



**WINDSOR-ESSEX CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

1325 California Avenue
Windsor, ON N9B 3Y6
CHAIRPERSON: Barbara Holland
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION: Paul A. Picard

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.
St. Joseph's High School
2425 Clover Ave., Windsor**

MINUTES

PRESENT

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

Regrets: Trustee Courtney and Trustee Macri

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 6:36 p.m.
2. Opening Prayer - Fr. Brunet opened the meeting with a prayer.
3. Recording of Attendance - Trustee Courtney sent regrets due to a work commitment. Trustee Macri was not available.
4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Trustee DiMenna and seconded by Trustee McMahon that the May 15, 2012 Special Regular Board meeting agenda be approved as distributed. *Carried*

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

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 Fontainebleau

Area, including St. Alexander and W.J. Langlois 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 Fontainebleau Area, including St. Alexander and W.J. Langlois 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. Item

- a. Report: Receive Input on the Director of Education's Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Fontainebleau Area, including St. Alexander and W.J. Langlois Catholic Elementary Schools

Chair Holland reviewed the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) process.

Director Picard suggested that the Fontainebleau community approach to the ARC process was characterized by passion, compassion, and respect. He mentioned the community understood the necessity for one school building therefore it became the function of the ARC to determine which school building would best serve the needs of the community. Additionally, the community held strong views on the W.J. Langlois open concept setting versus the St. Alexander traditional classroom setting. In an attempt to serve both communities, Director Picard indicated administration recommends a blended model of both open concept and traditional classrooms. He also mentioned administration will review and assess tonight's public input prior to preparing the final recommendations.

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 Fontainebleau area, including St. Alexander and W.J. Langlois 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 Items On the Agenda

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

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

- i) Parent, Sheryl Parent to speak on the potential closing of St. Alexander Elementary School.

Mrs. Parent has one child in grade seven attending St. Alexander school. She would like to see her daughter graduate from St. Alexander. Mrs. Parent suggested a closed environment would best suit her child with special needs.

- ii) Parent, Alison Kitts to speak on open concept concerns and W.J. Langlois as a virtual school.

Mrs. Kitts is a parent of two children attending St. Alexander school. She mentioned from the onset the two school communities knew that consolidating the schools, one community would be upset. Mrs. Kitts questioned administration's recommendation to consolidate St. Alexander to W.J. Langlois school even though a number of parents opposed the open concept classroom. She requests administration to provide figures for the retrofitting of W.J. Langlois school.

- iii) Parent, Jerri Morris to speak on the potential closing of St. Alexander school and the possibility of converting W.J. Langlois school to a community centre.

Mrs. Morris is a parent of three children, one attending St. Alexander school. Mrs. Morris is concerned about the open concept setting and as her home is adjacent to St. Alexander school concerned about vandalism if the school is left vacant. She suggested administration to consolidate the two communities to St. Alexander and convert W.J. Langlois school to a faith based community centre.

- iv) Parent, Belinda Williams to provide her personal opinion on the recommendations.

Mrs. Williams is a parent of two children attending St. Alexander school. Mrs. Williams commented on open concept verses traditional classroom settings, parking issues, bus bay and Kiss 'n Ride, compared cost of retrofitting W.J. Langlois to upgrading St. Alexander school including the opening of portables, and suggest administration address the financial difficulties of both schools in an amended report.

- v) Parent, Dawn Caron to speak on the transition period if St. Alexander should close.

Mrs. Caron is a parent of two children, one attending St. Alexander school. Mrs. Caron realizes one school must close but is concerned about the transition period. She request administration to postpone the consolidation of St. Alexander to W.J. Langlois for one year, until the retrofitting at W.J. Langlois is complete, and therefore begin the transition period over a longer period of time.

- vi) Parent, Elaine Boucas to speak about the positive points of St. Alexander and why it is the better choice for the school community.

Mrs. Boucas is a parent of children who attend St. Alexander school. Mrs. Boucas commented on the four Accommodation Review Committee considerations, Value to the Student, Value to the School Board, Value to the Community and Value to the local economy which encompassed parking issues, bus bay including the Kiss 'n Ride program, open concept versus traditional classroom settings, provincial testing (EQAQO), schools' physical accommodations, and the cost of retrofitting W.J. Langlois.

- vii) Parent, Mark Williams to speak about the Director's recommendations and to propose an amendment to the recommendations.

Mr. Williams is a parent of children attending St. Alexander school. Mr. Williams thanked trustees and the Director for listening to the communities' concerns and comments. Mr. Williams presented figures and facts regarding the retrofitting of W.J. Langlois school and encouraged the board to be fiscally responsible by approving the recommendations, in principle, subject to the design of a tendered proposed floor plan by a qualified engineer or architect for the retrofitting of W.J. Langlois school as per the specifications discussed in the Director's report. He suggested the plan include structural, electrical, HVAC modifications, additional parking spaces, and ensure classrooms and hallways are in compliance with Ministry guidelines. Mr. Williams also suggested the board make the final decision based on the floor plan determining the better location for the school communities.

- viii) Students, Candice Szaniszlo and Marisa Buchan to speak about the Director's recommendations, experiences at W.J. Langlois Elementary school, and would like to welcome the St. Alexander Elementary school community.

Ms. Szaniszlo and Ms. Buchan represented the W.J. Langlois student body. Ms. Szaniszlo and Ms. Buchan are in favour with the Director's recommendations. The students believe the two communities will become one whole Catholic community by beginning the school year at St. Alexander and then later transitioning to W.J. Langlois. The students commented both school communities share common Fontainebleau amenities which will create a stronger bond as they blend together. The students thanked the board for providing them the opportunity to voice their opinions.

Chair Holland introduced senior administration and assured the communities their concerns and comments will be considered and the final recommendation report will be posted in advance of the June 26, 2012 Board meeting.

Chair Holland requested comments from Trustees, there were no questions. She then invited trustees to remain after the meeting to be available to speak to the members of the audience.

8. Closing Prayer – Fr. Brunet closed the meeting with a prayer.
9. Adjournment - There being no further business, the Regular Board meeting of May 15, 2012 adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Approved

Barbara Holland
Board Chairperson

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

Hello! Fellow Arc Committee Members and Fellow Trustees;

My name is Sheryl Parent, and my daughter Victoria has been attending St. Alexander School for the last 7 years. In September, she will be in grade 7 and the start of her 8th year of grade school. She has had perfect attendance at school for the very first time in 7 years, she has been going to St. Alexander Elementary School. Victoria has received various awards at school; ie: for hope, reading and volunteering. She also has ribbons from her cross country meets. In junior kindergarten Mr. Schulert road the little bus with her at lunch time because she wanted to take the big bus with her classmates from school. A couple of teachers from St. Alexander School had sent Victoria post cards. One post card was from her 2nd grade teacher welcoming her back to school and one from her 6th grade teacher last month encouraging Victoria to keep up the hard work. I have also kept a few things that she did in kindergarten from her teachers. I wish I would have had these kind of teachers when I went to school. I would like to see Victoria graduate from St. Alexander School in grade 8. I would also like to mention that Victoria was diagnosed with a Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS). She has a mild form of Autism and has a speech delay. I really feel a closed classroom environment would be best for my child. Please, please reconsider keeping St. Alexander Elementary School open.

Sincerely;

Sheryl Parent

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Hello, my name is Jerri Morris and I have 3 children. I have a daughter that is 22 years old, a son 17 and my youngest daughter is 10. I went to St. Alexander School myself, and decided to move my family back to this neighborhood so my children would be able to attend this school as well. I'm sure you are aware that there are many of us who have moved back to Fontainebleau for this reason; likely both schools have this in common. My youngest child is currently in grade 5 at St. Alexander, and the fact that she will be adversely affected by changing to an open concept school is part of the reason I am here today. She has difficulties with concentration, and is easily distracted and therefore seems an unlikely candidate for an open concept school. She is also extremely conscientious of her grades, and takes it very hard when she receives a low mark. Despite my husband and I only stressing the importance of her efforts over her grades, she remains this way. I am concerned about sending her to an open concept school as I fear that all the work her current teacher, Mr. McMillan and we have done to build up her confidence will be diminished. I prefer to keep her in the Separate school system but the opportunities are limited, and I am no longer confident I will be able to do so. The other reason I am here, is that I live at 5250 Rose, located directly behind the school and I am very concerned about the potential problems the people living around the school will face, if this property becomes vacant. As I'm sure you're aware Adstoll Arena is currently vacant, as well as the convenience store on Rivard & Adstoll and Ducana windows on Buckingham & Tecumseh Rd. E. It is easy to see how another vacant building within these 6 streets will negatively impact us. We pay a considerable amount of property taxes to live here, and another large empty building will have adverse effects not only our property values but could potentially increase of the number of break-ins and other crimes including vandalism. I realize that these issues should also be taken up with the city, but being Roman Catholic I also know, that the church is concerned of our community's welfare and offers to support its parishioners, within their capacity to do so. Being that you are the school board and trustees that

represents the Roman Catholic Church, I feel it is reasonable that we hold you accountable, as the decision you make in regards to these two schools, could in fact bring about these negative, unwanted changes to our community.

Therefore, I propose that the school board consider allowing the city to turn W.J. Langlois elementary school into a community center, thereby keeping St. Alexander School open. Of the 2 schools, St. Alexander is the only one capable of housing all the students from both schools, with minimal expense to re-open the portables at a cost of \$5000. I realize that W. J. Langlois can accommodate all the students, but as you know will incur approx. \$200,000 in costs to meet these requirements. The Langlois site is the ideal location for a community center as it is down the street from a school, and beside both the park and the public library. There are a greater number of elementary school age children in the area, and therefore would provide many benefits to them and their families. But it would also include the children and families that are currently enrolled at St. Alexander School. The fact that Langlois is an open concept school makes it ideal for a community center as the walls can be arranged to accommodate many programing needs. St. Alexander School is of a standard school design, with little opportunity to adjust to changing needs. Open concept is not a preferred design for schools, as we have heard in the previous meetings, they are not building new schools in this manner today. This design is especially not ideal for elementary students who would have to transition into it. Logically then, the Langlois children would have a much easier time in transitioning to the standard school format, then if the opposite were true. The results of the provincial testing scores really speak for themselves. I know you have already taken these scores into account and will therefore not review them with you. As I mentioned previously, W.J.Langlois has a vast number of children living around it due to the neighboring public school, which means the majority of children would be in walking distance to the community center. The Langlois students

could be then bussed to St. Alexander School, for approximately the same cost as would be incurred if the St. Alexander students were being bussed to Langlois. This neighborhood has been deprived of all of the benefits of a community center for far too long. When my eldest child was younger it was difficult to get her to be involved with any of the Parks & Recreation activities because she never had any classmates to go with her. The closest center is the Atkinson community center (formerly AKO) and although we would drive her, we found many families in the neighborhood would not. We found this to be true with my son, and I am having the same results with my 10 year-old daughter currently. The neighbourhoods that have centers in them benefit from day programs throughout the summer and on Professional Development days, as well as all the great programs they offer for children, teens and adults in evenings and on weekends. For families that cannot afford to put their children in costly after school programs, community centers offer an excellent alternative. The building could easily be sectioned off for a daycare program, like Chez Nous (in the Atkinson center), and could include a large room available for rental for birthday parties, etc. This would not only give children and teenagers a place to go, rather than gathering and loitering outside, it would also create some new jobs in this area. The Friends of Fontainebleau group have been advocating for a center in this area for some time also. Maybe if we had the support of the School board, the city would be willing to allow us the same opportunity other communities have had for many years.

I would also like to propose that if the board is not in favor of turning the property over to the city, then possibly the Roman Catholic Church and School Board would consider creating a Roman Catholic based community center, where all of the day and evening programs could be centered around our faith. This would also be an ideal location to hold the church classes for all sacraments, and especially for RCIA, while also offering great potential for growth in our church community. By offering programs

to the public, where we could include prayer and faith, it would potentially help to increase the consistently decreasing enrollment at our schools and of course our churches. If the board would support this proposal and in conjunction with the church, this would not only serve to preserve our faith, the fundamental reason for the establishment of the ARC committees, it would potentially help our faith to grow.

I am aware that this kind of decision isn't made here, and that it cannot be decided at this particular meeting, I only ask that you consider this as a viable option. Then perhaps some of the negativity attached to the impending school closure, would be lifted and the decision you make would bring our community closer together. Although I'm aware this wouldn't be the first choice for the Langlois families, and don't intend to speak for them, the potential here is for a positive outcome for all the children, not only for some. I am also aware that there is a process that must take place, and the other School boards get first option at the vacant site. But if none of the other boards are interested in taking over this site, it is an optimal location, and building for a community center.

In Closing, I feel that the neighborhood, in which I grew up in, moved back to, and have been raising my children in, is in need of some attention from the School board, the city and the church. I also feel that the all the people living in both of these school communities warrant it. The children in our neighborhoods have been overlooked by them for as long as I have lived here. Our children do not have the same access to all the community based programs that others do. I realize that they can in fact register for them, but without any school friends or kids they know, it is very difficult for them, and after a couple tries, they just stop trying. Our children deserve to have a community center, either city but preferably faith driven, where they can learn, share and prosper. Although, I am not aware of any Catholic based community centers currently in operation, I would love to be involved with both the fundraising and volunteering aspects

needed to achieve this goal. I feel confident that many parents and the possibly that the group 'The Friends of Fontainebleau' would be on board as well. I see this impending school closure as your opportunity, to not only enrich the lives of this community, but as a chance to bring more families into our faith, and most importantly reduce the number that leave. What wonderful publicity this would be for our faith.

Thank you for your time.

Good Evening Everyone,

My name is Belinda Williams and I am the mother of 2 children who attend St. Alexander.

I have spent countless hours going over all the ARC information and trying to address the Director's concerns. I organized the factual information so as to compare the facts of both schools side by side and sent this information to you, the Director and Trustees through five e-mails. The factual information in these e-mails shows St. Alexander as the school that should remain open for this neighbourhood on the terms of Value to the Student and Value to the Board. This factual information shows that if the Board is experiencing financial difficulties, St. Alexander School should remain open.

I believe what I am presenting here tonight questions the Director's proposal and addresses the best decision for the Board based on its financial difficulties.

In the proposal it says that the decision should be based on which location/building can offer the best physical accommodations for the merged communities. I believe that location is St. Alexander which offers the learning environment that is most consistent with that of the other schools within the Board and can accommodate the two merged communities at the most feasible and economical cost. St. Alexander School is the most central location in the expanded boundary limit for both schools. The existing halls and classrooms are laid out in such a way that they provide a window wall for natural daylight and ventilation for each classroom. Natural light is a problem at Langlois due to the layout of the classrooms, which do not all have windows and cannot provide natural light or ventilation. St. Alexander has classrooms that are symmetrically and traditionally configured to suit the functionality of school furnishings and equipment along with classroom organization. The open concept classrooms at Langlois create irregular room sizes which make it challenging to accommodate education equipment and supplies. I foresee a bigger problem with this once Langlois is retrofitted as it seems classrooms may have to be made smaller. But I am not expert on reconfiguring a school so I ask, "Where is the plan?" It is not enough to make things fit or to think things will fit. We need to know if the blended concepts will work and what they will look like. I ask you this - Would you buy a home or business, without knowing what the inside will look like? Would you buy a home not having an actual cost for construction? Without an actual layout of what this blended environment will look like, does not ease the concerns of those parents who had a preference in the learning environment for all students. Will all St. Alexander students be in closed classrooms while Langlois students are in the open-concept rooms? It is not premature to have a plan for Langlois. Though this proposal is not final it should be proven to the community with drawn up plans that this proposal works. The communities have nothing to go by here. I truly believe this proposal should not pass.

We need to compare the outside of the schools as much as we need to compare the inside. St. Alexander School located on Adstoll St. has an abundance of parking for both staff and parents, a safe loading and unloading bus bay, and the Kiss N Ride is already implemented. Langlois is located on Rivard St., a busy road with a greater Traffic Count. My concern is for the safety of the children. There are several parking restrictions surrounding Langlois School. No parking/stopping in the bus bay. No

stopping out front or across the street from the school. No extra parking spaces in the lot for parents to pick up or drop off. It is my belief the many parking restrictions are due to the fact Langlois is located on a busy street and too close to a 3 way stop. Parking/Stopping on the roadway in front of the school is a traffic and safety concern for both students and the community. With more children, more cars, this will be an even bigger issue. Unless you park illegally on the roadway or use the private property of the Church or Library, parking at Langlois is an issue and has not been addressed with the Director's proposal. This issue encourages people to break the law and is of great concern for student safety on the roadway. Due this reason, this proposal should not pass.

Being in close proximity to a library and park is not a reason to base the closure of one school over another. These are for the people of the community and city to use. Will these facilities be used on a daily basis by the Langlois community during school hours? Will the students of Langlois be allowed to go play on the playground by the library at recess? This library/park could be closed or removed tomorrow. These facilities are not just for the Langlois students and in no way benefits them or the Board on a daily basis. This is not a reason to choose one school over another. This proposal should not pass.

Having chosen Langlois over St. Alexander one of the Director's concerns has not been addressed. The concern was that one of the schools has teaching/learning spaces not suitable to provide the programs needed to serve the community and retrofitting may be cost prohibitive. Why spend \$200,000 to retrofit Langlois when the merged communities can be accommodated in St. Alexander by re-opening the existing portables for just \$5,000? By choosing Langlois over St. Alexander the Board will be spending \$200,000 unnecessarily and will not be dealing with the financial difficulties the Board is currently in, as well as ignoring one of the Director's own concerns. Due to this, I believe this proposal should not pass.

The Facilities Department has determined Langlois to be a better structural choice. I ask "HOW"? Langlois needs windows, doors and waterproofing repairs which are estimated at a total cost of \$220,000. St. Alexander needs mill work and sinks at a cost of only \$10,000. Although St. Alexander is 10 years older than Langlois, it is not prohibitive to repair and only needs some loving care. The age factor of the buildings and the repairs they will need in 10 years was determined by a computer program, and does not dictate what the schools actual needs are today, nor what the Board can do today, as money is an issue. I am certain many of these computer generated 10 year repairs will not be repaired within the 10 years nor need to all be repaired. There will always be repairs for any building, it's unavoidable. As the Director has not provided proof of how Langlois is a better structural choice, I truly believe this proposal should not pass.

The estimated disposition of the Langlois building is \$880,000. St. Alexander's estimated disposition is \$825,000. If we calculate the Director's proposal and merge the communities at St. Alexander to start at \$5,000 (re-open portables) and then move to Langlois at \$200,000 (retrofitting) \$220,000 (windows, doors, waterproofing) it would be at a cost of \$425,000 to the Board. With the sale of St. Alexander at \$825,000 - \$425,000 (cost to Board) the Board would only be saving \$400,000. By consolidating to St.

Alexander the Board will save \$200,000 (not having to retrofit Langlois) \$220,000 (not having to do repairs to Langlois) and \$880,000 by selling the Langlois building. That is a monetary savings of \$1,300,000 to the Board. With only \$15,000 needed to re-open portables and for mill work and sinks. Based on this factual information, I believe this proposal should not pass.

Why spend money on St. Alexander to make minor renovations and re-open the portables for the merged communities to only start the 2012/2013 school year? Why not continue for the remainder of the year? Why not continue forever, as these kids do not deserve to be moved twice. Money is being spent unnecessarily to retrofit Langlois and move the merged communities come October of 2012/2013. The Director has proven that by starting off the year at St. Alexander all students can be accommodated there. So, let's keep this simple and make one move. We heard from many parents and students from Langlois who came to an open house at St. Alexander and said they would love to come to St. Alexander, that they prefer traditional, that they wished they could start tomorrow, that classrooms are bigger, and how they love the layout of the different primary/junior/senior sides. There was never any opposition from Langlois staff or parents with regards to St. Alexander's learning environment. I ask that you consider this suggestion above based as an amendment to the Director's proposal. Consolidating and staying at St. Alexander is the smoothest, quickest, option for the Students and the most feasible and economical choice for the Board that addresses the financial difficulties of the Board.

While the schools are similar in nature, where they differ is in their learning environments and the amount of money needed to accommodate the merged communities together, today. I recommend this amendment to the Director's proposal, not because it is the school my children attend currently but I truly believe it is the best environment for these merged communities based on Value to the Student and Value to the Board. This amended proposal would take into account all the reasons for having done this ARC in the first place.

Thank you for your time and allowing me to have an input with regards to my children's Catholic education.

FW: The Fountainbleau ARC

Back to messages |

Belinda Williams
To marcwilliams@sympatico.ca

14/05/2012
Reply ▾

From: belindawilliams@sympatico.ca
To: director@wecdsb.on.ca
CC: barbara_holland@wecdsb.on.ca; mary_demenna@wecdsb.on.ca;
fred_alexander@wecdsb.on.ca; joan_courtney@wecdsb.on.ca; frank_favot@wecdsb.on.ca;
john_macri@wecdsb.on.ca; bernie_mastromattei@wecdsb.on.ca; jim_mcmahon@wecdsb.on.ca;
lisa_soulliere@wecdsb.on.ca
Subject: The Fountainbleau ARC
Date: Wed, 11 Apr 2012 00:57:05 +0000

Dear Mr. Picard,

As a member of the Fountainbleau ARC committee and a parent of two children who will be affected by this process, I have fully looked over and addressed your concerns from October 11, 2011 with regards to St. Alexander and W.J. Langlois schools. Although I have no specific training related to this, I feel that I've looked at the information in a logical way, made reasonable sense out of it, and would like to present you with my findings.

Is it Langlois or St. Alexander that is well below the threshold for optimum facility usage?

With the optimal utilization rate for full Ministry funding at 85%, both schools fall below the threshold, though one more than the other. St. Alexander is at 67% and Langlois is at 50%.

Is it Langlois or St. Alexander that is unable to provide a suitable and equitable range of learning opportunities for students?

Having toured Langlois school I feel it is Langlois that would be unable to provide a suitable and equitable range of learning opportunities for students. Langlois does not have adequate space to accommodate the consolidation of all students from St. Alexander nor sufficient room for storage of extra learning material and supplies. With Langlois' enrollment at 200 compared to 231 for St. Alexander there has been a reduction in funding that has affected the amount of resources available at Langlois more than at St. Alexander. Due to lack of space it appears Langlois would not be able to support all program/resources St. Alexander has.

Is it Langlois or St. Alexander that has or will experience an adverse impact on learning opportunities for students due to declining enrolment?

With both schools having experienced declining enrolment, both have been affected by a reduction in funding. Langlois' enrolment is at 200, only because Full Early Learning was implemented before it was at St. Alexander and therefore all students are counted as a whole. St. Alexander's full time enrolment is stated as 231 however if Full Early Learning were implemented as is at Langlois, all students would be counted as a whole and enrolment would

be over 260. I feel this determines that it is Langlois who has experienced an impact on learning opportunities for students due to lower enrolment. St. Alexander parents have been vocal with regards to the learning environment at Langlois and therefore the WECDSB should be concerned with a decline of enrolment should they choose St. Alexander to consolidate to Langlois, as many parents have stated they may look at alternate options for their children.

Could reorganization at Langlois or St. Alexander enhance program and learning opportunities for students?

Consolidation at either school would require reorganization to enhance programs and learning opportunities for students. With an increase in students at either school, programs and learning opportunities would all need to be evaluated as funding is increased, and more teachers are added. The reorganization would definitely enhance opportunities for all students but I believe it would be at a greater cost to the Board if St. Alexander were to consolidate at Langlois due to the cost of additions/expenses needed to accommodate all students.

Is it Langlois or St. Alexander who has teaching/learning spaces not suitable to provide the programs needed to serve the community and retrofitting may be cost prohibitive?

I believe it is Langlois, with the open concept setting, who has unsuitable teaching/learning spaces to provide programs needed to serve the community and retrofitting may be cost prohibitive. In viewing the recommendation to the director by the committees and the virtual school plan put together by principal Schell, you can see that Langlois cannot accommodate the students from St. Alexander. Relocation/retrofitting of walls, the need for an addition to the building or portables at a cost to the board would be necessary, while St. Alexander has only a small cost to open back up it's portables.

With the open concept setting, community programs such as the Ontario Early Learning Center, Langlois would not have a suitable room to accommodate the program. The Ontario Early Learning Center needs its own closed room so as not to disrupt regular classes. With no doors to close on classrooms, their needs would not be met.

The St. Alexander school community has a preference for the traditional school setting of St. Alexander and so does the Board as they have not built any open concept schools since the 70 's and have tried to best accommodate the remaining open concept schools in the the best cost efficient way by erecting partitions to divide the open area into make-like classrooms. Langlois does not provide the suitable teaching/learning spaces most comparable to that of the schools in the surrounding communities and within the Board. Retrofitting Langlois to accommodate the community's preference and provide suitable teaching/learning spaces would be cost prohibitive.

It's been estimated that the **removal and relocation of existing walls at Langlois would cost \$200,000, and a permanent addition to accommodate all students at \$1,500,000 or 3 portables at \$270,000.**

Langlois also does not have sufficient **parking** nor **Kiss N Ride zone** to accommodate the needs of the school community. This **would be a cost to the Board.** Talk is for a **roundabout** in front of Langlois with **parking extension** to back of yard. This **would be at a cost to the Board.**

St. Alexander can accommodate all students from Langlois with only minor renovations and have a sufficient amount of traditional rooms to serve the community programs.

Is it Langlois or St. Alexander that is under normal staffing allocation practices making it necessary to assign three grades to one class?

Neither schools find it necessary to assign three grades to one class at this time therefore adhering to the normal staffing allocation practice. The virtual school plans for the 2012/13 school year do not make it necessary to assign three grades to one class. However, Langlois does have an SK/Grade 1 split class that I feel is not your usual combination.

Is it Langlois or St. Alexander that is incurring higher building maintenance expenses than what is typical for the system and/or is in need of major capital improvements?

Though St. Alexander's FCI rating is higher than Langlois', I feel the costs are minimal when you compare the difference in ages of the building. St. Alexander is 10 years older than Langlois. St. Alexander is not considered prohibitive to repair and its expenses are no greater than that of another school built in the 1960's. Langlois just had recent upgrades to the property done in the summer of 2011 which would have brought their FCI rating down. If St. Alexander were to have had upgrades done within the last year the Facility Index Rating could be lower. If you were to do a 20 year calculation of Langlois to bring the ages of the buildings equal you would see their expenses have increased and the cost of expenses is equal to, if not higher, than St. Alexander. Every school is going to have the same type of expenses over time. Every school needs windows and doors and other maintenance of the same extent. It's unavoidable. These expenses are based on the age of the buildings, not on the needed repairs of the buildings. I do not feel this is something of concern to the board and should not be a deciding factor for determining the closure of one school over another.

In looking at the 2011/12 School renewal and Condition Improvement Recommended Budgets and other information available on the ARC website I found the following to be of concern to the Board in terms of cost/funding.

Langlois' School Condition Improvement Costs for Doors, Windows is at \$180,000 with unknown cost for water-proofing of building.

St. Alexander's school renewal for replacement of mill work and sinks in staff room is at a cost of \$10,000.

There would be a:

- **\$180,000+savings for the board if Langlois were to consolidate with St. Alexander due to doors, windows and water- proofing needed**
- **\$10,000 savings per year in utilities if Langlois consolidates with St. Alexander.**
- **\$200,000 savings if Langlois consolidates with St. Alexander due to cost of having to remove and relocate**

existing walls

- **\$270,000 savings if Langlois consolidates with St. Alexander due to 3 portables being required to accommodate students**

(or addition at \$1,500,000)

- **\$000,000 savings (cost unknown) if Langlois consolidates with St. Alexander due to need for parking extension in**

back

- **\$000,000 savings (cost unknown) if Langlois consolidates with St. Alexander due to roundabout in front of school**
- **\$000,000 savings (cost unknown) if Langlois consolidates with St. Alexander for implementation of KissNRide and a new**

bus bay

TOTAL \$670,000+savings to the WECDSB if Langlois consolidates to St. Alexander

There would be a:

- **\$10,000 savings for the Board if St. Alexander were to consolidate with Langlois due to replacing mill work and sinks in staff room**
- **\$ 5,000 savings for the Board if St. Alexander were to consolidate with Langlois due to re-opening of portables**

TOTAL ONLY \$ 15,000 savings to the WECDSB if St. Alexander consolidates to Langlois

Is the consolidation of Langlois and St. Alexander in the best interest of the overall school system?

As both schools have been dealing with declining enrolment and the Board is dealing with financial difficulties I feel a consolidation would be in the best interest of the overall school system. However, I feel this review was a sudden surprise for all and has been too rushed. Though St. Alexander could accommodate all students for the 2012/13 school year with only minor renovations, the students, parents, teachers and the entire community should be given more time to accept and come to terms with any decision that is made.

I hope I have provided some input on whether your concerns for the schools in the Fountainbleau area are real. I believe some concerns are greater than others and should be evaluated further. As I previously stated, I am not specifically trained in this area but feel I've been over the information enough to make a reasonable and logical analysis. I feel I have not had the chance to really speak out on my children's behalf and I hope you will receive this information well and any further that I may be forwarding.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input with regards to my children's Catholic education.

Respectfully,

Belinda Williams

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FW: The Fountainbleau ARC

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Belinda Williams
To marcwilliams@sympatico.ca

14/05/2012
Reply ▾

From: belindawilliams@sympatico.ca
To: director@wecdsb.on.ca
CC: barbara_holland@wecdsb.on.ca; bernie_mastromattei@wecdsb.on.ca;
frank_favot@wecdsb.on.ca; fred_alexander@wecdsb.on.ca; jim_mcmahon@wecdsb.on.ca;
joan_courtney@wecdsb.on.ca; john_macri@wecdsb.on.ca; lisa_soulliere@wecdsb.on.ca;
mary_dimenna@wecdsb.on.ca
Subject: The Fountainbleau ARC
Date: Wed, 11 Apr 2012 14:50:51 +0000

Dear Mr. Picard,

In discussing what is the best Value to the Board and in turn the Ministry, I feel that the St. Alexander site is the best option for this community monetarily, TODAY. In determining what is best for the students we need to closely analyze the information and expenses that both schools will take on in order to accommodate all students from both schools. If money is an issue for the WECDSB, I hope you and the Trustees will really decipher between NEEDS and WANTS before making your recommendation/final decision. From the ARC website I have gathered together the costs of renovations proposed for each school.

St. Alexander

Additional Bussing - 23% currently bussed - **ONLY 60% to be bussed**
New sinks + Mill work - **\$10,000.00**
Opening Existing Portables - **\$5,000.00**
Air Conditioning - cost unknown
Full Day Early Learning - cost unknown
New Paint Job - cost unknown

Langlois

Additional Bussing - 31% currently bussed - 75% to be bussed
New windows + doors - \$180,000.00
Waterproofing - cost unknown (\$200,000.00 to be shared among 4 other schools)
Removal/Relocation of walls - \$200,000.00
3 Portables - \$270,000.00
Parking Extension - cost unknown
Roundabout - cost unknown
Kiss N Ride/ New Bus bay - cost unknown
Repairing Playground Equipment - cost unknown
New Pain Job - cost unknown

The costs at St. Alexander school are not significantly high, compared to Langlois, and I believe

many of the renovations listed are not required at this time.

I do not foresee air conditioning being installed in all rooms as feasible nor necessary. As it states this could potentially be a considerable expense. With this unpredictable weather we have been experiencing and school being out for the potentially warmest months of the year, I believe this recommendation should be removed from the list. **This would be a Value to the Board.** I am certain that this is the reason why utilities costs are \$10,000.00 higher at Langlois. I also believe that Full Day Early Learning Program should not continue at St. Alexander if Langlois were to consolidate there. It was stated that this would be an expense to the Board as all students would not be funded. Let Full Day Early Learning Program be implemented as was intended, for the 2013/2014 school year at St. Alexander. **This is a Value to the Board and the Ministry.**

Many more renovations are needed at Langlois to accommodate the students from St. Alexander.

Langlois cannot accommodate students from St. Alexander as is. Relocation/reconfiguration of walls is needed, 3 portables, or an addition. All at a cost to the Board.

Langlois does not have sufficient parking to accommodate for the increase in traffic. They would need an extension of their current parking. All at a cost to the Board.

Langlois currently has no Kiss N Ride. A roundabout, and new bus bay would need to be constructed to implement the Kiss N Ride. All at a cost to the Board.

I believe that without a concrete plan and costs fully laid out for parents to see, it is hard to imagine what Langlois would look like. When all costs are not known and plans are merely wishes rather than actual, concrete, and assessed plans it is hard to determine that Langlois is the best decision for these students and the community. It will cost more to accommodate St. Alexander students at Langlois. This is not a Value to the Board.

As a parent, I feel the **less expenses needed to create a new school, the more Value to the Board and the Ministry.** Based on my findings, **that school is St. Alexander.**

I hope you will take in to account my suggestions to remove the recommendations that are wants and not needs. I hope the funding/savings could be put to better use for the students. Such as for academics, activities, more resources, library books, etc.....things that will be a Value to the Students.

If it is deemed necessary to implement this consolidation for the 2012/13 school year, I feel **St. Alexander** is the school that will accomplish the **smoothest, quickest and most feasible transition** at a **Value to the Students** and a greater **Value to the Board.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input with regards to my children's Catholic education.

Respectfully,

Belinda Williams
St. Alexander parent

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The Fountainbleau ARC


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Belinda Williams

To director@wecdsb.on.ca, barbara_holland@wecds...

Documents | 12/04/2012

Reply ▾

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Dear Mr. Picard,

I write this email to you today regarding the Fountainbleau ARC. I was a member of the committee and am the parent of two children that will be affected by this process. As a committee member I have spent countless hours going over the profiles and information provided to the committee, to make an informed and educated recommendation. I took this role very seriously, as any person would when it's something that involves their children's future as well as that of their friends, family and community.

Being a member of the committee I looked at your concerns that prompted this ARC to begin with, the School Information Profiles, the ARC Information Package and other information made available. As much as the committee was told not to compare the schools, and that there should be consistency in the reporting, I as a parent believe you must compare the two schools in order to determine which school would provide the best Value to the Student, Value to the Board, Value to the Community and Value to the Economy in order to make the best decision.

As both schools are similar in their involvement in this community and how in turn they help out the economy; where they differ is in terms of their Value to the Student and Value to the Board.

I do not feel that one school is better than the other, but do feel that one of the schools is better suited for all of the students and in the long run, will be better for the students and the school board.

If you look at the attached comparison chart you will see that one school does stand out as being above the other in almost all major areas of concern for the school board. If one were to look at all the facts presented, one would determine that St. Alexander is the logical choice for a smooth, immediate and most feasible transition.

I hope this information proves to be helpful in making a decision should consolidation of St. Alexander and Langlois be deemed necessary by the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input with regards to my children's Catholic education.

Respectfully,

Belinda Williams
St. Alexander parent

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Recommend Langlois to consolidate to St. Alexander

St. Alexander

Built in 1960

231 students enrolled

Early Learning Program to be phased in

Before & After School Day Care

EQAO Scores: Primary/Junior

Year: 09/10 - 10/11

Reading: 57-46 73-71

Writing: 80-77 78-76

Math: 69-65 81-52

Traditional classrooms (preferred)

Most comparable with schools in the board

37 traditional schools in the board

10 classrooms currently in use + 5 extra

+ 2 portables available to be used

4 additional Resource/Meeting Rooms

Ontario Early Learning Center Room

Immediate classroom lockdown for safety

Can accommodate ALL students

5 Staff Washrooms

1 Wheelchair Accessible Washroom

W.J. Langlois

Built in 1970

200 students enrolled

Early Learning Program Implemented

No Before or After School Day Care

EQAO Scores: Primary/Junior

Year: 09/10 - 10/11

Reading: 28-39 36-58

Writing: 39-48 44-54

Math: 61-52 44-46

Open- concept

Least comparable with schools in the board

3 open concept schools left in the board

9 open classrooms currently in use + 2 extra

1 closed classroom in use

2 open for Spec.Ed, FSL, LSST, Book Rms.

2 teacher resource rooms

Back on Track Room

Classrooms don't have immediate lockdown

Need additions/refitting to fit ALL students

1 Staff Washroom each of Men & Women

1 Wheelchair Accessible Washroom

No washroom in change rooms
Boys: In total 6 stalls, 10 urinals
Girls: In total 12 stalls
JK/SK: 2 closed stalls
Adequate parking spaces (67+1 handicap)
Room to add parking (20 additional)
No restrictions for parking out front
Kiss N Ride established
Safe bus loading and unloading bay
60% require bussing after consolidation
Playground equipment in good condition
Easy add on of a building wing
School Expenditures-\$88,835.00
New sinks + mill work \$10,000.00
Repair drainage in courtyard-cost unknown
Opening Existing Portables-\$5,000.00

Disposition cost \$825,000.00
10 year school renewal-\$2,693,067.00

1 washroom in boys & girls change rooms
Boys: In total 5 stalls, 8 urinals
Girls: In total 12 stalls
JK/SK: SK/Gr. 1: 1 closed stall each
Limited parking spaces (26 + 1 handicap)
Room to add parking towards the back
Restrictions for parking in front of school
Kiss N Ride not established
Safe bus loading and unloading bay
75% require bussing after consolidation
Playground equipment does not meet code
Difficult to add to open-concept
School Expenditures-\$97,321.00
New windows + doors \$180,000.00
Waterproofing-cost unknown
Removal/relocation of walls-\$200,000.00
3 additional portables-\$270,000.00
Parking extension-cost unknown
Roundabout-cost unknown
KissNRide/New bus bay-cost unknown
Disposition Cost \$880,000.00
10 year school renewal-\$2,083,463.00

The Fountainbleau ARC

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Belinda Williams

13/04/2012

To director@wecdsb.on.ca, barbara_holland@wecdsb.on.ca

[Reply](#) ▾

Dear Mr. Picard,

Looking over the Fountainbleau ARC Draft copy of recommendations to the Director of Education, under recommendation #2 to consolidate St. Alexander to Langlois I noticed a bullet under Value to the Board that I believe is misconstrued. I'm sorry to say that I missed the opportunity to bring it up in the committee meetings as it only recently caught my attention, but I would like to address it to you today as I feel it should be taken into consideration when making the decision.

Recommendation #2, Bullet #3, Value to the Board reads as follows - W.J. Langlois is the most affordable option. On the Summary of School Expenditures, Projected for the year ended August 31, 2012 report, it shows Langlois has a total cost of: \$1,869,150.

It states, that W.J. Langlois is the most affordable option. I do not feel this is the case.

Referencing the Summary of School Expenditures, Projected for the year ended August 31, 2012 reports for both Langlois and St. Alexander:

Langlois' Full Time Enrolment is 200
St. Alexander's Full Time Enrolment is 213

The lower enrolment of students at Langlois, has an affect on the number of teachers, custodians, and EA's.

Langlois' Teachers - FTE: 13, Annual Cost \$1,061,849
Custodians - FTE: 1.5, Annual Cost \$73,100
EA's - FTE: 4, Annual Cost \$155,025
Total Staffing Expenditures: \$1,771,828

St. Alexander's Teachers - FTE: 14.5, Annual Cost \$1,316,140
Custodians - FTE: 1.75, Annual Cost \$ 85,285
EA's - FTE: 4.5, Annual Cost \$173,042
Total Staffing Expenditures: \$1,957,238

St. Alexander's Staffing Expenditures are higher than Langlois' due to higher enrolment of students which increases the need for staff, custodians and EA's which means costs would be higher.

Langlois' Utilities - \$27,369
Total Building & School Based Expenditures: \$97,321

St. Alexander's Utilities - \$17,159
Total Building & School Based Expenditures: \$88,835

I will guess that Langlois' utilities expenditure of \$10,000 is more than St. Alexander's due to their air conditioning system.

The Utilities expenditure costs are the numbers to look at, because the cheaper the school is to run, the better Value to the Board. Many of the other school expenditures such as the Operations, Maintenance and Services/Supplies costs are about equal for both schools, and will change when and where ever the new school is created. It is the utilities that has increased Langlois' Total Buliding & School Based Expenditures costs by \$10,000. The Staffing Expenditures should not be looked at in terms of making a decision as to where to consolidate because those are things that will be changing for both schools. As the number of students increase, the number of teachers will therefore change. Due to many changes that the schools will entail, many costs will be reflected by such. These Expenditures will not remain as they are now. However, I do believe that the Utilities Expenditure will not change for St. Alexander if air conditioning is not implemented. I believe the utilities expenditure could remain the same for Langlois, as long as an addition is not implemented.

For these reasons, I do not feel it is correct to state that Langlois is the most affordable option.

Thank you again for accepting my input with regards to my children's Catholic education.

Respectfully,

Belinda Williams
St. Alexander Parent

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Belinda Williams

13/04/2012

To director@wecdsb.on.ca, barbara_holland@wecdsb...

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Dear Mr. Picard,

With regards to the Fountainbleau ARC, I would like to give some reasons why I feel Langlois should consolidate to St. Alexander.

The two schools are much different in terms of their learning environment, and is causing most of the heart ache for the parents of the Fountainbleau community - not where they are being taught (referring to which school), but what type of learning environment they will be placed in (open or closed). St. Alexander parents have been vocal in saying they prefer "traditional" classrooms for their children while Langlois parents have supported open concept but have not objected to traditional. Langlois parents do not seem to have a stand, one way or the other. It seems it would not matter to them. Due to this factor I feel Langlois should consolidate to St. Alexander. This will appease everyone in the Fountainbleau community and help in continuing to bring new families to the neighbourhood. This would be a win win for all students, the Fountainbleau community and the WECDSB.

If St. Alexander was to close, there would be no "traditional" school, Public or Catholic within the Fountainbleau / Roseville community. As you are aware, St. Alexander has the highest EQAO scores within the Fountainbleau / Roseville community and it is my belief it is no accident, there is a reason - the students are provided with the best environment to learn; a "traditional" classroom. The Public Boards first question on their PARC Information Profile is EQAO scores and how they compare to the board. They must feel EQAO scores are an important factor while making a decision for the review as I'm sure the Catholic Board does as well.

As these scores are publically made available to view, parents look at these scores as a factor in deciding which school to put their children in when moving to a particular area and love to see that the school their child/children are attending is performing well within the Board.

With the closure of St. Alexander there will be no other "traditional" Catholic schools in the surrounding area to send our children and any new children moving into the area. I believe that this fact will have a very negative impact on the community - house values will decline as a result of people not wanting to raise their children in the neighbourhood because the preferred "traditional" school is not offered to them. The closure will impact every home owner in the area, not just those who have children attending the two schools. As a result, the enrolment for the WECDSB may be affected.

Many new families may be deterred from moving into the this community if a "traditionally" based Catholic school is the preference and is no longer available in this area. There are no objections to "traditional" classrooms. There have been no objections from Langlois parents about consolidating to St. Alexander. If the WECDSB wants to see this community stay together, and keep growing, they really need to consider keeping St. Alexander open in this neighbourhood if a consolidation deems necessary. If the WECDSB is looking out for the best interest of ALL the students in the Fountainbleau area and wishes not to lose any families, keeping St. Alexander open seems to be the only option, as retrofitting Langlois to

"traditional" would be a great expense to the Board.

By consolidating Langlois to St. Alexander, if there were to be an increase in enrolment, St. Alexander would provide a more advantageous expansion possibility. Adding a building wing only requires altering a section to tie in the adjoining structure while open concept must be sliced into to create a corridor from the given space therefore sacrificing that space and further intensifying the irregularity in room layout. Building wing classrooms are symmetrically and traditionally configured which suits the functionality of school furnishings and equipment and classroom organization. Open concept creates irregular room sizes which make it challenging to accommodate education equipment and supplies. Building wing classrooms at St. Alexander create a Window Wall for natural daylight and venting for each classroom and other purpose rooms, which has an Ergonomic Benefit.

As mentioned in prior e-mail:

No funding is needed for extra classrooms. Virtual School plan shows all students would fit in the existing building and portables if consolidation takes place at St. Alexander. No funding is needed for parking expansion. St. Alexander has adequate parking for staff and parents. No funding is needed for Kiss N Ride, bus bay, and roundabout creation. St. Alexander has a one way bus bay and Kiss N Ride already implemented for safe drop off, loading and unloading of students as well as easing congestion on the roadway.

As mentioned in prior e-mail:

St. Alexander would be able to have minor renovations done through the summer to accommodate the students of Langlois for the 2012/13 school year, if the Board deems it necessary to implement this consolidation immediately. The opening of the existing portables would be the only necessity to accommodate the consolidation.

If the WECD SB deems a consolidation necessary for the 2012/13 school year, I feel due to the above reasons that Langlois should consolidate to St. Alexander which would ensure the smoothest, quickest, most feasible decision for all children in this community.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide input with regards to my children's Catholic education.

Respectfully,

Belinda Williams

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Good evening. My name is Elaine Boucas and I am speaking with you tonight as a committee member, a parent, a community member and a tax payer. When the committee was first instructed on what to base our recommendations on we were given four categories, value to the student, value to the board, value to the community and value to the economy and to put value to the student above all else. I feel that the committee from St. Alexander thought about this, researched everything and really did come up with a factual, logical recommendation. It's really hard for me to understand why the director made the decision that he did, when our recommendation had so many genuine reasons to consolidate at St. Alexander. I'd like to take this opportunity to list some of the advantages that are unique to consolidating at St. Alexander.

Under value to the students, the biggest stand out to me is that with minor renovations and the use of two closed portables currently on site, all students can be accommodated at St. Alexander. I took those words right out of the director's report. And if the students can be accommodated temporarily then why couldn't they be accommodated permanently? Why spend any money on retrofitting W.J. Langlois?

St. Alexander has consistently scored higher in our district on EQAO test scores in the last 10 years. We were told that this was not of importance, but when I shop for a school that is the first thing I look at.

The kiss N ride program established at St. Alexander ensures a quick and safe arrival of students. This is not established or available at W.J. Langlois without the costly construction of a turnaround loop.

St. Alexander has 68 parking spaces for staff, parents and visitors. W.J. Langlois only has 26 spots, so either parents and visitors are forced to park at the church or library, which W.J. Langlois has no written formal agreement with, or the board can spend precious additional funds to expand the parking lot.

Fewer families will be displaced if the consolidation were at St. Alexander because St. Alexander has a higher population. Also more families will remain in the community because they will not have to move elsewhere for a traditional school.

The next group of positive points fall under the heading of why St. Alexander is, to use the director's words, the best physical accommodation for the merged community. St. Alexander has hallways for the children to travel from place to place without disturbing other classes as they do so. These hallways are lined with lockers for all the students to keep their belongings such as coats, backpacks and lunches. The use of lockers reduces clutter and may diminish the chance of allergic reactions and cross contamination. The window wall allows for natural light and ventilation into the classrooms. The tiled floors are easier for wheelchairs and easier to clean and sanitize. Special needs children are integrated into their classroom, a closed classroom, there is no need to segregate the child in order to reduce the distraction they may cause other classrooms and this could be said for any behaviour outbursts. The classrooms have cupboards and shelving to store the wealth of resources and actual walls to display these resources. The traditional rooms can be locked at a moment's notice. W.J. Langlois' plan is to have the children file into four closed rooms which did not appear large enough to accommodate 200 students, never mind 400. Even after accommodating 200 more students St. Alexander has large individual rooms for staff preparation, a staff lunch room, meetings, resources, a before and after school

daycare, the Talk 2 Me program and the Ontario Early Learning Centre, all with no need for extra funding to retrofit.

Under Value to the local economy both schools are on an even keel since they are only 1 km apart.

Under value to the community, some families from St. Alexander have already contacted realtors. Families will be leaving the area so that their children will be able to attend a traditional school and still be able to walk or take the bus to school. Families will be deterred from moving into the neighbourhood because of the lack of a traditional school.

The decision is not traditional school verses open concept school. St. Alexander has many more positives than just being a traditional school. But having a traditional school to attend in our community is vital. We were told it was just a matter of people's perception, but isn't people's perception what helps them to decide on how they feel about that something. If a parent perceives open concept to be detrimental to their child's education, then they are not going to send their child to an open concept school. I speak from experience. I attended C.G. Desantis an open concept school from kindergarten to grade eight. The only fond memories I have are of teachers and friends. I struggled throughout grade school, and my report card reflected this, they read, Elaine lacks the ability to focus, Elaine cannot sit in her seat. This was because I was always wondering what they were doing a few classes down. My husband attended F.W. Begley which had a combination of closed classrooms and open concept, what he remembers most of his time in open concept is the relentless disruption whenever another classroom had to go anywhere, to the gym, to the music room, to the library or to French class, the almost constant parade of people. He also remembers being asked to be quiet, all the time, in times of celebration, the need to be quiet and in times of joy, still the never ending need to be quiet. This is not what we want for our children, so we too have said no to open concept. Before we enrolled my son in school we discussed the decision of Catholic or public. I am Catholic but my husband is not. We toured Davis first and we were disappointed to discover it was partially open concept. Then we visited St. Alexander, instantly we loved the bright sunniness of St. Alexander so the decision was easy. But now with the loss of the libraries in the schools, and if a traditional school in our neighbourhood is not an option, I'm afraid I have my work cut out for me. At the public meetings, former students and present teachers spoke of how our children would adjust and get used to the distraction and noise at W.J. Langlois but why should they have to? Why disrupt the learning environment of over 200 students, when the students from W.J. Langlois can assimilate into St. Alexander with natural progression, just as they would when moving on to high school. And how about the parents who are not able to drive their children to and from school, with an option for a traditional school out of their reach their only choice will be an open concept school. Children will be taken away from their classmates and friends, as parents make the hard decision of what school will work best for their needs. It saddens me to think about it, and I fear the closing of St. Alexander will put a hole in the heart of the community that will never be repaired.

Under Value to the board the only point that is distinctive to W.J. Langlois is the 10 year renewal amount. If you go through the report line by line all of the concerns that the board had about costs can be eliminated by the consolidation of the two schools. I talk about costs because that is what initiated this process in the first place. It is not financially responsible for the board to have two schools so close to each other operating at near half capacity. We understand that, and no one argued against that, we just had differences on which school would be the best choice to remain open. If all the students can be accommodated at St. Alexander for the minimal expense of opening a couple of portables, why would the director and the board want to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars retrofitting W.J. Langlois? The director speaks of W. J. Langlois' 10 year renewal amount, which is an approximate \$800,000 different from St. Alexander, this sounds like a lot but spread that out over 10 years, then take into account the money the board is going to have to spend to improve and retrofit W.J. Langlois. The cost for moving the partitions alone is \$200,000. The cost for replacing windows and doors, which was on W.J. Langlois', school condition improvement list, is \$180,000. There is also a waterproofing cost on that list for an undermined amount, \$200,000 divided between 5 schools, for an average of \$40,000. The carpeting throughout the school will have to be removed and replaced. The cost of expanding the parking lot is also undetermined. The construction of the bus bay and turnabout will also be extremely expensive. None of these added expenses are necessary at St. Alexander. The amount of funds that will be needed in order to renovate and retrofit W. J. Langlois will outweigh the amount that may be saved over the 10 years. With no substantial savings, the decision is just not logical. And isn't this whole process supposed to be for the betterment of the children. I implore you, do not spend the money where it will be wasted and give the community what they need, a traditional school. We were told to put Value to the Student above everything else and if you are truly going to do that, then the correct choice is to consolidate at St. Alexander School.

The vast number of benefits for St. Alexander have been ignored, just like the 211 names on the petition to 'say no to open concept schools' and the outcry at the public meetings have been ignored. And let me inform you that not 1 person throughout this whole process, not 1 person from W.J. Langlois has said they would not want their children to attend St. Alexander. So again I say the decision is not logical and I ask you, the trustees, the people elected by the people who signed that petition, please do not ignore us, do not ignore the numerous positives for St. Alexander School. Do the right thing for the Fontainebleau community and consolidate the school populations at St. Alexander school.

- There are lots of things to say, lots of numbers to dispute and to put forth – others have done so and perhaps more will after me, so tonight I will speak more on a request of me to you, the Board
- The recommendation talks about retrofitting WJ Langlois, to house all students within the school walls, by moving walls and making new rooms etc. to accommodate the students and the other special rooms
- It was asked of Administration – to see the plan, the blueprint of the proposed new layout, the response was that it was **too premature** to have a plan in place (I disagree)
- In times like today, everyone needs to be fiscally responsible and ensure that the decisions being made are the right ones – taking everything into consideration, making sure it will work (physically and financially)
- For Administration to say that they will retrofit the school to fit all the students at a cost of \$200,000, I feel is **premature on their part**
- To make changes to the layout of the school will probably require permits - with that, the new rooms, electrical and heating and cooling, duct work etc will **need to meet Code** (the Ministry has set out guidelines on sizes of classrooms, both for Open Concept and for Traditional – these need to be met) you can't rearrange the entire layout of a building and not anticipate having to redo the heating and cooling system (or have you?)
- With an increase in the # of classrooms within the school, the City of Windsor will require an increase in the # of parking spaces on site
- The recommendation is to have all of the students attend St. Alexander in September 2012 – all of the students can be housed using the two existing portables. While there, the retrofit is to be taking place. By bringing the students to St. Alexander, the Director is demonstrating that St. Alexander is a viable solution at a minimal cost.
- If in the end, after looking at all of the concerns brought forward, the Trustees feel that Langlois is truly the better choice I make this

recommendation, as an AMENDMENT to the current recommendation put forth by the Director,

- **That the recommendation of the Director of Education be approved in principle, subject to:**
- **1. The design of a proposed floor plan by a qualified architect or engineer for the retrofit of Langlois School per the specifications discussed in the Director's Report.**
 - **Plan to include all structural, electrical and HVAC modifications required**
 - **The Plan to show additional parking spaces as required to ensure compliance with City Parking By Law**
 - **The Plan to show all other renovations as described in the Director's Report**
 - **The Plan to be in compliance with all Ministry Guidelines regarding classroom and hallway sizes etc.**
- **2. The Plan to be tendered out to establish the full cost and the results to be presented to the Board for input and final decision.**

- **Once this is complete, I think it would then be more reasonable to look at which school is best suited to achieve the goal of the Director**
- **So, the students start in September at St. Alexander – while the above work is done (estimates, meetings, planning etc.), if once the planning is complete and the new plan for the school is feasible, construction begins and once complete the students move to the new Langlois – January 2013. If the plan is not feasible and either is too expensive or just won't work logistically, the students will remain at St. Alexander and WJ Langlois will be closed and deemed surplus to the Board**

I don't think it fiscally responsible or prudent, for the school board to make these decisions without having true numbers in front of them. I am sure you do not want to agree to something and find out after that the costs will be much more than first thought. I am suggesting that the Board be sure of themselves, get a plan, get an estimate and see if it will work.

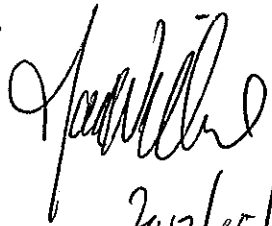
St. Alexander requires \$5000 to open the portables, and as noted, everyone can fit.

My request is that you look at the numbers – get estimates, plans etc. before committing to something you don't know is truly the right choice.

It is clear that the Director favours WJ Langlois, if that is the case – ensure it is going to work, if it can't, at least you tried, but in times like these you don't always get what you want – you get what is the most appropriate given the times.

As a group, trustees are responsible for ensuring that all the duties of the board and its staff, as established in the Education Act are carried out. One example listed is to ensure effective stewardship of the board's resources.

Thank you.



2012/05/15 .

Board Meeting

May 15, 2012

Good evening Mr. Picard and members of the board of trustees. My name is Candice Szaniszlo. I am here representing the student body of WJL. I am a level 4 gr. 8 student. I am involved with many extra curricular activities in my school. I am on our schools student leadership council and am the student representative of our safe schools team. I have spoken at many of the previous ARC meetings.

And I'm Marisa Buchan. I am also here representing the student body of WJL. Like Candice, I am a level 4 gr 8 student. I am the representative of our schools student leadership council. Similar to Candice, I have spoken at all of the previous ARC meetings. Tonight, Candice and I are her to discuss Mr. Picards Director's report.

This coming September of 2012, as the directors report and recommendations, students from WJL will begin their school year at St. Alexanders, and later transition back to WJL, not as two separate student bodies, but as a whole Catholic school community. We believe this will give the students the opportunity to bond and become a blended school community. We are in favour of this amalgamation.

As a blended school community, students will experience the benefits of both open and trditional school layouts. These benefits will come from renovations to WJL.

We fully agree with this recommendation. As WJL is a

newer facility it is the better structural and financial choice. Since both current school sites have a strong relationship with St. Theresa & St. Vincent De Paul Parishes. We believe that this would naturally continue , one the schools amalgamate in one community.

We also believe that the WJL site will continue to show support to the Fountain bleu community, As WJL is in close proximity to the WPL and Grandview Park & Track, it ensures that out sense of community will continue.

We do realise that many families from the current St. Alexander's site are not in favour of these recommendations and are probably feeling an array of emotions from anger to sadness to anxiousness or just plain fear of the unknown. But we believe with the proper transtioning from staff, students and families we can overcome these feelings together as we can continue to pursue our journey to holiness within our catholic education system.

We believe that the new and improved WJL school community will have the perfect blend of both open and traditional learning environments. This will be beneficial to all learning styles.

In conclusion, we once again thank you for giving us the opportunity to voice out opinions, and thank you for teaching us a valuable lesson in civics by allowing us to participate in these meetings. We look forward to a bright new beginning as one!