



Questions Received from the Community At Public Meeting #1, February 5, 2009, St. Michael Catholic Academy & Approved Responses

Reviewed and Approved at
ARC Working Meeting #4 - February 19, 2009

No.	DATE RECEIVED	QUESTIONS RECEIVED: FROM THE COMMUNITY	QUESTIONS RECEIVED: FROM THE COMMUNITY	REFERENCE
1.	02/05/2009	“Where do the school’s students live?”	<i>See the ARC website www.ycdsb.ca and refer APPENDIX C - Thornhill ARC School Boundaries and Student Locations: Map 1 & Map 2 (Note: specific student information is protected under the Freedom of Information Act.)</i>	
2.	02/05/2009	“What will happen to the music program?”	<i>The ARC process will propose accommodation solutions. The YCDSB is committed to maintaining the integrity of all academic programs.</i>	
3.	02/05/2009	“Will size of a new school be able to accommodate an increase in the student population?”	<i>This has not been proposed yet. Once the ARC develops a number of alternatives, the evaluation of the alternatives and available funding will determine the school capacity.</i>	
4.	02/05/2009	“Should two schools amalgamate and become one Arts focused school, would the programming at the school offer a dual track, i.e. regular program track and arts focused track?”	<i>To be considered by the ARC as part of the development of accommodation alternatives.</i>	

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5.	02/05/2009	"How does a larger school impact student's education?"	<i>Provincial testing results conducted by EQAO indicate school size does not affect achievement. Quality programming is provided in all schools regardless of size.</i>	
6.	02/05/2009	"What does research suggest the impact is on a student's sense of belonging within a larger school?"	<i>The YCDSB has not conducted any formal research on a sense of belonging in a larger school. It is the vision and goal of the Board to foster a sense of belonging in a faith filled community for every student.</i>	
7.	02/05/2009	"Do the bussing statistics/data outlined in the distributed ARC information include all eligible to be bussed student or only those who actually use bussing?"	<i>Transportation data is based upon eligible riders.</i>	
8.	02/05/2009	"St. Michael's is currently a uniformed school. Will an amalgamated school continue to be a uniform school or will that new school community define its school dress code as per board policy?"	<i>Once the ARC process is completed and an accommodation solution is approved by the Board of Trustees, a transition plan will be developed.</i>	
9.	02/05/2009	"If a school with a Regional Arts program is to be amalgamated with a community school, how will the integrity of both programmes be maintained under the roof of a single school?"	<i>To be considered by the ARC as part of the development of accommodation alternatives.</i>	
10.	02/05/2009	"If the location of the Arts program is moved to a different location, will there be bussing for students who live in the current St. Michael's area who are participating in co-curricular activities after school?"	<i>Student transportation will consistently be provided in accordance with Board Policy 203 (see policy for distance criteria). Board Policy 203 does not provide transportation for out of boundary or out of district students.</i>	

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11.	02/05/2009	"Is there a possibility that the Arts program of St. Michael's will be transferred to another school? Does the board take into account that a significant percentage of St. Michael's students come from areas beyond the school boundary and they do come for the Arts program?"	<i>To be considered by the ARC as part of the development of accommodation alternatives.</i>	
12.	02/05/2009	"Student safety with regards to parking, drop-off and pick-up – there will be a lot more students and many may not be bussed. Right now at St. Michael's this system is very challenging and safety is a big concern."	<i>To be considered by the ARC as part of the development of accommodation alternatives.</i>	
13.	02/05/2009	"If I'm in the school on a TCH 19, and the school goes over capacity, could I be asked to leave the school?"	<i>No. Once admitted, students will not be asked to leave.</i>	
14.	02/05/2009	"The Board has implemented a pilot French Immersion program; will this ARC process delay the implementation in Thornhill, in reference specifically to the rest of the region?"	<i>The Board is launching a French Immersion pilot in Markham for September 2009. Other areas of the region will be considered as part of a separate process from the ARC. The location and timing of other sites has not yet been determined by the Board. These decisions will be part of the normal public Board meeting process.</i>	
15.	02/05/2009	"One info gathering questions is improving EQAO results; can research be done w.r.t. scores improving with specialty programs, e.g. Arts, Gifted, French Immersion...?"	<i>This question requires additional clarification.</i>	
16.	02/05/2009	"Process – timeline for alternatives to be completed?"	<i>The process is described in Board Policy 713 and is summarized on the ARC website, see Working Meeting #3, ARC Letter to Thornhill Communities in the drop down menu for a flow chart outlining the process and timelines.</i>	

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17.	02/05/2009	“Arts Program – dual track?”	<i>To be considered by the ARC as part of the development of accommodation alternatives.</i>	
18.	02/05/2009	“Catch up support for new students (i.e. Grade 7 new to school)?”	<i>Once the ARC process is completed and an accommodation solution is approved by the Board of Trustees, a transition plan will be developed.</i>	
19.	02/05/2009	“Where is that communication that the Arts school will continue?”	<p><i>October 17, 2008, Communication for York Catholic District School Board, Notice of Establishment of Accommodation Review, states: “Please be assured that the School Board is committed to maintaining the integrity of all educational programming.”</i></p> <p><i>January 15, 2009, ARC Letter to School Communities of St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School, St. Michael Catholic Academy & St. Rene Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School Communities, Subject: Accommodation Review for the Thornhill Elementary Schools, Dates & Process, states: “Please be assured that the School Board and the ARC are committed to maintaining the integrity of all educational programming for our Thornhill Elementary Students.”</i></p>	<p>ARC Website: Section: Notices</p> <p>ARC Website” Section: Notices & Working Meeting #3 January 22, 2009 Agenda: Supporting Documentation</p>
20.	02/05/2009	“Which would be the cheapest location/school to update/build upon/add to?”	<i>To be considered by the ARC as part of the development of accommodation alternatives.</i>	
21.	02/05/2009	“Is there a cap on the number of PACE students per class and per school?”	<i>The class size maximum for PACE is 25. There is no cap on the number of classes per school.</i>	
22.	02/05/2009	“What is the location of other PACE schools in the Board?”	<i>There are PACE classes at St. Justin, Martyr Catholic Elementary School (Markham), St. Gregory the Great Catholic Academy (Vaughan), and St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Elementary School (Newmarket).</i>	

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23.	02/05/2009	"Are there plans for another Arts school in York Region?"	<i>Not at this time, however the provision of programs across the region is considered from time to time. The location and timing of other sites has not yet been determined by the Board. These decisions will be part of the normal public Board meeting process.</i>	
24.	02/05/2009	"Would you move the Arts program out of Thornhill?"	<i>The ARC process will propose accommodation solutions. The York Catholic District School Board is committed to maintaining the integrity of academic programs.</i>	
25.	02/05/2009	"If a school was to be temporarily relocated, would the students be bussed to the temporary location and would then be "housed" together?"	<i>To be considered by the ARC Committee as part of the development of accommodation alternatives. Once the ARC process is completed and an accommodation solution is approved by the Board of Trustees, a transition plan will be developed.</i>	
26.	02/05/2009	"Is the propensity for crime higher, lower or average in the given boundary? (You need police input.)"	<i>This question is outside the scope of the ARC.</i>	
27.	02/05/2009	"... advertise upcoming ARC Committee Public Meetings on school boulevard signs?"	<i>We will be incorporating this strategy in communication with the community.</i>	