



## Thornhill Elementary Schools - Accommodation Review Committee

### Minutes of ARC Public Meeting #2 held March 26, 2009, 7:00 p.m. at St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School 135 Green Lane, Thornhill

#### In attendance:

**ARC Chair:** Patricia Preston, Assistant 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	Teaching	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
Lisa Falconi	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 Facilitator:** Dan Del Bianco, Watson & Associates

#### ARC Resource Staff:

Bryce Eldridge	York Catholic - Superintendent of Plant
Joe McLoughlin	York Catholic – Manager of Maintenance Services
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:

Silvana Greco  
Wendy Cosentino

#### Public Observers Signed In:

There were 27 participants signed in. Refer to Appendix A attached.

#### Absent with Reason:

Paul Wilkie	Parent	St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School
Angie Della Rovere	Non-Teaching	St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School

**1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was held in the St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School Gymnasium and was called to order by the ARC Chair at 7:00 p.m.

**2. PRAYER**

Mrs. Connor-Lauzon, CSC Chair of St. Rene Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School, led the community in a prayer before the meeting.

**3. WELCOME**

Ms. Preston, ARC Chair, welcomed the community to the second Public Meeting of the Markham Thornhill Accommodation Review Committee (ARC). Members of the community were reminded to sign-in and note school affiliation. Minutes of Public Meeting #2 will be posted to the ARC website at [www.ycdsb.ca](http://www.ycdsb.ca).

**4. INTRODUCTIONS**

At this point in time, the ARC Secretary and Superintendent of Education – School Leadership, Andy Di Sebastiano, was introduced along with the 21 voting members of the ARC as mandated under Board Policy 713. The ARC voting members represent Catholic School Councils Chairs, parents, teaching and non-teaching staff from each of the 3 schools under review, along with, representation from the 2 community parishes – St. Luke and Good Shepherd, and, school trustee for Markham, Area 1, Wards 1,2,3,6. Members of the ARC Resource Team were also introduced at this time. Members of the Resource Team are not voting members of the ARC but rather act as a source to the Committee on Board policy and operations pertaining to Plant, Planning and Business and Administrator Services. Ms. Preston also introduced the ARC facilitator to the Board in attendance from Watson & Associates.

Ms. Preston provided a brief overview on the establishment, mandate, processes and timelines of the accommodation review in accordance with *Board Policy 713, Pupil Accommodation Review* and *Ministry of Education, Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines*. The ARC Chair indicated that no decisions regarding the schools have been made at this time. It is anticipated that accommodation changes made as a result of the review process will not begin to be implemented until September 2011 to allow for extensive consultation and transitional planning. A copy of the ARC Flowchart of Processes and Timelines was included in the meeting information package for reference.

The purpose of Public Meeting #2, the second of 4 public meetings to be held as required under *Board Policy 713, Section 2.4, Meetings of the ARC*, provided an opportunity for the ARC to receive community feedback on the School Valuation Framework completed for each of St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School, St. Michael Catholic Academy, and St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School and a review of the process followed. Those in attendance were encouraged to give their input by using the Public Meeting #2 Feedback Sheet. All submissions must be submitted to the ARC no later than Monday, March 30, 2009.

**6. PRESENTATION – THORNHILL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW PURPOSE, METHODOLOGY & PROCESS**

The ARC Chair welcomed 3 Committee members to present on the work of the ARC to date.

### **Customization - Standard School Valuation Framework:**

Mr. Wigglesworth spoke on the Standard School Valuation Framework and the process to customize this tool as specified in the parameters set by Board Policy 713 and Ministry of Education guidelines. The School Valuation Framework represents a collaborative effort by the ARC with community input to customize the generic school valuation framework based on 4 values – value to student, board, local economy and community, to ensure that the tool accurately reflected the uniqueness of each school community. Questions/comments specific to the Framework submitted by the community at Public Meeting #1, were presented to and considered by the ARC with those accepted included in the framework. Questions approved from Public Meeting #1 have been highlighted on the School Valuation Framework in green. Questions that were identified and determined significant to the valuation process by the ARC have been highlighted on the template in grey. In total, 18 additional questions were added to the framework.

### **Valuing Schools - Completing the School Valuation Framework:**

Mr. Keohl spoke on the process of valuing the School Valuation Framework for each school. ARC members were provided with a number of tools to assist them in this process:

- A resource ARC binder containing pertinent data specific to the 3 schools required to complete the Customized School Valuation Framework (i.e. buildings, neighbourhoods, enrolments, etc.) - all information contained in the ARC binder can be found posted on the ARC website
- Tours of the 3 Markham schools under review took place January 12, 2009, along with a tour of a new school recently built by the Board in Richmond Hill in order to provide comparative values
- ARC Resource Team has been available at all working meetings to answer and/or provide information as requested by the ARC

The School Valuation Framework was valued by the home school at Working Meeting #5 held March 5, 2009, and subsequently valued by each school community at Working Meeting #6 held March 26, 2009. The Frameworks were reviewed and discussed by all 3 communities to complete the consolidation process. Each school team had an opportunity to dialogue on how they valued the Framework for each school. The result is the consolidated School Valuation Framework with applied School Valuation Factors completed by the ARC for each of St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School, St. Michael Catholic Academy, and St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School presented at Public Meeting #2 for discussion with the community.

### **Next Steps – Accommodation Options:**

Mr. Gavros concluded the presentation with an overview of next steps in the review process in accordance with Board Policy 713. All comments, suggestions and/or questions regarding the Consolidated School Valuation Frameworks received from the community through Feedback Sheets and/or via ARC website will be presented to the ARC at Working Meeting #7, to be held April 2, 2009. The ARC Committee will use the completed School Valuation Framework as a tool to develop and review accommodation options which will be the group task for Working Meeting #7, Working Meeting #8 (April 16) and Working Meeting #9 (April 23). Accommodation options developed will be presented for community input at Public Meeting #3 to be held April 30, 2009, at St. Anthony CES.

## **7. COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE**

Mr. Di Sebastiano, ARC Secretary, provided an update on communication strategies that have been initiated by the ARC to keep school communities connected and informed; the following items were discussed:

### **ARC Website:**

The ARC website is updated on a regular basis. Meeting agenda, minutes and supporting documentation, including Questions & Answers are posted to the site prior to each Working and Public Meeting. Q & A have been posted in 2 areas: (1) contained in the minutes of meeting when approved by the ARC and (2) in a dedicated space on the ARC website, *Questions & Answers* –

*Questions from the Community, Questions from the ARC.*

**Advertisements – Local Newspapers:**

ARC Notice of Meetings are advertised in local newspapers (Markham Economist) and (Richmond Hill Liberal) as required under *Board Policy 713, Pupil Accommodation Review, Item 2.4, Meetings of the ARC*. Notices are also posted to the ARC website accordingly.

**School Newsletter Insert:**

The March ARC School Newsletter insert was recently distributed home to school communities providing an update on the ARC process. A copy has been posted to the ARC Website under *Notices*.

**School Bulletin Boards:**

A bulletin board in each of St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School, St. Michael Catholic Academy and St. Rene Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School has been dedicated to the ARC. Updates and information items can be found posted there on a regular basis.

**Presentation to School Staffs:**

With the approval of the ARC, presentations will be made to school staffs of St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School, St. Michael Catholic Academy and St. Rene Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School on the ARC process. The purpose will be to provide accurate and detailed information on where the Committee is in the review process and to emphasize that no decision have been made to date. In this way, all interested parties – staff, parents, and students, will be well informed and aware that accommodation options developed will not be fully implemented until September 2011.

**School Boulevard Signs**

Notice of upcoming ARC meetings will be posted on school boulevard signs prior to each meeting. The school community is welcome to attend ARC Working Meetings as observers.

Mr. Di Sebastiano also reviewed the kiosk format and the contents of the community information folder distributed for the Public Meeting #2.

**Kiosks:**

Community members were encouraged to visit the kiosks dedicated to St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School, St. Michael Catholic Academy and St. Rene Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School. Members of the ARC Resource team were present to answer questions regarding the consolidated School Valuation Frameworks which will be posted for discussion. The ARC Process Kiosk was specific to the process/policy and work completed by the ARC to date.

**Public Meeting #2 – Community Information Folder:**

An information package was distributed to help familiarize the community on the completed school valuation frameworks for the 3 schools which included the following documents:

- *Public Meeting #2– Agenda*
- *Thornhill Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) Flowchart – Process & Timelines*
- *Thornhill ARC School Boundaries & Surrounding Area*
- *Thornhill ARC School Valuation Framework: St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School, St. Michael Catholic Academy and St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School*
- *ARC Public Meeting #2– Feedback Sheet*

The community was encouraged to submit feedback and/or comments on the Consolidated School Valuation Frameworks and/or the ARC process, using the ARC Public Meeting #2 Feedback Sheet distributed as part of the information package and available at the kiosks and sign-in/Feedback Station.

**8. COMMUNITY QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

A question and answer period followed, moderated by the ARC Chair. Community members were asked to state their name, school affiliation and question to the ARC\*. The community was notified that all questions and answers would be recorded in the minutes of meeting. Those questions that may require additional research would be responded to at a later date.

*(\*While every effort was made to correctly record the names of those presenting questions, there may be some errors that have been made in spelling. The purpose was to hear the concerns of the community and to reflect them (generically) in the minutes.)*

B. Bernard  
 St. Michael CA

**Question:** *“On the School Valuation Framework, Item 4.13.12, Value to the Community, has the ARC or the School Board been in touch with the Town of Markham with regards to the 2 proposed developments at Don Mills & Steeles and Yonge & Doncaster?”*  
 - and -  
*“Have you considered that the proposed development for the Shops on Steeles is for 5,000 new residents. Yonge & Cameron is a 2500 unit residence – how is that going to impact on any decision the ARC will make re extra children that might be coming.”*

**Response:** We (School Board) are in constant contact with the Town of Markham. All development applications go through a lengthy process. The School Board is given plans; those plans are incorporated into our own (Board) projections. The Board considers how many students may be generated from these developments. Information pertinent to these developments has been included in configurations contained in the ARC Binder. Projections are based on estimated time of development and as projects approach completion figures are fine tuned. Long term yield generated are incorporated into projections. Maps are available on the ARC website which show the proximity of development blocks.

An invitation was extended by the ARC to the Councillor for Markham, Ward 1; unfortunately, due to the timelines of the process, the invitation could not be accepted and regrets were sent back to the ARC. The Councillor did indicate that when possible, public meetings may be attended. A list of upcoming Working Meetings and Public Meeting dates can be shared with the Councillor’s office.

L. Naccarato  
 (Future SAY)

**Question:** *“I don’t have any children in school right now; my daughter will start in 2010. Is there a possibility that one of the 3 schools will not exist in 2010?”*

**Response:** No decisions have been made at this time. The ARC has followed Board Policy process to customize the School Valuation Framework being presented tonight. The ARC will use this tool to develop accommodation options at their next 3 working meetings. At this point in time, anything could be possible, all options are open for discussion.

B. Vottero  
 St. Michael CA

**Question:** *“How are the meetings being publicized?”*

**Response:** Notice of meetings are advertised locally. Public meetings are advertised in local newspapers as required under Board Policy 713. All meetings are listed on school boulevard signs and ARC Bulletin Board within the 3 review schools. Agenda, minutes and supporting documents for working meetings and public meetings are posted to the ARC website. It is a good point to increase communications and good issues have been raised here. Please feel free to share more ideas on how we can publicize meetings.

B. Vottero  
 St. Michael CA

**Question:** *“Question asked whether the Arts program would continue – for a parent who has their child in an arts program, I want to know that the program I put my daughter in will remain.”*

**Response:** The Board response given through Questions and Answers from Public Meeting #1 that the Board will maintain the integrity of all our programs still remains. The ARC does not have the mandate or authority to dissolve any of the programs. The Board is committed to maintaining the Arts program, the Pace program and the regular programs.

C. Von Zuben  
 St. Michael CA

**Comment:** *“It is a credit to the School Board that there is a very large diagram (flowchart) of the ARC process and dates posted in Good Shepherd Church in a very prominent location and that information on ARC meetings have been shared through the church bulletins.”*

L. Falconi  
 St. Rene Goupil-St.  
 Luke CES

**Question:** *“Will accommodation options affect 2010-2011; thought looking at 2010?”*

**Response:** Depending on accommodation options approved (i.e. new construction), the communities will not see any affect in most cases until 2011. If new construction is an accommodation option, it will take approximately 2 years to complete from start to finish; therefore accommodation would be implemented fully in 2011. Once accommodation options are approved, the Board would have transition plans developed and approved for 2010-2011.

A. Pickering  
 St. Michael CA

**Question:** *“In 2010-2011 September – that is when displacement of students, program change would happen?”*

**Response:** Yes, that may be the transition time.

B. Vottero  
 St. Michael CA

**Question:** *“Why did you decide to put the 3 schools together?”*

**Response:** This was the designation based on the criteria from the Ministry of Education. A P.T.R. (Prohibitive to Repair) application was made to the Ministry of Education. The P.T.R. process is a designation that

is established based on a set of criteria. If the replacement component of an existing school is 65% or greater than the cost of a new school, the school is deemed P.T.R. – Prohibitive to Repair. Initial application made to the Ministry of Education in 2003 resulted in a partial P.T.R. designation, and a second application in 2005-2006, resulted in a full P.T.R. designation.

The P.T.R. funding process is an opportunity to access funds from the Ministry of Education. Boards can access funding when a school is designated P.T.R. In order to find best solutions for students in region, the Ministry of Education requires the School Board to have an accommodation review process. Once the ARC process is completed and accommodation solutions are recommended and approved, the School Board will be required to take the plan back to the Ministry of Education for final approval.

In this case, the review area has been established as Markham/Thornhill and as such, requires all schools within that area be considered in the review process. The Ministry of Education’s guidelines suggest reviews conducted look at a group of schools rather than a specific school. In this review, we have simply included all schools within the review area. St. Rene Goupil-St. Luke CES falls within the Markham/Thornhill review area.

J. Chiaretta  
 St. Rene Goupil-St.  
 Luke CES

**Question:** *“...was on committee 6 years ago when St. Rene Goupil amalgamated with St. Luke CES; very frustrated with all the time put in and to see St. Rene Goupil again part of review.*

*A friend had children come from St. Luke to St. Michael. They were told when going through process - school would not have to go through a similar process until youngest student (JK) at time left or graduated. Is that true?”*

**Response:** Will need opportunity to research and look at past records to determine what commitments were made during the St. Luke review process. As the entire Thornhill area is under review, even the schools that are not affected may be because of boundary changes during transition plans. St. Rene Goupil-St. Luke may be affected somehow so the community needs to be part of this dialogue.

Parent  
 St. Michael CA

**Question:** *“Prohibitive to Repair” – does that mean you can’t repair, or that the funds cannot be used to make additions to all or any of the schools? Does it have to be used for new construction?”*

**Response:** Older schools are expensive to maintain. When cost to maintain reaches 2/3 of cost to build new school the same size, older school would be deemed P.T.R. (Prohibitive to Repair) and long term, funds better spent on alternative accommodations. Every student is assigned a square footage - each square footage has a dollar amount assigned by the Ministry of Education. Expenditure of P.T.R. funds have to be associated with these facilities. The Ministry of Education has to approve accommodation review process and options for the Board to obtain funding.

T. Santiago-Sorrell  
 St. Michael CA

**Question:** *“Could you clarify – which does the Ministry of Education approve the accommodation review process or the accommodation options?”*

**Response:** Funds are approved in regard to options. As discussed; there will be a number of options on the table. The ARC will need to be aware of which option fits within funding available. The ARC Resource team will cost out the accommodation options developed and being considered by the ARC.

(Unknown)

**Question:** *“If we are deemed P.T.R. (Prohibitive to Repair) can you still add to us? Is it an option to have an addition built to a school who has been deemed P.T.R.?”*

**Response:** As long as accommodation solutions result in addressing the P.T.R. issues, the solution could be an addition. It can be possible if option fits within available funding.

B. Bernard  
 St. Michael CA

**Question:** *“... what can we share on the ARC process with parents wanting to come to our (St. Michael) school? We are having an Open House Sunday to try and get more students.”*

**Response:** The ARC Chair indicated that the Board's Communications Department will be asked to share a number of key statements that could be included in speaker notes to outline the ARC process. This information will be forwarded to the school Principal as soon as possible.

The ARC Chair closed the question and answer period at approximately 8:00 p.m. All present were encouraged to visit the public kiosks on the School Valuation Frameworks. The community were also encouraged to come out to upcoming ARC working meetings to observe and hear discussion as the ARC begins deliberations on accommodation options.

Community members were also reminded that general comments and/or questions can be sent to the ARC at any time during the review process through e-mail at [arcthornhill@ycdsb.ca](mailto:arcthornhill@ycdsb.ca) or voice-mail at 416-221-5051, 905-713-1211, Ext. 7567. The Public Meeting #2 Information Package, minutes of meeting, and community feedback received on the School Valuation Framework and/or input on the ARC process will be posted to the ARC website.

## 9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Visitors were received at the information kiosks immediately following the Community Question and Answer period. Kiosks remained open until meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

**APPENDIX A**

**Thornhill Elementary Schools – Accommodation Review Committee  
 Public Meeting #2 – March 26, 2009  
 St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School**

**Community Sign-In**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation (Area School)</b>
1.	A. Stobie	St. Michael Catholic Academy
2.	J .Chiarretta	St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School
3.	Vivian Oliviera	St. Michael Catholic Academy
4.	Barbara Vottero	St. Michael Catholic Academy
5.	Beatriz Bernard	St. Michael Catholic Academy
6.	Annie Vyn	St. Michael Catholic Academy
7.	Leona Mendonca	St. Michael Catholic Academy
8.	Annette Pickering	St. Michael Catholic Academy
9.	Roger Charlesworth	St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School
10.	Connie Mason	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
11.	Michelle Chisholm	St. Michael Catholic Academy
12.	Joni Huang	St. Michael Catholic Academy
13.	Rosemary de Paulsen	St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School
14.	Ryan Levins	St. Michael Catholic Academy
15.	Hanan Jibry	St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School
16.	K. Dumit	St. Michael Catholic Academy
17.	Madeline Fox-Zamat	St. Michael Catholic Academy
18.	Loreta Du	St. Michael Catholic Academy
19.	Lisa Naccarato	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
20.	A. Sirianni	St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
21.	Nick	St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School
22.	Barb Scott	St. Michael Catholic Academy
23.	John Scott	St. Michael Catholic Academy
24.	J. Bolzon	St. René Goupil-St. Luke Catholic Elementary School
25.	Maggie Zaikos	St. Michael Catholic Academy
26.	M. Camacho	St. Michael Catholic Academy
27.	C. Von Zuben	St. Michael Catholic Academy