



Questions Received from the Community Public Meeting #3, April 30, 2009 & Approved Responses

Reviewed and Approved at ARC Working Meeting #11
May 14, 2009, St. Michael Catholic Academy

	DATE RECEIVED & COMMUNITY	QUESTIONS RECEIVED: FROM THE COMMUNITY	PROPOSED RESPONSES	REFERENCE
1.	04/30/2009 SAY	“What happens to the teachers? If schools are combined, are their jobs secure? How does the board decide “who” gets to stay and who has to go? We would like to maintain some consistency for the students.”	<i>The number of teachers in schools is governed by Ministry of Education and Board staffing formulas. Any teacher movement as a result of a potential school consolidation is governed by a York Catholic District School Board Collective Agreement (which allows fair and equitable access to positions).</i>	
2.	04/30/2009 SAY	“My children are not interested in the Arts program. If St. Anthony and St. Michael are combined – will he/she be obligated to take – enroll – in the Arts program? Is there a mainstream program – without the Arts? My children take art – music and dance - outside of the school and we prefer to keep it that way.”	<i>This is still being considered by the ARC as part of the development of the accommodation alternatives. The ARC can amend any of the 6 options presently being considered.</i>	
3.	04/30/2009	“What enhancements are planned in all the options to meet the every growing challenge from students with autism, ADHD, etc.?”	<i>Students with special needs already receive supports (special education teachers, educational assistants, etc.) or placements (Intensive Support Centres, Language Centre, Reading Recovery). They are already considered in the Board’s Special Education delivery model exclusive of the accommodation options for the Markham Thornhill schools.</i>	

4.	05/04/2009	"I am a parent and just attended one of your recent meetings. I was very happy that I attended. There is quite a lot of information to absorb. When I arrived home after the meeting, my husband asked if there is a program for children with learning disabilities taken into consideration. Perhaps you can update me on this issue."	<i>Students with learning disabilities receive additional support at their home school through the Special Education teachers (Core Resource). Students with identified learning disabilities who require additional support have access to Intensive Support and Assessment (ISA) Centres that are geographically located throughout the Board. Transportation for these students to the Centres are provided.</i>	
5.	04/30/2009	"Is there an option to keep a building at St. Michael and St. Anthony? Geographically it makes sense – proximity to church is very important to give our children the opportunity to live their faith and to enable them to be part of the community."	<i>The mandate of the ARC is to consider all accommodation options.</i>	
6.	05/04/2009	"Why are options where the forecast enrolment exceeds capacity being considered?"	<i>Accommodation solutions are designed for long term sustainable enrolment which may result in the need for temporary accommodation (i.e. portables).</i>	
7.	05/05/2009	"Which school has the largest square footage of (usable) land – St. Michael or St. Anthony?"	<i>St. Michael has the largest usable site: St. Michael - Site Size (Acres) is 4.68 (1.9 hectares). St. Anthony - Site Size (Acres) is 4 (1.6 hectares)</i>	ARC Binder Section 13 School Profiles
8.	05/11/2009	".. wondering if a decision has been made regarding the accommodation plan? My daughter will be attending JK at St. Mikes this fall, and I hope that this school and its arts program will survive."	<i>No decision has been made. All accommodation options will require further review. The ARC will be reviewing community feedback on proposed accommodation options when deliberating on proposals.</i>	
9.	05/12/2009	"We ... need your feedback on how to accommodate students during the time school is being rebuilt and extended."	<i>A Transition Committee will be struck to plan for and implement the positive transition of students and staff affected by consolidation and/or relocation into a new school. The Committee will determine where/how students would be housed during the interim period.</i>	
10.	05/12/2009	"What will be the timeline for the rebuild school project -how long will it last in general? (i.e. How long will the building (architect + construction) work last?"	<i>The ARC will make a report to the Director of Education in June 2009. Accommodation for the next school year (2009-2010) would remain status quo. If there is new construction, 2010-2011 will be a transition year. 2011-2012 would be target year for new accommodation.</i>	
11.	05/12/2009	Who will be chosen to be the administrator of the school (principal)?"	<i>Principal placements will be determined once the accommodation option is approved by the Board of Trustees.</i>	

12.	05/12/2009	How is this person chosen and do the school councils have a say in what they would like for their school?	<i>The Board of Trustees approves all principal transfers and new principal appointments. Catholic School Council and school communities provide input to the Board on an annual basis through the Annual Community Profile.</i>	
13.	05/12/2009	Will the new school have a VP?	<i>Allocation of vice-principals is based strictly on student enrolment. A half-time vice-principal is appointed when the school enrolment reaches 475. A full-time vice-principal may be appointed at 575.</i>	
14.	05/12/2009	Whichever school is closed, what will happen to the teachers, secretaries, and administrators?	<i>Principal placements are approved by the Board of Trustees. Teacher and secretary placement is governed by the respective Collective Agreements.</i>	
15.	05/12/2009	The Arts Programme has specialized teachers. Is the Board going to maintain the standards with specialized teachers?	<i>The Board is committed to maintaining the integrity as well as the standards of the Arts program which will include specialized teachers.</i>	
16.	05/12/2009	Can the ARC consider moving the PACE program to an area where there is a higher need?	<i>The ARC may make program recommendations to the Board through the School Valuation Report to the Director.</i>	
17.	05/12/2009	Will the students be bussed, at no charge to the parents, to wherever the new location is?	<i>Bussing and transportation, including costs, will be determined once the accommodation option and respective boundaries have been approved by the Board of Trustees. (Existing formulas will apply.)</i>	