

# **Accommodation Review Committee (ARC)**

## **Discussing the Options**

**March 10, 2009**

**7:00 p.m.**

**St. Patrick's Catholic High School**



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# Opening Prayer

**Oh Lord, Divine Teacher be with us as we begin this meeting.**

**Your Son's command to teach all nations is our concern.**

**Assist us so that this meeting will be for us who attend it, an opportunity to learn.**

**In the process of dealing with the material issues at hand**

**may we learn how to treat each other's ideas with reverence and respect.**

**May we be instructed in the Divine Truth that in the variety of approaches,  
out of the rich differences among us, will come the balance of the Kingdom.**

**May we discover how to reject ideas without rejecting people  
and how to share visions though we do not share the same means  
for reaching our desired goals.**

**May this meeting then, be for each of us a prayer, a lesson,  
and an opportunity to be Servants to those whom we represent.**

**We ask this through our Eternal Teacher, Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**



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Anyone who is hearing impaired should please notify the Chair two weeks in advance of the meeting and accommodations will be made.



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# March 10, 2009 Agenda

- 7:00 p.m. Opening Prayer
- 7:05 p.m. Welcome/Introductions/Opening Remarks
- 7:10 p.m. Rules of Order  
Attendance  
Notes  
Protocols
- 7:15 p.m. Presentation of the January 20, 2009 notes  
Questions from ARC members arising from the previous meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Results of the Valuation process—Fred Galloway
- 7:50 p.m. Considering the options — Fred Galloway
- 9:50 p.m. Considering the recommendation — Fred Galloway
- 10:00 p.m. Presentation of the proposed agenda - May 5, 2009  
Questions



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**Question** – Ms. Beauregard – Why is there a discrepancy in the cost of the water between St. Christopher and St. Patrick’s?

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**Response** – Mr. McKenzie – The discrepancy may be due to the use of the fields at St. Christopher in the summer. I will have to investigate this further and will post the answer to the website.

***Follow-up Response – Mr. McKenzie***

There is a substantial variance in water usage and cost during the months of July, August and September between the two schools, which can be attributed to field watering at St. Christopher. The area being watered at St. Christopher is approximately twice the size of that at St. Patrick’s. St. Christopher has both a football field and a soccer field (inside the track), while St. Patrick’s only has a football field. In addition, St. Christopher put in a new natural garden this past year, which was heavily watered during the summer. With the exception of the three months noted above, water usage and the related costs at St. Patrick’s exceed those of St. Christopher during every other month of the year.



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**Question** – Mr. Kardas – What is the average class size?

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**Response** – Ms. Dolson – It may be 21 or 22 but this will have to be confirmed and will be posted on our website.

***Follow-up Response – Ms. Dolson***

Maximum average class size for secondary schools is 22. In a larger school, where more sections of the same course are offered, there is more flexibility to divide the students amongst several classes to lower class sizes.



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**Question** – Ms. Hayter – Why and when was the boundary changed for St. Joseph, Corunna?

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**Response:** Ms. Dolson - The date when this changed occurred will have to be checked into and will be posted on the website. It may possibly have happened in about 2002.

***Follow-up Response – Ms. Dolson***

At the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, February 11, 2003 the following motion was made with regard to St. Joseph Catholic School, Corunna, to address the declining enrolment of north secondary schools:

Motion: O-042-2003 (Linda Ward and Bill Sparks) That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board designate St. Joseph School, Corunna as a feeder school for St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School, with proviso that parents may select St. Patrick High School if that is preferable for their family.



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**Question** – Mr. Kardas – One of the draw backs to the consolidated school model seems to be the loss of students to another board. Is it possible to contact another board which has already gone through this process to see if this was the case and how it was addressed?

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**Response** – Mr. Galloway – In two cases in Kitchener it made no difference in the student enrolment. We may want to contact the Guelph board to see what happened there.

***Follow-up Response – Ms. Dolson***

I have contacted the Wellington Catholic District School Board. Bishop McDonnell School was closed back in 1995 and enrolment statistics for the number of students who transferred to the public board at that time are not available.



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**Question** – Ms. Etienne – What is maximum bus ride time allowable?

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**Response** – Ms. Sutton – The question will need to be answered by Kent Orr, Manager, Transportation Services and the response will be posted on the website.

***Follow-up Response – Mr. Orr***

The Conditions of Service portion of the Transportation Policy (available on the [www.schoolbusinfo.com](http://www.schoolbusinfo.com) website under the Policy section) states the following, regarding maximum allowable ride times:

**Riding Time**

Other than in exceptional circumstances, students in elementary school will not spend more than 60 minutes on the bus, one way, each day.

Other than in exceptional circumstances, students in secondary school will not spend more than 75 minutes on the bus, one way, each day.

The longest rides currently are for two students, who each have 67 minute ride times at either the start or the end of the school day.



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**Question** – Ms. Etienne – Would the board consider a subsidized transit pass as a substitute to school bussing?

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**Response** – Ms. Sutton – This question will need to be directed to either Mr. McKenzie or Mr. Orr to respond to on the website.

***Follow-up Response – Mr. Orr***

Currently, the transportation consortium does not utilize local transit as part of the home-to-school transportation of students. The transportation routing solution currently employed incorporates an intentional mix of contracted school buses and multi-tiered, integrated routes that are scheduled for maximum efficiencies and conditions of service as outlined in the transportation policy. Transit routes and cost effectiveness would need to be reviewed and compared to available school bus alternatives.



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**Question** – Ms. Etienne – How much incidental use of St. Patrick’s school occurs due to use of the track facilities?

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**Response** – Bruce Hannah, Manager, Facility Services – I don’t have specific information about incidental use of our school facility as a result of track usage. However, I can tell you that there is a three party agreement for the track, which is managed by Mr. McKenzie and his counterpart at our co-terminus board.

-Ms. Gray – Whenever the track is used by anyone, the school is also used i.e. washroom facilities, cafeteria, etc.

- Ms. Sutton – This question will be directed to Mr. McKenzie and the answer will be posted on the website.

***Follow-up Response – Mr. McKenzie***

I believe Ms. Gray’s response is adequate. I have no further information, as we are not required by the Ministry of Education to capture this type of data related to community use of our facilities



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**Question** - Jack Evers – Prime Minister, St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School - If a recommendation is made and St. Patrick's Catholic High School was closed and the land sold would the board be able to maintain the use of the track for the use of the combined school?

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**Response** – Ms. Sutton – This question will be directed to Mr. McKenzie, for a response to be posted on the website.

***Follow-up Response – Mr. McKenzie***

This will depend on the final recommendation approved by the Board. A number of options are available – sever the property and retain ownership of the track; sever the property and sell the track to the City of Sarnia; sever the property and sell the track to the Lambton Kent District School Board; sever the property and sell the track to a community organization such as the Sarnia Athletic Club; don't sever the property and sell the entire parcel to the highest bidder.



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# Questions from the floor

**Question** – Would it be financially feasible to build a smaller secondary school in the south end of Sarnia?

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**Response** – Ms. Sutton – This question will be directed to Mr. McKenzie, for a response to be posted on the website.

## ***Follow-up Response – Mr. McKenzie***

Unable to answer this question, as there are too many variables and decisions that would have to be made related to the size of the facility, programming requirements, etc. Generally speaking, if a decision was made to keep a secondary school in the south end of Sarnia, major renovations to the existing structure would be less costly than the demolition of the existing school and the building of a completely new secondary school to replace it.



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**Question** – In the St. Clair Catholic District School Board’s history, when we have closed schools do we know how many students have left our board to attend schools of our co-terminus board i.e. St. Helen’s closure?

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**Response** – Ms. Dolson – The numbers are not available tonight. They will be posted on our website.

***Follow-up Response – Ms. Dolson***

**Transfers to and from Catholic schools and public schools:**

**2006-2007** – 144 students transferred from public schools to Catholic schools; 112 students transferred from Catholic to public schools

**2007-2008** – 90 students transferred from public schools to Catholic schools; 37 students transferred from Catholic to public schools

**Transfers from Catholic schools to public schools following school closures are as follows:**

***Our Lady of Help, Wallaceburg (July 1, 2000)*** – 4 students to public school

***Our Lady of Mercy, Sarnia (July 1, 2001)*** – 5 students to home school; 3 students to public school

***Fr. Gerald Labelle, Corunna (July 1, 2001)*** – 2 students to public school; 12 students moved out of Corunna

***St. Ambrose, Chatham (July 1, 2001)*** – 2 students to Chatham Christian School;  
2 students to public school

***Blessed Sacrament, Chatham (July 1, 2002)*** – 2 students to public school

***St. Joseph, Sarnia (July 1, 2002)*** – 22 students to public school (January 2002);  
6 students transferred back to ***St. Therese*** in September.

***St. Helen, Sarnia (July 1, 2003)*** – 63 students to public school; 3 families transferred back after 1 year

***St. Ignatius, Bothwell (July 1, 2005)*** – 38 students to public school



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**Question** – What is the retention rate for Catholic students as they transition from elementary to secondary school?

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**Response** – Ms. Dolson – Retention rates will be posted on our website.

***Follow-up Response – Ms. Dolson***

Retention Rates are detailed in the attached Report on next slide.



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## STUDENT RETENTION FROM CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS

| FEEDER SCHOOL       | ACTUAL<br>2007-2008 |            |            | ACTUAL<br>2007-2008 |            |            | ACTUAL<br>2007-2008 |            |            | ACTUAL<br>2008-2009 |            |            | ACTUAL<br>2008-2009 |            |            | ACTUAL<br>2008-2009 |            |            |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|---------------------|------------|------------|---------------------|------------|------------|---------------------|------------|------------|---------------------|------------|------------|---------------------|------------|------------|
|                     | St. Patrick         |            |            | St. Christopher     |            |            |                     |            |            | St. Patrick         |            |            | St. Christopher     |            |            |                     |            |            |
|                     | #                   | STP        | %          | #                   | STC        | %          | #                   | Total      | %          | #                   | STP        | %          | #                   | STC        | %          | #                   | Total      | %          |
| GREGORY HOGAN       | 35                  | 0          | 0%         | 35                  | 32         | 91%        | 35                  | 32         | 91%        | 36                  | 1          | 3%         | 36                  | 35         | 97%        | 36                  | 36         | 100%       |
| HOLY ROSARY         | 12                  | 0          | 0%         | 12                  | 3          | 25%        | 12                  | 3          | 25%        | 8                   | 0          | 0%         | 8                   | 4          | 50%        | 8                   | 4          | 50%        |
| SACRED HEART P.L.   | 17                  | 10         | 59%        | 17                  | 0          | 0%         | 17                  | 10         | 59%        | 10                  | 3          | 30%        | 10                  | 0          | 0%         | 10                  | 3          | 30%        |
| SACRED HEART SARNIA | 43                  | 30         | 70%        | 43                  | 2          | 5%         | 43                  | 32         | 74%        | 39                  | 22         | 56%        | 39                  | 6          | 15%        | 39                  | 28         | 72%        |
| ST. ANNE            | 52                  | 2          | 4%         | 52                  | 47         | 90%        | 52                  | 49         | 94%        | 44                  | 0          | 0%         | 44                  | 38         | 86%        | 44                  | 38         | 86%        |
| ST. BENEDICT        | 33                  | 28         | 85%        | 33                  | 2          | 6%         | 33                  | 30         | 91%        | 34                  | 30         | 88%        | 34                  | 1          | 3%         | 34                  | 31         | 91%        |
| ST. JOHN FISHER     | 26                  | 0          | 0%         | 26                  | 7          | 27%        | 26                  | 7          | 27%        | 42                  | 0          | 0%         | 42                  | 16         | 38%        | 42                  | 16         | 38%        |
| ST. JOSEPH CORUNNA  | 41                  | 26         | 63%        | 41                  | 12         | 29%        | 41                  | 38         | 93%        | 49                  | 16         | 33%        | 49                  | 29         | 59%        | 49                  | 45         | 92%        |
| ST. MARGARET        | 18                  | 18         | 100%       | 18                  | 0          | 0%         | 18                  | 18         | 100%       | 22                  | 19         | 86%        | 22                  | 0          | 0%         | 22                  | 19         | 86%        |
| ST. MICHAEL B.G.    | 42                  | 0          | 0%         | 42                  | 38         | 90%        | 42                  | 38         | 90%        | 32                  | 0          | 0%         | 32                  | 31         | 97%        | 32                  | 31         | 97%        |
| ST. PETER CANISIUS  | 22                  | 0          | 0%         | 22                  | 5          | 23%        | 22                  | 5          | 23%        | 21                  | 0          | 0%         | 21                  | 2          | 10%        | 21                  | 2          | 10%        |
| ST. PETER SARNIA    | 35                  | 29         | 83%        | 35                  | 4          | 11%        | 35                  | 33         | 94%        | 35                  | 29         | 83%        | 35                  | 5          | 14%        | 35                  | 34         | 97%        |
| ST. PHILIP PETROLIA | 28                  | 0          | 0%         | 28                  | 3          | 11%        | 28                  | 3          | 11%        | 24                  | 0          | 0%         | 24                  | 4          | 17%        | 24                  | 4          | 17%        |
| ST. THERESE         | 40                  | 35         | 88%        | 40                  | 0          | 0%         | 40                  | 35         | 88%        | 48                  | 42         | 88%        | 48                  | 0          | 0%         | 48                  | 42         | 88%        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>444</b>          | <b>178</b> | <b>40%</b> | <b>444</b>          | <b>155</b> | <b>35%</b> | <b>444</b>          | <b>333</b> | <b>75%</b> | <b>444</b>          | <b>162</b> | <b>36%</b> | <b>444</b>          | <b>171</b> | <b>39%</b> | <b>444</b>          | <b>333</b> | <b>75%</b> |



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# A Summary of Essential Programs



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# All Compulsory Credit Courses 18 total

- 4 credits in English
- 3 credits in Mathematics
- 2 credits in Science
- 1 credit each in Geography, History, the Arts, Health and Physical Education, French as a Second Language
- .5 credit in Career Studies
- .5 credit in Civics



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# In addition :

- 1 additional credit in English, **or French as a second language, or a Native Language, or a classical or an international language**, or social sciences and the humanities, or Canadian and world studies, **or guidance and career education, or cooperative education\*\***
- 1 additional credit in health and physical education, or the arts, or business studies, **or cooperative education\*\***
- 1 additional credit in science, or technological education, **or cooperative education\*\***
- An additional 12 optional credits which for SCCDSB includes: 4 credits in Religious Education
- OSSLC for the Literacy requirement



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# Other essentials:

- K courses
- Life Skills Program with PEOPEL program
- Specialized Co-operative education opportunities
- Technology programs
- Specialized timetables for at-risk students
- Credit recovery and credit rescue programs



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**May 5, 2009  
Agenda**

- 7:00 p.m. Opening Prayer
- 7:05 p.m. Welcome/ Introductions/Opening Remarks
- 7:15 p.m. Rules of Order  
Attendance  
Questions arising from previous meeting  
Notes of the previous meeting  
Protocols
- 7:30 p.m. Review of Board Policy
- 8:15 p.m. Summary of the process — Fred Galloway  
Recommendation of the ARC — Ann Sutton  
Confirmation of the recommendation — Fred Galloway  
Timelines, Boundaries, Transportation — Jim McKenzie  
Next Steps — Paul Wubben

9:00 p.m. Questions

Board Meeting Dates:

- May 26, 2009 — 7:00 p.m.  
June 9, 2009 — 6:00 p.m.  
June 23, 2009 — 7:00 p.m.



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# A Journey We All Take

We go this way, but once.  
So why not make the journey worthwhile;  
Giving to those who travel a helping hand,  
A word of cheer, a smile?

We go this way, but once.  
Ah! never more can we go back along the selfsame way;  
To get more out of life, undo the wrongs, or speak love's words we  
knew But did not say.

We go this way, but once.  
Then let us make the road we travel fragrant and sweet with helpful,  
kindly Deeds and tender words;  
Soothing the path of bruised and stumbling feet.

Let us pray together the words that Jesus taught us:  
Our Father...



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