



**SPECIAL REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**Monday, May 14, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**St. Thomas of Villanova High School**  
**2800 County Rd. #8, LaSalle, ON**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT**

**Trustees:** F. Alexander B. Mastromattei  
J. Courtney J. McMahon  
M. DiMenna, Vice-Chair L. Soulliere  
F. Favot  
B. Holland, Chair  
J. Najem, Student Trustee  
Rev. L. Brunet, Board Chaplain

**Regrets:** Trustee Macri and Student Trustee Tavares

**Administration:** P. Picard (Resource) E. Byrne  
J. Bumbacco P. Murray  
C. Geml C. Norris  
M. Iatonna J. Shea  
P. Littlejohns M. Seguin  
J. Ulicny

**Recorder:** B. Marshall

1. Call To Order - Chair Holland called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.
2. Opening Prayer - Fr. Brunet opened the meeting with a prayer.
3. Recording of Attendance –Trustee Macri was not available and Student Trustee Tavares sent regrets due to a prior commitment.
4. Approval of Agenda

**Moved by Trustee DiMenna and seconded by Trustee Soulliere that the May 14, 2012 Special Regular Board meeting agenda be approved as distributed. *Carried***

5. Disclosure of Interest - Pursuant to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

Trustee Courtney disclosed interest in relation to agenda item 6a) Receive Input on the Director of Education's Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Amherstburg Area, including St. Bernard, St. Theresa, and Stella Maris Catholic Elementary Schools due to her daughter's employment and did not participate in the discussion or vote on any question raised on that item.

Trustee Mastromattei disclosed interest in relation to agenda item 6a) Receive Input on the Director of Education's Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Amherstburg Area, including St. Bernard, St. Theresa, and Stella Maris Catholic Elementary Schools due to his daughter and daughter-in-law's employment and did not participate in the discussion or vote on any question raised on that item.

Trustee McMahon disclosed interest in relation to agenda item 6a) Receive Input on the Director of Education's Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Amherstburg Area, including St. Bernard, St. Theresa, and Stella Maris Catholic Elementary Schools due to his daughter, son and daughter-in-law's employment and did not participate in the discussion or vote on any question raised on that item.

6. Communications:

- a. Report: Receive Input on the Director of Education's Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Amherstburg Area, including St. Bernard, St. Theresa, and Stella Maris Catholic Elementary Schools

Director Picard commented on the Accommodation Review Committee's extensive commitment to the process and public consultation which contributed to administration's recommendations.

Director Picard reviewed Administration's Recommendations:

*That the Board approve, effective September 2012, the consolidation of St. Theresa at the St. Bernard site with renovations and improvements at St. Bernard, and that the St. Theresa be officially closed and the property declared surplus to the Board's needs and further,*

*That the Board maintain Stella Maris, and dependent on future enrolment numbers, consider a possible future boundary review to include Stella Maris, the new merged school community at St. Bernard, and nearby schools, in order to ensure that all schools in the area are operating at optimal utilization.*

**Moved by Trustee DiMenna and seconded by Trustee Alexander that the Board receive as information the Director's Report on the accommodation review study for the Amherstburg area, including St. Bernard, St. Theresa, and Stella Maris Catholic Elementary schools;**

**and, that the Board receive public input concerning the Director's Report, and the matters that are addressed in it and in the Accommodation Review Committee's (ARC's) Report. Carried**

7. Delegations:

- a. Delegations Regarding Accommodation Review Committee's and Director of Education's Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Amherstburg Area, including St. Bernard, St. Theresa, and Stella Maris Catholic Elementary Schools

Chair Holland assured members of the audience that the Board meeting was designed specifically to receive public input on Administration's Recommendations for the Amherstburg area.

Chair Holland outlined the delegation process and time limit and also mentioned trustees will remain after the meeting to speak to the members of the community.

- i) Parent, Mr. Ken Broadbent to speak on the potential loss of Catholic students if St. Theresa Catholic Elementary school closes, thus incurring financial loss to the Board.

Mr. Broadbent is a parent of one child attending St. Theresa school and is a member of the St. Clements Church finance committee. Mr. Broadbent presented a number of facts, beliefs and concerns with regards to enrolment, a St. Theresa school survey, utilization as per Ministry full funding, cost to the board if consolidate St. Theresa to St. Bernard, loss of property taxes, staffing issues, and in closing, requested trustees to consider the future of Catholic education. Mr. Broadbent also thanked the teachers, support staff and administrators at St. Theresa school.

- ii) Parent, Mrs. Katera Zappacosta-St. Louis to speak on the timeframe recommended to transition students to a new school if St. Theresa Catholic Elementary School should close.

Mrs. Zappacosta-St. Louis is a parent of two children attending St. Theresa school. Mrs. Zappacosta-St. Louis was concerned with the lack of information regarding the student and staff transition period from St. Theresa to St. Bernard school and requested trustees and administration to develop a transition committee similar to the Windsor St. Francis/St. James elementary school amalgamation.

- iii) Parent, Mr. Camillo D'Alimonte to speak on the possibility of a decline in church participation if St. Theresa Catholic Elementary School should close.

Mr. D'Alimonte is a parent of three children attending St. Theresa school and a member of the Pastoral council at St. John the Baptist church in Amherstburg. Mr. D'Alimonte clarified the pastor at St. John the Baptist church Fr. Brian Jane, is not part of the ARC decision process.

Mr. D'Alimonte is concerned that the potential closing of St. Theresa school would tempt parents to enrol their children in the public school board system, disturbing an already fragile faith based community and further discussed the correlation between faith based schools and church attendance/participation.

- iv) Parents, Mrs. Sarah Beaudoin and Mrs. Tracy Perron to speak on projected development within the St. Theresa Catholic Elementary School area.

Mrs. Perron mentioned that Mrs. Beaudoin addressed the Amherstburg Town Council early in the evening and received word from Mrs. Beaudoin that Council approved her request to send a letter of clarification to Director Picard containing such information as to projected growth for the current year and over the next five years.

- v) Parent, Mr. Allan Parks to speak on potential savings to the Board, the choice of school, and transportation issues if St. Theresa Catholic Elementary School should close.

Mr. Parents is a parent of two children attending St. Theresa school. Mr. Park spoke about the current and projected utilization for 2012-13, available capacity, proposed capacity utilization, value to the student and parent, additional savings and choice of school, and consolidated bussing savings.

Chair Holland mentioned to the audience members if they are not comfortable presenting in public send comments to the trustees or administration. She then invited trustees to remain after the meeting to be available to speak to the members of the audience.

Trustee Alexander requested clarification on the transition period. Director Picard stated the transition period as well as all delegation recommendations will be assessed and reviewed.

- 8. Closing Prayer – Fr. Brunet closed the meeting with a prayer.
- 9. Adjournment - There being no further business, the Special Regular Board meeting of May 14, 2012 adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

*Approved*

**Barbara Holland**  
*Board Chairperson*

**Paul A. Picard**  
*Director of Education & Secretary of the Board*

Good evening trustees, school board administrators, parents, teachers and students. My name is Ken Broadbent. I am a parent to a child attending St. Theresa's. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you this evening. Before I begin I would like to tell you a little about myself. In addition to my role as father, I am also a banker, a member of St. Clements Church finance committee, a hockey coach and a concerned practicing catholic. I am here to speak to you today about the director's report to consolidate St. Theresa at St. Bernard's effective September 2012. I am going to present a number of facts, beliefs and concerns and will identify each as I move along.

Fact: A survey was completed the week of May 7, 2012 to determine what our St. Theresa families intend to do if St. Theresa's is no longer open. The following questions were asked:

- 1) If St. Theresa closes, where will you send your children? And why?
- 2) Have you enrolled yet at the new school?
- 3) If your child had a choice to go to Stella Maris, would you send your children there?

Fact: The results were as follows

There are currently 126 students attending St. Theresa. Of these 126 students, 13 students were unreachable or undecided and 6 students are graduating grade 8, with no younger brothers or sisters. In addition, 7 students hope to attend Stella Maris. This leaves 98 students. Of these 98 only 8 students will be attending St. Bernard's. The overwhelming majority, or 90 children are committed to switching to the public school board and will be attending either Malden or Anderdon. In fact, 10 of these families have already enrolled their children in the respective public schools.

*Zwick  
Sillig*

Fact: St. Bernard School has an enrolment of 207 students which translates to a 57% utilization rate. 308 students are required to attend in order to reach the 85% utilization rate needed to receive full funding.

Fact: St. Bernard's will remain an underutilized school despite the closure of St. Theresa's. If one considers the existing enrollment of 207 students plus the 8 students transferring from St. Theresa's and perhaps an additional 8 students from those that are undecided or unable to reach, makes a new total of 223 students, leaving St. Bernard far short of the 85% required rate.

Fact: In order for St. Bernard to receive full funding they must increase enrollment by 101 students from the existing 207 students. That would require a transfer of 80% of St. Theresa's student population to St. Bernards.

Fact: In order for St. Theresa to obtain full funding they need to increase their enrollment by 93 students. If St. Bernard's was considered for closure only 44% of their students would need to transfer to St. Theresa in order to obtain full funding.

When trustees are considering their vote, not only is it important to recognize that the closure of St. Theresa's will not result in a fully utilized, fully funded school but also that the board will be losing funding from the ministry based on their allocation of student enrollment. Although the specific amount paid per student is based on a complicated

provincial funding formula for the sake of this presentation, I have estimated a relatively low allocation of \$8,500 per student, which constitutes a loss to the board of \$765,000 annually.

Fact: In addition to the loss of ministry funding, trustees must recognize that they will also lose the property taxes that will be transferred to the public board.

Fact: Almost 100% of St. Theresa's families own their property. In addition, many families are farmers, business owners etc. The loss in property tax to the separate school board on an annual basis will be approximately \$40,000 which does not take into consideration grandparents, aunts and uncles of our student population many of whom have also expressed a desire to switch tax support in the event of the school closure

According to the CBC news report, the school board is anticipating a savings of 1.5 million dollars based on the consolidation of the schools currently under an ARC review which includes Amherstburg, Lakeshore and Fountainbleau. If St. Theresa's is closed the loss in student funding and property taxes will result in a loss to the board of over \$800000.00 annually. This loss is far greater than the boards anticipated savings.

Fact: The wecdsb is projecting a decrease in enrollment of 600 students. Can the board afford to add 90 more students to that already staggering number?

Fact: The wecdsb is anticipating layoffs of approximately 100 teachers. The public board is anticipating no teacher layoffs.

Fact: For the 2012/2013 school year the wecdsb will increase VP's by 3 and senior managers by 1 for a total cost to the board of \$435,000 plus benefits. Question Is this the best use of ministry funding in light of current school closings and staff layoffs?

Administrators and trustees maybe asking why are St. Theresa's families are unwilling to send their children to St. Bernard's and the facts are simple.

Fact: All three Amherstburg schools are filled with dedicated, committed teaching staff and administrators, bright, kind students and considerate, hard working parents.

Fact: St. Bernard's is primarily an open concept school.

Fact: Our children will be transported a much greater distance likely resulting in longer time spent on buses. In fact, my child is closer to two Catholic Schools but neither of these schools were options in the directors report.

Fact: When visiting St. Bernards all parents must be buzzed in prior to entering the school.

Belief: Some parents believe that St. Bernard's has a greater incidence of suspension under the Safe School Acts.

The board must understand that the decision to change boards has not been taken lightly. Each family has painstakingly considered what option will work best for them based on the very limited options being presented.

In summary, I ask that the trustees carefully consider the facts

Firstly, The directors plan will NOT result in St. Bernard become a fully utilized school, therefore in no way reducing the budget strain referred to in the director's report

Secondly, Student enrollment will see a further decline of at least 90 students. The boards projected decrease in enrollment will now be 700 students.

Thirdly, the majority of St. Theresa families will no longer be supporting the separate school board with their property taxes thus further decreasing the board's revenue basis. Between the taxes and the student funding formula the board can anticipate a loss of revenue of over \$800,000 annually. In the end, it will cost the board more to close St. Theresa's than to keep it open.

And lastly, I sincerely ask the trustees to consider the future of Catholic education. I can remember as a young man approaching high schools many parents advocating for the right to a Catholic education. Parents willing to pay for their schooling because it was not yet covered. Over the past five years I have watched enrollment decrease. As a concerned Catholic I am asking the trustees not to support a decision that will result in fewer children receiving a Catholic education. We need to focus on filling our churches with as many young people as we can even if this means making sacrifices. After all, what would Jesus do?

Finally, if I could take 30 more seconds of your time I would like to send a sincere thank you to the teachers, support staff and administrators at St. Theresa. Your dedication, compassion and commitment to our children's education will not be forgotten regardless of where our children go. May God continue to bless you and support you in your future work.

Thank-you!

(1)

Good Evening my name is Camillo D'Alimonte

I am a parent of 3 children at St. Theresa school  
I am a graduate of St. Theresa class of 1984  
and a member of Pastoral Council at St. John the Baptist Church.

It is from this background that I'll be speaking tonight

First

As a matter of clarification to all families in our parish, the Diocese, our parish and pastor, Father Brian have no direct involvement in the decision making process  
We have no power in deciding unfortunately.

We will be directly affected and are greatly concerned for all families in our faith community

Father Brian's hope and recommendation has been to maintain all 3 schools.

As I previously stated at a ARC meeting, we have to ask ourselves what's the importance of a Catholic Education?  
The Board motto is "Learning together in faith & service" ...  
It is FAITH that is important.

\* Families we have to make faith a priority.



(2)

- A fact we face in our Diocese is that church attendance is down and declining.
- We are mandated as a parish by the Diocese to begin a new evangelization to refocus at a grass roots level on shepherding the flock.

\* We need the support of the school system the faith based system

As a parish we are attempting with all our resources to assist the needs of our community we need the help of the schools to reach out. \* we realize the need to do needs assessments

Attendance is down → faith is not the #1 priority and in talking to families we realize the family structure is strained - financially  
- employment  
- time availability  
I hear constantly from families that there isn't enough time.....

As a result - We need as a parish to maintain all our families in faith based education

\* We cannot as a faith community lose families x2  
To all the administrators tonight I would ask that this be given priority  
as a faith community, we cannot lose families.

(3)

As you've heard earlier . . . . .

As we've heard at previous meetings by making a quiet decision to simply close St. Theresa to solve the under utilization problem — won't work

It will be a ~~big~~ loss for the Board and devastating loss for our faith community in the future

Fact since these ARC discussions

1. Malden public school has had one of its largest JK. registrations — over 45 families on the 1<sup>st</sup> night.  
(there are Catholic families lost here..)

2. Anderson Public school has had such a large JK turnout that they are currently building a new wing to their primary classrooms.  
(there are Catholic families lost here)

3. The majority of students/families are from outside of Amherstburg → traditionally Anderson, McGregor and Malden Center

↳ all within reasonable proximity to Public schools

Malden Public 13 1 minute away from St. Theresa

We must keep these facts in mind when we read Paul Picard's Recommendations

Paul Picard states

St. Theresa	<u>115</u> students	} 47%
	245 capacity	
St Bernard	<u>207</u>	} 57%
	362 capacity	
Sela Maria's	93%	

→ It seems to me that the only issue is MONEY particularly funding money From the Ministry of Education, to accomplish Full funding at least 85% capacity

↳ This would mean, under Paul Picard's recommendation St. Bernard would need 308 students or 101 students from St. Theresa practically, the entire pupil enrollment

Reality

As I hear it from families at St. Theresa your not going to achieve this goal

The threat is a mass exodus of families from the Catholic to the Public system

Reality

→ Families have been pre registering at Anderdon and Malden Public schools which are in reasonable proximity to where they live. - Anderdon, McGregor, Malden.

## Net Result

- (A) still going to have an underutilized school
  - (B) any dollar savings by closing St. Theresa will amount to dollar losses in tax revenues from families at St. Theresa who jump ship.
    - ↳ And these families have roots in the communities of Anderson, McG and Malden Centre where grand parent & extended family taxpayers live.
  - (C) Once families start jumping ship to the Public system they are not coming back likely
  - (D) Paul Picard's recommendation is indirectly re-drawing boundaries (leaving out the rural districts)
  - (E) Our faith community - church will suffer
  - (F) Our sacramental preparation will suffer
  - (G) The St. Vincent DePaul Society which assist over 100 marginalized families in the community will suffer
    - God / car drives etc. majority comes from our schools.
  - (H) The future of our faith based secondary school will be determentally affected.
- Ultimately if we lose families, rather than strengthen the system to function at capacity it will be weakened.

Your moving to fast

A June 26 decision to come into affect in September --- is heading toward disaster

~~Don't take the sentiments of families~~

Your pushing families outside reasonable proximity to Amherstburg

who are already strained

without option.

Don't take this lightly

Our Parish, Our Faith Community needs better.

# *Sarah Beaudoin's letter to A'burg Town Council*

Good evening Your Worship Mayor Hurst, Deputy Mayor Sutherland and Amherstburg Town Councillors.

My name is Sarah Beaudoin and I am speaking as a member of St. Theresa School Parent Advisory Committee about the possible closure of an Amherstburg Catholic School. This room would be filled with other concerned parents, but there is an Accommodation Review Committee meeting taking place right now at Villanova High School.

The Accommodation Review Committee is made up of stake holders from the Amherstburg schools plus representatives of trustees and administration. This Accommodation Review Committee has recommended that no school be closed this year, but that a 3 to 5 year time frame be allowed to review population growth and other factors before a decision is made.

However, Director of Education, Paul Picard, is recommending that the school board approve, effective September 2012, the consolidation of St. Theresa's student population at the St. Bernard site with renovations and improvements at St. Bernard and that St. Theresa be officially closed and the property declared surplus to the school board's needs.

I am well aware that the Amherstburg Council is not in a position to tell any school board how to run their schools, nor do I expect you to do that.

I am here tonight to request that Council direct administration to send a letter of clarification to the WECDsB. This letter should contain statistics of planned and projected residential growth within Amherstburg for the current year and the next five years. I believe that this letter is necessary to clarify statements made by Mr Picard who said, and I quote: "It is fair to conclude that some population growth is anticipated for the Amherstburg area. It is also fair to say that the amount and timing of that growth is speculative."

I am sure Council is aware that one of the first things a new home buyer considers is the location of the nearest school. Closure of any school will impact new homes.

A major concern is that the final decision of the trustees of the WECDsB will not be made until June 26, just two days before the end of the school year and two months before a school would be closed and students relocated. Two months is not sufficient time to notify parents of closure and for them to register in a new school or even a new school board. Furthermore, I ask this council: Does two months give the school board enough time to apply for and receive building permits for those renovations and improvements that Mr. Picard spoke of? No mention has been made of things like traffic studies or parking accommodations.

In closing I would like to thank Lori Bratt for the information she provided to the ARC committee and Councillors Pillon and Sutton for speaking at the February 1 public meeting. Thank you also for the opportunity of addressing Council this evening.

However, because of the critical time constraints I would respectfully ask that Council act on my request at tonight's meeting.

TRACY

*Tracy Perron*

My name is Sarah Beaudoin. I am a member of St. Theresa School PAC and I have attended every ARC meeting.

I have just returned from a meeting of the Council of the Town of Amherstburg. From this meeting I bring the Trustees some "other relevant information." A motion was made tonight and Council has instructed its administration to send a letter of clarification to the WECDSB. This letter will contain statistics of the planned and projected residential growth within the Town of Amherstburg for the current year and for the next five years.

These numbers are critical. No decision to close any school should be made without them. It is

not responsible for the WECDSB to approve the Director's recommendation and close a school without knowing how many new homes and new families there will be in Amherstburg within 5 years. It doesn't matter in what area of Amherstburg new homes are to be built. New homes mean families with children who will need schools open and ready to receive them.

In addition, the Town of Amherstburg is not aware of any requests for permits for the renovations and improvements to St. Bernard School that Mr. Picard referred to in his recommendation. I don't think that these can be realized in the two months between the June 26 trustees' vote and the beginning of next school year. Nor can the necessary traffic



studies and parking accommodations review be completed.

I respectfully request that the Trustees not act in haste to close a school. Rather, that you take time to collect and review all information including the document that is forthcoming from the Town of Amherstburg. Adopting the ARC recommendation will give trustees the time to do this and to make the best decision for all of our schools' communities.

# Presentation to the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) for the Amherstburg Area

My Name is Allan Parks

I have two children in St Theresa school currently and have one starting in the fall.

I started the review based on my connection to St Theresa closing.

However after looking at the numbers and the option being presented my concerns shifted from St Theresa to the entire Amherstburg Area.

The plan that is presented will eliminate 1 school but will not change anything.

We will still have 2 schools below the 85 % funding threshold

Budget pressures will not be solved in this area.

**Board Policy PR A:05 School Closure/Pupils Accommodation Review**

## **2.0 STAGE ONE – IDENTIFICATION**

2.2 I) States: It has been no less than five years since the inception of a study of the school by an Accommodation Review Committee, except where extenuating circumstances warrant, such as an unexpected economic or demographic shift, or a change in a school's physical condition.

We will become a have not board because we can't afford to compete and offer the same services as the others.

Or you will be closing a second school in the very near future.

**The proposed plan offers NO savings**

**Please pay close attention to the numbers presented.**

**They are your numbers from your own review.**

## **Current Situation**

- ▶ Projected Utilizations for 2012/13 show again a decline for each school
- ▶ Stella Maris 260.5 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) or 83% Utilization
- ▶ St. Bernard 192 FTE or 53% Utilization
- ▶ St. Theresa, 113.5 FTE or 46% Utilization

Declining trend as demographic change in the region.

Smaller families, Influx of retirees

Economic downturn caused and exodus

We need to make a change, not wanted but understood.

The numbers don't lie, but do they tell the whole truth the way they are presented.

The numbers and comments about declining enrolment presented are taken directly from the Amherstburg Area Director Report as posted on the WECDSB

Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board

## Available Capacity

- ▶ Stella Maris
  - $312 - 260.5 = 51.5$
- ▶ St. Bernard
  - $362 - 192 = 170$
- ▶ St. Theresa
  - $245 - 113.5 = 131.5$
  
- ▶ Clearly all schools have capacity to accept students

The key here is that all schools have available capacity.

The theory is great about shifting all of St Theresa's students to St Bernard to help out and achieve max funding.

Reality check needs to happen hear.

Declining enrollment and Stella Maris is already pegged at 83% which is below the 85% threshold.

St Bernard's needs all of the 113.5 students to reach just 84% again below the 85% Threshold

What happens to both schools when we lose students.

Need to offer choice and a transition plan to keep every single student you can.

## Proposed Capacity Utilization

- › Stella Maris 260.5 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) or 83% Utilization
- › St. Bernard 305.5 FTE or 84 % Utilization
- › Full funding is only realized where the school is at 85% utilization.
- › Qualify for 15% top up to 100%

Under the Value to the Board the proposal speculates to have eliminated two schools operating under the Ministry threshold. Thus reducing the unfunded operating expenses.

This proposal puts these 2 schools on the bubble, will the Ministry buy into being close enough.

What happens the next year when we factor in declining enrolment?

Stella Maris dropped from 293 to 260.5, 2005/06 to 2012/13 averaging 4.5 FTE / year

St Bernard dropped from 295.5 to 192, 2005/06 to 2012/13 averaging 14.5 FTE / year

St Theresa dropped from 162.5 to 113.5, 2005/06 to 2012/13 averaging 7 FTE / year

The following years Utilization will be 82% for Stella Maris and 81% for St. Bernard just factoring in declining enrolment. Below 85% in just one year

Reality Check for St. Bernards 2012/13

At best a conservative 50% of the students will make the transfer from St. Theresa to St. Bernard

Reasons, NO Transition, NO Choice and NOT Enough time to do it right!

48 Working Days, 10 of which principals and administrative staff will be working

Planning begins in late April for the upcoming year for EA allotments, class room assignments

When will this be done. **According to the Proposal it will be done into the new year. Please see page 7.**

So all of the students are going to lose class time while the teachers, EA's LSST's and admin are trying to figure out what to do with this mess dropped on them.

I have a child with special needs his program has to be ready when he walks through the door. There is no time to plan into the school year.

What about our MORAL obligation to these students to be ready for them.

St Bernard's Adjusted utilization with defections will be  $192 + (.5 * 113.5) = 249$  of 362 or 68.8%

We have achieved nothing. There are no Savings as projected you lose \$11,000 per student of Ministry funding.

**\$11,000 \* 57 = \$627,000 gone and still two schools below the threshold so no top up.**

Except created a need to for review and another school to be closed. (Who next Stella Maris or St Bernard)

**Board Policy: A:22 School Boundary States:** The boundary of the school shall be of a sufficient size to sustain the long term operation of the school at a full or a near full capacity level. However, it is recognized that in order for a school to reach the mature sustainable enrolment it will experience levels of peak enrolment that may necessitate temporary accommodation.

Why are we not following our own policy?

This policy is directly related to **A:05 School Closure/Pupils Accommodation Review**

**Any other school closure scenario would put the school at max capacity and sufficient size to be sustainable even under the current declining enrolment.**

**Why was the falling scenario picked.**

## Value to the Student / Parent

- ▶ Value to the student is made up of in school and surrounding support services
- ▶ Before and After School Care
  - Private, In School or Day Cares
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Full Day versus Half Time Kindergarten

Value to the student is not measured just in the class room.

Value is assessed by the parent and the decision takes into account the class as well as the support and surrounding services.

The curriculum levels out the course work

Access to day care space is limited and even more so in the county

If we have to close a school let the parents pick which school work best for their situation.

Some may not want full day.

Additional commute times to a new day care will factor in.

Prevent defections and protect every enrolment to preserve what we have.

Again Declining enrolment how are you going to get back what you lose

## **Additional Savings & Choice**

- ▶ **Consolidate Busing / Boundaries for St Theresa, Stella Maris and St Bernard into one area**
- ▶ **Allow the families to chose either St. Bernard, St Theresa or Stella Maris**
- ▶ **Other options exist that offer similar services**
- ▶ **Maintain Enrolment**

**You can't force people to change they have to want to change.**

**Let them chose which one of the two remaining open schools**

**Allowing some choice and letting the parents maximize the use of day care and busing that limits the impact of the change will lessen the impact of the people who want to choose other options**

## Consolidated Busing Savings

- ▶ Bus Capacity at 2 per seat is 48 students
- ▶ Stella Maris 5 buses
- ▶ St. Bernard 1 bus
- ▶ St. Theresa 4 buses

All options presented have to be justified.

The next few slides build the justification for allowing choice between the two remaining schools.

The capacity numbers presented are based on information from the boards website and are conservative.

Smaller primary students can be placed at 3 per seat.

You will see that even with the conservative numbers there are significant potential savings

Once the boundaries are consolidated the bus route will be more flexible to optimize the drive times.

The numbers demonstrate that we should be looking for areas where real savings exist to support our schools not just closing them.



## Consolidated Busing Savings Cont'd

- ▶ **Current Capacity**  $10 * 48 = 480$ 
  - Utilization
  - St Bernard 5% of 192 or approximately 10
  - Stella Maris 82% of 260.5 or approximately 214
  - St Theresa 97% of 113.5 or approximately 110
- ▶ **Bus Utilization**
  - $(334 / 480) * 100 = 69.6\%$
- ▶ **Real Savings: Combine the Boundaries and Eliminate 3 full buses at \$45,000/year/bus!**
- ▶ **That's \$135,000 and you allowed choice!**

How many parents would stay if given choice?

# Questions

› **Data for this presentation was obtained from:**

- <http://www.wecdsb.on.ca/pdf/arc/20112012/sttheresa-arcprofile.pdf>
- <http://www.wecdsb.on.ca/pdf/arc/20112012/stbernard-arcprofile.pdf>
- <http://www.wecdsb.on.ca/pdf/arc/20112012/stellamaris-arcprofile.pdf>
- <http://www.wecdsb.on.ca/pdf/arc/20112012/Director%20Report%20-%20ABurg.pdf>
- **Gabrielle McMillan Student Transportation Services**
- **Policy: A:22 School Boundary**
- **Procedure: PR A:05 Pupil Accommodation Review**

I hope that I have demonstrated to you that something is significantly wrong with the proposal that is before you!

Either there is a plan to close two schools and drive people away from the Amherstburg Catholic elementary system.

Or Declining enrolment is not a big issue.

If that is the case move forward with the recommendations from the ARC committee.

We must remember to do our moral duty and examine the facts and make a decision that is best for the students.

To quote Msgr. Dennis Murphy

“By Far the largest institutional expression of the life of the Catholic Church in the province of Ontario is the Catholic school system.” he goes on to state

“Effectively, this means that directors of these systems of Catholic schools and their collaborators are crucial to the future direction not only of these school communities but of the church.”

Chose an option that allows for protection of every student by offering choice for the parents and transition timing that works

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions after tonight.

Should the public want to see what I have presented please post my presentation complete with my notes on your website.

I would ask that what ever changes be proposed for the final board meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup>, be made available to all delegates tonight as soon as they are ready for release.