



**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
WEST WINDSOR AREA
Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Assumption College Catholic High School
1100 Huron Church Rd., Windsor**

MINUTES

PRESENT

Trustees:

F. Alexander	B. Mastromattei
F. Costante	L. Soulliere
M. DiMenna, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	S. Tope
F. DiTomasso	F. Valentinis
B. Holland, <i>Chair</i>	
J. Bowers, Student Trustee	
Rev. L. Brunet, Board Chaplain	

Regrets:

Student Trustee Diab

Administration:

P. Picard (Resource)	J. Bumbacco	C. Norris
C. Geml	E. Byrne	J. Shea
M. Iatonna	S. Fields	M. Seguin
	P. King	J. Ulicny
	R. Lo Faso	

Recorder:

B. Marshall

1. Call To Order – Chair Holland called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

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 West Windsor 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.

2. Opening Prayer – Fr. Brunet opened the meeting with a prayer.
3. Recording of Attendance – All Trustees are present. Student Trustee Diab sent her regrets due to a prior commitment.
4. Approval of Agenda – No amendments this evening.

Moved by Trustee Mastromasttei and seconded by Trustee Costante that the March 1, 2016 Trustee Delegation meeting agenda be approved as distributed. Carried

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

6. Delegations:

- a. Vanessa Stephenson and Kenneth Gerovac, Students of St. John Catholic Elementary school to explain the value of St. John and request a stay of closure.

St. John grade 7 students Vanessa Stephenson and Kenneth Gerovac shared their life experiences within the St. John school community and expressed their concerns with the potential consolidation of grades 7 and 8 students to the middle school at Assumption College High School.

- b. Emerson Valley and Kerri Stephenson, St. John Catholic Elementary School Council Members and Amanda Tighe and Karen Souchuk, St. James Catholic Elementary School Council Members to propose to trustees an amendment to administration's recommendation.

Emerson Valley, as per Board By-Law 3:09, requested the Board to waived the 5 minute timeline required of delegations to 8 minutes.

Moved by Trustee DiMenna and seconded by Trustee Costante that the Board waive the five minute time limit to 8 minutes due to the joint St. John/ St. James presentation. Carried

Kerri Stephenson began the presentation by stating the Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC) members listened to concerned parents, conducted surveys, and through their findings would like to offer a solution to keep Catholic education alive on the west side of Windsor for the long term.

The proposal to merge the grades 7 and 8 classes at St. John is universally rejected by both communities. Having said that, if the students are consolidated to Assumption middle school, the students should remain in their home school until the school reconfiguration/construction is completed.

The community recommends the following solution:

- Move the JK to Grade 8 student population to Assumption creating a St. John school at the Assumption site.
- Move the Catholic Education Centre (CEC) to an alternate location.
- Allow grades 7 and 8 students from St. James to attend the middle school at

Assumption if they elect.

- Expand the International Baccalaureate (IB) program to lower grades starting at grade 8 as the budget, training and the Ministry permits.
- Create Culinary, Aerospace/Robotics (Engineering) Academies similar to the Agri-school proposed for Leamington.
- Explore the option of the addition of an athletic academy such as Track and Field (possible partnership with the University of Windsor).
- \$1.2 to \$1.5 million projected cost to convert CEC back to classrooms (return board room to gymnasium, paint and cosmetic upgrades to Assumption).
- \$0.4 to \$0.5 million projected cost to relocate CEC.

The delegations also commented on student achievement, student impact, and the future of Catholic education in the west side of Windsor.

- c. Sr. Connie Harrington, Staff member of St. John school, Pastoral worker at Assumption Parish and resident of the west end to speak to the closure of St. John Catholic Elementary school.

Sr. Connie Harrington provided her perception of the realities of the west end. She stated the west end consists of crack houses, abandoned boarded houses, garbage heaped on curb sides, closed schools, closed churches, an Ontario Addiction Treatment Centre, and a higher crime rate compared to the rest of the city. Sr. Harrington stated west end students lack the essential needs to learn - food, clothing and adequate shelter. She mentioned abysmal EQAO scores, approximately half of the student population require Individual Education Plans (IEP), and suffer from mental health issues. Due to the above stated burdens, Sr. Harrington believes the final staff recommendations are asking families to accept changes that will not benefit the students. In her opinion, introducing a middle school IB program is not a viable option for west end students.

Sr. Harrington supports a K to 12 school at the Assumption site.

Written Submissions received prior to the meeting:

Five (5) written submission were received by:

- Amanda Tighe and Karen Souchuk, Parents and St. James Catholic School Advisory Council Members
- Karen Souchuk, St. James Catholic School Advisory Council Member
- Caitlin Souchuk, Grade 6 St. James student
- Sonya Skillings, St. James Catholic School Advisory Council Co-Chair
- Carrie Roke, Godmother of a St. James student

Trustees and administrators received a copy of the submissions.

Written submissions received after the Trustee Delegation meeting will be electronically forward to Trustees as well as attached to the 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 West Windsor Area, including Assumption College Catholic High School and St. James and St. John Catholic Elementary Schools

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

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

- Provide cost analysis and potential savings of consolidation.
- Transportation:
 - St. John students will be bussed. How will this financially impact the Board?
 - After school programs/sports - Provide student transportation home.
- Address the transitioning of special education students.
- Potential costs to parents.
- Cost analysis to relocate the Catholic Education Centre and retrofit Assumption.
- Cost analysis of potential loss of 50 students and 75 students.

Moved by Trustee Mastromattei and seconded by Trustee Valentinis that the Board receive as information the Final Staff Report on the accommodation review study for the West Windsor area, including Assumption College Catholic Secondary School and St. James and St. John 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. James Catholic Elementary School shall become a JK to 6 school with consolidation of the JK to 6 student population within the current St. James and St. John Catholic Elementary School boundaries being accommodated at the St. James 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. James 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 St. James and St. John boundaries, said middle school to be initially located in the short term at the St. John site and, ultimately relocated to the Assumption College Catholic Secondary School/Catholic Education Centre (CEC) site upon completion of an addition and renovations, as may be required, at Assumption/CEC; and

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

That effective upon the relocation of the middle school from the St. John site, St. John 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.*
 - 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 March 1, 2016 adjourned at 8:03 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