



YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

No.: 505

Section: Property

Approved: November, 1977

Board Approved Revision Dates: April 30, 1990,
May 25, 1999, September 26, 2000, May 2004, June
21, 2005, May 23, 2006

Reviewed: January 2003, May 2004,

Implementation: Senior Manager of Administrative
Services

POLICY:

ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOL SITES

School sites are an important resource in supplying many kinds of services to the community. All public bodies must respond to the general sensitivity to land use and to the insistent demand that optimal value be obtained for public expenditures through the close cooperation of various public authorities.

Prudent planning requires that school sites be developed in conjunction with the plans of municipal councils, other school boards and other authorities to achieve maximum service to the citizens. Prudent planning also requires that useful resources be available for curricular and extra-curricular programs.

School boards are permitted to make agreements with other school boards and with municipal councils for the joint acquisition of land, the joint construction of facilities, the joint operation of the facilities, and the sharing of facilities on land owned by any of these public authorities, where these facilities are to be used for cultural, recreational, athletic, educational, administrative and other community purposes. Such joint initiatives will be considered in conjunction with Policy 503- Alternate Accommodation Arrangements.

This Policy is intended to provide guidance to the Board with respect to the size and other characteristics of school sites, and with respect to cooperation with other public authorities.

It shall be the policy of the Board:

1. (a) To purchase elementary school sites of the useable sizes prescribed by Ontario Regulation 20/98, as follows:

<i>Elementary School Sites</i>	
<i>Number of Pupils</i>	<i>Area (acres)</i>
<i>1 to 400</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>401 to 500</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>501 to 600</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>601 to 700</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>701 or more</i>	<i>8</i>

1. (b) To purchase secondary school sites of the useable sizes prescribed by Ontario Regulation 20/98, as follows:

<i>Secondary School Sites</i>	
<i>Number of Pupils</i>	<i>Area (acres)</i>
<i>1 to 1000</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>1001 to 1100</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>1101 to 1200</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>1201 to 1300</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>1301 to 1400</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>1401 to 1500</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>1501 or more</i>	<i>18</i>

- (c) To vary site sizes prescribed above if necessary to accommodate:
- a. Safety concerns;
 - b. Topography and drainage features;
 - c. Land availability or the need to purchase additional land if it is reasonably necessary to meet a legal requirement relating to the site;
 - d. Facilities for pupil accommodation that the Board intends to provide on the site or to provide access to those facilities.
- (d) To purchase school sites free from unsafe features, significant legal and historic restrictions, and that conform in all respects with conditions required by the Ministry of Education.
- (e) To purchase school sites where the shape of the land, the amount of level land, and the grading of the proposed school site and park will be consistent with the anticipated school and community recreational and athletic activities, and that will meet safety and maintenance needs.
2. To select sites with the following desirable characteristics where possible:
- (a) An elementary school site should be centrally located within the proposed attendance area, abutting a collector street and having access to the collector street.
 - (b) A secondary school site should be located on a main arterial road and not in the centre of a residential subdivision.
 - (c) Minimum frontage of school sites shall be 400 feet for elementary and 600 feet for secondary schools, unless the shape of the lot calls for some special consideration.
 - (d) Adjacent to a Catholic church, where possible. To this end the Archdiocese of Toronto and the local parish priest will be informed of the Board's plans to designate sites in new subdivisions.
 - (e) School sites shall be located in cooperation with the local municipality, in order to ensure:

- (i) reasonable access in terms of public and private transportation, time and distance;
 - (ii) freedom from excessive noise;
 - (iii) freedom from noxious gases and fumes;
 - (iv) freedom from dangers to pedestrian safety;
 - (v) prudent avoidance of highway approaches, airports and flight paths, transmission corridors including hydro and natural gas, and commercial or industrial development ;
3. To bring substandard sites up to standard where possible or, alternatively, to dispose of them in favour of better sites.
4. To cooperate with municipalities within the Region of York and with the York Region District School Board to achieve the best use of public lands for school purposes and the best use of school sites by municipal authorities within the following general principles:
- (a) The Board is prepared to enter into specific agreements as permitted by the Minister of Education to provide for joint use and operation of facilities on land jointly owned or on land currently owned by the Board, other school boards of the municipality or other authority where service to the students is significantly increased by such facilities. These types of initiatives will be considered in accordance with Policy 503 - Alternate Accommodation Arrangements.
 - (b) Wherever possible, elementary school sites shall be located adjacent to a neighbourhood park and secondary schools shall be located adjacent to a district/community park.
 - (c) Where parkland is adjacent to a school site, an agreement shall be sought by which part or all of the parkland shall be useable for school purposes.
 - (d) Where usable parkland and facilities are adjacent, the minimum size of a school site may be lowered as directed by the Board, provided that there is a written agreement with the municipality to offer the parkland to the school board first if part or all of the park is to be disposed of for other purposes.
 - (e) When a new school site is purchased which is adjoining parkland, the full cooperation of the municipal council in planning and developing the adjacent areas on a joint basis shall be sought.
5. To include the following clause is to be included in all purchase offers:

“The York Region District School Board has first right of refusal of this site on the same terms and conditions.”

6. To keep area residents informed as to the Board's intent to require the landowner to erect a sign on the designated school site indicating that the site is reserved for a Catholic school. The sign is to be erected as soon as road access to the school is available.

Cross Reference

- Policy 503 Alternate Accommodation Arrangements