long term challenges. It is above capacity, yet would require significant capital investment in order to optimize the learning environment. Even with significant investment, it would still not be accessible. The recommendation for St. Jules is twofold. First, for the 2014-2015 school year all grade 7 and 8 students will be accommodated at Corpus Christi Middle School. All grade 7 and 8 students within the school's boundary will be entitled to busing. Second, busing will also be provided to those former students of St. Alexander Catholic Elementary School.

Current students of St. Bernard / Our Lady of Lourdes who wish to attend Corpus Christi Middle School will be able to access transportation from designated pick-up spots. It will be our recommendation that all grade 7 and 8 students from St. Bernard / Our Lady of Lourdes attend Corpus Christi Middle School beginning in the 2015-2016 school year.

Moved by Trustee Mastromattei and seconded by Trustee Favot that the Board receive as information the Director's Report on the accommodation review study for the Riverside Area, including F.J. Brennan High School, St. John Vianney, St. Jules, St. Maria Goretti, and St. Rose Catholic Elementary Schools; and

That the Board receive public input concerning the Director's Report, and the matters that are addressed in it and in the Accommodation Review Committee's (ARC's) Report. Carried

7. Delegations:

Delegations Regarding Accommodation Review Committee's and Director of Education's Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Riverside Area, including F.J. Brennan High School, St. John Vianney, St. Jules, St. Maria Goretti, and St. Rose Catholic Elementary Schools

- i) Parent, Julie Treloar from St. Rose to speak on student concerns regarding the Director of Education's Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Riverside Area.

Ms. Treloar would like the Board to address F.J. Brennan's under capacity issue through programming and not involve the neighbouring elementary Catholic schools.

- ii) Parent, Cindy Nantais from St. Rose to address concerns regarding the grade 7 to 12 model.

Ms. Nantais does not support the Grade 7 to 12 model but if the model is approved, suggested administration implement a two-year delay to allow all stakeholders (students, parents, teachers, schools, board and community) to prepare.

- iii) Parent, Steven Moro from St. Maria Goretti to comment on the recommendation to close St. Maria Goretti and move grade 7 and 8 students to F.J. Brennan Catholic

High School.

Mr. Moro discussed the Accommodation Review Committee process, compared the 2008 to the 2013 Watson Report, commented on the Ministry of Education's 2014-15 School Board Funding Report and stressed community voices need to be heard.

- iv) Representatives of the St. John Vianney school community, Jason and Jennifer Marchi and Lisa and Richard Javonoski to provide additional recommendations for the Board to consider.

A group of St. John Vianney parents, represented by Mr. & Mrs. Marchi and Mr. & Mrs. Javonoski submit the following revised recommendation for the Board's consideration:

1. Effective September 2014 St. Maria Goretti close. Currently students who reside east of Lauzon Road consolidate at St. John Vianney JK to 8 school, students west of Lauzon Road consolidate to the St. Rose JK to 6 school;
2. Grade 7 and 8 students from St. John Vianney be given the option to attend Middle school located at the Brennan site, with Board transportation provided in accordance with policy; and
3. The Board promote the Middle School concept at the Brennan site not only to Brennan's feeder schools but open the boundaries city wide.

- v) Parent, Kelly Vandenberghe from St. Jules Catholic Elementary school to address concerns and ask questions on the future impact of the Director's report.

Ms. Vandenberghe commented on future concerns from the recommendation and suggested the new elementary school slated to replace St. Bernard be built on the St. Jules site; if St. Maria Goretti and St. Rose close, new families will attend the neighbouring public board school; St. John Vianney grade 7 and 8 siblings who currently attend St. Joseph High School likely also attend St. Joseph creating a second transition from the proposed Middle school; and commented on potential future Accommodation Review Committees.

- vi) Parent, Marc Williams from St. Jules school to comment on the Director's recommendation.

Mr. Williams reminded trustees of their responsibilities according to the Education Act.

Chair Holland mentioned comments and/or concerns to trustees or administration are welcomed. Chair Holland invited trustees to remain after the meeting to speak with members of the audience.

8. Closing Prayer – Fr. Brunet closed the meeting with a prayer.
9. Adjournment - There being no further business, the Regular Board meeting of April 15, 2014 adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Approved

Barbara Holland
Board Chairperson

Paul A. Picard
Director of Education

**Presenters' Notes
from the Special Board Meeting
on April 15, 2014
located at
F.J. Brennan High School**

Hello, my name is Julie Treloar and I have a son in JK at St. Rose, with two more coming up behind him.

The bottom line is that Brennan is severely under capacity, but there is a need to keep it in Riverside. The Director's report fixes that with elementary students; this is the wrong way to go. There HAS to be a way to fix this problem with HIGH SCHOOL students.

1. If the Board is planning on revving up programs at Brennan anyway, they should do that FIRST before shoving Grade 7's and 8's in there, and revamping it afterward. Put the money into it, offer attractive programs (such as auto shop, culinary area, better sports and arts facilities, etc.), THEN see how the enrollment increases. The Director's suggestion puts the cart before the horse. If you make Brennan a school people want to go to, they will come, as opposed to avoiding it. IF, several years down the road, there is no improvement, then consider other alternatives at that point, but based on the general population's opinion, if Brennan was a school worth going to, they wouldn't feel the need to send their children elsewhere and kids would actually WANT to go there.
2. Catholic Central is slated to close and move locations. Assumption is under capacity. There must be something that can be done between the three schools to keep them as high schools. For example, closing Catholic Central and dividing those students between Brennan and Assumption is something to be looked at. If they are moving anyway, they might as well move and fix a problem at the same time. The money to build a new Catholic Central (which has yet to even be approved) could be used to build a new Catholic Central and Brennan together at a location between the two schools, or used to bring Brennan up to par and accommodate the Catholic Central students there. *
3. Regarding St. Rose, St. Maria Goretti, and St. John Vianney, no one understands why any of these schools need to be affected by Brennan's problem. You WILL lose students by closing them, creating a vicious cycle. These are the children that will go to Brennan. People are fed up, especially after the St. Thomas, St. Wilfred, St. Alexander's, Our Lady of Lourdes and now St. Jules closures. Is it the goal of the Catholic board to force everyone to go with the public system? You are limiting our options and creating an uncertain future. You will have no small community school left in Riverside - all the way to Tecumseh. And no K-8. You're leaving us with a huge K-6 school at St. John Vianney, then Brennan, which currently has nothing to offer. That's it. And that sucks!
4. The threat to close St. Rose any given year is a self-fulfilling prophecy: people aren't going to send their children to a school that could close at any point. It's an unstable environment, so they won't send their children there. The numbers go down. Well, lo and behold! Now it's way below capacity and has to close. Who could have seen that coming??? St. Rose is at 90% capacity and is the top-rated school in Riverside and top 5 in Windsor, and just had an increase in JK registration in February. Why would you even consider closing it? Granted, the building is older, but instead of closing everything, make it better and more attractive! Look what they did in the public system, especially David Suzuki - they made schools parents WANT their children to go to, and where the children themselves want to go. The problem with David Suzuki is that it is TOO big - because of the mass migration to the area so parents could get their kids in there.

* As per the meeting at Catholic Central last night, I understand Mr. Picard does NOT expect ~~what~~ those students ~~to come~~ to Brennan as they will have to pass 3 public schools to get here. Well what about the same for the elementary schools?

- Keep the smaller schools, but update them. You will require a lot more money to make Brennan a PROPER 7-12 school than to fix up an elementary school or two.
5. St. Maria Goretti is at capacity. If St. Maria Goretti HAS to close (for reasons yet to be understood), combine them completely with St. Rose. That way, St. Rose won't be in a constant threat of closure, the St. Maria Goretti students won't be divided, and St. John Vianney won't be too big, as is the concern of many parents/ Leave them as K-8.
 6. There is huge development in the Riverside area around St. Rose that is slated for the building of homes. Also, many Riverside residents are aging and the homes they have had for 40+ years are going up for sale and are being scooped up by people trying to get in the area. Where are these children going to go to school? David Suzuki or St. John Vianney? People will be far more likely to have their children walk to school than drive or bus them to a school that's just as big, and that is only K-6. Keep the smaller schools in Riverside!!! And keep them as K-8!!!
 7. St. Rose already turns down multiple out-of-boundary requests every year. Allowing these requests would certainly boost numbers, especially after word gets around that this is possible.

In closing, Barb Holland said: "We should not be limiting our children in ANY setting" in the Faith in Our Future video on the Board's website. Putting grade-school children in an ill-equipped high school does just that. It limits their potential to grow and become leaders in a smaller community school. It makes them become just a number to fill a failing school; lost in the crowd. Do NOT do this to our children.

Bottom line: Keep Brennan separate from the grade schools. You will only make enrollment matters worse by going forward with the Director's plan. You talk about faith, but we have no faith in you. Give us something to believe in. People need their faith in the Catholic school board restored. Stop and take a deep breath. Think this through. There IS a better way. What's your motto? Learning together in faith and service? Let's see it.

Thank you. - And Happy Election Year

My name is Cindy Nantais and I have 3 boys at St. Rose in grades 1, 3 and 6.

I do not support the 7-12 model, not only because of concerns for the social aspects of a middle school, but also the negative academic effects. According to American and Canadian academic research, which I shared in a letter during the ARC process, children in middle schools "lose ground" in reading and math compared to their K-8 peers and those losses are not regained in high school. The studies support that a structural break in grades 7 and 8 is problematic. We should not underestimate the value of being in a supportive elementary school environment and how that contributes to success. Remember that grades 7 and 8 are important times for growth and maturation, for developing leadership skills and for being somewhat fragile as children learn to navigate early adolescence – it is a time when children need stability and security. Boards in the US and Canada (including Toronto) are actually moving away from this configuration, back toward k-8.

For a number of reasons, I hope St. Rose stays the successful K-8 school that it is now – including my view that the K-8 model better supports inclusion of children with special needs, something important to me as a parent of child with Down Syndrome.

I want you to agree with me and preserve our Riverside grade schools. I want to spend my whole 5 minutes trying to convince you – but because a 7-12 school may be coming, I have to address implementation.

The Director asks for a 7-12 model starting in Sept 2014, relying on one of the ARC Committee recommendations (the other was status quo). But that committee recommended, after extensive community consultation, was that the 7-12 be subject to a TWO-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION DELAY to give all stakeholders (students, parents, teachers, schools, board, community) time to prepare. I doubt a 7-12 model would have been recommended without the delayed implementation.

While I may come to understand that finances and demographics necessitate the new model, I cannot support or understand immediate implementation as it is contrary to the needs of students.

This is not just about the building, school structure and curriculum being ready. That is part of it - I think many of us doubt how everything that needs to be decided, adapted and reconfigured for so many students, from a number of school communities can possibly be accomplished properly in such a short time. But even if everything could be ready by the first day of school, it is about so much more than that.

Kids who *know* they are going to middle school and are prepared for it throughout grade school – they are the ones in the studies who have the social and academic issues when they go to middle school. Here, those problems and issues will only be magnified because our students will have virtually no preparation or time to adapt. The final decision will not be made until the end of May. Kids would then have about 4 school weeks to adjust to the end of grade school and the fact that they are moving to “high school”. There will be uncertainty and anxiety, without enough time to make them feel comfortable or adjusted. They will be thrown into a new model without the tools they need to succeed (emotionally, socially or academically). While some kids may be ok, many will not. Kids need time to adjust to big changes and make no mistake – this is a big change.

I hear from many parents that could accept the 7-12, but not if it starts in September 2014. It's too soon. It's too rushed, especially for kids with exceptionalities.

The problem I think is that over the past few years our trust in you has been eroded, and this process has done nothing to repair that. Ignoring the delayed implementation piece of the ARC recommendation and rushing this transition only makes us trust you even less. SHOW US that you are willing to work with us to make this a positive experience, to create more value to student, to do it right. Rushing implementation makes us feel that our kids are not being put first, that a sound elementary experience is being sacrificed to save an under-populated high school without regard for their needs.

2 – year delayed implementation has tremendous value to student, school and the community, while still ultimately accomplishing consolidation. Kids in grades 6 and 7 will finish under the existing model. Younger students will have time to be as ready for the transition as possible. And the delay will facilitate

more thoughtful and meaningful implementation of special needs transitions and programming.

**

A 2-year delay may also minimize loss to the Public Board. ^{The} ~~the~~'s view that people generally don't leave the board because of changes and closures, should not be taken as a license to keep pushing until the breaking point is found. Students entering grades 7 and 8 would have to move in September anyway - many parents may instead choose one of the 3 viable k-8 public schools in Riverside and then public high school. You need to give parents a reason to stay and a thoughtful, meaningful transition may do that.

There may be some financial reasons for starting right away - but certainly the fact that you have 3 well-attended K-8 grade schools in Riverside makes delayed implementation feasible. It is not unreasonable to ask that there be convergence between financial demands and student interests before the change is implemented. It will give time for everyone, but especially kids, to prepare for the transition.

^{30 sec -} Ideally, I would ask you to abandon the 7-12 model altogether or at least allow the changes in programming at Brennan to take effect and the fate of Catholic Central to be known - then reconsider this plan in the future if it's necessary. Failing that, I am asking that if you implement a 7-12 model, that you at least respect the ARC process and recommendation, and delay its implementation for 2 years. Please Do it right.

Thank you

[REDACTED]
Windsor, ON
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cynthia Nantais

February 17, 2014

Attention : Riverside ARC Committee and WECDSB

Re: February 19, 2014 ARC meeting

I am the parent of three boys attending St. Rose School. They are in grades 1, 3 and 6. My youngest son, Myles, has down syndrome. My other boys are typical. I am writing to reiterate my support for the retention of St. Rose as a K-8 school, as well as to express my deep concern about the proposed recommendation for a 7-12 school for students generally but St. Rose students in particular.

While I appreciate that demographic and budgetary issues will like involve change for all or some of the schools within this ARC process, I respectfully suggest that a change away from a K-8 model at St. Rose will have a negative impact on the school, the community and most importantly, its students.

As I articulated in my prior oral submission to the Committee when I offered a perspective on St Rose for children with special needs, it is my firm belief that St Rose should remain a K-8 school. St Rose consistently provides high quality education and experiences to its students, as reflected in the Fraser Institute rankings and provincial testing, as well as its reputation. It is a community school with wonderful students and teachers. It offers an enriching learning and supportive social environment that works for all kids, both special needs and typical. These qualities are in part the product of its K-8 structure.

It is my hope that this committee will reconsider its recommendation regarding the 7-12 configuration. Failing that, I trust that the WECDSB will not adopt that recommendation, creating instead a solution that keeps St Rose as a K-8 school, with additional students from St Maria Goretti (if closed).

Multiple transitions, particularly in years of early adolescence are problematic. A transition in grade 9 is challenging for students, but anticipated and expected in our area, and in fact in most of Ontario. The creation of a grade 7/8 "junior high" does not eliminate the second transition, regardless of whether the program is housed in the same building as the high school the students may or may not attend. Rather, it requires students to make two difficult transitions in a very short period of time, with the second being made potentially from a place of less security and self-esteem. Moreover, a 7/8 school deprives children of a true "elementary school experience," including the opportunity for regular mentoring of younger students and the

opportunity to mature and grow in a safe, supportive and developmentally appropriate environment. This cannot be understated.

The integration of these children into a high school setting is of significant concern. As a society, we frequently lament that our children are growing up too fast. We express concern that they are being exposed to situations and circumstances that they do not have the maturity or foundation to properly navigate. I expect that whatever the efforts to segregate these students from the general high school population, there will be far more exposure to all aspects of high school life, positive and negative, at an earlier age. From an "ages and stages" perspective, integrating grades 7 and 8 into this culture is risky. For example, there is a wide range of physical and emotional maturity in grades 7 and 8. Research suggests that students who are more physically developed may be exposed to attention and situations that they are not emotionally able to successfully navigate. Moreover, this will take place within a less restrictive and supportive environment than a traditional K-8 school.

Interestingly, many jurisdictions in the United States, which have long embraced the "middle school (grades 6-9)" or "junior high", are now advocating and moving toward K-8 schools because of problems in a middle school setting, including the negative effects of disruption, transitions and culture. American research has shown that students who attend middle schools (as opposed to grade k-8) "lose ground" in reading and math compared to their peers in K-8 schools. Transitions have been found to be particularly damaging for young adolescent students. They are being moved at a time when they need their peers and stability the most. I have linked reports of these studies in the email accompanying this letter and ask that they be attached for reference.

Similar results are being found in Canada. University of Toronto professor, Elizabeth Dhuey, completed a 2012 study on BC schools. She notes that there is insufficient research on the impact of grade configurations on student performance. Significantly, she found that in her study that *"We're not sure why, but the worry is that at age 13 and 14 — often not a great time of life — to add a structural break at school can be bad for students who struggle."* When compared to their K-8 peers, students in middle schools/junior high experience a decline in reading and math. Even more concerning, that decline was found to persist into high school. Weaker students are particularly affected. I have linked Dhuey's study, *How Grade Level Configurations affect Academic Achievement* in the email accompanying this letter and ask that they be attached for reference. In response to these and other studies, Toronto area school boards are moving away from middle schools and junior highs. Rather than embarking on a path that studies suggest has been detrimental to students, I respectfully suggest that the Board should find other options.

Fundamentally, St. Rose is a highly successful school as a K-8. We are again the top ranked local English Catholic grade school in the area. Our formula appears to work. I understand that we are capable of accepting students from St Maria Goretti if it is

closed and incorporating them into our school culture and building as a K-8. St Maria Goretti and St Rose are similarly situated schools in that we are both located in the heart of Riverside. Our children would all live in relatively close proximity to the school, as well as play sports and participate in community activities together. All of this would allow St. Rose to retain its important identity as a community school.

I am also concerned about combining 7/8s from so many schools. This experiment would in effect be imposing both a new model (7-12) with the added stress of integrating a large number of children from diverse school communities and experiences. The transition, especially for students from smaller schools, will be especially jarring and disruptive. If the Board wishes to implement a 7-12, despite the factors weighing heavily against it, it should be done on a smaller scale as a pilot project. The number of schools involved should be small and they should be in close proximity in order to permit a "community" school, while at least mitigating somewhat the transition issues. Using school(s) that need something transformative, either due to physical plant issues or performance issues, may make sense. I fear significant problems attempting to implement an untested 7-12 with so many diverse student bodies, aggravated by the stress of transitions.

In my conversations with other parents, I believe that many will leave St. Rose if we become a K-6 school, particularly as we have available to us an viable alternative at the public board. However, if St Rose remains a K-8, parents in Riverside would have two to three (depending on Maria Goretti determination) contrasting but equally valid K-8 options: St John Vianney, a large school; and St. Rose, a small to medium sized school. This is good for the community, as parents will continue to seek out properties in the area for purchase within these boundaries.

While the recommendation of a 7-12 appears to be intended to "save Brennan" by "filling the building" with 7s and 8s, this is not fixing the issue with Brennan's enrollment. I am a graduate of Brennan High School at a time when Brennan was a very large and dynamic school. I do not want Brennan to close, but I do not want it to stay open at the expense of our elementary children. I think that a strong elementary experience is a necessary perquisite to a successful high school one, as well as creating strong students and individuals with good foundations and good self-esteem. I do not think I am alone in saying that if Brennan High School were to close, I would choose to send my children to St. Joseph's High School. Perhaps, though, solutions should be generated to create specialized programming in order to make Brennan a more attractive option for students.

Ultimately, I am asking the Committee and then the Board to retain St Rose as a K-8 school. I appreciate that difficult decisions must be made that balance the needs of all schools affected and that we all want what is best for our children. St Rose is a school that we should be reluctant to change, as it has a proven track record for being great for students, teachers and the community. I ask that we not underestimate the value to a child of being in the supportive elementary school

environment for as long as possible. We should be loathe to create institutions that deprive kids of the opportunity to learn in an age-appropriate setting that creates the best opportunity for success. We should remember that grades 7 and 8 are important times for growth and maturation, for developing leadership skills and for being somewhat fragile as we learn to navigate early adolescence. In the face of the research about both the negative academic and social impact, we should not embark on a 7-12 model, particularly on the scale proposed.

I reiterate my earlier statement that the culture that produces a great environment for ALL of my kids is one that is created by all that St Rose is - the school, its location, its proximity to the families that attend there, its students, its teachers, its environment. Change these dynamics and you will change the culture - and why would you want to? This is a school of success on so many levels. I respectfully ask that we be left a K-8 school.

Thank you,

Cynthia Nantais
St Rose School parent

Attachments:

American Research, see for example:

<http://educationnext.org/the-middle-school-plunge/>

<http://tip.duke.edu/node/867>

Middle schools too disruptive for weak students, studies show, Toronto Star (June 10/12)

http://www.thestar.com/yourtoronto/education/2012/06/10/middle_schools_too_disruptive_for_weak_students_studies_show.html

Dhuey, Middle School or Junior High? How Grade Level Configurations Affect Academic Achievement (April 2012)

http://homes.chass.utoronto.ca/~edhuey/datastore/files/docs/Dhuey_MiddleSchool_April2012.pdf

<http://educationnext.org/the-middle-school-mess/>

7

Steven Moro

Good Evening,

I am here to make sure the voices of my children and all of the children who do not support the current recommendation are heard and to make sure they understand the importance of standing up for what is right.

I was part of the Riverside ARC committee.

During the ARC process we looked at many options and in the end, the option that seemed to resonate most with many of our families was status quo. An option that identified flaws in the current process.

Success of a previous ARC process is questionable (St. Alexander's children, Langlois enrollment, St. Bernard's new school?), and it looks to possibly prove a failure if we continue the current course.

Status quo was also the sole recommendation of the Tecumseh ARC report.

8 communities, represented by informed, educated and dedicated parents, and many of our communities top business leaders recognized the flaw in the current process and recommended the board take a step back and come at this from a different angle.

And yet, both recommendations from the Director of Education failed to recognize the voices of these collective communities.

As a result, our communities now have one common question – WHY?

Why does it appear that you have not listened to our communities?

Why, as a parent, do I feel that all of our children have been pawns in a pre-conceived game to keep Brennan high school from closing?

Why do I feel that the best interests of many hundreds of children and their families are being completely ignored?

With over 70% of SJV students attending St. Joseph's high school why send them to Brennan?

Why the need to rush and have this completed by September, 2014?

Is any of this in the best interest of the student?

Let's look at the Business Case -

We asked a senior administrator for the business case.

The response was to the effect of "we have 4,000 empty desks right now and in September we'll have 5,000 empty desks...that is the business case. The Board is going to lose 1,000 students over the summer – so something must be done"

The board points to the Watson Report to justify future – declining – trends.

In comparing the 2008 Watson report to the 2013 Watson report – their numbers were over/under estimated by magnitudes of nearly 40% in some cases. Brennan's numbers were off by over 20%.

Why does this board continue to refer to this faulty data?

In March, the Ministry of Education published their 2014-2015 School Board Funding report.

On page 77 (Windsor-Essex Catholic DSB) it shows projected enrollment for Elementary schools will rise by 1,083 students.

At what looks to be just over \$11,000 per student in funding (MoE report), the difference between the Watson/Boards prediction (losing 1,000) and the Ministry number (gaining 1,000) equates to just over \$22 Million in additional funding. That's a lot of extra money.

And we have not seen any numbers from the Board to indicate that the proposed changes will see any substantial savings. Will the proposed changes save the board any money?

In a recent meeting I had with a City Official, I was advised that the City has plans for a full subdivision that would encompass the Riverside Arena, Riverside Baseball and Concord school property.

The Town of Tecumseh advised of 500 new homes being built in their area that would feed the schools involved in the Tecumseh ARC.

Why would we be closing schools that are near capacity if there's potential to see over 1,000 new students enter the system?

Why would we be closing schools if so many new homes are planned to be built in our community?

The City plans 50 years out – how far out is the Board planning?

Is there really declining enrollment?

If so, why do the numbers reported to the Ministry indicate otherwise?

What about the Future -

Over the past several months, we have heard comments from children, parents and administration to the effect of:

"...your school will most likely close this June"

"...I will be teaching at Brennan"

"...we all know that elementary children will be at Brennan in the fall"

"They are renovating the woodworking and cosmetology rooms (at Brennan) into a cafeteria for the elementary kids"

"Kids are going to get bussed over to a satellite school at Adstoll arena/Ice Park"

"...SJV won't be affected, SMG/St. Jules will close..."

Whether these comments are based on fact or not, it feels like the Board hasn't been transparent.

We know that the Board announced new funding for St. Piux before the Tecumseh ARC was completed.

Why does it feel like this whole process is fait accompli?

But it shouldn't be – and I request that it not be.

There is still time to change the course.

2

So what can/should the board do?

In the Director's recommendation report for Central Windsor – it states:

“If Ministry funding is not secured for a new Catholic Central high school that it would close in 2016 and the students split between existing Catholic High Schools”.

In the 2014 Ministry of Education Funding Report – it does not show any new capital funding for this Board.

So the answer seems simple.

With Brennan at 61% OTG & Assumption at 70% OTG capacity it would seem logical to close Catholic Central immediately.

Move the entire school to Brennan, or split it between Assumption and Brennan.

- Give those (high school) students the better facilities they deserve.
- Stop the current ARC process.
- Leave our most vulnerable, elementary children alone.

This is a win-win-win scenario:

- The elementary children win by not being uprooted.
- The high school students win – Brennan, Assumption and Catholic Central – full schools & better facilities.
- The Board and Trustees win – parents are happy, schools are full, funding is maximized and expenses decreased.

We ask the Trustees to listen to your communities – the ones that elected you.

It appears that this whole process has been a mandated process to fulfil a requirement for community input.

Input that feels like it's being ignored, and should not be.

Take the time to change the course and do what is truly in the best interests of our children.

Thank you.

Marchi + Janonovski

Good Evening Chairperson Holland, Trustees and Administration of the Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board, we are here before you this evening to present an alternative option on behalf of several of the parents of the St. John Vianney school community with respect to the East Windsor/Riverside Accommodation Review Process.

One of the challenges for the St. John Vianney school community, is that it is made up of both families in the old Riverside area and many families that have settled and established their communities in the East Windsor area, with the understanding that their children would be able to attend St. Joseph's High School. Currently, many of the St. John Vianney students have siblings that are already students at, or they themselves are enrolled in, St. Joseph's High School, as they fall within this boundary. The St. John Vianney graduating class of 2013 was divided between Brennan and St. Joseph's High School. The community also unfortunately loses a large portion of its graduating class to the secondary schools outside of the Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board, but with the development of St. Joseph's High School, the sense is that more families are choosing St. Joseph's.

Unfortunately, the St. John Vianney community was not aware that consolidation of its grades 7 and 8 students to the Brennan site was an option, and has had little time to respond. The first that parents became aware of this option was when the report was revealed. However, having said this, when the Director's report was released, the school community has seen some interest from its students to be part of the new middle school concept. Especially from students that will be continuing to Brennan for their secondary school education and for families with siblings already enrolled at Brennan. Taking all of this into consideration, the St. John Vianney community would like to respectfully submit the following revised recommendation with respect to the St. John Vianney community, for the Board's consideration:

That regrettably, effective September, 2014, St. Maria Goretti shall close and boundaries are adjusted so that JK to 8 students currently within the St. Maria Goretti boundary east of Lauzon Road shall be accommodated in an integrated school community of JK to 8 at St. John Vianney, and JK to 6 students currently within the St. Maria Goretti boundary west of Lauzon Road shall be accommodated in an integrated school community of JK to 6 at St. Rose; and

Prior to 2014-15 school year, the Board be asked to promote the middle school concept at Brennan to the students in the proposed integrated St. John Vianney school community to build upon interest that has been expressed, and that the students at the proposed integrated St. John Vianney school community be given the option of attending the 7-12 school at the F.J. Brennan site, with Board transportation provided in accordance with policy; and

In addition, prior to the 2014 -15 school year, the Board be requested to promote the middle school concept at Brennan to all feeder grade schools to Brennan High School and city wide, with the middle

school having open boundaries at this time. We are optimistic that interest from these areas, will offset the students that do not transfer from the integrated JK to 8 school community at St. John Vianney.

In closing, the St. John Vianney school community requests that the above noted changes be considered. We are optimistic that many students could transfer from St. John Vianney to the Brennan middle school. The transfer of these students would then help with any overcrowding issues at SJV.

This is being presented on behalf of a group of parents that have come up with a possible resolution.

It is our hope that this proposal along with the other proposals submitted tonight and in prior ARC meetings, be thoroughly reviewed and that every and all efforts are exhausted to ensure that the Board and the Trustees deliberate on these decisions with the whole community in mind and that special attention is given to the children being moved into strange and unfamiliar environments...Please take into account their impressionable and youthful spirits, budding minds and growing bodies....

As that is why we STAND in front of you tonight...Please listen to all and digest the views of this community...So that we remain a strong and united Board from our students to your administration

Fortes in Christo

Riverside ARC Meeting Apr 15-14 Delegation Report By: Kelly Vandenberghe

Delegation Date: April 15, 2014

Name: Kelly Vandenberghe

Personal Information: Parent St. Jules, also Riverside ARC member.

Two children, one in grade 2 and one starting JK in Sept 2014.

I also gave previous delegation at the Mar 25-14 board meeting to consider moving the new build to St. Jules property instead of beside a fire station on St. Bernard property.

Concerns and Questions for Riverside Directors Report:

It is very concerning the board is going to fill Brennan with elementary students and a new administrative program that the Windsor Essex Catholic Board has never done before (just 7/8's) this upcoming September.

- 1) How does this give **time** for any sort of transition committee to form with all communities involved?
- 2) How will the retrofits of Brennan be completed in **time**?
- 3) How will the bussing bays be constructed in **time** to avoid safety concerns?
- 4) How will the teachers, staff and administrative team be selected properly and allowed **time** to organize things before this September?
- 5) Is the upcoming election year a reason the board wants to rush the decision by Sept 2014?
- 6) The current Riverside ARC did not include St. Bernard or Lourdes, despite the committee asking to get them involved, but they are part of the 7/8 option. So the board considers this by leaving the OLD Bernard/Lourdes JK-8 temporarily for one more year. All schools should have this luxury of **time** for a transition period, not just two of all the schools involved.
- 7) If no funding is provided next year to support a new Catholic Central, then closing in June 2016 is possible. What does that mean for the 7/8's at Brennan? Are we moving elementary kids into Brennan pre-maturely?

Rushing to fill Brennan is decreasing public confidence in the board and the ARC process. Are the students really the first priority or is this rush only about money?

What confidence do we have the \$ you save by doing this so fast will be re-invested in the Riverside community schools? How much of the savings is actually going to pay down the capital debt by 2017 instead, of which the schools in Riverside ARC are not even benefiting from?

History in Review:

- 1) Why did board just spend \$ in upgrades at St. Jules, Maria Goretti and St. Rose for FDK if going to close? Why are you going to again spend \$ on OLD St. Bernard to accommodate all Lourdes students this September to close it 1 year later?

Riverside ARC Meeting Apr 15-14 Delegation Report By: Kelly Vandenberghe

- 2) It appears the decision to fill Brennan with elementary students was already made before the ARC process even started (as the ARC process is ministry mandated and appears to be more of a formality).
- a. My neighbour just registered a JK student this year in a public school in St. Jules area because when they called the catholic board office, administration told them to not bother going to Jules because they would be closed within 2 years.
 - b. Last year my daycare on Lauzon Rd had Maria Goretti school contacts who were also telling new families to not bother going as it was also closing.
 - c. Sept 2013, the Windsor Star quotes that Brennan will be the first JK-12 school. It is obvious St. Jules was first slated for this move, and shortly thereafter followed by St. Rose and Goretti (following Watson number projections).
- 3) 2009 ARC -- St. Jules/St. Bernard/Our Lady of Lourdes was not successful. The board has not realized any savings from closing Lourdes and the promise of a new school not realized yet 4 years later. The decision to leave St. Jules 'status quo' failed and St. Jules is now part of this Riverside ARC. The board obviously knew the 'status quo' outcome would not work for the old St. Jules building. Now Lourdes and Bernard join before Jules in a JK-6. Would it not be better to consolidate all 3 schools at the same time? What will happen to the St. Jules teachers coming in after the fact? One of the reasons St. Jules is such a great community school is because of its teachers and we want them to move with us. And now the city is building a fire station beside the proposed new school. How is this safe for students? How will this affect pick up/drop off and increased bussing for this area? If you recall my delegation from Mar 25th, moving the new build to the St. Jules site makes sense for many reasons. About half of the students affected between the 3 schools WALK to St. Jules and there would obviously be less bussing IF built on St. Jules property. **Time** would allow a review of this request.
- 4) Last year's St. Alexander/Langlois ARC was not successful. Langlois is LT 85% capacity and the recommendations to fully renovate it did not happen. The board told the St. Alex students that St. Jules was NOT closing, but here we are and you are going to transition them again. There are about 70 students left from St. Alex and the majority of them chose St. Jules due to walking distance. They clearly want a school within their community. Why are the out of boundary St. Alexander students going to St. Jules not embedded in the transportation recommendations of this Director's report? They agreed to walk to St. Jules, not to get transportation to new St. Bernard or Brennan?

Riverside ARC Meeting Apr 15-14

Delegation Report By: Kelly Vandenberghe

Future Concerns from Decisions Today:

- 1) If you close St. Jules and don't move the new build to St. Jules property, you are risking losing many NEW families to the public system. Old public school Gordon McGregor also with low enrolments (beside Ford Test Track) will be closing and students from Bernard area will be bussed to public Percy P McCallum (a few blocks away from St. Jules). There will be 4 public schools within walking distance from St. Jules. It is also known that public Cornation and David Maxwell buildings will not be sustained and a brand new public school in the St. Jules area is on the horizon. Given the population in this area compared to St. Bernard area, the catholic board is going to lose students in this area to public schools (new and within walking distance in the community). This will not help Brennan numbers long term.
- 2) If you close Goretti AND eventually close St. Rose, NEW families in this area will attend the new public Suzuki school within walking distance and in the community. The catholic board is again going to lose student numbers. This will not help Brennan numbers. Now that you have announced the possible closure of St. Rose, what NEW families will want to attend a school that might be closing?
- 3) If you make Vianney a JK-6 with 75% of the students slated to attend St. Joseph or they have siblings already there, how many families are going to refuse to transition their kids this many times? So for 7/8 they have to transition and again to high school. This is not good for students. How many will switch to public to avoid multiple transitions?
- 4) Potential future ARCs are the most concerning. Will this Brennan solution work long term? Or are we going to lose so many elementary students that our kids will be faced with a high school ARC and possible closure by the time they are in high school?

Riverside ARC Meeting Apr 15-14 Delegation Report By: Kelly Vandenberghe

Summary:

Do not rush the 7/8's to go to Brennan this upcoming September.

Time would allow the following recommendations:

- 1) **Time** to allow a system-wide ARC process review
- 2) **Time** to review the objective of the boundary policy to achieve the greatest good for the greatest number of students
- 3) **Time** to ensure the long term future of catholic education for our children and eliminate future ARC risks
- 4) **Time** to ensure value to student is first priority before immediate financial short term incentives
- 5) **Time** to enhance public confidence in the Windsor-Essex board catholic education board
- 6) **Time** to consider changing the new elementary school build from St. Bernard site to St. Jules site
- 7) **Time** to investigate other options for Brennan instead of sending elementary students. Find community partners to lease the space as an alternative.
- 8) **Time** to finalize Catholic Central new build before filling Brennan unnecessarily.
- 9) Or at least **Time** to prepare 7/8 new administration program with a transition committee.

The elementary schools have the **time**. Brennan has been running LT 85% capacity to date, but it is still viable with over 600 students, so it also has **time**.

No one wants to see their kids transition again from future ARCs because of the decisions today. Take the time to do it right for the students and mitigate risks. We are asking you to take the TIME to review the bigger picture.

Marc Williams

WECD SB Special Meeting - regarding ARC process

I address you this evening with great respect, for what you do and the difficult decisions you have to make. Your jobs are not easy. My respect for you is not based on whether or not I agree with you, but whether or not you take the time to listen and make informed decisions - giving reasons for what you decide.

My comments tonight are not mine alone, but represent many parents, who feel that their voice doesn't matter.

Preparing for tonight I found something that I feel is important, something that is not new to anyone of you.

AN EFFECTIVE SCHOOL BOARD :

- knows why it exists, what difference it aims to make in the community and develops a plan for this purpose;
- maintains a focus on student achievement and well-being;
- functions as a team;
- serves as a role model for the education system and the community;
- makes informed decisions;
- strives for excellent communications with its partners and constituents;
- has a clear sense of the difference between its role and that of senior management;
- understands the distinction between policy development and implementation;
- is accountable for its performance;
- holds the director of education accountable for effectively implementing the policies of the board;
- monitors the effectiveness of policies and implementation plans; and ensures that local provincial and federal politicians understand local issues and needs, and encourages them to make education a high priority

My hope this evening, is that the current Board of Trustees, listens to the parents here tonight and take the time to read all of the submissions regarding this ARC. You will hear many varying comments - some related to the effects these changes will have on their own children - special needs

issues, transportation issues, the destruction of communities, the lack of vision of the Board, the lack of true input by the public, the perception that each of the ARCs, and those of the past, are merely a necessary hurdle, that the Board must endure, before it can proceed with it's own plan.

The Education Act states that the responsibility of individual trustees is - to bring to the board the concerns of parents, students and supporters of the board and to consult with them on the board's multi-year plan. I realize that it is not always that simple, but sometimes it is.

Trustees carry a dual responsibility, that is recognized in the Education Act and was underscored in the Governance Review report of 2009:

"As a member of the board, an individual trustee is expected to act within the board's by-laws and be loyal to the board's decisions. However, as elected persons, trustees are also expected to advocate for the interests of their constituencies."

Each person sitting here this evening and the previous evenings, care about their children's education and feel strongly that the recommendations put forth are not in their best interest. We have elected you to listen to us, to advocate for us and to represent us, when push comes to shove regarding questionable decisions - you are to act for us. Which schools to close, or whether to close a school at all, is such a circumstance. These 3 ARCs are just the occasion for which we elected you. It is too bad that when we need you the most, some of you will not be there vote.

As you are aware, some of the recommendations are contingent on Ministry Funding and if it is not granted, then boundaries will be shifted - affecting the neighbouring ARC recommendations. Case in point - if Catholic Central is not approved for funding, the students will be spread amongst other schools, including Brennan. Brennan has been recommended to take on grades 7 and 8, to fill the school. What then if Catholic Central students are to attend, will there be portables at Brennan? From the news as recent as today, this may be the case. What is the plan? Are the 7s and 8s still needed to fill the space? This needs to be questioned.

There is an overwhelming feeling amongst the parents, that the Board is rushing these decisions. Time and time again, deficiencies have been brought up about the recommendations, yet no one wants to address them.

I recommended at one of the public meetings, that the process stop....that the Board look at the entire group of schools that it controls and do an ARC of it all, not every year do one, but do one Board ARC and plan things for the next 15 to 20 years. If the Public Board can look at things this way, why can't you.

There are currently too many unanswered questions, questions that need to be answered before going forward. You the Trustees need to ask the questions of Administration as our elected representatives. Get the answers and make an informed decision.

Two years ago I shared a poem with you, written in the 1930s by Peter Winbrow and I ask that you listen again and in the end, hopefully you find a friend in the glass.

The Man In The Glass

Peter "Dale" Winbrow Sr

When you get what you want in your struggle for self
And the world makes you king for a day,
Just go to the mirror and look at yourself
And see what that man has to say.

For it isn't your father or mother or wife
Whose judgment upon you must pass.
The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life
Is the one staring back from the glass.

You may be like Jack Horner and chisel a plum
And think you're a wonderful guy.
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum
If you can't look him straight in the eye.

He's the fellow to please-never mind all the rest,
For he's with you clear to the end.
And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test
If the man in the glass is your friend.

You may fool the whole world down the pathway of years
And get pats on the back as you pass.
But your final reward will be heartache and tears
If you've cheated the man in the glass.


Written submissions received
in the consultation process
subsequent to the
Special Board Meeting of
April 15, 2014.



Printed by: **Beth Marshall**

April-07-14 10:34:34 AM

Title: **Opposed to recommendation : Windsor-Essex CDSB**

Page 1 of

From:  ~~Dayna Marignani@gmail.com~~
Director of Education

April-05-14 5:51:44 PM  

Subject: Opposed to recommendation

To:  **Eileen Belanger**  **Beth Marshall**  **Paul Picard**  **Director of Education**

Dear Mr. Picard,

My husband and I are very opposed to sending the gr.7 and gr.8 students from St.John Vianney to Brennan high school. This was not a recommendation that was supported as part of the accommodation review meetings that we attended. We feel that many parents, especially from St.John Vianney were not given accurate information and we only heard of this dramatic change of events through our young children in kindergarten and gr.3.

We specifically moved into this area so our children could attend both St.John Vianney and then St.Joseph High School. Brennan is very far from our home off Greenpark and we would not be comfortable sending our children on a bus to a high school that they have no intention of attending.

As a Director, your role is to put the students first and keep parents adequately informed. We should not have to hear this disappointing news from our children. Our daughter came home in tears over this.

We still have faith that you will reconsider this decision and put families first. St.John Vianney has no enrolment issues and our children are very happy to be a part of this caring community. If the decision is made to hastily send these children to Brennan, we will have to strongly consider moving our children to the public board.

Regards,

Mrs. Dayna Marignani

Sent from my iPad

Jeff & Tina Faubert
Apr. 15/14

SINCE I AM NOT ALLOWING TO SPEAK AT TONIGHT MEETING CAUSE I SUBMITTED MY REQUEST TO LATE TO BE PUT ON THE AGENDA. I WAS NOT GOING TO SPEAK BUT BECAUSE OF COMMENTS HEARD LAST NIGHT I DECIDED TO TRY AND PUT A REQUEST IN BUT WAS NOT ACCEPTED. I AM A PARENT OF 4 STUDENTS THAT ATTEND ST ROSE. I DO NOT AGREE WITH THE GRADE 7 & 8 STUDENTS TO ATTEND BRENNAN HIGH SCHOOL.

I ATTENDED LAST NIGHT CENTRAL ARC MEETING. I HEARD POINTS THAT MAKE MYSELF FEEL THAT MR. PICARD RECOMMENDATION TO PLACE GRADE 7 & 8 STUDENTS IN TO BRENNAN IS JUST TO FORCE THE MINISTRY TO GIVE THE BOARD FUNDING TO BUILD A NEW CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL. MR. PICARD SAID THAT HE WANTS A NEW CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DOWNTOWN. THAT HE ALSO DOESN'T TRULY RECOMMENDS MOVING THE CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO OTHER HIGH SCHOOLS CAUSE HE FEELS THEY WILL NOT GO PASS THREE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL TO ATTEND BRENNAN. BUT HE IS ASKING US, THE PARENTS, TO SEND OUR GRADE 7 & 8

/

STUDENTS PASS TWO TO THREE PUBLIC GRADE SCHOOL TO ATTEND A RETRO FITTED RUSH MIXED MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL COMBINED. WHY SHOULD OUR 12 YEAR OLDS BE FORCE TO ATTEND SCHOOL WITH 18 YEAR OLDS WHEN THE BOARD CAN COMBINE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND ASK FOR FUNDS TO FIX UP THE HIGH SCHOOLS. REMEMBER MR PICARD SAID HE DOESN'T THINK THE HIGH STUDENTS WILL TRAVEL BUT I REMEMBER WHEN THE BOARD ONLY HAD TWO HIGH SCHOOL AND STUDENTS TRAVEL ACROSS THE CITY TO ATTEND THESE SCHOOLS. I ALSO RECALL MR PICARD SAYING THAT THE BOARD HAS TO HAVE UNITED STAND TO GET FUNDING FOR A NEW HIGH SCHOOL AND THAT THE MINISTRY WILL NOT TALK UNTIL THE ARC PROCEEDS IS DONE. BRENNAN AND ASSUPMTION HAS ROOM FOR CATHOLIC CENTRAL STUDENTS. SO IS THIS THE WAY MR. PICARD FEELS HE CAN GET THINGS DONE. BY RUSHING TO PLACE OUR GRADE 7 & 8 STUDENTS IN TO BRENNAN AND TELL THE MINISTRY THAT WE NO LONGER HAVE ROOM TO FIT CATHOLIC CENTRAL STUDENT IN TO OTHER SCHOOLS AND WE NOW MUST HAVE

THE FUNDING TO BUILD HIS NEW CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL.

IF THE TRUSTEES GO AHEAD AND APPROVE THIS RECOMMENDATIONS WILL OUR GRADE 7 & 8 STUDENTS TRULY HAVE A FAIR TIME TO USED THE OUTDOOR FIELDS AND AREA WHEN THEY ARE ALREADY USED BY THE HIGH SCHOOL, MR. PICARD SAIDS THIS IS WHY WE NEED A NEW CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL SO THEY HAVE THE SAME AS OTHER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE CITY, WILL OUR 7 & 8'S HAVE THE SAME AS OTHER 7 & 8'S IN THE CITY.

AS FOR ALLOW FOR SOME GRADE 8'S TO TAKE SOME GRADE 9 COURSES HOW WOULD THIS WORK, THE STUDENT GETS UP FROM HIS GRADE 8 CLASS AND LEAVE AND GO TO A GRADE 9 CLASS DISRUPTING THAT CLASS WHEN WOULD HE KNOW WHEN TO LEAVE IF BELLS ARE DIFFERENT WHAT ABOUT IMPORTANT STUFF MISSED IN GRADE 8 AND THEN THE DISRUPTIONS WHEN THE STUDENT RETURNS, IS THIS FAIR TO ALL OTHER STUDENTS IN THAT CLASS.

AS FOR OUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WE KNOW SOME MAY HAVE TO CLOSED BUT CAN WE HAVE THINGS PLANNED AND IN PLACE BEFORE WE RUSH TO CLOSED THESE SCHOOLS. YES THE RIVERSIDE AREA HAS THREE SCHOOLS CLOSE TO EACH OTHER AND I BELIEVE THE PARENTS REALIZE THIS BUT GIVE US MORE THAN ONE MONTH TO PREPARE OUR CHILDREN TO MOVE TO ANOTHER SCHOOL. WHY SHOULD SOME STUDENTS HAVE TO REQUIRE GOING TO THREE SCHOOLS TO GET THEIR CATHOLIC EDUCATION. FOR EXAMPLE IF A STUDENT LIVES IN EAST RIVERSIDE HE OR SHE WOULD ATTEND ST JOHN VIENNEY TILL GRADE 6 MOVE TO BRENNAN FOR 7 & 8 THEN MOVE TO ST JOE'S FOR 9 TILL 12, SO DOES THE BOARD NOT THINK THAT US THE PARENTS MIGHT NOT MOVE TO THE PUBLIC BOARD LIKE MR. PICARD FEELS ABOUT CATHOLIC CENTRAL STUDENTS WILL, IT NOT LIKE THE OLD DAYS WHERE OUR SCHOOL WE MORE INVOLVED WITH OUR SACRAMENTS IN GRADE SCHOOLS.

WILL MR. PICARD CHANGE HIS WORDING REGARDING ST ROSE SCHOOL CLOSING IN HIS RECOMMENDATION LIKE HE DID LAST NIGHT

NIGHT FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL TO REVISIT IT NOT JUST JUMP AND CLOSE IT, IF AND WHEN THE NUMBERS COME AVAILABLE TO MOVE IN TO ST JOHN VIENNEY NOT TO JUST CLOSE AND MOVE STUDENTS LIKE CATTLE, HERDING THEM FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER.

SO IN CLOSING WILL IT BE MR. PICARD AND THE TRUSTEES DECISION TO USE OUR EAST WINDSOR STUDENTS AS CHESS PIECES IN ORDRE TO GET YOUR WAY TO RECEIVE FUND FOR A NEW CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH FOR CENTRAL WINDSOR STUDENTS, OR WILL YOU THE TRUSTEES VOTED TO LEAVE OUR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS WITH THE EXPERIENCE THEY SHOULD GET LIKE OTHERS THE SAME AGE IN THE CITY. YOU HAVE A FIX FOR ENROLLMENT IN OUR HIGH SCHOOLS CATHOLIC CENTRAL, BRENNAN AND ASSUMPTION. LET SPEND THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS DOING YOUR BOUNDARY REVIEW FOR HIGH SCHOOLS AND LEAVE OUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STATUS QUO.




Printed by: **Beth Marshall**





April-16-14 2:21:26 PM

Title: **St Bernard Elementary School Grades 7/8 change : Wind...**

Page 1 of

From: "Cindy King" <cindyking@peoplespost.com> 4/16/... 
Director of Education

Subject: St Bernard Elementary School Grades 7/8 change

To:  **Eileen Belanger**  **Beth Marshall**  Paul Picard
 Director of Education

Hello,

I am a parent of a student at FJ Brennan High School and St Bernard Elementary. Unfortunately I missed the meeting at Brennan discussing the middle school proposal because I was out of the country. Arriving last night, I discovered some of the discussions that took place.

I want to be very truthful and honest with you, I am 100% **against** this idea.

Just to give a little bit of history, I was a Brennan graduate when Brennan East had to open because the enrolment was so big. I have had 3 children attend St Bernard from 1999 to present. My first child graduated from St Bernard and went to Herman High because the feeder school at the time was Catholic Central. Brennan lost 80% of that class to Herman because the board wanted to push them in another direction. Brennan was not an option and now has a small enrolment. Now I have my second child at Brennan because that was changed. I now only have a one child at St Bernard, and she has at least 1 more year if this comes into process.

We have been waiting for years for a new school and to my understanding that is still on route, but with the recent changes. My daughter wants to graduate from her school just like her brothers did. The board is destroying the most precious thing these smaller school have, and that is unity. The Grade 8 look out for the smaller kids, they help teachers. Smaller kids make friends with older kids. Everyone knows one another. Parents know teachers, children and other parents and that took years of development. I always wanted a consistent environment for my children. I moved from school to school when I was younger. I do not want that for my child.

I wanted my children to continue in the catholic faith, in a smaller school that works like a close community.

Depending on the board's decision and if this proposal with go through, I have a big decision to make. The catholic board will lose my child and my taxes. I will have them continue at the public system or at a private school until her graduating time. I feel by that time, the catholic high school system will not be considered again for secondary education.

I must look out for the best education and circumstances for my child and not the great good of the catholic budget.

Maybe times are changing and perhaps the schools have to move with the times, perhaps I am still old fashion, but schools should focus on "what is best for the kids".

Cindy King

~~1721 Robin Road~~


Windsor

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**

April-15-14 3:24:22 PM

Title: **Re: Written Submission for April 15 Special Board Meeti...**

Page 1 of 1

From: **Mark Kereliuk** markkereliuk2015@gmail.com 4/15/14 3:08:00 PM 

Subject: **Re: Written Submission for April 15 Special Board Meeting**

To: **Beth Marshall**

~~Thanks for replaying back to me Beth.~~

To the Catholic District School Board:

Hello, my name is Mark kereliuk and I have one child currently attending St. Maria Goretti Catholic Elementary School and one child who is currently attending Walkerville Centre For the Arts in Grade 9. My youngest son Sean is currently in Grade 6 and will be immediately affected by a decision to close St. Maria Goretti.

The matter that I wish to address the School Board with is in regards to my eldest son Eric. Eric attended St. Maria Goretti for his Kindergarten years while we rented in the Riverside area. Both those years were wonderful growth years for Eric, but unfortunately we were forced to relocate and Eric attended another school for 1st grade. It was at this time that we noticed that Eric wasn't behaving like most children and his responses to situations were handled very different as well. Eric would have outbursts at school, and it being a large school with many students, he was frequently put by himself away from the other children. We had numerous meetings with his teacher and the School Principal but things did not improve. We knew that a change had to happen.

My Wife and I set a course of action that completely changed how my Son's education would occur.

We moved back to the Riverside area and returned Eric to St. Maria Goretti where he had flourished previously. We had Eric tested, where he was diagnosed with Aspergers Syndrom Autism. The designation with the School board today however states that Eric is on the Autistic Spectrum. With the help of the good Teachers and different Principals, as well as the smaller school size, which allowed for more personal one on one time with Eric, he proceeded to once again flourish over the next six years!

During his grade 8 year Eric decided he wanted to pursue his love of Art and Drama and auditioned at the famed Walkerville Centre for the Arts in both of those disciplines. Although we were very optimistic about his chances of getting accepted in the program as there were many who auditioned every year who were not accepted into the program, we tried to hold onto Eric's enthusiasm. Then the letter came just before Christmas of last year. He had been accepted in both disciplines.

Today Eric is an A student through his first semester, and loves his new school and friends. I truly believe that the smaller size school of St. Maria Goretti and the Extra time being able to spend with Eric afforded him the chances and growth that he has received. I also believe that closing down this school and forcing kids to go to a large 7 thru 12 school at Brennan would take away the same opportunity that Eric was able to receive.

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**

April-15-14 3:24:22 PM



Title: **Re: Written Submission for April 15 Special Board Meeti...**


Page 2 of :

I would like to formally say that the recommendations by Mr. Picard to close all these schools in favour of a mega school at Brennan as a business move only and not in the best interests of the students as they keep saying is their main concern!

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**
Title: **Fwd: Fwd: : Windsor-Essex CDSB**


April-15-14 3:24:03 PM
Page 1 of :

From: **Beth Marshall** 
Mark Kereliuk 

Subject: **Fwd: Fwd:** 

To: **Beth Marshall**

Cc: *Nicki Kereliuk*

Attachments:  Attach0.html / Uploaded File (10K)

To whom this may concern,

My name is Nicki, and I am speaking on behalf of bothered parents for the grade 7 to 8 integration into F.J. Brennan Catholic High School. I'm now 22 years old, but I was also a casualty of this back in 2003 until 2005.

I attended Roseland Public School until the 6th grade, and from there, us 7th graders (including students from Southwood Public School and Northwood Public School) were forced into a new curriculum at Vincent Massey Secondary School – known to us then as Massey Elementary – after running out of space in our buildings.

The years I was merged into a high school were the best and worst years of my life – the best only because I met a lot of great people from different schools (that I talk with to this day.) The worst for many reasons including the following...

For starters, I had the opportunity to switch to St. Christopher Catholic Elementary (being in district of school) and I chose to stick with the small core of friends I had from Roseland – I regret that to this day, because as soon as Massey Elementary came to be, I was badgered entirely and was often visiting the child and youth worker due to depression.

I have never been inside a room with a worker as often as I was when I attended this new "school"; because it's such a variety of ages at the school, there was a limitless amount of bullying that constantly went on between grades, including getting verbally abused by the high school students who thought we might have been in their way.

We had limited access to areas of the school. 1 or 2 washrooms in 1 or 2 hallways. We were only granted admittance to one of the three gyms in the school – the gym that didn't have air conditioning. There were no longer extra recesses, just a standard, short lunch break, where we were only allowed to sit in half of the cafeteria and couldn't leave past the cement block if we were to go outside. There were minimal extra curricular activities; the school play being my favourite, and the slacking teachers giving up each year because they were legitimately bored. Boredom to one might have been life saving to another.

Almost instantaneously, my grades started depleting and the teachers were grazing by as if it wasn't an issue. At that time, I also stopped caring; as long as I made it through the 2 years there, I was perfectly fine. This was the worst time of my education, as it didn't teach me precautions for high school – when I finally entered secondary school (not at Massey, might I add, but Holy Names Catholic High School) I failed an important class and had to eventually retake it the following year, continuously fighting through each assignment, test, and exam. I found the teachers didn't spend enough individual times with the students, nor was there tutoring.

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**

April-15-14 3:24:03 PM

Title: **Fwd: Fwd: : Windsor-Essex CDSB**

Page 2 of :

This program of the merging schools started in 2001, and ended approximately 6 years later once the prior schools made more room.

This is my opinion only, but I feel very strongly about this. And I have evidence to prove how I had to bounce back in my life, especially with my education. I believe the 7th and 8th grades are two of the most important in a child's life, as it's preparing them for a bigger world. I wish I had had a dress rehearsal to that reality.

--

NICKI KERELIUK

Photographer & Designer

[REDACTED]

After the first ARC meeting, I left wondering why an ARC process is even being conducted in the Riverside District. Every school in the area is above the 85% capacity except Brennan. I was impressed with the level of enrollment in our area Catholic Grade Schools. I wanted to be part of this ARC Committee not only as a business owner in the Pillette area, but as a father with two girls that attend St. John Vianney. I also wanted to have a voice and express any concerns about any changes that may occur in the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board.

Over the last several months I have listened to many options and opinions. I was never sold on the thought of a Kindergarten to Grade 12 School at Brennan. The school was never built to accommodate this type of configuration. If the board was building a new school, it may make more sense to have a k to 12 school or consolidate more than one school.

The committee then put a recommendation of having a grade 7 to 12 school. This was another idea I did not think would work very well. I do think Brennan is a very important part of our history for Windsor, the Riverside area and the Catholic School System. I also believe having Brennan is good for the local community. As a business owner in the area it is very sad and disappointed to see Brennan in this dilemma. Brennan is an asset to our community and is also a contributor to the success of the many small businesses in the Pillitte Village BIA. This being said, I don't think our grade schools should suffer the consequence. A closure, or multiple closures of grade schools to keep Brennan open is not in the best interest of our grade school students and the current and future students of Brennan.

With funding of over \$11,000 per student will we really be ahead if we move or grades sevens and eights. Every 100 students we lose it will cost us over one million ever year in lost funding. Imagine how many students we might possibly lose by drastically changing our school system. I know the School Board has said historic precedent in the city has shown almost 100 per cent of students stay in the Catholic system after a school is closed but this is a totally different scenario. I have had many parents tell me if this happens they will move their kids to the Public School Boards. Are we willing to take a gamble on our Catholic Education.

In the option to turn Brennan into a 7 to 12 we would also be impacting St. Rose and St. Maria Goretti in a negative way. Everybody loves there small community schools and I understand as time goes on we will have less small schools and more consolidated schools to decrease cost. We just invested \$300,000 at St Maria Goretti to accommodate the full day kindergarten. So if we close the school now that money would have been wasted. The board only expects to possibly get \$280,000 for the sale of this building if this school were to close. That does not make sense to me from a business perspective. With a utilization rate of 87% we should keep this school open and monitor future enrolment and make

changes or a closure a topic of discussion at a later date. Why impact a full school of students, their parents and the riverside community when it's not necessary. Now we are asking St. Maria Goretti to split their school in three.

In this same option regarding St. Rose. Removing grade 7's and 8's from the school could change the dynamics in a very negative way. I don't think just because it works in one area it will work in our area. Every city or town is different and I don't think making a change like this is a risk worth taking right now. This could backfire and accelerate the decline numbers from the Catholic Board to the Public Board. Do we want to close more schools then we have to? St. Rose also has a good thing going for them. They are ranked 142 out of 3030 schools with a 8.6 out of 10 on the most current Fraser report. We need to give St. Rose a lot of credit for achieving such a high score. Why change something that is good and working? I don't think this is the time to make a drastic change to our students and take a gamble on system that is working.

St. John Vianney is a big grade school with over 600 students. As I said earlier, I have two daughters who attend there. I am very impressed with the quality of education they receive. The staff is amazing and I was surprised to see such a big school functions as if it is a school with under 200 students. The school has made great strides in technology. I always know when my daughters have used a smart board or an iPad at school because that's the first thing they talk about when they get home. I understand technology is not everything, but in today's age it is a big part of the equation for a good education. I was glad to know the recommendations the ARC Committee made would keep St. John Vianney k to 8 and know my daughters would have the same positive experiences as I did in grade 7 and 8. Year after year I looked up to the grade 7's and 8's when I was in grade school and I could not wait until I could share the same positive leadership skills to other younger students. Prior to the directors report I thought to myself, if St. John Vianney was changing to a k to 6 and the 7's and 8's had to be moved I would be very upset and disappointed. I would be very against this change.

That being said, if I would not want it happen to me I could not support the same thing for other families, schools or school communities. That is why I did not vote in favor of the ARC Committee's first recommendations option 1 on establishing a grade 7 to 12 school at F.J. Brennan. Many people on the ARC Committee were also not in favor of this and that is why a second Option was added. I did vote in favor of Option 2 which is to keep St. Maria Goretti, St. Rose, St. John Vianney and F.J. Brennan remaining status quo. Consolidating St. Jules, Our Lady of Lourdes and St Bernared in a K-8 school on the new St. Bernard site.



We have lots of parents at St. John Vianney who live in the Banwell area. Does it make sense for them to send kids all the way to Brennan only to move them again in two years so they can go to St. Josephs. Seventy percent of the St. John Vianney graduates go to St. Josephs. This will be a huge inconvenience to parents and not fair to all these grade school students. Some parents will have to send their kids to three different schools, it will be hard on the kids to. Brennan will be a long bus ride for some on the students who live near the Banwell area. This is not what I would consider value to students. Many parents at St. John Vianney are not aware or understand the changes that might occur in September. If I was not on the ARC Committee I don't think I would have known or found out until it was too late. I purposely chose to move near St. John Vianney so my kids can be close to their school and they would be able to walk to school. Parents need siblings to stay together so they can be involved in the same school activities. Parents also rely on the older sibling to be responsible for their younger sibling(s), for example if they need to walk them to and from school. If I knew this was in going to happen I would have made different choices in where I would have bought my house. Most families have two working parents this will be impossible for parents to have to travel between three different schools.

I understand enrolment will continue to decline year over year and schools will have to close but the future of our students, our school board, our community and our local economy will all suffer if not done properly. There are many reasons why we cannot support closures of any grade schools in the riverside area. The enrolment numbers are not low enough to justify any closures. Why not wait a few more years and reevaluate the situation. What is the hurry? Why should schools in the riverside area suffer because of boards overall excess capacity of over 4300 spaces. We should focus on keeping Brennan open and promote the school. They have great EQAO test results. They have great students and teachers. They have a good facility. We need to give Brennan more programs to draw in more students. Catholic Central is also in a ARC review and a recommendation to close has been made that school in June of 2016. According to the directors report for the Central Windsor Area building a new Catholic Central is dependent upon Ministry funding. If funding is not secured boundary adjustments at F.J. Brennan, Holy Names and Assumption, to accommodate the secondary students in the Central Area and would provide alternative accommodations options. They forecast Assumption will have 206 available spaces in 2016, Holy Names will have still be over utilized and F.J Brennan will have 409 available spaces in 2016. Brennan will not have these spaces Brennan adds grades seven and eight to it school. Given the state of our province funding does not look so promising for the new Catholic Central. What will we do with 800 Catholic Central students in September 2016. They will be in the same position as the students at St. Jules and aging school and nowhere to go.

Why are we having all these separate ARCs when the outcomes will affect not only schools in the ARC but many others? How can we change St. Bernard's and Our Lady of Lords and take their grade 7's and 8's away without the input of those school communities. We don't always need to make these drastic changes so quickly. Why can't we come up with a game plan for the whole Windsor Catholic School board instead of a bunch of small changes that will have a big affect on our students and on our



communities. All the pieces of this puzzle the School Board is creating need to fit together properly. Will taking grade seven and eight out of our grade schools achieve this goal? As a business owner bringing more students to this area would be great. But what's best for my daughters come before what's best for my business . We need come up with the best options for our students. I believe a good Catholic education is important and is still relevant in our communities. We need to be very careful in the decision that we make because it will affects students and the quality of education we will be able to provide. Once again why do our grade schools in the riverside area need to suffer when there Utilization rate is so high? Do we what to accelerate the declining enrollment in our Catholic School Board?

Terry Yaldo,

Parent

Catholic School Council Member

ARC Committee Member

Business Owner

4

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**

April-23-14 4:33:52 PM

Title: **Brennan 7-12 recommendation : Windsor-Essex CDSB**

Page 1 of

From: [REDACTED] Dania Fazekas <dfazekas@yahoo.ca> 4/22/14 4:04:29 PM 
Director of Education
Dania Fazekas <dfazekas@yahoo.ca>

Subject: Brennan 7-12 recommendation

To: [REDACTED] Eileen Belanger [REDACTED] **Beth Marshall** [REDACTED] Paul Picard
[REDACTED] Director of Education

Cc: [REDACTED] barbara_holland@wecdsb.on.ca

Hello,

I just wanted to take a moment to inform you that my daughter, who attends the wonderful school St John Vianney, will regretfully be attending Hetherington Public School if the trustees vote in favour of your wishes as opposed to the parents, students and community.

We moved within St. John Vianney's school boundary in order to have my daughter remain at this exceptional school, but with no incentive to stay in the Catholic system, the next choice is public which is still within our neighbourhood. Not to mention the fact that I do NOT want her attending a 7-12 model that is being rushed to completion in a few months time. How can the "incentives", busing, traffic issues, etc... etc. be in place and up to the highest quality that our children deserve in such a short time?

A decision made in your favour will leave me no choice but to abandon the Catholic school system, for a school that is still within walking distance, and a system that affords me the choice as to how my daughter is educated.

Thank you,

Dania Fazekas


Sent from Yahoo! Mail for Windows 8

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**

April-30-14 9:09:30 AM

Title: 'Our children are pawns' – Hundreds show up for conten...

Page 1 of

From: **"John Renaud"** <j.rena@wecdsb.com> Apr-25-14 12:12:12 PM 
Director of Education

Subject: 'Our children are pawns' – Hundreds show up for contentious me...

To: **Eileen Belanger** **Beth Marshall** **Paul Picard**
Director of Education

Paul Picard
Director WECDSB

Hello Mr. Picard..

I live on the first block of Coventry from the closed Concord School ,formerly a satellite School of Brennan and before that the GR 7/8 St. Louis School, for Riverside Catholic Students.

A new family moved across from me with three young children the eldest in Gr 6 at St.Rose and plans for the youngest to follow him through the grades.

When parents say they will transfer their students to the nearest Public School if their school is to be closed and their kids to be bussed to a distant school or gr. 7/8's together in one school "Brennan" ... around here, they have done it & will continue to do so.

The Public Board purchased St. Louis Schools from the WECDSB and pumped a few hundred thousands to upgrade it and some local Catholic School parents moved their kids to it . A few years later the WECDSB → moved the students from Riverside area closed schools by bus including Concorde School temporarily to a closed Public School at a distance then into the new David Suzuki School. Some Catholic parents transferred their children there also.

With difficult choices you with Administration have to make about this and others described in the above article, was any discussion given to the possibility to discuss a transfer of Schools with the Public Board? The Catholic Board would purchase the closed Concorde School, make necessary repairs, clean up and place a unique program at the former Concorde that you consider to do at Brennan for the Gr. 7/8 . This would hopefully keep most of these Catholic Students to not transfer to the Public Schools.. .

Respectfully, John Renaud. UW Alumni, Retired WECDSB..

Dear Mr. Picard,

April 30th, 2014

This letter is written with the utmost respect for you and your colleagues. I am the parent of a son who attends St. John Vianney School in the riverside area. My son is currently in 6th grade. I recently learned that my son and the rest of his class will possibly be moved to F.J. Brennan High school to complete grade 7 and 8 before transitioning on to high school. The assumption is that my son will choose to stay at F. J. Brennan for grades 9-12 since he may already be there for grades 7 and 8. However, there are more factors to consider. My son has an older sister who is currently at St. Joseph's High school and a younger brother who is in French Immersion who will also be attending St. Joseph's in the future. Furthermore, St. Joseph's High school is a new facility that promotes academic excellence and is located in an excellent neighbourhood. Hence, I will also send my son from St. John Vianney to St. Joe's. This is a decision that was made prior to the start of the ARC talks.

Having said that, if my son is forced to leave St. John Vianney next year, how will this affect his future? Based on what I have read, students who switch to a "middle school" instead of continuing on in a K-8 grade school have lower success rates in math and English scores, have a decrease in self esteem and an increase in the amount of misconduct or behavioural issues. These studies were not American based but mostly from the province of British Columbia where a variety of "middle schools" consisting of varying grades exist. One thing rings true. Students who attended K-8 schools overall had better outcomes. Higher scores in math and reading, higher self esteem, and less behavioural issues/truancy. These findings continued on into the high school years with the students who were followed.

I am very impressed with the amount of time and effort that parents, school faculty and the Board are putting forth to come up with a solution. May I suggest that the basis for all decision making should be in the best interest of the students. I have been told that F. J. Brennan will be a "Centre for Excellence" offering students a culinary arts program, an enhanced hockey program and a Chrome Book for every grade 7-8 student who attends. At present, my son currently has internet access via a Chrome Book at St. John Vianney. Looking into the future, if given the choice between teaching my son how to cook and play hockey or having a more solid foundation in math and reading with higher self esteem, any parent with common sense would agree that the latter is in the best interest of our children.

Please do not underestimate the value of our current K-8 school system. The literature supports this model for higher success rates for students academically, socially and spiritually. It also demonstrates negative effects on students in middle schools that continue on into high school. Please do not jeopardize my child's future and the future of hundreds, possibly thousands of students for the sake of an old building, or even a failing high school with low enrolment. The perceived money that may be saved now will be spent in the future trying to clean up the mess of the past.

If budgetary cuts must be made, I propose that one of two things happen. Firstly, **LEAVE THE GRADE SCHOOLS ALONE!** Amalgamate the two Catholic high schools that are not doing well- F.J. Brennan and Catholic Central at an agreed upon site. If this option does not work, my second proposal would be to stop enrolment at F.J. Brennan for any grade 9 students in September of 2014 and close Brennan after the remaining students graduate in 3 more years. Thank you very much for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely Yours,

Yvette Gebriel

Correspondence received
subsequent to the release
of the Director's Followup Report

East Windsor-Riverside
ARC

May 2, 2014

To: The Trustees of the Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board

Re: Riverside ARC

You may recall that I spoke at the Special Trustee Meeting regarding the Riverside Arc on April 14, 2014. I am a parent of three children at St. Rose. I am writing in the hopes that I might persuade you to deviate from the recommendation of the Director in his revised report dated Friday, May 2, 2014.

As I said during my oral submissions at the Trustee meeting, I am not in favour of the 7-12 model. There is compelling evidence to suggest that it is not the best model for educating children in grades 7 and 8. However, I was prepared to accept it with delayed implementation, and on the basis that all Riverside students would be going. I have now learned that the Director has changed his recommendation such that St. John Vianney will be left alone. While some new St. Maria Goretti students will ultimately attend St. Rose, initially all existing students will have the choice to attend St. Rose or St John Vianney and the reality is that most will choose a K-8 school, rather than a 7-12. St Rose, left with only our K-6 population, will be left with an enrollment far below the required capacity for funding, while St. John Vianney will be bursting at the seams. I fail to see how this is a rational approach to education or business.

The net effect of the recommendation is to destroy and undermine what is the top rated Catholic Grade School in Windsor-Essex, St. Rose (rated 8.6 or 142 out of 3030 schools). If this plan were implemented, our children from St. Rose would be the ONLY Riverside kids to be included within a larger East Windsor community of students, traveling away from friends, siblings and our community.

A viable answer is far more straightforward and less disruptive:

- Close St Maria Goretti.
- Leave St. Rose as a K-8, incorporating children from St. Maria Goretti (West of Lauzon). It is my understanding that we can likely do so without any or substantial improvement to the school. This will alleviate any enrollment decline projected at St Rose through 2024 (Some 10 years from now). Alternatively, move all St Maria Goretti to St. Rose and use government funding that is available for school consolidations to add on, with portables in the interim (renovations are likely at St John Vianney to accommodate St Maria Goretti students). This consolidation makes sense as children are from similar communities. They play sports and do activities together already. St. Rose is willing to accept the students.

- Implement the Corpus Christi Middle School with the East Windsor family of schools. That approach makes sense because the children affected are all from the same community and many of them will be displaced anyway as a result of consolidations in that area. They likely engage in activities and sports together already. They live in proximity to each other. The children from that family of schools would also perhaps benefit from a different school model, as all these schools have performed poorly in Fraser Institute rankings - St Jules (3.4 or 2791/3030), St Bernard (2.5 or 2911/3030) and Our Lady of Lourdes (0.0 or 3013/3030). Implementation of this new model will be made smoother by having more homogenous group of children. Adding the children from East Windsor Schools to 7-12 will create a reasonably sized middle school to permit implementation of the new model and work out any issues, without the added issues of social integration. Research shows that social integration is a significant issue in undermining success at middle schools and reducing student adjustment and performance.
- If the 7-12 Corpus Christi school is successful, revisit the issue of the 7-12 model in a few years for the Riverside schools (St Rose and St John Vianney). During this period, St. Rose and St John Vianney are at capacity and thus efficient.

As I said to you in my submissions, as well as in my discussions with many of you after the meeting, I thought the 7-12 model was not loved by parents, but could gain support with proper and delayed implementation and the acceptance that this was the plan for all Riverside children. The changes recommended by the Director have perhaps bought the support of St John Vianney as they are untouched, and St Maria Goretti because they can retain the K-8, but will destroy the support of the St. Rose Community. You will be asking us to leave the Riverside community, to leave a school that is recognized as ONE OF THE BEST in Essex County and top 5% in Ontario, to attend a school populated almost entirely with students from another community, arriving from schools that are in the bottom 10% of Ontario schools, while buying into a new middle school model. You would be asking us to do that when we have two viable public K-8 schools in Riverside. You would be asking too much. If St Rose does not remain a K-8, I would rather have one giant Riverside K-8 school than what is being recommended here.

I know there are economic and business realities to be faced. However, there are other options that make more sense. The recommendation undermines St. Rose, offering virtually no value to its students or community. It creates a St. John Vianney that will be overpopulated. It creates a social experiment at a new model of a school.

I implore you to reject the recommendation as it relates to St. Rose, to advocate for your constituents and implement a rational education plan for the children of Riverside. This would mean the consolidation of the three Riverside grade schools into two K-8 schools at St John Vianney and St Rose, with the implementation of 7-

12 as a pilot project for East Windsor at Brennan. Future consideration to a broader 7-12 model including Riverside Students would be considered at a later date.


I further hope that you will convene a further special meeting to permit us to publicly voice our input regarding the substantially changed recommendations

I welcome the opportunity to speak to you. I may be reached at 519-944-9530.

Cynthia Nantais

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**
Title: **this is crap - arc : Windsor-Essex CDSB**

May-05-14 8:38:33 AM
Page 1 of

From: [redacted] tina faubert [redacted]@hotmail.com 5/02/14 7:35:56 PM 

Subject: this is crap - arc

To: [redacted] **Beth Marshall** [redacted] sharonohaganwong@wecdsb.on.ca
[redacted] jim_mcmahon@wecdsb.on.ca
[redacted] joan_courtney@wecdsb.on.ca [redacted] john_macri@wecdsb.on.ca
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<http://www.wecdsb.on.ca/pdf/arc/20132014/Director%20Follow-Up%20Report%20-%20East%20Windsor%20-%20Riverside.pdf>

what this talk about double talk do we now get another meeting. talk about changing mind from minutes from April meeting speaking notes

<http://www.wecdsb.on.ca/pdf/arc/20132014/April%2015%20Riverside%20East%20Windsor.Speaking%20Notes.pdf>




please explain this

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**





May-05-14 8:31:47 AM

Title: **Director Follow up report : Windsor-Essex CDSB**

Page 1 of

From:  Jason Marchi jason.marchi@essex.ca 5/03/14 12:15:09 ...  
Director of Education

Subject: Director Follow up report - *Riverside*

To:  Eileen Belanger  Beth Marshall  Paul Picard
 Director of Education

I just finished reading the your follow up report and all I can say is thank-you

Its overwhelming to me that all the hard work and voices within the community are seen and listened to

All the parents of the affected schools understand the challenges we face and realize that changes need to be made however we were also I under the belief that are voices didn't really matter.

I have been proven wrong! Although the changes aren't going to make everyone happy, but they are inevitable, I can't express how happy I was just to read that some adjustments were being made as a result of the community input and CHOICES are being offered to the families. It brings tears to my eyes to see that we are being listened to and that you and the trustees do care about us.

I understand too that this isn't final yet but just seeing that our time and energy being put forth is not in vain.

Thank-you!

Jason Marchi

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**

May-06-14 8:33:09 AM

Title: note on east Windsor / Riverside Arc : Windsor-Essex CD...

Page 1 of 2:

From: [redacted] tina faubert <fauberttina@hotmail.com> 5/05/14 5:25:31 PM 

Subject: note on east Windsor / Riverside Arc

To: [redacted] **Beth Marshall** [redacted] sharonohaganwong@wecdsb.on.ca
[redacted] paul_picard@wecdsb.on.ca
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[redacted] lisa_soulliere@wecdsb.on.ca
[redacted] madeline_ellepola@wecdsb.on.ca

I would like to advocate that east windsor become the 7-12 school (as they will all eventually be at at Bernard for k-6) and Maria Goretti to go to a k-8 at rose. As long as John Vianney is staying a k - 8 and Maria Goretti gets to a choice on which school to attend it would only be fair with this boundary change that both Riverside schools stay the same and all east Windsor schools(Lorde Jules and Brenard) start the 7 -12 middle school since all will be changing schools next year with a new Benard school being built.

I was thinking about speaking at May 27 boards meeting but would hope that you will review some of my thoughts first. I would be honoured to speak with anyone regarding them.

thank you in advance for taking a few minutes for reading this email.

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**

May-06-14 8:33:09 AM

Title: **note on east Windsor / Riverside Arc : Windsor-Essex CD...**

Page 2 of 2:

Jim Faubert

email: fauberttina@hotmail.com

phone: 226.345.3069

I AM HERE AS A PARENT TO ASK YOU, THE TRUSTEES, TO VOTE NO ON ALL THE ARC'S TONIGHT. LET'S STEP BACK TO THE BEGINNING AND START OVER IN A NEW DIRECTION. LET LOOK AT SCHOOL BOUNDARIES FOR THE CITY. !

LET WAIT UNTIL THE YEAR OF 2016 WHEN CATHOLIC CENTRAL SCHOOL WILL CLOSE AND FIGURE OUT WHERE THOSE STUDENTS WILL HAVE TO GO. OR ARE WE NOW JUST TRYING TO FILL BRENNAN HIGH SCHOOL, SO THE BOARD CAN TELL THE MINISTRY THAT WE NO LONGER HAVE ROOM FOR THESE

Printed by: Beth Marshall

May-06-14 8:33:09 AM

Title: note on east Windsor / Riverside Arc : Windsor-Essex CD...

Page 3 of 2:

STUDENT AND WE NEED MONEY FOR A NEW
CATHOLIC HIGH
SCHOOL DOWNTOWN. IS THE HIGH SCHOOL
AND FIELD FIT
ON THE WINDSOR ARENA/ WATER WORLD SITE.
I HEARD THE
SPORT FIELD WAS GOING ON THE PARKING LOT
ACROSS THE
McDOUGALL STREET, WHICH WAS ALSO
MENTIONED IN A
WINDSOR STAR ARTICLE ON APRIL 20, 2014 BY
JARVIS
ENTITLED A BURNISHED CIVIC SQUARE. THAT
THE CITY IS
CONSIDERING TO PUT A PARKING GARAGE ON
THE SITE OF A
PARKING LOT ON THE WEST SIDE OF
McDOUGALL STREET
ACROSS FROM WINDSOR ARENA. !

CENTRAL WINDSOR ARC WAS A WASTE OF
TIME NOTHING
CHANGES. NO STUDENT SPACES WILL BE

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May-06-14 8:33:09 AM

Title: note on east Windsor / Riverside Arc : Windsor-Essex CD...

Page 4 of 2:

REMOVED FROM
BOARDS SURPLUS. NOW IN THE FOLLOW-UP
REPORT THE
DIRECTOR WILL NOT CLOSE CATHOLIC
CENTRALIN 2016 IF
FUNDING IS NOT GRANTED FROM MINISTRY. IF
GRADE 7 TO
12 SCHOOL ARE THE FUTURE, WHY IS NOT THE
BOARDS
RECOMMENDING THE BUILDING OF THE NEW
CATHOLIC
CENTRAL SCHOOL BE A 7 TO 12 SCHOOL AND
MOVE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION INTO ST. ANGELA AS
A K TO 6
SCHOOL. !

FOR THE TECUMSEH ARC. WHY EVEN CHANGE
ANYTHING IN
THAT ARC, WHY CHANGE ST. PUIS SCHOOLS TO
K TO 6 AND ST.
GREGORY SCHOOL TO 7 & 8 IF NO SURPLUS
SPACES BE

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Title: **note on east Windsor / Riverside Arc : Windsor-Essex CD...**

Page 5 of 2:

REMOVED FROM BOARD. WHY NOT LET THE STUDENTS STAY

WHERE THEY ARE UNTIL ALL STUDENTS FIT INTO ST PUIS. !

AS FOR THE RIVERSIDE ARC, THIS SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY ARC THAT IS REALLY BEEN EFFECTED BY THE DIRECTORS REPORTS THAT KEEPS CHANGING ALL THE TIME. THE DIRECTOR SPEAKING NOTES AND MINUTES THAT WERE APPROVED FROM THE APRIL 15 MEETING, WAS TO MOVE ALL GRADE 7 & 8 FROM ST JOHN VIANNEY, ST MARIA GORETTI AND AT ROSE TO BRENNAN. NOW HE CHANGED IT TO SPLIT GARETTI BETWEEN SJV AND ST ROSE WHERE THE DIRECTOR RECEIVED INPUT ABOUT THE DIFFICULTY OF DIVIDING THE

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Title: **note on east Windsor / Riverside Arc : Windsor-Essex CD...**

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SCHOOL COMMUNITY. AS SUCH
ADMINISTRATION FINAL
RECOMMENDATION WILL INCLUDE THE
CONSOLIDATION OF
ALL ST MARIA GORETTI TO ST ROSE. WHY IN
THE FOLLOW -UP
REPORT ST MARIA GORETTI IS BEING SPLIT
BETWEEN TO
SCHOOLS. IS THE BOARD GOING TO OPEN UP
ST JOHN
VIANNEY SCHOOL TO ALL RIVERSIDE STUDENTS
WHO WANT
TO FINISH GRADE 7 & 8 IN AN ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL NOT A
MIDDLE SCHOOL, THAT IS FORCED INTO A
RETRO FIT HIGH
SCHOOL. !

LET TALK ABOUT BRENNAN:!

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Title: note on east Windsor / Riverside Arc : Windsor-Essex CD...

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- BRENNAN HAS ROOM TO FIT CATHOLIC
CENTRAL !

- BRENNAN WILL GET THIS GREAT NEW SPORT
PROGRAM, WHY
NOT ALLOW THIS TO START AND SEE HOW WILL
IT IMPROVE

ENROLMENT AS A HIGH SCHOOL !

- CATHOLIC CENTRAL ONLY BEEN AROUND
SINCE 1985/86
SCHOOL YEAR ITS STUNDENT USED TO TRAVEL
TO BRENNAN

WHY CAN'T THEY AGAIN.!

- YOU SAY THEY WILL NOT PASS THREE HIGH
SCHOOLS, HOW
MANY WILL TRANSFER TO KENNEDY OR
HERMAN INSTEAD OF

MOVING DOWNTOWN.!

- WHY SHOULD WE PASS THE SAME OR MORE
PUBLIC
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN OUR NEIGHBOUR
HOODS TO

ATTEND A MIDDLE SCHOOL THAT IS NOT

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WANTED OR NEEDED !

- LET LOOK AT THE BOUNDARIES FOR BRENNAN FOR A SECOND ON THE BRENNAN WEBSITE IT LIST ST JOHN VIANNEY AND ST BENARDS AS PART OF THE FAMILY OF SCHOOLS BUT IT BEEN STATED THAT AT LEAST 60 % OF SJV STUDENTS GOES TO ST JOESEPH HIGH SCHOOL AND IF YOU LOOK AT THE BOUNDARY MAP ST BENARD IS IN CATHOLIC CENTRAL BOUNDARY AND ST JULES IS SPLIT BETWEEN BOTH BRENNAN AND ST JOE'S!

- IF ST BENARD IN CATHOLIC CENTRAL BOUNDARIES WHERE WILL THE STUDENT GO WHEN AND IF THE NEW ST BENARD SITE EVER BUILT !

- SAY NO INTERACTION BETWEEN HIGH AND MIDDLE SCHOOL.
HOW WILL THIS BE DONE? BELLS DIFFERENT

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Title: **note on east Windsor / Riverside Arc : Windsor-Essex CD...**

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TIMES YEAH
RIGHT LET SAY HIGH SCHOOL EARLY, STUDENT
LEAVE AND
WILL HAVE TO PASS BY MIDDLE SCHOOL TO
CATCH CITY
BUSES TO GO HOME (DISRUPTING CLASSES)
MIDDLE
SCHOOL EARLY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
ARRIVE EARLY FOR
SPORT OR CAUSE OF BUSING (WONDERING
AROUND AND
PASS MIDDLE SCHOOL - DISRUPTION)!

- DIFFERENT IN BELL TIMES WILL ALSO MAKE
PARENTS TO
TRAVEL ALL OVER TO AND FROM THREE
DIFFERENT SCHOOL IF
HAVE KIDS IN ALL SCHOOLS, ELEMENTARY,
MIDDLE AND HIGH
SCHOOLS!

- WHY DID YOU DO AN ARC IF BRENNAN WITH
ALREADY BEING

RETRO FITTED FOR 7 & 8 STUDENTS IN
DECEMBER!

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Title: note on east Windsor / Riverside Arc : Windsor-Essex CD...

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- IN SPEAKING RIVERSIDE NOTES: BRENNAN HAS RICH HERITAGE THAT ARE UNWILLING TO RECOMMEND CLOSURE OR CONSOLIDATION WITH ANY OTHER SCHOOL WHY NOT PUT

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH OTHERS HIGH SCHOOL .!

- WHAT WOULD BRENNAN ENROLLMENT BE IF ALL OF ST JOHN VIANNEY, ST JULES, ST BENARD GRADE 8 STUDENTS CAME TO BRENNAN OVER THE PASS 4 YEARS AND FROM NOW ON INSTEAD OF ALLOWING THEM TO GO TO ST JOE'S OR CATHOLIC

CENTRAL.!

- ACCORDING TO PROJECTION WATSON REPORT!

GRADE 9'S IF ALL WENT TO BRENNAN FROM FAMILY OF

SCHOOLS!

YEAR!! PROJECTED! ENROLLED!

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SHOULDHAVE/HAVE !

9/10	233	176		
10/11 ;	223	187		
11/12	205	163		
12/13	251	156	912	/
652				
13/14	210	164	889	/
637				

MIDDLE SCHOOL!

- ARE WE STUFF STUDENT IN TO BRENNAN TO FORCE

FUNDING FOR DOWNTOWN!

- UNIFORMS YES OR NO, SAME OR DIFFERENT THAN BRENNAN

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Title: **note on east Windsor / Riverside Arc : Windsor-Essex CD...**

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SAFETY AND COST FOR THESE STUDENTS -
SAFETY STANDS
OUT FROM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT NO MATTER
WHAT THEY
LOOK LIKE. DIFFERENT UNIFORMS MAY MAKE
THEM A TARGET
FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. SAME
TEACHERS CAN NOT
TELL DIFFERENT BETWEEN THE SCHOOLS AND
AGAIN IF
TARGETED TEACHER WILL NOT KNOW WHO IS
WHO. COST
WILL FORCE PARENTS TO PAY FOR A SET OF
UNIFORMS FOR
TWO YEARS AND THEN BUY A DIFFERENT SET
FOR ANOTHER
FOUR.!

- HOW SPACE WILL THE MIDDLE SCHOOL TAKE
UP IN BRENNAN
NEXT YEAR IF IT IS ONLY ST ROSE AND PART OF
SMG AND ST
JULES.!

WHAT HAPPEN TO 7 & 8 FROM ST BENARD AND
OUR LADY OF

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**LORDE IF NO NEW SCHOOL BUILT FOR 2015
YEAR!**

**- WILL THE STUDENTS STILL GET CHROME
BOOKS AND IS IT
NOW FAIR THAT SJV STUDENT DO NOT OR WILL
SJV STUDENT**

BE ALOUD TO ATTEND THE MIDDLE SCHOOL!

**-IS THERE OR WHAT IS THE PLAN FOR BUSING
AROUND THE**

SCHOOLS!

**- PROMISED ALL THESE GREAT THINGS WHEN
WILL WE OR**

WILL WE EVER GET THEM!

**- WILL OUR GRADE 7 & 8 STUDENT GETS THE
SAME AS**

OTHERS IN THE CITY!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS!

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- OUR GRADE 6 & 7 THIS YEAR FELL LIKE GETTING KICK OUT OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (AT MY KIDS SCHOOL THEY DON'T GET TO GRADUATE FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIKE OTHER WILL HAVE) TOLD GRADE 8 WILL GRADUATE CAUSE THEY ARE EXPECTING IT MAY GRADE 6 & 7 STUDENTS EXPECTED TO GRADUATE WHEN IT WAS THEIR TURN BUT NEXT YEAR 6'S

WILL HAVE A GRADUATION !

- IS IT FAIR TO JUST THROW ALL THESE STUDENTS IN TO CHANGE WITHOUT ALLOWING THEM A CHANCE TO ABSORB THESE CHANGES (ALLOW US THE SAME AS ALL OTHER

SCHOOL AND ARC A 2016 TIMELINE)!

BOUNDARIES SOME CITY WIDE REMARKS!

- LET LOOK DEEPLY AT THIS THROUGH OUT THE CITY !

- IN CATHOLIC CENTRAL MR PICARD SAID
WOULD NOT CLOSE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CAUSE NO OTHER
SCHOOL FROM
DOWNTOWN TO BRIDGE WHAT ABOUT ST JOHN
ON GROOVE
(COULD CHANGE ST JOHN AND ST ANGELA
BOUNDARIES TO

INCLUDE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION!

- WHY IS THE BOARD THINKING ABOUT MOVING
ST JOHN IN
WEST WINDSOR WHEN THE PUBLIC BOARD IS
BUILDING A NEW

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Title: note on east Windsor / Riverside Arc : Windsor-Essex CD...

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**SCHOOL RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER, WHY
SPEND 1.5**

**MILLION TO RETRO FIT THE EDUCATION
CENTRE!**

**- WHY NOT SPEND THAT MONEY TO ACCEPT
SOME CATHOLIC**

**CENTRAL STUDENT INTO ASSUMPTION AND
BRENNAN!**

**- THE BOARD IS WILLING TO HAVE ONE
SCHOOL, NEW ST
BENARD BOUNDARY TO GO FOR JEFFERSON
FROM THE EAST
TO WALKER ROAD TO THE WEST AND FROM
THE RIVER TO THE
NORTH AND TO THE AIRPORT TO THE SOUTH (**
WHICH LEAVES

**1 CATHOLIC SCHOOL TO 4 PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR
THIS AREA!**

**- YES WE NEED BOUNDARY CHANGES IN
RIVERSIDE WHAT IF
EAST RIVERSIDE WENT TO ST PUIS AND ST
MARIA GORETTI
GOES TO ST JOHN VIANEY AND ST ROSE, IF ST**

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**ROSE
BOUNDARY EXTENDED PAST PILLETTE TO
STURBANN FROM**

TRAIN TRACKS TO RIVER.!

**HOW HARD WOULD IT BE TO CHANGE THE NEW
ST BENARD
SITE TO A MORE CLOSER BETWEEN ALL THREE
SCHOOLS
LORDE, JULES AND BENARD, LOOKS LIKE LOTS
OF LAND**

AROUND LORDE SITE WHICH IS IN THE MIDDLE!

**- SURE THERE IS OTHER AREAS IN THE CITY TO
MOVE**

BOUNDARIES TO BETTER FILL SCHOOLS!

THE BOARDS CAPITAL PLAN PROJECTS !

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- CONSTRUCT NEW CATHOLIC CENTRAL (COST
35 MILLION) IF
GET FUNDING. WHY WHEN ROOM IN OTHER
SCHOOLS, IF
WILLING TO MOVE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS
AROUND WHY NOT

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!

- RETRO FIT EDUCATION CENTRE TO MOVE ST
JOHN (1.5
MILLION) LET IMPROVE ST JOHN AND CHANGE
IT BOUNDARY

MOVE SOME CATHOLIC CENTRAL STUDENTS
INSTEAD !

- CONSTRUCT 8 CLASSROOMS AT HOLY
NAMES(4 MILLION)
HOW ABOUT A COUPLE MORE TO ALSO ACCEPT
CATHOLIC

CENTRAL STUDENTS!

- CONSTRUCT TRACK AND FOOTBALL FIELD AT
HOLY NAMES(2

MILLION) IMPROVING THE SCHOOL !

- CONSTRUCT 4 CLASSROOMS AT ST PETER TO

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REPLACE

PORTABLES(2 MILLION)!

**- CONSTRUCT NEW LA SALLE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL (13**

MILLION)!

**DOES THE BOARD HAVE ANY FUNDING FOR
THESE PROJECTS
OR WILL BOUNDARY CHANGES MASKE IT
EASIER FOR SOME**

FUNDING!

INCLOSING!

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Title: **note on east Windsor / Riverside Arc : Windsor-Essex CD...**

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- OUT OF THE 4500 SURPLUS SPACE HOW MANY
DOES THESE

ARC ACTUALLY FILL!

- WHY DOES THE CENTRAL AND TECUMSEH
ARC HAVE NO

CLOSURES OR CHANGES TO SCHOOLS
SURPLUS UNTILL 2016!

- WHAT IS THE RUSH TO CHANGE THE RIV
ERSIDE SCHOOLS IN
2014 INSTEAD OF ALLOWING US TIME LIKE
OTHER ARC HAS

2016!

I FEEL THAT THE RUSH IS AGAIN TO FILL UP
BRENNAN SO THE

BOARDS CAN SAY NO ROOM FOR CATHOLIC
CENTRAL SCHOOL!

MR PICARD SAID THAT CATHOLIC CENTRAL
STUDENTS
DESERVE THE SAME AS OTHER HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS IN
THE CITY DURING THE CENTRAL ARC MEETING
ON APRIL 15,

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May-06-14 8:33:09 AM

Title: **note on east Windsor / Riverside Arc : Windsor-Essex CD...**

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WHAT ABOUT OUR GRADE 7 & 8 STUDENTS
WHY FORCE THEM
OUT OF THEIR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WHERE
THEY THOUGHT
THEY WOULD GRADUATE FROM AND NOT BE
PONS IN THE

BOARDS GAME WITH THE MINISTRY TO GET
FUNDING!

- SO ACCORDING TO CENTRALS FOLLOW-UP
REPORTS THE
DIRECTOR WOULD RATHER HAVE CATHOLIC
CENTRAL STAY IN
A SCHOOL WITHOUT THE SAME ASSETS AS
OTHER SCHOOLS
RATHER THAN COMBINING THEM WITH OTHER
HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENTS WITH NEW IMPROVED COURSES!

- AT THE CATHOLIC CENTRAL SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 14
SPEAKING NOTES MR PICARD SAID THAT
CATHOLIC CENTRAL

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DESERVE A NEW FACILITY THAT PLACE THEM
ON A LEVEL
PLAYING FIELD WITH ALL OTHER STUDENTS
AND A SHARED

VISION AND UNITED VOICE IS WHAT WE NEED!

-IF MR PICARD WANTS A COMMUNITY WITH A
UNITED VOICE
THEN LISTEN TO US THE PARENTS IN THE EAST
WINDSOR/
RIVERSIDE ARC AS WE SAY NO TO CORPUS
CHRISTI MIDDLE
SCHOOL AND LEAVE OUR 7 & 8 STUDENTS
WHERE THEY
BELONG IN OUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. NOT
TO FORCE

THEM IN TO A RETRO FIT BUILDING. !

- SO I AM ASKING YOU THE TRUSTEES TO VOTE
"NOT TO PASS
THE DIRECTOR/ ADMINISTRATIONS REPORTS IN
FRONT OF
YOU. LET STEP BACK AND USE THE TWO YEAR

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**DEADLINE
THAT TWO OUT OF THE THREE ARC HAS 2016
TO DO A WHOLE
BOARD WIDE BOUNDARY REVIEW!**

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**

May-06-14 8:10:10 AM

Title: **Fwd(3): FW: Request for Special Board Meeting for River...**


Page 1 of :

From: **Beth Marshall** 
Cathy Geml
Superintendent of Student Achievement K
Kim Bouchard <kim.bouchard@wecdsb.on.ca>

Subject: Fwd(3): FW: Request for Special Board Meeting for Riverside ARC

To:

Cc:

Attachments:  Attach0.html / Uploaded File (4K)

----- Original Message -----

Ms. Geml, I felt it appropriate to forward this email to you as well, given our recent conversation.

Regards,

Kim Bouchard

From: kim.bouchard@wecdsb.on.ca
To: colleen_norris@wecdsb.on.ca
CC: barbara_holland@wecdsb.on.ca
Subject: Request for Special Board Meeting for Riverside ARC
Date: Sat, 3 May 2014 01:01:56 +0000

After reading the recently released revised Director's recommendation for the Riverside ARC, as a concerned parent, co-chair of the St. Rose CSAC and member of the ARC committee for the St. Rose school community, I think it only appropriate for me to request a Special Board Meeting to allow the St. Rose parents the opportunity to speak to the changes and how they affect us.

I know that I have spoken at length and candidly to each of you in the past, and I have to admit that this revised recommendation does not sit well with me. What once seemed like an equitable and fair combination of school communities now seems terribly unbalanced and leaves me concerned for personal reasons. Where once there was growing support from the St. Rose community for a delayed implementation 7-12 including STJV and STMG (because honestly, the majority of STMG will most likely choose to attend STJV as a K-8 school), I think you will find that that support will be dramatically reduced with this changed recommendation.

I have had children at St. Rose for 20 years, and was hoping to continue this into the foreseeable future, but I have this nagging feeling that perhaps a change is in order for my family and for my piece of mind. I have been so positive, so voice-of-reason through this whole process but I am now

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May-06-14 8:10:10 AM

Title: **Fwd(3): FW: Request for Special Board Meeting for River...**

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feeling less so. I honestly don't know what to say to the parents that are already frantically contacting me this evening because I honestly don't know how I feel in my own heart/mind.

Please feel free to contact me on my cell phone [REDACTED] this weekend (I'm in Guelph moving my oldest into his first solo place) or anytime Monday. I will also be checking my email throughout the weekend.

I respect each of you greatly and have enjoyed my conversations with you both. Please know that this was a tough email for me to write.



Regards,

Kim Bouchard

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**
Title: **Fwd(2): ST. JULES CLOSURE : Windsor-Essex CDSB**

May-06-14 12:58:48 PM


Page 1 of 1

From:  **Beth Marshall** 
Sharon O'Hagan-Wong
Judith Obatusa <judithobatusa@eschools.on.ca>

Subject: Fwd(2): ST. JULES CLOSURE

To:

Cc:

Attachments:  Attach0.html / Uploaded File (6K)

----- Original Message -----

Dear Ms. Sharon,

I am a parent of children in St. Jules Catholic Elementary School.

I arrived Canada July 30, 2012 and my children started school in September with my eldest in F. J. Brennan, my middle 2 in St. Jules and my youngest in St. Anne's FI.

My son in St. Jules started having challenges in the school and the school waded in and worked with us to settle him down properly. Today, he is a better settled child and a potential mentor for immigrant children like himself. All because the school did not give up on him. They tried their best, Mrs. Tara Clarke (the Principal), Ms. Tanya Thornton (his class teacher at the time) and a whole lot of other staff, worked tirelessly to ensure that he became properly integrated into the Canadian school system and ultimately in Canada.

My eldest in Brennan also ran into challenges, of course magnified because in the teen years everything can get blown out of proportion. The difference here was that the school advised us to move her to another school because F. J. Brennan was 'too white' for her. We moved her to St. Joe's and had to contend with the after effects of her Brennan experience. However, in spite of her obvious challenges, she loved being in the school and the school has never given up on her. They have consistently worked with us to help her be the best she can be.

After that experience, sending any more children of mine to Brennan will be very difficult.

As a new immigrant with children, your child's school can make or mar your settlement experience.

St. Jules is presently located in a historic building, and within an area heavily populated by immigrants. It has been a school that watches out for our children and works with us to help them excel.

If the school is moved, the ripple effect on the community would be enormous and unfortunately, a negative one.

I as a parent, and I know many who feel the same way, believe its better to build a new school on the same site, though keeping the facade because of the historic significance, like they are doing downtown with the old Windsor Star office. We have space for that expansion.

The fact that many of our children can walk to school is something that we appreciate. This helps keep them fit and healthy. Having the school within the community gives many children the opportunity to start their day right, with a walk to school.

I deliberately chose catholic schools for my children because I've always believed that Catholic Schools are the best. The integration of Faith into education which is what the Catholic education system is about, makes a whole lot of difference. Moving St. Jules away from its present location will make it more difficult to achieve the hard won harmony and learning

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May-06-14 12:58:48 PM

Title: **Fwd(2): ST. JULES CLOSURE : Windsor-Essex CDSB**

Page 2 of :

opportunities which we get from our proximity to St. Theresa's.

When all the meetings are done, it is us the parents that will live with the direct results of the decisions you made.

We are the ones who will bear the brunt of this, we and our children.

Please leave St. Jules where it is. There must be another way to achieve accessibility at the same location without stripping the community of the stability that having the 90-years old St. Jules school represents.

Thank you for all the work your committee is putting into this decision. I pray it favours us all.


Judith Obatusa ~~www.judithobatusa.blogspot.com~~

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**

May-08-14 8:38:34 AM

Title: **Our telephone conversation this week re Riverside ARC ...**

Page 1 of 1

From: [REDACTED] Cindy Nantais [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> 5/07/14 10:50:... 
[REDACTED] Director of Education

Subject: Our telephone conversation this week re Riverside ARC

To: [REDACTED] Eileen Belanger [REDACTED] Beth Marshall [REDACTED] Paul Picard
[REDACTED] barbara_holland@wecdsb.on.ca

Cc: [REDACTED] mary_dimenna@wecdsb.on.ca
[REDACTED] fred_alexander@wecdsb.on.ca
[REDACTED] joan_courtney@wecdsb.on.ca [REDACTED] frank_favot@wecdsb.on.ca
[REDACTED] john_macri@wecdsb.on.ca
[REDACTED] bernie_mastromattei@wecdsb.on.ca
[REDACTED] jim_mcmahon@wecdsb.on.ca [REDACTED] lisa_soulliere@wecdsb.on.ca
[REDACTED] Director of Education

Hello,

I wanted to thank you for taking the time to speak to me this week regarding the revised Director's report and my concerns for St. Rose.

I trust you are now receiving feedback from your constituents in Riverside about our lack of enthusiasm for the 7-12 model, particularly for September 2014 and particularly if St Rose is the only Riverside school implicated. There are numerous studies that decry middle schools and the one that is being proposed now only amplifies the risk to students (immediate implementation, lack of reasonable preparation of students/transition, merging of different school communities, etc)

I truly think that the Director's assessment of the enthusiasm and anticipation by the public for 7-12 is overstated. Every parent I have spoken to wants St Rose to remain a K-8, with their children remaining in Riverside. Many will take steps to ensure their children remain in Riverside, in a K-8 environment rather than merging with a different community and participate in the 7-12 (going to one of several Riverside public schools). Any comfort that we had from the idea that Corpus Christi would be a balanced school community (about 1/2 riverside from St Rose and St John Vianney and 1/2 East Windsor) is gone and people now outright reject the idea, particularly with immediate implementation. However reasoned the explanation for excluding SJV, the 7-12 has lost any support or momentum at our school.

Riverside is a very tight knit community. I, like many, grew up here. Many of us return or remain as adults to raise our families here. Our desire to live in "Riverside" and access its schools and amenities causes us to pay too much for small houses. We are not East Windsor, we are Riverside and our children play sports together and do other extra curriculums together. Our linkage to St Maria Goretti is longstanding both in terms of our faith communities and the fact that our children do hockey, baseball and other activities together. The kids see each other in parks and in our neighbourhoods. We are close enough that many of the SMG children will still be able to walk to our school. We are close enough that our children will be able to safely bike or walk to visit all their school friends. It is a natural fit to incorporate SMG into a K-8 St. Rose, creating a vibrant and community based school at the best WECDSB school in Windsor-Essex.

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May-08-14 8:38:34 AM

Title: **Our telephone conversation this week re Riverside ARC ...**

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I reiterate my suggestion that:

- SMG merge with K-8 ST Rose (either entirely or West of Lauzon). We are happy to welcome them and have more room than SJV at this point (which would become a ridiculously large size).

In doing so, you are preserving the best WECDSB school in Essex County and top 5% in Ontario.

- Run 7-12 at Corpus Christi for East Windsor Family of Schools (as they will eventually all attend St Bernard, making the transition an easy one that they all make up together). The children from East Windsor and all of the transfers and outside kids that the director believes will come to Corpus Christi will amply fill the building without needing to disrupt our relatively small contingent of 7-8s. You will then have a transformative opportunity for East Windsor Schools who desperately need it. It will also minimize social integration issues that plague and undermine middle school experiences.

- In a few years, once funding is known for Catholic Central and Corpus Christi is running well and working, reconsider adding the Riverside schools to the 7-12 model.

St. Rose families are dedicated to quality education and what the Director is proposing offers NO VALUE to the St Rose student. We are asked to give up our excellent elementary experience. We are not swayed by chromebooks or other bells and whistles. We don't need them. We have the best now.


The above proposal addresses fiscal issues and ensures that St Rose also benefits from the process. We are virtually the only school in this process that will be worse off (even SMG, while closed, is being offered the chance to remain in a K-8). Many other participants in the ARCs across the city have been delayed or reprieved or promised further study. Our school is being shoved into a new model, with a different community, when answers close to home are possible and reasonable.

I thank you for your time. I am happy to discuss any of these issues with you. I urge you and your fellow trustees to host another public meeting or at least informal gathering given the changes to the Director's recommendations for our area.

Cynthia Nantais


Printed by: **Beth Marshall**
 Title: **FW: RIVERSIDE ARC QUESTION : Windsor-Essex CDSB**

May-12-14 8:17:19 AM
 Page 1 of ;

From: [REDACTED] tina faubert <[REDACTED]> 5/09/14 4:11:40 PM 

Subject: FW: RIVERSIDE ARC QUESTION

To: **Beth Marshall** [REDACTED] barbara_holland@wecdsb.on.ca
 sharonohaganwong@wecdsb.on.ca
 bernie_mastromattei@wecdsb.on.ca
 colleen_norris@wecdsb.on.ca
 frank_favot@wecdsb.on.ca
 fred_alexander@wecdsb.on.ca
 mary_dimenna@wecdsb.on.ca
 jim_mcmahon@wecdsb.on.ca
 joan_courtney@wecdsb.on.ca [REDACTED] john_macri@wecdsb.on.ca
 lisa_soulliere@wecdsb.on.ca
 madeline_ellepola@wecdsb.on.ca
 paul_picard@wecdsb.on.ca

From: [REDACTED]
 To: barbara_holland@wecdsb.on.ca
 Subject: RIVERSIDE ARC QUESTION
 Date: Thu, 8 May 2014 21:55:37 -0300

HI BARB, I HAD ANOTHER THOUGHT TODAY REGARDING THE RIVERSIDE ARC, BETWEEN ST ROSE, ST MARIA GORETTI AND ST JOHN VIANNEY BEING A K TO 8 SCHOOL. I KNOW US AT ST ROSE THINK WE SHOULD HAVE A RIGHT TO ALLOW OUR STUDENTS TO ATTEND A K TO 8 SCHOOL LIKE OTHER IN OUR COMMUNITY. WE ALSO DON'T THINK IT RIGHT THAT BOTH MARIA GORETTI AND JOHN VIANNEY GET TO CHOICE WHICH SCHOOL TO ATTEND A K TO 8 OR MIDDLE SCHOOL OR A K TO 6 SCHOOL. I WAS WONDERING IF YOU THE TRUSTEES OR EVEN MYSELF A PARENT WITH THE TRUSTEES OR ADMINISTRATION PROMISSION TO DO TWO SURVEY ONE WITH STUDENTS OF GRADES 5,6 AND 7'S AT ALL THREE SCHOOLS AND THEN ANOTHER ONE WITH THE PARENTS OF THE SAME GRADES. THE REASONING WOULD BY TO SEE HOW MANY STUDENT WANT TO ATTEND WHICH SCHOOL IN THE COMMUNITY IF THE CHOICE WAS THE SAME AT EACH SCHOOL.

AN EXAMPLE COULD BE:

 STUDENT / * PARENT OF STUDENT :CURRENTLY ATTENDING:
 ST ROSE _____ ST MARIA GORETTI _____, ST JOHN VIANNEY _____

I WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND OR HAVE MY CHILD ATTEND THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL IN THIS FORM

CORPUS CHRISTI MIDDLE SCHOOL _____

ST JOHN VIANNEY AS A K TO 8 SCHOOL _____

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**
Title: **FW: RIVERSIDE ARC QUESTION : Windsor-Essex CDSB**

May-12-14 8:17:19 AM
Page 2 of :

ST ROSE AS A K TO 8 SCHOOL_____

OR ATTEND A K TO 6 SCHOOL_____

I KNOW YOU WILL SAY ST ROSE AND ST JOHN VIANNEY WILL PICK THEIR SCHOOL BUT IT WILL ALLOW YOU A CHANCE TO TOTALLY SEE WHERE ST MARIA GORETTI WOULD LIKE TO GO WITHOUT BEING CENTRED OUT. AND HOW MANY STUDENTS WANT TO ATTEND CORPUS CHRISTI WITHOUT A PARENT TELLING THEM WHAT TO ANSWER. IF THE STUDENTS WERE DONE AT SCHOOL AND PARENT SENT HOME AFTER. WITH THEM CIRCLING OR CHECKING OFF A STUDENT OR PARENT AND WHICH SCHOOL CURRENTLY ATTEND YOU WILL FIND OUT WHERE THEY WANT TO ATTEND AND MAYBE NOT FORCE MARIA GORETTI STUDENT TO A SCHOOL THEY DON'T WANT TO ATTEND CAUSE THEY WANT A CERTAIN TYPE OF SCHOOL OR MAYBE WE WILL SEE THAT MORE STUDENTS WANT TO ATTEND CORPUS CHRISTI FROM AN UNEXPECTED SCHOOL.

I AS A PARENT WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SCHOOL WOULD BE HAPPY TO COUNT AND PROVIDE THE TRUSTEES WILL THE RESULTS SO NO ONE COULD SAY IT WAS WRONGLY COLLECTED AND MISSED COUNT.




I WOULD LOVE TO HERE BACK FROM YOU ON THIS SUGGESTION
THANKS

JIM FAUBERT
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

P.S. THANKS FOR SPENDING TIME LISTENING TO MYSELF WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT TECUMSEH ARC MEETING.

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**
Title: **Fwd(2): Meeting : Windsor-Essex CDSB**

May-12-14 11:17:21 AM
Page 1 of

From:  **Beth Marshall** 
Sharon O'Hagan-Wong
Joli Michalczuk 

Subject: Fwd(2): Meeting

To:

Cc:

Attachments:  Attach0.html / Uploaded File (3K)

----- Original Message -----

Good Morning . Unfortunately last night as i was with my family enjoying family time I got a text to check the board site. I was very upset about all these new changes being made. IS there any way to request a speical board meeting for our Riverside area? I feel this is very unfair for new changes to be made and we are not able to have any say on this. Parents are already frustrated at our school lots ready to leave for the public system some already enrolled for fall. If catholic education is to be saved we really need to have another meeting for all of our community to have a chance to talk. Please let me know if there is something we can do, I am very upset about all this and feel I spent the past year devoting my time for something that is already made up :(

Joli

Printed by: **Beth Marshall**















May-15-14 8:27:59 AM

Title: **FW: RIVERSIDE ARC QUESTION : Windsor-Essex CDSB**

Page 1 of :

From:  tina faubert  5/14/14 10:17:09 PM  

Subject: FW: RIVERSIDE ARC QUESTION

To:  **Beth Marshall**  barbara_holland@wecdsb.on.ca
 sharonohaganwong@wecdsb.on.ca
 bernie_mastromattei@wecdsb.on.ca
 colleen_norris@wecdsb.on.ca
 frank_favot@wecdsb.on.ca
 fred_alexander@wecdsb.on.ca
 mary_dimenna@wecdsb.on.ca
 jim_mcmahon@wecdsb.on.ca
 joan_courtney@wecdsb.on.ca  john_macri@wecdsb.on.ca
 lisa_soulliere@wecdsb.on.ca
 madeline_ellepola@wecdsb.on.ca
 paul_picard@wecdsb.on.ca

From: 

To: beth_marshall@wecdsb.on.ca; barbara_holland@wecdsb.on.ca;
sharonohaganwong@wecdsb.on.ca; bernie_mastromattei@wecdsb.on.ca;
colleen_norris@wecdsb.on.ca; frank_favot@wecdsb.on.ca; fred_alexander@wecdsb.on.ca;
mary_dimenna@wecdsb.on.ca; jim_mcmahon@wecdsb.on.ca; joan_courtney@wecdsb.on.ca;
john_macri@wecdsb.on.ca; lisa_soulliere@wecdsb.on.ca; madeline_ellepola@wecdsb.on.ca;
paul_picard@wecdsb.on.ca

Subject: FW: RIVERSIDE ARC QUESTION

Date: Fri, 9 May 2014 17:11:40 -0300

From: 

To: barbara_holland@wecdsb.on.ca

Subject: RIVERSIDE ARC QUESTION

Date: Thu, 8 May 2014 21:55:37 -0300

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Page 2 of :

COMMUNITY IF THE CHOICE WAS THE SAME AT EACH SCHOOL.

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THANKS

JIM FAUBERT

P.S. THANKS FOR SPENDING TIME LISTENING TO MYSELF WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT TECUMSEH ARC MEETING.



1325 California Avenue
 Windsor, ON N9B 3Y6
 CHAIRPERSON: Barbara Holland
 DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION: Paul A. Picard

Meeting Date:
 May 27, 2014

BOARD REPORT

Public In-Camera

PRESENTED FOR: Information Approval

PRESENTED BY: Senior Administration

SUBMITTED BY: Paul A. Picard, Director of Education

SUBJECT: **DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION’S FOLLOW-UP REPORT ON THE ACCOMMODATION REVIEW STUDY FOR THE CENTRAL WINDSOR AREA, INCLUDING CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND ST. ANGELA CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Director’s Follow-Up Report on the accommodation review study for the Central Windsor Area, including Catholic Central High School, Immaculate Conception and St. Angela Catholic Elementary Schools be received as information; and

That approval be given to the recommendations of Senior Administration as follows:

That the Board continue to pursue capital funding from the Ministry of Education for the construction of a new facility for the Catholic Central High School community at the Windsor Arena site, as Administration’s preferred site, or at an alternative location that considers the best interests of the students, families and communities within the Central Windsor Area; and

That should funding be secured, a Transition Committee be established, composed of Catholic Central staff, parents and students, to consult on the development of floor/site plans for the facility; and that when construction is completed, the existing Catholic Central High School Facility be closed and deemed surplus to the Board’s future needs in accordance with Section 194 (3) (a) of the Education Act. Administration shall work with the Committee to support the transition of the school community into the new facility; and

That Immaculate Conception Catholic Elementary School be closed, and deemed surplus to the Board's future needs in accordance with Section 194 (3) (a) of the Education Act, if and when enrolment at Immaculate Conception is such that the student population at the school could be accommodated in surplus space at St. Angela, without the need for an addition to the St. Angela facility; at which time the student population would be consolidated at the St. Angela site; and

That the Board annually advise the communities of the enrolment forecasts for the upcoming school year by February of the prior year; Should the forecasts in any given year indicate that enrolment is such that Immaculate Conception can be accommodated at St. Angela for the following school year, without the need for an addition to the St. Angela facility, Immaculate Conception shall be closed at the end of that school year and the student population consolidated at the St. Angela site effective September of the following school year; and

That should Immaculate Conception be closed, an Integration Committee composed of representatives from both school communities be immediately established in order to plan for and implement the positive integration of students and staff into the new merged communities.

SYNOPSIS:

A special public meeting of the Board was held on Monday, April 14, 2014, where the public was provided an opportunity to make presentations to the Board concerning the Director's Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Central Windsor area, including Catholic Central High School, Immaculate Conception and St. Angela Catholic Elementary Schools. The public was also invited to provide written input to the Director of Education with respect to his report and/or the Accommodation Review Committee's (ARC's) report.

Pursuant to Board Policy A: 05 and Procedure Pr: 05, that address pupil accommodation review studies, Administration is required to prepare a follow-up report to report on and respond to the representations made by the public. After consideration of input received, Administration has revised its previous recommendations and those revised recommendations for approval are detailed above.

As prescribed within Board policy and procedure, the Board of Trustees will make its decision regarding the school accommodation recommendations after consideration of the ARC's Accommodation Report, the Director's Report, the Director's Follow-up Report and community input.

BACKGROUND COMMENTS:

Prior to the special meeting for public input on April 14 2014, the Board received the Director's Report which included, as appendices, the ARC's School Information Profiles, the ARC Report, the information package provided to the ARC, minutes of the ARC meetings, and written input received by the Director. All of this information was made available to the community prior to the meeting, through the Board's public website.

Notice of the special meeting for public input, as well as notice of the May 27, 2014 meeting, where the Board would make its decision regarding the school accommodation recommendations for the Central Windsor area, was provided via school newsletters, letters to the school community, the Board's website, and the local news publications.

At the public meeting, the Director of Education presented Administration's Report, with explanation to further clarify Administration's recommendations. The Director also addressed specific concerns raised by the Trustees.

Although no delegates from the community presented at the public meeting, Trustees and members of Board Administration remained after the meeting to hear the comments and/or concerns from audience members.

Senior Administration has carefully considered the valuable input received through the public meeting and through the consultation process, and has incorporated the following amendments into its initial recommendation:

- Withdrawal of the recommendation to close Catholic Central High School in June 2016 if capital funding for a new facility is not approved;
- Inclusion of the recommendation for the construction of a new Catholic Central High School facility at the Windsor Arena Site, as Administration's recommended preferred site, or at an alternative location that considers the best interests of the students, families and communities within the Central Windsor Area.

Rationale for Amendments to Administration's Initial Recommendation Report:

Having heard from the community through the public consultation process, Administration maintains the student accommodation recommendations for Immaculate Conception and St. Angela Catholic Elementary Schools that were presented at the public consultation meeting on April 14, 2014.

The above noted amendments to the recommendations for accommodating the Catholic Central High School community are presented for approval after consideration of the following:

- The clarification provided by the Director at the meeting of April 14, 2014 (speaking notes attached to this report);
- The strong voice heard from the community indicating a need for a new Catholic secondary school in Central Windsor. This "need" is supported by the 15 year enrolment forecasts prepared by Watson and Associates, which details, after a period of slight decline in enrolment through 2018-2019; a 56% forecasted increase in enrolment at Catholic Central by 2027/2028. This "need" and potential growth cannot be accommodated in the existing facility or in surrounding Catholic secondary schools, with boundary adjustments;
- It is clear from the accommodation study that a new Catholic Central High School in the central Windsor/downtown core is the "optimal" and "necessary" accommodation option for the potential growing population in this area. Considering the guiding principle of the Board's Accommodation Review Policy, which sets out the Board's commitment "to achieving the greatest good for the greatest number of its students and their families", Administration cannot support an alternate accommodation recommendation for closing Catholic Central and adjusting boundaries to

accommodate Central Windsor/ Downtown area students in other Board secondary schools. This recommendation is not in the “greatest good” of Central Windsor students, considering their needs, nor is it for the “greatest good” of the other surrounding secondary schools, considering the current utilization, future projections and/or accommodation/programming plans for those schools; and

- With the “need” clearly evidenced for a new Catholic secondary school in Central Windsor, and with consideration for the results of the Accommodation Review Study and consultation process, which reinforced the importance of a Catholic High School in the area in terms of value to students, value to the community, value to the local economy, and value to the Board, Administration cannot bring forward a recommendation to close the school even if Ministry funding is not realized.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

As detailed within the Report

TIMELINES:

The Board to make its final decision on the Accommodation Review Study of the Central Windsor area at the May 27, 2014 Public Board Meeting.

APPENDICES:

- Minutes of Special Board Meeting April 14, 2014 meeting
- Director Picard’s Speaking Notes April 14, 2014

REPORT REVIEWED BY:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:	Review Date:	May 1, 2014
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EXECUTIVE SUPERINTENDENT:	Approval Date:	May 2, 2014
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION:	Approval Date:	May 2, 2014



1325 California Avenue
Windsor, ON N9B 3Y6
CHAIRPERSON: Barbara Holland
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION: Paul A. Picard

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Monday, April 14, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
Catholic Central Secondary School
441 Tecumseh Rd. E, Windsor, ON**

MINUTES

PRESENT

Trustees: F. Alexander B. Mastromattei
M. DiMenna, Vice-Chair J. McMahon
F. Favot L. Soulliere
B. Holland, Chair

Rev. L. Brunet, Board Chaplain

Regrets: Trustee Courtney, Student Trustees Ellepola and Dellosa

Administration: P. Picard (Resource) E. Byrne
J. Bumbacco P. King
M. Iatonna C. Norris
S. O'Hagan-Wong
M. Seguin
J. Ulicny

Recorder: B. Marshall

1. Call To Order - Chair Holland called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
2. Opening Prayer – Fr. Brunet opened the meeting with a prayer.

Chair Holland assured members of the audience that the Board meeting was designed specifically to receive public input on Administration's Recommendations for the Central Windsor area.

Chair Holland outlined the delegation process and time limit and also mentioned trustees will remain after the meeting to speak to the members of the community.

3. Recording of Attendance – Trustee Courtney sent her regret due to a work commitment. Student Trustee Ellepola sent her regrets due to a work commitment. Student Trustee Dellosa sent his regrets due to illness.

4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Trustee DiMenna and seconded by Trustee Mastromattei that the April 14, 2014 Special Regular Board meeting agenda be approved as distributed. Carried

5. Disclosure of Interest - Pursuant to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

Trustee Macri disclosed interest in relation to agenda item 6a) Director of Education's Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Central Windsor Area, including Catholic Central Secondary School, Immaculate Conception and St. Angela Catholic Elementary Schools due to his sons' employment and did not participate in the discussion or vote on any question raised on that item.

6. Communications:

- a. Report: Director of Education's Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Central Windsor Area, including Catholic Central Secondary School, Immaculate Conception and St. Angela Catholic Elementary Schools

Director Picard provided the following explanation to further clarify administration's recommendations:

An announcement of funding to construct a new Catholic Central on the Windsor Arena/Water World/Glengarry Park site would cause the immediate elimination of the recommendation to close Catholic Central. There are several other factors that contributed to the 2016 closure recommendation:

- a) Potential excess space in Catholic Secondary schools sharing a boundary with Catholic Central, i.e. F.J. Brennan, Holy Names, and Assumption Catholic Secondary Schools. Holy Names is not a viable solution as it is currently above capacity with portables.
- b) Assumption's International Baccalaureate program continues to grow and there is an expressed interest from parents to see it expanded to the intermediate level (grades 7 & 8).
- c) The Riverside community is currently in the midst of Accommodation Review. The entire Catholic Central School community could be accommodated at Brennan. It is unreasonable however, to believe that students would pass by 3 public secondary schools in order to choose Catholic education. Furthermore, it is unacceptable to the Board that a Catholic secondary school presence be abandoned in the Core City area. Administration would not recommend this option.
- d) There is a request before the Ministry to consider funding the accommodation of St. John Catholic Elementary at the Assumption site. It is not reasonable to believe that Catholic Central students would be willing to travel out of the downtown area to either South Windsor or West Windsor.

Director Picard addressed trustees' questions on the potential use of City of Windsor owned property, Wigle Park; sufficient space at the current Windsor Arena site, correspondence received from the Ministry of Education regarding funding for a new school, boundary adjustments should Catholic Central close; and recent correspondence with members of parliament.

Moved by Trustee Mastromattei and seconded by Trustee Favot that the Board receive as information the Director's Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Central Windsor Area, including Catholic Central Secondary School, Immaculate Conception and St. Angela Catholic Elementary Schools; and

That the Board receive public input concerning the Director's Report, and the matters that are addressed in it and in the Accommodation Review Committee's (ARC's) Report. *Carried*

7. Delegations:
- a. Delegations Regarding Accommodation Review Committee's and Director of Education's Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Central Windsor Area, including Catholic Central Secondary School, Immaculate Conception and St. Angela Catholic Elementary Schools

No Delegation requests were received.

Chair Holland mentioned to the audience members they are welcome to send comments and/or concerns to trustees or administration. Chair Holland invited trustees to remain after the meeting to speak with members of the audience.

8. Closing Prayer – Fr. Brunet closed the meeting with a prayer.
9. Adjournment - There being no further business, the Special Regular Board meeting of April 14, 2014 adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Approved

Barbara Holland
Board Chairperson

Paul A. Picard
Director of Education

Director Picard's Speaking Notes:April 14, 2014 (Central Windsor ARC)

Welcome,

Accommodation Review is perhaps the most difficult of Board related consultative processes.

Almost by definition Accommodation Review presupposes changes to the status quo. Families, the fabric of communities and in particular students, are affected. The art and the science of this is to attempt to reconcile fiscal reality with enhanced learning. The reconciliation of these often seemingly divergent realities is beyond difficult.

Significant declining enrolment is a huge challenge. The recommendations I make are predicated upon research, consultation and analysis of both measureable and anecdotal data. A one size fits all model simply does not exist.

I'd like to review the data and give you insight into the analysis leading to the Central Windsor recommendations.

Immaculate Conception (ICS)

- Large school – Tuscarora site; MOVED – Victoria site – Currently at capacity (?)

St. Angela

- Currently at 75 percent; some accommodation strain with respect to facility usage; Catholic presence west of Ouellette, almost all the way to Huron Church is critical.

The Board currently has excess capacity of nearly 4500 student spaces. The impact of this is twofold. The empty classroom space is a significant issue in and of itself but it is most certainly minor relative to the staffing impact of underused facilities. Consolidation of schools yields significant savings which can be used to enhance the learning experience for learners. As Director, I have a fiduciary responsibility to make recommendations towards maximizing the effective use of the resources allocated to the Board.

Catholic Central

The recommendation contemplates the closure of Catholic Central if a new facility is not realized prior to 2016. Clarification is required. An announcement of funding to construct a new Catholic Central on the Windsor Arena/Water World/Glengarry Park site would cause the immediate elimination of this recommendation. There are several other factors that contributed to the 2016 closure recommendation:

1. Potential excess space in Catholic Secondary schools sharing a boundary with Catholic Central, i.e. F.J. Brennan, Holy Names, Assumption. Holy Names is not a viable solution as it is currently above capacity with portables.
2. Assumption I.B. continues to grow and there is an expressed interest from parents to see it expanded to the intermediate level (7 & 8).

There is a request before the Ministry to consider funding the accommodation of St. John Catholic Elementary at the Assumption site. It is not reasonable to believe that

Catholic Central students would be willing to travel out of the downtown area to either South Windsor or West Windsor.

3. Brennan – The Riverside community is currently in the midst of Accommodation Review. The entire Catholic Central School community could be accommodated at Brennan. It is unreasonable however, to believe that students would pass by 3 public secondary schools in order to choose Catholic education. Furthermore, it is unacceptable to the Board that a Catholic secondary school presence be abandoned in the Core City area. Administration would not recommend this option.

Catholic Central reflects all that is good about those who wish to share in a Catholic values based education. In excess of 70 countries are represented in this special place. The school is the only secondary school in our region that has no outdoor athletic play space for practice or games. Students must walk through an alley to attend classes in an annex that sits above a strip mall a block away. The school is magical; no other words can describe what it offers to this community. They deserve a new facility that places them at a level playing field with all other students in our area.

It is time that we all speak in a united voice supporting the hard work and advocacy on behalf of the new school initiative by Minister Piruzza. Documentation is available indicating that an alternate proposed site suggested by the committee is unacceptable to the City. Quite frankly it is Administration's position that the Windsor Arena site is the best site so that our students can be an integral part of the emerging education and cultural hub that is Downtown Windsor. A shared vision and a united voice is what we need.