



Thornhill Elementary Schools - Accommodation Review Committee

**Minutes of ARC Working Meeting #11
held May 14, 2009, 6:30 p.m.
at St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School
135 Green Lane, Thornhill**

In attendance:

ARC Chair: Patricia Preston, Associate Director
ARC Secretary: Andy Di Sebastiano, Superintendent of Education: School Leadership

Members:

Norbert Koehl	CSC Chair	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
Sam Cuda	Parent	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
Maureen Hurley	Parent	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
Amanda Butters	Teacher	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
Tony Patriarca	Non-Teaching	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
June Buick	Principal	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
Joe Wigglesworth	CSC Chair	St. Michael Catholic Academy
Louie Gavros	Parent	St. Michael Catholic Academy
Trixie Santiago-Sorrell	Parent	St. Michael Catholic Academy
Dayna Fitzpatrick	Teaching	St. Michael Catholic Academy
Melodie Curran	Non-Teaching	St. Michael Catholic Academy
Luisa Busato	Principal	St. Michael Catholic Academy
Tracy O'Connor-Lauzon	CSC Chair	St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School
Diane Scaini	Parent	St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School
Paul Wilkie	Parent	St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School
Lisa Falconi	Teaching	St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School
Angie Della-Rovere	Non-Teaching	St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School
Gord Lovgren	Principal	St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School
Father William Burns	Parish	St. Luke Parish, Thornhill
Lisa Thalassinis	Parish	Good Shepherd Parish, Thornhill
Carol Cotton	School Trustee	Markham, Area 1, Wards 1,2,3,6

ARC Facilitator:

Dan Del Bianco, Watson & Associates

ARC Resource Staff:

Tom Pechkovsky	York Catholic	Manager of Planning Services
Christine Hyde	York Catholic	Planner
Joe McLoughlin	York Catholic	Manager of Maintenance Services

Recording Secretary:

Wendy Cosentino

Public Observers Signed In:

C. Mason	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
D. Moser	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
E. Sirianni	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
C. Von Zueben	St. Michael Catholic Academy
B. Vottero	St. Michael Catholic Academy
L. Jennings	

Absent with Reason:

Bryce Eldridge	York Catholic	Superintendent of Plant
Dan McCowell	York Catholic	Senior Manager, Administrative Services

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

The meeting was held in the St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School Library and was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The ARC Chair welcomed everyone to Working Meeting #11 and led the group in prayer to begin the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MAY 14, 2009, ARC AGENDA, WORKING MEETING #11

The agenda of the Thornhill Elementary Schools Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) Working Meeting #11 of May 14, 2009, was approved.

3. APPROVAL OF APRIL 23, 2009, ARC MINUTES, WORKING MEETING #9

The Minutes of the ARC Working Meeting #9 held April 23, 2009, at St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School, were approved as circulated.

4. APPROVAL OF APRIL 23, 2009, ARC MINUTES, WORKING MEETING

The Minutes of the ARC Public Meeting #3, held April 30, 2009, at St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School, were approved as circulated.

5. UPDATES TO ARC BINDER

ARC members were provided with **A Summary of Supporting Documentation Distributed with Revised Table of Contents for Working Meeting #11**. The list of materials and documents for file in the ARC binder, were reviewed by the ARC Secretary, with particular note to:

a) **York Catholic District School Board - Notice of Public Meeting #3**

As per *Board Policy 713, Pupil Accommodation Review, Item 2.4, Meetings of the ARC*, Notice of Public Meeting #4 to be held May 28, 2009, has been given to the public as advertised in the local Markham (Economist) and Richmond Hill (Liberal) newspapers in edition circulated May 14, 2009. A copy of the Public Notice of Meeting #4 was provided for inclusion in the ARC Binder under Section 10, and has been posted to the ARC website (see *Notices*).

b) **Appendix A to Minutes of Working Meeting #8, 04.16.2009**
Appendix A to Minutes of Working Meeting #9, 04.23.2009
Alternative Accommodation Options – Original Options Presented

Appendix A to Minutes of Working Meetings, #8 (04.16.2009) and #9 (04.23.2009), were revised to reflect changes discussed and approved to the ARC *Alternative Accommodations Options Presented*. The revised documents reflect a progressive record on the development of accommodation options up to and including the presentation made at Public Meeting #3.

6. QUESTIONS RECEIVED FROM THE COMMUNITY & PROPOSED RESPONSES

Questions received through Community feedback and Question & Answer cards distributed at Public Meeting #3, and, those sent to the ARC email (via arcthornhill@ycdsb.ca), were presented for consideration. Following review, proposed responses to questions Received from the Community, #1-17, were approved. Questions and approved responses will be posted to the ARC website.

7. INPUT RECEIVED FROM THE COMMUNITY

Community feedback from Public Meeting #3, April 30, 2009 (Feedback Sheets) and that received through email to the ARC (via arcthornhill@ycdsb.ca) up to May 14, 2009, was summarized and presented to the ARC in accordance with *Board Policy 713, Pupil Accommodation Review, Item*

2.4, *Meetings of the ARC*. The ARC Secretary reported that a total of 40 Feedback Sheets had been submitted from Public Meeting #3 and 83 email responses received for consideration by the ARC.

On motion made and approved, the Input received from the Community presented for consideration at Working Meeting #11 was received.

8. ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

(a) Presentation by ARC Member

A presentation was made by an ARC member recognized from the St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School community on consideration of the proposed accommodation options. A copy of a matrix based on a system of projected weighting factors was distributed and discussed; the document was shared as an information item only. The ARC Chair thanked the member from St. Anthony for sharing insight and valuable discussion on this important task before the ARC.

(b) Staff Presentation

The ARC Resource Team presented a detailed overview on ARC draft Accommodation Options #4 (Revised B), Option #5 (Revised), Option #7 (Revised), Option #10, Option #13 (Revised) and Option #14 (Ministry Submission). The presentation included discussion on the proposed options as it pertains to:

- **Common Themes**
 - *found in the 6 proposed options -Arts Program, boundary changes, construction of new school, addition to school, relocation for PACE*
- **Points of Agreement**
 - *Arts program to remain, dual track not preferred*
- **Options**
 - *considering new school, close school, school renovation, school addition*
- **Ministry of Education *Final Submission***
 - *Final submission proposed must meet the intent of the Ministry of Education funding by addressing the PTR needs of the community*
- **Remaining Points of Discussion**
 - **PACE**

After some discussion, it was agreed that the decision whether to include the PACE program in the accommodation option(s) would be held in abeyance pending decision on number of other issues currently being considered. The following points of reference were recorded from this discussion:

 - The PACE program is a regional program and as such can be relocated to any school where there is available space to accommodate the program; and further, if relocated, staff and program resources would automatically follow
 - Arts and PACE together could be considered as dual track, a programming option that was not supported and a point of agreement that has already been determined in discussion
 - PACE locations are currently being reviewed at Board level based on growth in areas where students are presently living

o **Facilities**

- Discussion of proposed options as it pertains to size and facility focused on the fact that school capacity is limited to the size of the sites available
- Sites sizes at SAY and SML will not allow for a facility over 500-600 pupil places; SRG.SL has not been identified as PTR and as such should not be considered for a rebuild

9. ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS - REVIEW

Following presentation by the Resource Team the ARC reviewed, discussed and voted on the 6 proposed accommodation options. Action to keep or remove an option was based on a 2/3 voting mechanism. The following is a report on deliberations in order of consideration:

OPTION	VOTES TO INCLUDE	VOTES TO REMOVE	ACTION	COMMENTS/CHANGES
Option 10 Combine all at St. René Goupil-St. Luke) (Rebuilt) All programs available (Arts, PACE, RT) Close St. Anthony and St. Michael		UNANIMOUS	REMOVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dual track not supported • does not provide for 1 viable school in each parish • no support for mega school size • does not address Ministry intent and PTR needs of the community
Option 14 Rebuild St. Michael (Arts, PACE, RT) St. René Goupil-St. Luke Status Quo (RT) Close St. Anthony	2	18	REMOVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • closing St. Anthony does not provide for 1 viable school in each parish • St. Anthony students belong to the St. Luke parish – mandate to attend St. Michael will remove them from their home parish • school size very large for existing school site (4.68) • relocation of St. Anthony students (to St. Michael) problematic for transportation • status quo for St. René Goupil-St. Luke would not necessarily change enrolment or grade structure • does not provide for St. René Goupil-St. Luke to share in funding • dual track not supported – triple track would take away from the Arts program
Option 5 Update to St. Anthony (RT) Addition to St. René Goupil-St. Luke for Arts Close St. Michael		UNANIMOUS	REMOVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • closing St. Michael would remove viable school in each parish • option does not provide for sustainable enrolment • expenditures high and do not result in new school and/or facility for the Arts program • substantial renovations to existing building require upgrades to codes which are costly – would require large portion of funding to cover O.D.A. upgrades • renovation to St. René Goupil-St. Luke to accommodate the Arts program problematic - results in displacement of large number of students

At this point in discussion, the ARC reached consensus that accommodation option(s) include new school construction (SAY or SML). Based on consensus, Options #4 (Revised B), Option #7 and Option #13 were reviewed at this time.

OPTION	VOTES TO INCLUDE	VOTES TO REMOVE	ACTION	COMMENTS/CHANGES
Option 7 <i>Rebuild St. Michael (Arts)</i> <i>Addition to St. René Goupil-St. Luke (RT)</i> <i>Close St. Anthony</i>	UNANIMOUS		KEEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider Option 7 with boundary change given that the Thornhill review area is small– consider boundaries that divide the area more evenly so as not to cause pointless displacement of students important to be mindful that the St. Luke community has already experienced recent change (to St. René Goupil) and would like community to stay in St. Luke parish – boundary change for rebuild at St. Michael should not include Area 12 consider highway infrastructure in boundary review – Hwys 404 and 407 should be considerations for parents transporting to and from school from out of area (TCH 19) will need to determine number of classrooms required for proposed addition at St. René Goupil-St. Luke – take into consideration and work with St. René Goupil-St. Luke daycare to possibly reclaim 2 classrooms currently on lease to the group
Option 13 <i>North of John St to St. René Goupil-St. Luke (Addition) (RT)</i> <i>South of John to St. Michael (Rebuilt) (Arts)</i> <i>Close St. Anthony</i>	1	19	REMOVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 13 was removed knowing there will be amendments to Option 7 Option 7 with change to boundaries will keep elements of Option 13 revisions to boundaries in Option 7 will address recommendation that there be no disruption to St. Luke community
Option 4 <i>Rebuild St. Anthony for the Arts (Arts)</i> <i>Addition to St. René Goupil-St. Luke (RT)</i> <i>Close St. Michael</i>	<i>There was some discussion regarding Option 4. No vote was taken, however, there was consensus by ARC members on the direction given to the ARC Resource team as recorded under “Comments”.</i>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> variation in boundaries – direct what goals are consider boundary adjustment for Option #4 similar to Option #5 (removed) create balance - will need comparative data option geographically different from the 1 community already committed to Arts program

The ARC Resource Team was asked to review Option #4 and Option #7 giving consideration to comments and suggestions made. Both options will be revised and presented for further discussion at Working Meeting #12 with:

- 1) variations in boundaries
- 2) maps showing the number of students in each of the geographical areas based on residence
- 3) difference of capacity between Option #4 and Option #7

10. NEXT STEPS – ARC DRAFT SCHOOL VALUATION REPORT TO DIRECTOR

The ARC Facilitator addressed the group on the ARC Draft School Valuation Report that will be prepared and shared for community input at Public Meeting #4 (May 28). To meet the timelines under *Board Policy 713, Pupil Accommodation Review, Section 2.8, The ARC School Valuation Report*, the report will be submitted to the Director following the public meeting and no later than June 19, 2009 (120 days from first public meeting).

A copy of a draft Table of Contents was distributed for consideration; the table provided an outline of items and points of reference that are required in the report under Board Policy 713. The ARC was asked to review and bring forward any items that they may wish to have included in the report. Once factual points have been completed, the ARC facilitator will complete the report based on the approved accommodation option(s) for presentation to the Board.

11. NEXT MEETING

Working Meeting #12 will be held at St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School on Thursday, May 21, 2009. The Committee will consider Option #4 and Option #7 with boundary revisions as discussed. The ARC Draft School Valuation Report will also be presented for initial review at that time.

It was agreed that the ARC will also meet on Monday, May 25, 2009, to prepare for Public Meeting #4. As per *Board Policy 713, Section 2.4, Meetings of the ARC, Item (b)*, the ARC draft School Valuation Report will be presented for community feedback at the Public Meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.