



**WINDSOR-ESSEX CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

"Learning together in faith and service"

1325 California Avenue
Windsor, ON N9B 3Y6

CHAIRPERSON: Barbara Holland

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION: Paul A. Picard

**PUPIL ACCOMMODATION STUDY
TRUSTEE DELEGATION MEETING
LEAMINGTON AREA
Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Cardinal Carter Catholic Secondary School**

MINUTES

PRESENT

Trustees: F. Alexander B. Mastromattei
M. DiMenna, *Vice-Chair* L. Soulliere
F. DiTomasso S. Tope
B. Holland, *Chair* F. Valentinis

Rev. L. Brunet, Board Chaplain

Regrets: Trustee Costante, Student Trustees Jeremiah Bowers and Maddie Diab

Administration: P. Picard (Resource) J. Bumbacco C. Norris
C. Geml E. Byrne M. Seguin
M. Iatonna S. Fields J. Ulicny
P. King

Recorder: B. Marshall

1. Call To Order – Chair Holland called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Opening Prayer – Fr. Brunet opened the meeting with a prayer.

Chair Holland assured members of the audience that the Board meeting was designed specifically to receive public input on Administration's Accommodation Review Recommendations for the Leamington Area. Chair Holland recognized Catholic School Advisory Council Chairpersons and thanked the principals, vice principals, custodians and students for their assistance in preparing for this evenings meeting.

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

3. Recording of Attendance – Trustee Costante sent his regrets due to a work commitment. Student Trustees Jeremiah Bowers and Maddie Diab were unable to attend the meeting.

4. Approval of Agenda

AMENDMENTS:

Due to the inclement weather, Delegation i) Cole Cacciavillone informed administration he would be late and was reassigned to the last speaker of the evening.

Moved by Trustee Mastromattei and seconded by Trustee Soulliere that the February 25, 2016 Trustee Delegation meeting agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

5. Disclosure of Interest - Pursuant to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.: *None*

6. Delegations:

a. Audrey Fittler from Audrey’s Clubhouse Latchkey and Early Learning Centre to speak to the values, concerns and investment of the child care centre.

Ms. Fittler provided trustees with the history, services and the success of community hubs. Ms. Fittler asked that the Board assure this community the same child care and latchkey services will be provided with the existing quality standards if relocating Audrey’s Clubhouse and Latchkey & Early Learning Centre becomes necessary.

b. Shannon Porcellini, President of Canadian Parents for French – Windsor-Essex. An advocacy group for parents of students in French as a Second Language, including French Immersion, will be presenting on the continuation of the French Immersion programming in the Leamington area schools.

The Canadian Parents for French understands that there are pressures with regard to empty student spaces and the facility condition index, but encourages the Board to continue the single track French Immersion program, as opposed to introducing dual track, in order to allow the program time to grow. Recent statistics indicate single track French immersion is more appealing to parents than dual track.

c. Derek and Louise Thachuk, School Council Member of Holy Name Catholic Elementary Catholic School Advisory Council to speak to the negative effect on the already weak retention of Catholic students to continue on in Catholic Secondary education, especially at the feeder schools from Kingsville, Essex, Maidstone and Stoney Point.

Mr. & Mrs. Thachuk encouraged the Board to: Study elementary to high school retention rates from the Cardinal Carter feeder schools outside of the Town of Leamington; The Board commit resources to identify the issues and develop and implement strategies to retain students; and Establish a goal of achieving or exceeding a retention of 50% of all Grade 8 students from each feeder school.

- d. Sonia Debono, Parent of JK a future JK student to speak to the recommendation to close Queen of Peace school.

Ms. Debono indicated she and her husband based their decision to purchase their home on the proximity to an elementary school, Queen of Peace and high school, Cardinal Carter. Ms. Debono is opposed to the recommendation to close Queen of Peace and consolidate JK to grade 6 students to St. Louis Elementary school.

- e. Marianne Baeini, Chair of the St. Louis Catholic School Advisory Council to speak to the middle school model and to support the final staff recommendation.

Ms. Baeini indicated the Board is no longer pursuing a K to 12 model and therefore a Queen of Peace/Cardinal Carter “campus” is not necessary and therefore location for the K-6 model should not be a deciding factor. Ms. Baeini commented on the Board’s financial viability and sustainability, student well-being, and St. Louis academic achievement.

On behalf of the St. Louis Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC), Ms. Baeini made the following recommendations to the Board:

- If on April 5th the Trustees vote in favour of St. Louis as the K-6 site, and in speaking with the Town of Leamington, if in the future to ease traffic flow, the side parking lot could be extended as another entry/exit;
- Requested Principal Kelly Riley to be maintained as the principal at the K-6 site; and
- Vice Principal Ruth Paesano also remain to assist in the transitioning of students to the middle school.

- f. Barbara Quenneville, Member of the Catholic Women’s League- St. Michael’s Parish in Leamington to speak to the involvement of the St. Louis community in St. Michael’s parish and the community exemplifying the Board’s faith formation.

As a member of the Catholic Women’s League, Ms. Quenneville spoke to the St. Louis community’s exemplary job of promoting the fundamentals of Catholic education. Ms. Quenneville commented on the St. Louis community’s fundraising for charities, family sponsorships, social justice club, Speaking Up Grant, We Day Toronto and FCC Drive Away Hunger Campaign.

- g. Joanna Zeiter, Parent and Special Education Advisory Council member to speak to: the middle school and high school academies offered; to ensure children of all ability levels can participate; to recommend a sub-committee be formed; and a parent representing special needs to be included to offer input, advice and parental feedback on the transition of special needs children.

Ms. Zeiter indicated she fully supports the final staff recommendation of a JK to 6 dual track model at St. Louis school. Transitions can be difficult for many children but they can be especially difficult for children with special needs. Ms. Zeiter indicated it is essential that the Board implement transition meetings, school and classroom visits, and allow parents the opportunity for involvement.

Ms. Zeiter also recommend that a committee be formed in regards to the academies offered at the middle school and Cardinal Carter. The committee should include at least one parent representing special education whose focus would be to ensure that we are looking for every opportunity to include all of our students in these specialized programs and this committee meet annually to consider the needs of those students entering the middle school and high school.

- h. Francine Mastronardi, Chair of Queen of Peace Catholic Advisory School Council to speak to community hubs and importance of sharing resources and programming.

Representing Queen of Peace Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC), Ms. Mastronardi stated the council respectfully disagrees with administration's statement that St. Louis is a community hub and defined a hub as a centrally located area that offers the resources, programs, and activities in a "one-stop" convenient location. Queen of Peace CSAC believe Leamington's community hub is Leamington Kinsmen Recreation Complex, Cardinal Carter, Seacliff Park and its surrounding areas.

CSAC strongly support the first recommendation identifying the "campus" model as offering shared opportunities as children grow from elementary to secondary; providing and fostering a sense of belonging to a larger community; and allowing the creation of more partnerships, programs and services within the school and community securing the future of Catholic faith-based education.

- i. Cole Cacciavillani, Community member to speak to strategic planning.
(*Mr. Cacciavillani spoke after Delegation Morency*)

Mr. Cacciavillani challenged Trustees and administration to focus on the long term viability of Catholic education in the Leamington area by developing a strategic plan. Mr. Cacciavillani believes a community hub, situated in the Queen of Peace/Cardinal Carter corridor will provide the best opportunities for students and the community alike. He believes the creation of the middle school at Queen of Peace and the introduction of the academies will lay the foundation for the existence of a campus, the anchor Cardinal Carter.

- j. Patricia Amaral, Queen of Peace Catholic School Advisory Council member to speak to cost analysis of Queen of Peace and St. Louis Catholic Elementary Schools.

Ms. Amaral compared St. Louis and Queen of Peace schools' energy efficiency costs, property values, and facility condition index, challenging administration's School Information Profile figures.

Ms. Amaral concluded Queen of Peace is the more financially responsible school in terms of energy efficiency and stated the facility condition index would improve if appropriate funds were invested in the Queen of Peace/Cardinal Carter campus model.

- k. Mike Morency, Access County Community Support Services, to speak to continued operations at Queen of Peace related to: After School Program; impact upon participants and value for Cardinal Carter students; potential program expansion options; and the Access County Community Support Services need for additional space.

Mr. Morency presented to Trustees Access County Community Support Services (ACCESS) programs and partnerships provided to the community in the Essex County area. Mr. Morency stated ACCESS consistently evaluates both its program offerings and its space needs and is open to working with the Board to ensure the needs of the school community are met.

Written Submissions received prior to the meeting:

No written submissions were received prior to the meeting. Submissions received after the Trustee Delegation meeting will be electronically forward to Trustees as well as attached to the Draft Trustee Delegation Minutes.

7. Action Items: *None*

8. Communications:

a. External (Associations, OCSTA, Ministry): *None*

b. Internal (Reports from Administration):

- i) Report: Final Staff Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Leamington Area, including Cardinal Carter Catholic Secondary School and Queen of Peace and St. Louis Catholic Elementary Schools

Director Picard provided the community with administration's rationale for the final staff recommendations for the Leamington area.

Director Picard thanked the community for their respectful conversations and input during this necessary accommodation review process.

Trustees requested the following data to be supplemented in the final staff recommendation:

- Full cost analysis to retrofit both elementary sites, St. Louis and Queen of Peace, offering the same amenities at both locations.
- Full cost analysis to retrofit Cardinal Carter.
- Contact Town of Leamington and Town of Kingsville to receive future growth assessments.
- Consider open access for grades 7 and 8 students who attend one of Cardinal Carter's feeder schools outside of the Town of Leamington.

Mary DiMenna, Trustee for Area 2, thanked her constituents for their respectful manner and approach to this difficult accommodation review study.

Moved by Trustee Mastromattei and seconded by Trustee Tope that the Board receive as information the Final Staff Report on the accommodation review study for the Leamington area, including Cardinal Carter Catholic Secondary School and Queen of Peace and St. Louis Catholic Elementary Schools; and

That the Board receive public input concerning the Final Staff Report, including the final recommendation presented by Board administration as follows:

That effective September 2016, St. Louis Catholic Elementary School shall become a JK to 6 school, continuing to offer dual track French Immersion,

with consolidation of the JK to 6 student population within the current Queen of Peace and St. Louis Catholic Elementary School boundaries being accommodated at the St. Louis site, with students to be accommodated in the short term through the use of portables, as may be required; and

That the Board apply to the Ministry of Education through the School Consolidation Capital (SCC) Program for funding for the construction of an addition and renovations, as may be required, to support the consolidation at the St. Louis site or, if failing to obtain SCC funding, a further report be submitted to the Board regarding alternatives; and

That effective September 2016, a middle school be established to accommodate the grades 7 and 8 student population within the current Queen of Peace and St. Louis boundaries, said middle school to be initially located in the short term at the Queen of Peace site and ultimately relocated to the Cardinal Carter Catholic Secondary School site, upon completion of an addition and renovations, as may be required, at Cardinal Carter; and

That the Board apply to the Ministry of Education through the School Consolidation Capital (SCC) Program for funding for the construction of an addition and renovations, as may be required, to accommodate a middle school; or if failing to obtain funding, a further report be submitted to the Board regarding alternatives; and

That effective upon the relocation of the middle school from the Queen of Peace site, Queen of Peace Catholic Elementary School be closed and deemed surplus to the Board's future needs, pursuant to Section 194 (3) (a) of the Education Act. *Carried*

9. Committee Reports: *None*
10. Unfinished Business: *None*
11. New Business: *None*
12. Notice of Motion: *None*
13. Pending Items: *None*
14. Future Regular Board Meetings: *Unless stated otherwise, all meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Windsor Essex Catholic Education Centre - 1325 California Avenue, Windsor beginning at 7:00 p.m.*
 - Monday, February 29, 2016 - *Trustee Delegation Meeting – Amherstburg at St. Thomas of Villanova High School, 7:00 pm*

- Tuesday, March 1, 2016 – *Trustee Delegation Meeting – West Windsor at Assumption College High School, 7:00 pm*
- Tuesday, March 29, 2016
- Tuesday, April 5, 2016 – *Final Board Approval - Pupil Accommodation Studies*
- Tuesday, April 26, 2016
- Tuesday, May 24, 2016
- Tuesday, June 14, 2016 (*Additional*)
- **MONDAY**, June 27, 2016

Committee of the Whole Board In-Camera Meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm (closed sessions).

15. Adjourn to In-Camera meeting, if required: *Not required*
16. Closing Prayer – Fr. Brunet closed the meeting with a prayer.
17. Adjournment – There being no further business, the Trustee Delegation meeting of February 25, 2016 adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Original signed by B. Holland and P. Picard

Barbara Holland
Chairperson of the Board

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