



Thornhill Elementary Schools - Accommodation Review Committee

**Minutes of ARC Working Meeting #9
held April 23, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
at St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School
135 Green Lane, Thornhill**

In attendance:

(Acting) Chair: 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 Thalassinou	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:

Connie Mason	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
Beatriz Bernard	St. Michael Catholic Academy
Barbara Vottero	St. Michael Catholic Academy

Absent with Reason:

Patricia Preston	ARC Chair	Associate Director
Joe McLoughlin	York Catholic	Manager of Maintenance Services

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

The meeting was held in the St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School Gymnasium and was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Andy Di Sebastiano, (Acting) ARC Chair, welcomed everyone to Working Meeting #9 and led the group in prayer to begin the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF APRIL 23, 2009, ARC AGENDA, WORKING MEETING #9

The agenda of the Thornhill Elementary Schools Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) Working Meeting #9 of April 23, 2009, was approved.

A member of the ARC requested clarification on the voting procedure and whether there is and/or can be a proxy process established. The (Acting) ARC chair referred the Committee to provisions under *Board Policy 713, Pupil Accommodation Review, Appendix C, Accommodation Review Committee Voting Guidelines and Voting*, which stipulate that within the structure of the Ministry accommodation review guidelines and Board policy, committee voting is a tool to be used to keep on task and ensure all members concerns are addressed. The ARC Chair can use a 2/3 vote to summarize discussion and/or adopt recommendations of the ARC to complete work within a specified time period. Under Board policy, voting is based on the majority of the members actually present at the meeting and who have been privy to the entire discussion. After further review, it was recommended that:

“If the ARC does not have full attendance and are voting on an item of discussion, a motion may be made to defer the vote. If it doesn’t negatively impact the required ARC timelines, the ARC would support the motion.”

APPROVED

3. APPROVAL OF APRIL 16, 2009, ARC MINUTES, WORKING MEETING #8

The Minutes of the ARC Working Meeting #8 held April 16, 2009, with *Appendix A, Alternative Accommodation Options – Original Options Presented and Revised Options*, were reviewed.

There was some dialogue with respect to the detail of some of the data made available in the report of draft options discussed and it was decided that Appendix A be amended. In terms of recording, it was agreed that ***Appendix A be prefaced with appropriate notation to indicate that accommodation options being discussed are all based on high level observations and key assumptions based on draft concepts. Estimates are based on Ministry of Education benchmarks and (elementary schools) gross floor area (GFA). All options and transportation will require further review.***

After discussion with the ARC Resource Team, it was recommended:

that the Minutes of the ARC Working Meeting #8 be approved as circulated and further, that Appendix A of the Minutes of Working Meeting #8 be approved as amended.

APPROVED

4. UPDATES TO ARC BINDER

ARC members were provided with **A Summary of Supporting Documentation Distributed with Revised Table of Contents for Working Meeting #9**. The list of materials and documents for file in the ARC binder, were reviewed by the ARC Secretary.

5. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

There were no questions submitted/received for consideration at Working Meeting #9.

6. INPUT RECEIVED FROM THE COMMUNITY

Input Received from the Community presented to the ARC at Working Meeting #9 was received.

7. ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

(a) Points for Review

The Board Resource team began the dialogue on *Points for Review*, a analysis prepared and presented to highlight the purpose of the ARC, opportunities to address, common themes identified, and points for discussion, all in terms of further developing the draft accommodation options presently being considered by the Committee. There was some detailed discussion on the advantages of school boundaries/disadvantages of open boundaries on school operation and transportation, consideration on the impact of enrolment on school organization, and affect of dual track programming together with regular stream.

(b) Staff Presentation

The ARC Resource Team presented a detailed overview on ARC draft Accommodation Option 3, 4 (Revised), 5, 7 (Revised), 10, 12, 13, and 14. The presentation included air photos providing visual site lines on the 3 location/sites available (rebuild -new construction, renovation, or new addition) to illustrate the size of school based on the accommodation options and supporting statistics available from Board planners.

At the request of the ARC, the Resource Team was asked to provide a commentary on the feasibility of each option based on (Board and ARC) criteria considerations and identify issues for consideration to assist the Committee in its deliberations. It was further recognized that all feedback received from the community on the draft Accommodation Options presented at Public Meeting #3 will be also be considered in ARC discussions.

(c) Dialogue

Following presentation by the Resource Team the ARC reviewed, discussed and voted on each of the draft accommodation options as follows:

OPTION	VOTES TO INCLUDE	VOTES TO REMOVE	ACTION	COMMENTS/CHANGES
Option 3	6	14	REMOVE	Option 3 eliminated from public presentation – option does not accommodate for future growth
Option 4 (Revised)	15	6	KEEP	Option amended to indicate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PACE Program removed • Addition to SRG/SL for <i>mainstream</i> (more specified) • Closure of St. Michael
Option 5	12	9	KEEP	Option amended to indicate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closure of SML under description (Note: option does not provide for 1 viable school in each local parish – look for community input to further discussion) • Update to SAY - regular track only • Addition to SRG/SL – for Arts only

OPTION	VOTES TO INCLUDE	VOTES TO REMOVE	ACTION	COMMENTS/CHANGES
Option 7 (Revised)			KEEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted at Working Meeting #8 – no change Option 7 will be included in public presentation
Option 10			KEEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted at Working Meeting #8 – no change Option 10 will be included in public presentation
Option 12	18		REMOVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 12 is similar to Option 7 but seen potentially problematic due to open boundaries; Option 12 removed from list, will present Option 7 for input at public meeting
Option 13	18	2	KEEP	Option amended to indicate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PACE Program removed from SRG/SL Regular Track removed from SML Assume one track at SRG/SL and SML Amend proposed classroom addition at SRG/SL (from 6) to 2 classrooms seek public input on proposed boundaries
Option 14		13	KEEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 14 will be included in public presentation as vote to exclude did not reach 2/3 consensus Will require further review/discussion re assigning PACE program and location (SML or SRG/SL)

Options 4, 5, 7, 10, 13 and 14 will be presented to the community with key assumptions. It was further agreed that the following materials be available for review at the Public Meeting to indicate how the ARC will evaluate options, specifically: ARC Accommodation Options Considerations, School Valuation Frameworks, castings and strategies.

8. NEXT MEETING

The Thornhill Markham Accommodation Review Committee Public Meeting #3, will be held April 30, 2009, 7:00 p.m., at St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School. As per *Board Policy 713, Section 2.4, Meetings of the ARC, Item (b)*, ARC members will receive community input on the draft accommodation options presented.

The ARC approved the format for Public Meeting #3, which will include:

- a presentation by the ARC Chair and selected ARC members on process to date, ARC Accommodation Considerations and Design Considerations, and, accommodation options
- a community question and answer period (open mike forum and question cards)
- information kiosks – 3 kiosks to display details of the 6 draft options to be presented and 1 kiosk dedicated as an information kiosk on the accommodation review process and all the options that have been considered to date (from Working Meeting #7, 8 and #9)
- Feedback Sheets will be available at each kiosk for community input

The Committee requested the Resource team make available site maps (air photos), boundary maps and projected enrolment capacity for each accommodation option presented for posting at the respective kiosks. A transportation zone was also requested to post road networks for all 3 schools.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.