



REPORT TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

February 28, 2012

Paul Wubben, Director of Education

SUBJECT: Director's Report: Monsignor Uyen and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Schools Boundary Review

PREPARED BY: Paul Wubben, Director of Education

BACKGROUND:

On September 27, 2011 the Board of Trustees, on the advice of the Director of Education, initiated a boundary review for Monsignor Uyen and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Schools. Both schools have JK to Grade 8 English programs, with a JK to Grade 2 French Immersion program operating at Our Lady of Fatima and Grade 3 to Grade 8 French Immersion at Monsignor Uyen.

The review was triggered as the result of a decline in the English program enrolment at Monsignor Uyen, which, if not addressed, would result in triple grades in the near future. At the same time, English program enrolment at Our Lady of Fatima continues to grow. With continued housing development in the area and the planned implementation of full day kindergarten at Our Lady of Fatima in September 2014, the lack of available classroom space will become an issue.

Simply stated, the problem is that there is too much vacant space at Monsignor Uyen, while Our Lady of Fatima is reaching capacity. There have been a couple of attempts in the past to alleviate the situation. In September 2007, Grade 3 French Immersion program students at Our Lady of Fatima were moved to Monsignor Uyen; and about ten years ago, the Monsignor Uyen boundary was expanded to draw more English program students into the school. In both cases, the "fix" was only temporary and a more permanent solution is required.

The Boundary Review Committee (BRC) met on three occasions and early on identified the most obvious solution – that a single track French Immersion program be located at Monsignor Uyen and that all English program students attend Our Lady of Fatima, effective September 1, 2012. The solution not only resolves the accommodation issue; it also makes life simpler for parents who, under the current arrangement, could have children attending two different schools – three if they also have a child in high school.

The BRC has also recommended that the current Grade 7 class of students be grandfathered at Monsignor Uyen, so that they are able to graduate from the elementary school which they have attended, in many cases, since junior kindergarten. I am happy to support this recommendation; with the caveat that a minimum number of 12 students be enrolled in order to run the class. I am also in agreement with the BRC recommendation that only those Grade 7 students who have siblings in lower grades should be permitted to transfer to Our Lady of Fatima, effective September 1, 2012.

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I wish to thank the members of the BRC for their work in helping the Board to come to a resolution of this matter, which is in the best interests of the Board, the school communities, our students and our families. Thus, the staff supports the recommendations made by the BRC.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: *Director's Report: Monsignor Uyen and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Schools Boundary Review*, for information.

That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board approve the recommendations of the Boundary Review Committee contained in the report: *Boundary Review Committee Report – Monsignor Uyen and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic schools*.