



Questions Received from the Community (Received Public Meeting #4 held May 28, 2009 & ARC Email) & Approved Responses

Reviewed & Approved at ARC Working Meeting #14
June 4, 2009, St. Rene Goupil/St. Luke CES

	DATE RECEIVED & COMMUNITY	QUESTIONS RECEIVED: FROM THE COMMUNITY	PROPOSED RESPONSES	REFERENCE
1.	05/28/2009 SAY	"My question is simple – what is in this recommendation #7 that will benefit the families – the community of St. Anthony?"	<p><i>Proposed accommodation Option 7 provides for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>enhanced opportunities for learning through fewer combined grades and extra-curricular opportunities</i> • <i>enhancements to include an enlarged gymnasium</i> • <i>school will be within walking distance - closer to parish</i> • <i>full childcare will be available on site</i> • <i>students will be attending school in a new facility</i> 	Draft School Valuation Report: Item 4
2.	05/28/2009 SAY	"Could the funds currently allocated in the report to provide "enhancements" to St. René Goupil/St. Luke be used to repair the <u>portion</u> of St. Anthony that is PTR?"	<i>Funds could only be used with Ministry approval. This would not meet the intent of the funding, as they are not sufficient to complete all necessary PTR needs at both St. Anthony and St. Michael.</i>	
3.	05/28/2009	"(Page 18.1) Draft of Valuation Report, states possible alternative uses for any building recommended for closure, however, if the building is deemed (PTR) then how is it that you can house other programs in the building?"	<i>The designation PTR does not mean unsafe. Alternative uses could occur until the facility needs extensive renovations (i.e. building can be kept operational as long as possible with minimal maintenance /repair).</i>	



4. 05/28/2009 "This is not the 1st ARC process. Why hasn't anyone looked at the results of the St. Luke School closure that took place 5 years ago? It has not sustained the school population of the St. Rene Goupil/St. Luke school community. What is the data from that closure? How many families changed over to the public system as a result of that ARC process?"

In order to consider the above question a statistical review was done over the enrolment for a 5 year period prior to St. Luke closing in 2003 and also the 5 years after the school closed.

Enrolment was reviewed for both St. Luke and the Thornhill area as a comparison for the prior 5 years and on the Thornhill area for the 5 post years after it closed.

The Analysis:

1997-2003

Enrolment at St. Luke was declining at an average of 15 students per year or -11% .

Enrolment for Thornhill was also declining at an average of 55 students per year or -8%

2003-2004

Enrolment at St. Luke went from 102 to 82 students at various York Catholic Schools.

63 chose to attend St. Rene Goupil/St. Luke.

9 went to Bishop Scalabrini, 5 to St. Michael, 2 to St. Anthony, plus 1 to each of 3 other schools

of the 20 less, 10 students were grade 8's graduating, the majority of the balance of loss can be attributed to the ongoing decline in the area. As illustrated above, the decline was a condition that existed prior to the beginning of any process or actual closure of St. Luke.

2004-2008

Enrolment in the Thornhill area continues to decline, particularly at St. Anthony and St. Rene Goupil/St. Luke.

During this period enrolment in the Thornhill area has declined by an average of -17 students per year or -4%.

Response:

The data shows that there was a pre-existing enrolment decline prior to the St. Luke closure. The data also shows a continuation of enrolment decline after the St. Luke closure.

The data available does not allow for the identification of students who may have left the system for the York Region District School Board. The data illustrates that this number is not significant, as the enrolment decline follows both prior and post patterns.

9.	06/01/2009	<p>“Originally, when St. Michaels Academy applied to get funding from the board, was there ever a stipulation that these funds had to be used for a school that had the Arts program?”</p>	<p><i>The binder prepared by the St. Michael community and subsequent presentation to the Board was not part of an accommodation review and did not initiate PTR funding from the Ministry.</i></p> <p><i>The PTR process by the Ministry of Education determines the needs and the available funding. The Ministry of Education has allocated funding based on its own analysis. Any request for funding had no part in this process.</i></p>	
10.	06/01/2009	<p>“If St. Anthony is deemed PTR then why are you proposing options for use of the building if the school closes?</p> <p>One option would be to use it as an adult learning school. Does the area justify 3 adult learning schools? We have Langstaff Public School on Yonge St., also St. Luke’s at John St. and adding St. Anthony as an option would make it three? Is there a demand for adult schools? Where is the data for this?</p> <p>If this were to be used for office space, it would require renovations – why can’t we get some budget money for renovating St. Anthony?</p>	<p><i>The ARC can make suggestions for use of building, see #3.</i></p> <p><i>Any proposed uses would require further consideration/research by the Board prior to implementation.</i></p> <p><i>Any proposed uses would require further consideration/research by the Board prior to implementation.</i></p>	
11.	06/01/2009	<p>“Why is one school receiving 80% of the budget when both schools were deemed PTR? Where is the fairness in all this?”</p>	<p><i>The Ministry of Education provided allocation for the entire Thornhill area. The ARC must develop accommodation solutions.</i></p>	
12.	06/01/2009	<p>“During the construction period, will the children at St Michael's be relocated? If the children are relocated, where will they go and will all of the classes/grades be kept together or will they be separated depending upon where they are relocated?”</p>	<p><i>This will be considered by a transition committee.</i></p>	



13.	<p>01/06/2009</p> <p>01/06/2009</p> <p>06/01/2009</p>	<p>I am a parent of a student who has been recommended to the PACE program at St. Anthony's Catholic School in Thornhill. I have been reviewing all the information available on the website and have some questions with regards to the future of the PACE program at this particular school. This past school year we moved from Markham to Maple and my child(ren) also moved to a new school. Although we have heard good things about the PACE program we are hesitant to move my son only to have him move again a year later due to a closure of St. Anthony or a relocation of the program. I realize that you are still in the decision making stages, however can you offer some potential scenarios so that we can make an informed decision about our son's placement..”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆</p> <p>My son is scheduled to enter St. Anthony Catholic School under the PACE program in Sept, 2009. Since the proposal met at the last meeting was to move the PACE program being hosted at St. Anthony Catholic School to another location without affecting it, when can we know which location/school will be the new host for the PACE program in Sept 2010?</p> <p>“This is of particular interest to us because my son is very much into music and we are debating if he will benefit more by entering the PACE program (no arts/music) or entering an arts program (no PACE). If we know that in 1 year’s time the PACE program will be hosted by an arts focused school, we do not even have to debate (it’s a God-sent solution). Please let us know any details relating to our concern. Thank you very much.”</p>	<p><i>All locations for PACE will be reviewed by the Board.</i></p> <p><i>If the PACE program is chosen, students needs will be met regardless of location. Transportation will be provided for eligible students only. A new location will be determined by the end of the 2009/2010 school year.</i></p> <p><i>The ARC has not recommended a dual track school (PACE/Arts).</i></p>	
14.	06/01/2009	<p>“Why is the board allowing option #7 to be a viable option if the school board is mandated to teach our children subjects that do not include art as a major component?”</p>	<p><i>All programs in York Catholic District School Board schools are supported by the Board. Option #7 is a viable option. Arts is a mandated program in all schools; the difference is the proportion of the subject(s) taught at St. Michael.</i></p>	
15.	06/01/2009	<p>“If the 3 schools involved in the ARC process were at full capacity and were all PTR; would the board have the money to put into all three? This is assuming that there are no other close schools that these kids could be sent to.”</p>	<p><i>The Ministry of Education determined funding level. A response would be speculative.</i></p>	



16.	06/01/2009	<p>“Was a transportation study ever done for St. Anthony whereby the school was visited to see how many cars travel to drop off and pick up kids and was this taken into consideration when the conclusion was drawn and reported on the draft stating that traffic patterns would remain the same if St. Anthony families moved over to St. Rene?”</p>	<p><i>No, a traffic study was not done. Existing traffic problems at St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School are due to a combination of reasons including the small frontage, lack of a parent drop off area. St. Rene Goupil-St. Luke Catholic has a larger facility with a better ability to accommodate All St. Anthony students will be eligible for the bus reducing car traffic from this area.</i></p>	
17.	06/01/2009	<p>“I cannot reach the petition site so I will just state my opinion here. My whole family does not think that St. Anthony's closure is a good thing and we would like to vote that St. Anthony's School does not close down. <u>But if it does, about how long will the school remain open?</u> I am not sure if there is a site that explains everything so if there is one, could you please send it to me? Thank you. Thanks!</p>	<p><i>All information pertinent to the Thornhill Accommodation Review is posted on the ARC website at www.ycdsb.ca.</i></p> <p><i>If a school is designated for closure, a transition committee will be established. Depending upon required transitions, the school could be open until June 2011. It is contingent depending upon approvals and construction schedules.</i></p>	