



Thornhill Elementary Schools - Accommodation Review Committee

**Minutes of ARC Working Meeting #7
held April 2, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
at St. Anthony Catholic Academy,
141 Kirk Drive, 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
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
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
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:
Dan Del Bianco, Watson & Associates

ARC Resource Staff:	Bryce Eldridge	York Catholic	Superintendent of Plant
	Dan McCowell	York Catholic	Senior Manager, Administrative Services
	Tom Pechkovsky	York Catholic	Manager of Planning Services
	Christine Hyde	York Catholic	Planner

Recording Secretary:
Wendy Cosentino

Public Observers Signed In:	Diana Moser	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
	Connie Mason	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
	Deborah Mohar	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
	Beatriz Bernard	St. Michael Catholic Academy
	Barbara Vottero	St. Michael Catholic Academy

Absent with Reason:	June Buick	Principal	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
	Luisa Busato	Principal	St. Michael Catholic Academy
	Tracy O'Connor-Lauzon	CSC	St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School
	Gord Lovgren	Principal	St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School
	Joe McLoughlin	York Catholic	Manager of Maintenance Services

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

The meeting was held in the St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School Library and was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Patricia Preston, ARC Chair, welcomed everyone to Working Meeting #7 and led the group in prayer to begin the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF APRIL 2, 2009, ARC AGENDA, WORKING MEETING #7

The agenda of the Thornhill Elementary Schools Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) Working Meeting #7 of April 2, 2009, was approved as distributed.

3. APPROVAL OF MARCH 12, 2009, ARC MINUTES, WORKING MEETING #6

The Minutes of the ARC Working Meeting #6 held March 12, 2009, were approved as circulated.

4. APPROVAL OF MARCH 26, 2009, ARC MINUTES, PUBLIC MEETING #2

Page 7, Question 9, Re Amalgamation of St. Luke

In response to an ARC inquiry made regarding Question 9 of Public Meeting #2, the ARC Secretary indicated that Board staffs are currently reviewing archived Minutes of Board meetings for reports pertaining to the amalgamation of St. Rene Goupil and St. Luke schools. The ARC Chair further indicated that in addition to reviewing the Board Report on the accommodation review and transition planning established for the school communities, it will also be determined how many (St. Luke) students that transferred at the time of amalgamation (2003) still remain at St. Rene Goupil.

The Minutes of the ARC Public Meeting #2 held March 26, 2009, 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 #6**. The list of materials and documents for file in the ARC binder, were reviewed by the ARC Secretary.

6. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Questions Received from the ARC & Proposed Responses

The costing for York Catholic, Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Elementary School, was provided in response to an ARC request. The proposed response was reviewed and approved.

7. INPUT RECEIVED FROM THE COMMUNITY AT PUBLIC MEETING #2

The Input Received from the Community at Public Meeting #2 held March 26, 2009, at St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School was received.

8. CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL VALUATION FRAMEWORK

A summary of Input Received from the Community on the Consolidated School Valuation Frameworks was presented to the ARC. Comments and questions received pertained specifically to the St. Michael Customized School Valuation Framework. The ARC agreed to discuss items identified that proposed potential change to the School Valuation Framework questions and/or values. The following comments were noted in discussion:

Item	ARC Response to Input
1.24	Response to question is correct. Suggest question may have been misinterpreted. A <i>special program</i> (i.e. music) is not the same as Special Education. ARC Response: No change – ARC description and value remains as rated.
1.25	Specialty Curriculum Support staff were identified as supporting <i>program</i> i.e. music, PACE, etc. All others are support to the classroom teacher and student (i.e. CORE, ESL). ARC Response: No change – ARC description and value remains as rated.
1.34	The value given is reflection on older schools not built with planning for diverting traffic, vehicular and pedestrian, as efficiently as is now done with new construction. The question was rated poor based on volume of traffic and activity that funnels through the school driveway. ARC Response: No change – ARC description and value remains as rated.
2.15	Designated space at St. Michael for CORE and ESL was valued fair based on size (not regular classroom size) and compared to space designated in other schools. ARC Response: No change – ARC description and value remains as rated.
4.1	The park is not part of school property. The ARC felt it difficult to judge to what extent the park is used on weekends as it is not a space monitored as part of school property. Rating also reflects Board terminology. Permits are granted for <i>school</i> grounds. ARC Response: No change – ARC description and value remains as rated.
4.13.1	The question was rated fair for the St. Michael, Before and After School Program, as the program is not available for the entire school – it is available for Grade 1-8 only and does not include JK and SK. ARC Response: No change – ARC description and value remains as rated.
4.17	Use of school grounds was valued based on use by community <i>groups</i> . After further discussion, it was agreed that the value should be consistent with the other schools taking into account individual use (i.e. family/students) on an informal basis. ARC Response: That Item 4.17 of the St. Michael School Valuation Framework be amended to change the “Description/Answer” to “yes” and value to “good”.

The ARC wanted it to be communicated that it was a decision of the Committee to defer from expanding lists in some descriptions in the School Valuation Framework only to ensure that any one group not be inadvertently excluded.

After final consideration, it was approved that:

- a) **The consolidated School Valuation Framework with applied School Valuation Factors as completed by the ARC and presented at Public Meeting #2 for each of St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School and René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School be approved; and**
- b) **The consolidated School Valuation Framework completed by the ARC and presented at Public Meeting #2 for St. Michael Catholic Academy be approved with said amendment to Item 4.17.**

9. DEVELOPMENT OF ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

a) ARC Accommodations Criteria to Consider

A presentation was made to outline parameters of Board criteria to be considered in developing accommodation options (including enhancement of programs/facilities, school utilization, site characteristics, transportation, funding allocation, new construction pupil places) and to develop ARC criteria based on points and/or specifics identified by the Committee as significant to the process.

b) Review of Tools and Data

The Consolidated School Valuation Framework will be one of the tools used when developing and discussing proposed accommodation options. The ARC Resource Team will also provide a copy of a Board checklist with site characteristics that can be used as a resource to value accommodation options developed (Working Meeting #8).

c) Format for Dialogue & Group Discussion on Accommodation Options

It was agreed by the ARC to meet in mixed school groups to begin dialogue. Groups were asked to brainstorm on determining ARC criteria and accommodation options and present back to the ARC as a whole. A member of the ARC Resource Team was present at each meeting table to provide information as required.

The following reports were received:

Criteria to Consider

The following suggestions were made by the ARC as criteria for consideration when looking at accommodation options being developed:

- a) that as an ARC, decide whether to confirm keeping Arts Program in Thornhill
- b) that Schools should have:
 - OLHC type gym with divider
 - Kiss N' Ride configuration for traffic
 - Space for Computer Lab drops and Science Room
 - Sinks in all classrooms
 - Fully accessible, elevator if 2 floor building
 - Wider hallways
 - Air conditioning in office and library
 - Space for licensed day care – full time JK-8
 - School with Arts program has large stage (2 exits), music room, visual arts room, set storage space
- c) that location to Church (adjacent to parish) be taken into account
- d) that the Arts facilities be built to maintain all current programming

The following suggestion was made as *possible* criteria for consideration when looking at accommodation options being developed:

- a) to have at least 1 viable school in each parish

11.
 - redraw boundaries
 - Students living north of John Street attend St. René Goupil-St. Luke, single track with PACE
 - Students living south of John Street attend St. Michael, with Arts Program

12.
 - Single track without PACE for mainstream at St. Rene Goupil-St. Luke
 - Arts program at St. Michael
 - Open up boundaries - no boundary if you want to go to regular program
 - If you want Arts program anyone in Thornhill could attend, with bussing
 - Anyone in Thornhill could go to either school, with bussing

On motion made and passed by the ARC it was agreed that Board planners be asked to include any additional options they may identify as pertinent in addition to those identified by the ARC, and report back with costing analysis for all. Any additional options that may be proposed will be identified as developed by the ARC Resource Team for consideration by the ARC.

10. **NEXT MEETING**

Working Meeting #8 will be held April 16, 2009, at St. Michael Catholic Academy. The ARC facilitator provided a brief overview of the focus for the next meeting. The ARC Resource Team will take next steps to summarize anticipated costs (i.e. building costs, utilization rates, etc.) for each accommodation option that has been identified and present an analysis back to the ARC at Working Meeting #8 for further deliberation. The ARC will determine whether options meet with Board and ARC criteria and will establish each as a viable option by vote. ARC Working Meeting #9 (April 23) will be dedicated to finalizing options for presentation at Public Meeting #3.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.