



## Thornhill Elementary Schools - Accommodation Review Committee

### Minutes of ARC Working Meeting #2 held January 8, 2009, 7:00 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	Teacher	St. Michael Catholic Academy
Melodie Curran	Non-Teaching	St. Michael Catholic Academy
Luisa Busato	Principal	St. Michael Catholic Academy
Tracey 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
Gordon 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 Facilitators:

Lygia Dallip, Watson & Associates

#### ARC Resource Staff:

Dan McCowell, York Catholic - Senior Manager, Administrative Services  
 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:

Connie Mason	CSC Co-Chair	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
Diana Moser	Parent	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
Mary Ann Kennedy Smith	Teacher	St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School

#### Absent:

Bryce Eldridge, York Catholic – Superintendent of Plant  
 Dan Del Bianco, Watson & Associates

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

The meeting was held in the St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School Library and was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Patricia Preston, ARC Chair, welcomed everyone to Working Meeting #2.

2. PRAYER

Ms. Preston led the group in prayer in celebration of the New Year.

3. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 11, 2008, ARC AGENDA

The agenda of the Thornhill Elementary Schools Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) meeting of December 11, 2008, was approved as distributed.

ARC members received a copy of *Catholic Education A Light of Truth*, a collection of essays written by Monsigneur Dennis Murphy.

4. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 11, WORKING MEETING #1

**Page 6, Group Reporting, St. Michael Catholic Academy:**

Ms. Busato requested that "interpretation of questions" under Group Reporting by St. Michael Catholic Academy, be amended to read:

*"Note: concern was expressed around interpretation of questions in the School Valuation Framework."*

The Minutes of the ARC Working Meeting #1 held December 11, 2008, were approved as amended.

5. UPDATES TO ARC BINDER

ARC members were provided with **A Summary of Supporting Documentation Distributed with Revised Table of Contents for Working Meeting #2, January 8, 2009**. The list of materials and documents for file in the ARC binder, were reviewed by the ARC Secretary and Board resource staff, with particular note to:

(a) **Membership List**

A copy of a revised Membership List was provided for inclusion in the ARC Binder. The revised list reflects the complete membership of the ARC as constituted on December 11, 2008.

(b) **Letter to Communities**

As requested by the ARC, a letter to the communities of the Thornhill Elementary School Communities of St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School, St. Michael Catholic Academy and St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School, was prepared and presented in draft for review. The communiqué will provide an outline of the Accommodation Review process, including a flowchart of requirements and timelines, and overview of the Committee's work to date.

After discussion and review, and with a number of minor amendments requested and so noted by the recording secretary, the letter was approved by the ARC for circulation to the 3 school communities.

(c) **School Profiles**

An amended School Profile for each of St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School, St. Michael Catholic Academy and St. Rene Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School were provided. Board resource staff reviewed values contained in the School Condition portion of the report which have been verified with the Ministry of Education to be current. The School Profile, amended 12/16/2009, is a replacement item in the ARC Binder, under Section 13.

As requested by the ARC, Board Resource staff will also provide the property size for each of the 3 schools in metric measurement on the School Profile and present back to the ARC.

6. **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

A summary of Questions & Proposed Responses was prepared for Binder Section 22 and distributed with the January 9 meeting agenda as follows:

a) **Questions from the ARC**

In response to a request made by the ARC at Working Meeting #1 (November 20, 2008), and to augment information on capital budget available in the Ministry of Education letter to the York Catholic District School Board (dated April 9, 2008, S. LaRosa, Director of Education, Binder Section 4), a breakdown of the Benchmark Funding Formula was provided by the York Catholic Board, Superintendent of Plant. For point of clarification it was noted that the term "co-terminous board" refers to the (York) Public District School Board in Ministry documentation.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Questions Received from the ARC and Proposed Responses prepared for Review at Working Meeting #2, January 8, 2009, be approved. In addition, it was requested that Board Resource provide additional information on the Ministry of Education PTR (Prohibitive to Repair) process to be followed after Board approval of accommodation recommendations.

The approved response processed through the ARC will be posted to the ARC website.

b) **Questions from the Community**

There were no questions from the community presented for review at the January 8 meeting.

7. **SCHOOL TOURS**

As agreed at Working Meeting #1 of December 11, the ARC tour of schools facilities will take place on January 12, 2009. Principals of the 3 Thornhill/Markham elementary schools under review will provide background on the linguistics of the buildings. The Principal of Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Elementary School in Richmond Hill will also welcome the ARC and provide tour of the new facility to provide comparative values. ARC members were asked to bring questions back to the next working meeting (Working Meeting #3 - January 22) and/or email to the ARC for response. Following review, the Markham/Thornhill Schools Tour, Schedule of Visits, was approved unanimously by the ARC.

8. POWERPOINT PRESENTATION –  
THORNHILL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW –SCHOOL VALUATION FRAMEWORK

Board resource staff led a brief review of the PowerPoint presentation, **Thornhill Accommodation Review – School Valuation Framework**, first presented at Working Meeting #1, on December 11, 2008 (reference ARC Binder, Section 29, ARC Working Meeting #1). Discussion emphasized the specifics of the School Valuation Framework as a tool to the ARC (outlined in *Board Policy 713*, Section 2.6), and the customization process intended to familiarize members on the individuality of each school review area.

9. GENERIC SCHOOL VALUATION FRAMEWORK

a) Review of Suggestions from Previous Meeting  
Customizing Existing Framework

Ideas presented at Working Meeting #2 (reference ARC Binder, Section 29, ARC Working Meeting #1, December 11, 2008) were posted for review and point of reference for the ARC.

The concept of including “Value to Parish” as a factor in the 4 values already approved by the Board in the generic school framework was raised for consideration. After some discussion and in accordance with Board Policy 713, and Ministry of Education guidelines, it was suggested that school groups consider including “value of parish to student and community” to discussions as a *subsection* of the 4 values when customizing the framework. The ARC was asked to consider the value of the parish not only in terms of proximity to school but also the pedagogical value to the student. It was recognized that the relationship between the home/school/parish is an integral component in recognizing the needs of students and parents in terms of Catholic education. It was further suggested that as a community of faith, breakout groups also consider the *value of the school* to the parish - how the school relates to the parish and the role the schools plays in the parish community.

At this time, the ARC met in school groups to further review the Generic School Valuation Framework and continued discussion on how to customize the tool. A member of the School Board team joined each of the school groups as a resource to provide clarification or additional information on values contained therein. Groups met as a school community followed by mixed community group sharing.

(b) Group Reporting

Questions developed by each of the 3 school groups were presented, recorded and discussed as a whole:

St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School

- What percentage of students lives within 1.2 and 1.6 km from the school? (1.13)
- Is there a reciprocal relationship between the Parish and the school with benefit to the community?
- Are there other green spaces in the community that the students can use?
- Does the school actively encourage parental involvement in the students education?

Other Concept:

Social Capital – i.e. the school as a village

#### **St. Michael Catholic Academy**

- Does the school have access to other open green space? (1.3)
- Does the school have a uniform? (1.12)
- Do the students have an opportunity to participate in daily Parish activities? (1.17)
- Do students have an opportunity to access open green space to enhance curriculum learning opportunities? (1.2)

#### **St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School**

- Is this the only school within the Parish boundary?
- What are the Parish boundaries?
- Do families and students have access to the Parish community?
- What is the proximity of the Parish to the school?

It was agreed that the entries, along with those presented at Working Meeting #2, be considered in the customization of the school valuation framework. Board resource staff will take back suggestions and incorporate into the school valuation framework for presentation back to the ARC at Working Meeting #3, January 22.

#### **10. NEXT MEETING**

**The next meeting of the ARC (Working Meeting #3) will be held at St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School on Thursday, January 22, 2009. It was agreed that the meeting begin at 7:00 p.m.**

The focus of Working Meeting #3 will be the presentation and review of the customization of the School Valuation Framework for approval by the ARC.

The ARC will also discuss the format for the 1<sup>st</sup> Public Meeting on February 5, 2008 (St. Michael Catholic Academy) including, as per *Board Policy 713, Section 2.4, Meetings of the ARC*, the presentation of the Customized School Valuation Framework to the school communities. Board resource will bring ideas and information for discussion in order to prepare the presentation.

#### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The ARC Chair expressed appreciation to Mr. Lovgren and his staff, for hosting the committee at St. Rene Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School.