



**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
F. J. Brennan Catholic Secondary School
910 Raymo Rd., Windsor, ON**

REVISED

AGENDA

1. Call To Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Recording of Attendance
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Disclosure of Interest - Pursuant to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.
6. Communications:
 - a. Report: Director of Education's Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Riverside Area, including F.J. Brennan High School, St. John Vianney, St. Jules, St. Maria Goretti, and St. Rose Catholic Elementary Schools (P. Picard) 1-9
7. Delegations:

Delegations Regarding Accommodation Review Committee's and Director of Education's Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Riverside Area, including F.J. Brennan High School, St. John Vianney, St. Jules, St. Maria Goretti, and St. Rose Catholic Elementary Schools

 - i) Parent, Julie Treloar from St. Rose to speak on student concerns regarding the Director of Education's Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Riverside Area.
 - ii) Parent, Cindy Nantais from St. Rose to address concerns regarding the grade 7 to 12 model.
 - iii) Parent, Steven Moro from St. Maria Goretti to comment on the recommendation to close St. Maria Goretti and move grade 7 and 8 students to F.J. Brennan Catholic High School.
 - iv) Representatives of the St. John Vianney school community, Jason and Jennifer Marchi and Lisa and Richard Javonoski to provide additional recommendations for the Board to consider.
 - v) Parent, Kelly Vandenberghe from St. Jules Catholic Elementary school to address concerns and ask questions on the future impact of the Director's report.

vi) Parent, Marc Williams from St. Jules school to comment on the Director's recommendation.

8. Closing Prayer

9. Adjournment

Barbara Holland
Board Chairperson

Paul A. Picard
Director of Education



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

**Special Board
Meeting Date:
April 15, 2014**

BOARD REPORT

Public **In-Camera**

PRESENTED FOR: Information Approval

PRESENTED BY: Senior Administration

SUBMITTED BY: Paul A. Picard, Director of Education

SUBJECT: **Director of Education's Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Riverside Area, including F.J. Brennan High School, St. John Vianney, St. Jules, St. Maria Goretti, and St. Rose Catholic Elementary Schools**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board receive as information the Director's Report on the accommodation review study for the Riverside Area, including F.J. Brennan High School, St. John Vianney, St. Jules, St. Maria Goretti, and St. Rose 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.

SYNOPSIS:

The work of the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC), established by Ministry of Education Supervisor Norbert Hartmann on May 28, 2013, to study, report and make recommendations on future pupil accommodation options for the Riverside Area, including F.J. Brennan High School, St. John Vianney, St. Jules, St. Maria Goretti, and St. Rose, has been completed. The Committee submitted its final report to the Director of Education on March 5, 2014 and to the Board as information on March 25, 2014. Pursuant to Board Procedure Pr A: 05 Pupil Accommodation Review, the Director is required to review the recommendations of the ARC and to report to the Board on the results of the public consultation process, with analysis and recommendations. The Board will hold a special meeting to receive the Director's report and to receive public input concerning the Director's report, and the matters addressed in it and in the Accommodation Review Committee's Report.

BACKGROUND COMMENTS:

On May 28, 2013, Supervisor Hartmann approved proceeding with the establishment of an Accommodation Review Committee to lead a public consultation process in studying, reporting and making recommendations on future accommodation options for the Riverside Area, including F.J. Brennan High School, and St. John Vianney, St. Jules, St. Maria Goretti and St. Rose Catholic Elementary Schools.

At the first Committee meeting on September 9, 2013, Administration provided to ARC members a background information package and a customized School Information Profile for each school in the study to support them in their mandate. The background information package and profiles are attached as appendices to this report.

At the first Committee meeting, the ARC was also provided a copy of the Committee's Terms of Reference, as detailed within Administrative Procedure Pr A: 05 Pupil Accommodation.

Upon review of the minutes of all Committee and public consultation meetings (which are attached as appendices), it is evident that the Committee has been diligent in following its mandate to conduct a comprehensive and thorough public study. The Committee conducted four public consultation meetings, pursuant to its Terms of Reference. The Committee also invited the community to provide written input to the Director of Education. Written input received, as well as Administration's responses to Committee or community inquiries were attached as appendices to the minutes of the meetings.

Senior Administration has carefully considered the ARC's Report delivered to the Director of Education on March 5, 2014, as well as the minutes and appendices reflecting input from the communities.

The Enrolment Projections and Demographic Trends Report of December 9, 2013, prepared for the Board by Watson and Associates, Economists Limited, which was shared with the Committee, was helpful in informing both the Committee's and Administration's recommendations.

The Board initially presented the ARC with three options for consideration in the study. These options included the closure/consolidation of elementary schools, the establishment of a JK to 12 school at the F.J. Brennan site, and the closure of F.J. Brennan and consolidation at St. Joseph's High School.

From input received from the school communities, the ARC developed an alternative option which was presented to the community that involved elementary school consolidations and the establishment of a 7 to 12 school at the F.J. Brennan site.

The ARC is commended for its thorough consideration of all possible accommodation options and for providing their communities full participation in the study process. After hearing from their communities on both the options presented for consideration by the Board and the Committee, the ARC representatives submitted to the Director a report containing two alternative recommendations. The report and the recommendations have been of great assistance to Administration in the development of the following analysis and recommendations presented for further community input.

THE CHALLENGES FACED BY THE RIVERSIDE FAMILY OF SCHOOLS AND THE SYSTEM

As indicated in Administration's Report to the Board on March 25, 2014, the Board continues to face the following budget pressures and challenges:

- The Board is projected to graduate 1,097 more students at the end of 2014-15 than the number of students projected to be enrolled in JK during the year. It is evident from the data that the downward trend in enrolment is projected to continue year-over-year. If the projected Junior Kindergarten enrolment for 2014-15 stays fixed for each year into the future and no other factors change, the Board would decline to a nominal enrolment of 12,600 in 2027-28, a drop of 7,674 pupils or 38%.
- 63% of WECDSB's elementary schools are using less than 85% of the available space.
- There is currently excess capacity of 4,364 spaces or 18% across WECDSB's entire system. This represents an approximate equivalent of 10 average-sized elementary schools that would have to close for the Board to address this excess capacity.
- Schools with excess capacity are still subject to the same fixed costs of school operations, such as utilities and maintenance. Because space is underutilized however, the schools do not receive enough per-pupil funding through basic foundation grants to cover these fixed costs. To address this problem, the Ministry, in 2013-14, provides boards with top-up funding in the School Facility Operations and Renewal Grants. The top-up increases the Board's revenue for up to 15% of the excess capacity. For example, a school with a utilization rate of 60% would be treated as if it were operating at 75%; a school with a utilization rate of 80% would be treated as if it were operating at 95%; and schools over 85% utilization are fully topped up (i.e. treated as if they are operating at 100%). Any school operating under 85% utilization is not generating full school operations and renewal grant funding. Therefore the Board is not maximizing the funding it could be allocated, which is causing a continuing budget pressure.
- In the 2013-14 Revised Budget Estimates, 11% (almost \$2.5M) of WECDSB's total school operations and school renewal funding is dedicated to funding empty spaces. Across the province, this figure is 13% or \$300M, an amount which, if fewer empty pupil places existed, could be freed up by the Ministry to provide program enhancements that would lead to increased student achievement.

In its announcement of March 27, 2014, respecting Grants for Student Needs Funding and Regulations for the 2014-15 school year, the Ministry of Education, acknowledging the costs to the Education system of operating underutilized school spaces, reported on the School Board Efficiencies and Modernization (SBEM) Initiative, which was introduced in the 2013 Provincial Budget. This initiative includes changes to the top-up funding for underutilized schools. Under the new initiative, an underutilized school facility, at a utilization of over 65 percent, will receive 15% top up funding, but only to a maximum of 95% of capacity funding. Schools at or below 65 percent utilization, will be provided with top-up funding that recognizes only 10% of their excess capacity. The Ministry estimates this will result in a savings of \$42.4 million to the education system, which it has committed to reinvesting a portion towards assisting Boards with the capital costs of new schools, retrofits and additions to support consolidations.

With these changes effective in 2014-15, the cost for the Board of continuing to operate underutilized schools, will be increasing.

THE RIVERSIDE FAMILY OF SCHOOLS:

Secondary School	Site and Building Size Acres/ Sq ft	Current Enrolment	OTG / Utilization %	Original Construction Date	10 Year Renewal / FCI %	Enrolment Forecast 15 year
F.J. Brennan	14.57/ 140330	645	1065/ 61%	1953	\$9,375,586 33.3%	485
St. John Vianney	12.08/ 56,712.8	603	609/ 99%	1966	\$1,018,481 8.7%	471
St. Jules	4.43/ 28,301.5	370	325/ 114%	1924	\$2,408,306 34.2%	267
St. Maria Goretti	3.10/ 19,407.3	214	247/ 87%	1956	\$397,051 6.8%	150
St. Rose	2.58/ 31,645.9	313	348/ 90%	1953	\$3,371,206 46.9%	228

With the Ministry's SBEM initiative for 2014-15, based on 2013-14 utilization, 2 of 5 of the Riverside Area Schools would only receive 95% of the funding they could be allocated to cover full operating costs in the 2014-15 school year. F.J Brennan at 61% utilization would receive only 71% of school operations and renewal grant funding. With the exception of a slight expected increase in enrolment at St. John Vianney in 2015 (651) and F.J. Brennan next year (671), all 5 schools are forecast to experience gradual declining enrolment through 2027-28.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Both ARC recommendations include the maintenance of F.J. Brennan secondary school in the Riverside Area. The high school is one of the original two Catholic high schools in Windsor, formerly known as Corpus Christi. The Brennan school community is strongly faith based sharing a close relationship with its neighbour, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. As set out in the School Profile, F.J. Brennan, assumes a central role in the Riverside Community, and the students, their families, and staff continue to contribute significantly to the community. Administration agrees with the ARC in their endorsement of maintaining F.J. Brennan as a Catholic Secondary School in the Riverside Area.

As much as Administration sees the value of the school, it also recognizes that with the challenges faced by the high school and the elementary schools in the area, operations at F.J. Brennan and the Riverside family of schools cannot continue status quo. This is even more apparent with the announcement of the Ministry of Education's new initiative, which, in part, encourages boards to consolidate space, including sharing space between elementary and secondary panels. Administration, in its initial options presented to the ARC for consideration by the community, included a JK to 12 model at F.J. Brennan, viewing the profile of the school as being an ideal fit for a consolidation of elementary and secondary panels. Administration submits the following model as a recommendation, after

consideration of the feedback received from the community, and after a thorough analysis to ensure that the “saving” of the high school is not at the cost of programming for elementary students in the Riverside area; but is a programming enhancement and opportunity:

That effective September, 2014, St. Maria Goretti shall close and boundaries be adjusted so that JK to 6 students currently within the St. Maria Goretti boundary east of Lauzon Road shall be accommodated in an integrated school community of JK to 6 at St. John Vianney, and JK to 6 students currently within the St. Maria Goretti boundary west of Lauzon Road shall be accommodated in an integrated school community of JK to 6 at St. Rose; and

That if and when enrolment at the JK to 6 school at St. Rose and the JK to 6 school at St. John Vianney shall be such that all of the St. Rose students can be accommodated at St. John Vianney, without the need for an addition to the St. John Vianney facility, St. Rose shall be closed and the students accommodated in a merged school community at St. John Vianney; and

That the Board annually advise the St. John Vianney and St. Rose communities of the enrolment forecasts for the upcoming school year by February of the prior year; Should the forecasts in any given year indicate that enrolment is such that St. Rose can be accommodated at St. John Vianney for the following school year, without the need for an addition to the St. John Vianney facility, St. Rose shall be closed at the end of that school year and the student population consolidated at the St. John Vianney site effective September of the following school year; and

That effective September, 2014, grades 7 and 8 students from St. John Vianney, St. Maria Goretti, St. Jules, and St. Rose be accommodated in a 7-12 school at the F.J. Brennan site; and

That for the 2014-15 school year, St. Jules students JK – 6 continue to be accommodated at the St. Jules site; and

That for the 2014-15 school year, grade 7 and 8 students within the boundary of the consolidated St. Bernard/Our Lady of Lourdes be given the option of attending the 7-12 school at the F.J. Brennan site, with Board transportation provided in accordance with policy; and

That upon completion of the construction of a new school at the St. Bernard (Windsor) site scheduled for September 2015, St. Jules be closed and the student population be consolidated at the new facility with the merged St. Bernard/Our Lady of Lourdes community; and that prior to the move to the new school the Board consult with the school communities of St. Bernard/Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Jules on the recommendation for establishing the new school as a JK to 6 school; with all grade 7 and 8 students from the communities attending the 7-12 school at F.J. Brennan, effective September 2015.

CONSULTATION AND ANALYSIS ON THE ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY CONSOLIDATION MODEL:

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board establish a Grade 7 to 12 School at F.J. Brennan High School.

Administration had presented for consideration by the ARC in its study, the option of accommodating St. Jules students in a JK to 12 school at F.J. Brennan. The ARC unanimously agreed that this was not an option which they considered to be in the best interest of students, after consulting on the option and considering the concerns raised by their communities, which included concerns for merging primary students in the same facility as secondary students, and a lack of green space available at the F.J. Brennan site. The Committee, in considering the concerns, formulated an alternate elementary/secondary consolidation model of a Grade 7 to 12 school at F. J. Brennan. Administration is in agreement with the Committee that a grade 7 to 12 model at F.J. Brennan would be a preferred elementary/secondary consolidation model and would provide enhanced opportunities for the students in the area, with consideration for the following:

ALIGNMENT WITH RECENT INITIATIVES:

As a result of a lack of available workers in specialized trades and technologies, representatives of business, industry, and associations interested in the economic development in the Windsor-Essex Area have recently reached out to school boards and post-secondary institutions towards a collaborative initiative of working together to ensure that students can begin early to make informed decisions about their educational paths and employment prospects. These community partners are prepared to work with local boards to ensure that secondary students have the opportunity to engage in applied technical, business education and entrepreneurship studies and to be exposed to workplace environments. The ARC's proposal of a 7 – 12 model at F.J. Brennan, combined with the introduction of these initiatives, will result in valuable programming enhancements available to grades 7 and 8 students at the secondary facility.

In reviewing the minutes of the ARC meetings it is evident that the Committee showed great foresight and understanding of the need for these initiatives in that discussion took place regarding what could be offered at F.J. Brennan to attract students, "including an IB (International Baccalaureate) Program, trades technology, media, mechanics, and virtual classrooms – something to prepare students for work and make F.J. Brennan a school of choice".

IMPLEMENTATION OF INITIATIVES AT F.J. BRENNAN IN A GRADE 7 TO 12 FACILITY

The F.J. Brennan Facility currently offers quality programming and has room to expand to allow for community partnerships arising out of this initiative, including high skills majors, co-op programs, and apprenticeship programs in areas such as technology and trades, and math and sciences related to engineering.

In considering the proposed initiatives presented and their fit with the recommendation for a 7 to 12 school, Administration has consulted with various community partners, with the idea of the 7 -12 school becoming a Centre of Excellence and Innovation, with prospects for the development of:

- Programs in Culinary Arts and Hospitality; leading to a Facilities Management Program;

- Elite Sports Academy Program, partnering with local and national sports affiliations;
- Healthy Active Living Centre;
- Google Tools to Go Chrome Book Centre.

Administration has considered the concerns of the community with respect to the earlier integration of these younger students into a high school setting and would recommend the following:

- Structuring the facility so that both secondary and elementary are run independently. Administration would recommend that the elementary “wing” have its own identity, as a “middle” school, with its own name (with a recommendation of “Corpus Christi Middle School”) and a separate assigned Principal;
- Faith based Catholic Education will remain the mission and primary focus of both “middle” and high school, including the celebration of masses and sacraments, enhanced by the close partnership with Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church;
- Administration has entered into discussions with the Transportation Consortium towards the establishment of different start and release times for the “middle” school and high school;
- Grades 7 and 8 will have access to specialized programming, technologies, and specialty rooms particular to a high school/Centre of Excellence, but that access will be supervised, controlled, and monitored.

CONSULTATION AND ANALYSIS ON CONSOLIDATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

With the introduction of the Ministry’s School Board Efficiencies and Modernization (SBEM) Initiative, the projections for declining enrolment in all of the Riverside elementary schools, as well as the condition of the aging St. Maria Goretti and St. Jules facilities, Administration cannot support a recommendation that leaves any of these schools “status quo”.

St. John Vianney is the largest, newest facility. It is currently receiving full funding at 99% utilization. Although it was recommended by the ARC that St. John Vianney be maintained as a JK to 8 facility, Administration recommends that St. John Vianney become a JK to 6 school, consistent with the other elementary schools in the area, so that all grade 7 and 8 students from the Riverside Area can benefit from enhanced programming offered through the grade 7 to 12 model; as well as all JK – 6 can benefit from quality, focused, age specific programming in a JK to 6 model.

With this redesign and consolidation, St. John Vianney will be under-utilized, with a projected enrolment for 2014-15 of 523/86% utilization. The Ministry has committed some of the savings realized from its SBEM initiative to supporting boards with capital funds for additions required to consolidate schools. Based on current enrolment numbers and forecasts it would be possible at this time to accommodate all of St. Maria Goretti and St. Rose at the St. John Vianney facility, with an application to the Ministry for capital for an addition. However, through the consultation study, the Board has heard of the possibility for development and growth in the Riverside area. Although, continuing to operate St. Rose and St. John Vianney as individual facilities will place an increasing pressure on the system, with potential declining enrolment, some of that budgetary pressure can be offset by the savings realized through the other Riverside school consolidations; as well as the through

the Board continuing to work with the existing community and joint use groups already sharing the St. Rose and St. John Vianney facilities and by looking to expand community use of the facilities. With these measures in place, Administration would recommend that these facilities be maintained for a period of time to determine whether the Riverside Area will experience development.

Should sufficient growth not be realized, and enrolment at St. John Vianney and St. Rose be such that St. Rose could be accommodated at the St. John Vianney site, without the need for an addition, it is Administration's recommendation that the St. Rose facility be closed and both communities be accommodated at the St. John Vianney site in a JK to 6 school.

Administration understands that members of the St. Maria Goretti community, through the ARC study, indicated a preference that if the school were to close that all of the JK to 6 students be moved to St. Rose in order to keep the school community together. However, in order to allow for optimal programming for all students in the Riverside Area, and to be able to continue to operate two elementary schools and a high school in the Riverside area, despite the cost of declining enrolment, a boundary adjustment at Lauzon Road becomes a necessity. Integration Committees will be established at both St. Rose and St. John Vianney, with representatives from the incoming St. Maria Goretti families, in order to ensure that St. Maria Goretti students are welcomed into their new Catholic School communities. Further, the establishment of a "middle school" at F.J. Brennan, will provide a venue to meet up with "old" friends as well as to meet a broad range of new ones.

Administration also understands concerns raised by the ARC in that members of the St. Jules community, have already been through numerous accommodation studies and are now facing disruption again. To ensure the least disruption for the St. Jules community, it is recommended that JK to 6 remain at the St. Jules site until they can move to their permanent accommodation at the new St. Bernard site; and that the grades 7 and 8 students shall be accommodated at F.J. Brennan effective September 2014.

IN SUMMARY

Administration commends the ARC and the communities it represented for conducting and participating in a comprehensive and thorough public consultation study. Their input was invaluable to Administration throughout its analysis and formulation of its recommendation.

Administration's recommendation is respectfully submitted for community feedback.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

As detailed within Report

TIMELINES:

As detailed within Report

APPENDICES:

All appendices to this report can be found on the Board's public website at www.wecdsb.on.ca by clicking on "Accommodation Review Committees".

REPORT REVIEWED BY:

<input type="checkbox"/>	EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:	Review Date:	--
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EXECUTIVE SUPERINTENDENT:	Approval Date:	March 31, 2014
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION:	Approval Date:	April 1, 2014