

## ARC MEETING NOTES

**Tuesday, May 5, 2009**  
**St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School, Sarnia**

TIME	ITEM
7:00 p.m.	<p><b>Welcome/Opening Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ann Sutton, Superintendent of Education, introduced herself as Chair and thanked everyone for attending.</li> </ul>
7:03 p.m.	<p><b>Opening Prayer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ms. Sutton opened the meeting with prayer.</li> <li>▪ Housekeeping issues were addressed: tripping hazards, beverages, washrooms, emergency exits, etc.</li> </ul>
7:05 p.m.	<p><b>Introductions – Ms. Sutton</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regrets from Fr. Matthew Bedard, ARC member representing the parishes</li> <li>▪ The members of the ARC introduced themselves. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Maureen Beauregard, ARC member representing St. Patrick’s Catholic High School</li> <li>○ Elaine Hayter, ARC member representing St. Patrick’s Catholic High School</li> <li>○ Jane Spanton, ARC member representing St. Patrick’s Catholic High School</li> <li>○ Caroline Brant, ARC member representing St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School</li> <li>○ Janet Chynces, ARC member representing St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School</li> <li>○ Candice Etienne, ARC member representing St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School</li> <li>○ Robert Kardas, Dean of Business and Sports Administration at Lambton College, community representative</li> <li>○ Jack Evers, Prime Minister of St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School student council, representing students (non-voting member)</li> <li>○ Cian Poore, Prime Minister of St. Patrick’s Catholic High School student council, representing students (non-voting member)</li> <li>○ Bernadette Gray, Principal, St. Patrick’s Catholic High School, resource to the committee</li> <li>○ Brendan Deery, Principal, St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School, resource to the committee</li> <li>○ Fred Galloway, F.J. Galloway Associates, board consultant, facilitator and resource to the committee</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ The roles of voting and non-voting ARC members were explained.</li> <li>▪ Senior board staff, who are acting as resources to the ARC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Paul Wubben, Director of Education</li> <li>○ Jim McKenzie, Associate Director – Corporate Services and Treasurer</li> <li>○ Bruce Hannah, Manager – Facility Services</li> <li>○ Karen Dolson, Coordinator – Planning Services</li> <li>○ Brenda Courey, Assistant Superintendent – Catholic Curriculum (Secondary)</li> <li>○ Martin Forster, Principal – Special Education</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trustees, who were in attendance:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Anita Labadie, Chair of the Board</li> <li>○ Linda Ward, Vice Chair of the Board</li> <li>○ Ross Daly</li> <li>○ Carol Bryden</li> <li>○ Michelle Parks</li> <li>○ John Van Heck</li> </ul> </li>   <li>▪ Ms. Sutton provided a brief overview of the accommodation review process relative to Ministry of Education guidelines and board policy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7:08 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Rules of Order</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All audience members should register their attendance on forms outside of the gym.</li> <li>▪ The rules of order, as outlined in the agenda, will be followed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Notes of the meetings</b> Notes will be taken by two recording secretaries and will be placed on the website within 5 working days after the meeting. The notes are not a verbatim transcript of the meeting.</p> <p><b>Protocols</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting protocols, as outlined in the agenda, will be followed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions arising from Presentations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ARC members may ask questions at the end of each presentation.</li> <li>▪ One hour at the end of the meeting will be allotted for questions from the audience. Each person who wishes to ask a question will be allotted two minutes to do so.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7:15 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Presentation of the March 10, 2009 notes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ These were posted on the board website within 10 working days of the last meeting and the ARC members have hard copies of these in their packages.</li> <li>▪ The responses to questions from the March 10, 2009 meeting, which required additional research from board resource personnel, were reviewed by Ms. Sutton.</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions from ARC members arising from previous meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There were no questions</li> </ul>

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7:18 p.m.	<p><b>Emerging Information from Ministry of Education – Mr. McKenzie</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>ARC Presentation – <a href="#">slide: #8</a> Updated Previously Presented Information</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Questions from ARC Members</b></p> <p><b>Question</b> - Ms. Hayter – What is the actual number of FTE for both schools for 2008-09?</p> <p><b>Response</b> – Ms. Dolson – 808 FTE at St. Christopher and 874.5 FTE at St. Patrick’s (as at October 31, 2008)</p>
7:20 p.m.	<p><b>Review of accommodation alternatives – Fred Galloway</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>ARC Presentation – <a href="#">slides: #10-22</a> scenarios 1, 2, 3, 4, 5</i></li> <li>▪ Initially we reviewed 10 options</li> <li>▪ Last meeting we removed, by consensus, 5 options</li> <li>▪ The goal for this meeting is to remove 4 options leaving us with 1 option.</li> </ul> <p><b>Five remaining scenarios are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consolidate at St. Patrick’s – scenario 1</li> <li>▪ Consolidate at St. Christopher – scenario 2</li> <li>▪ Sustain current venues – scenario 3</li> <li>▪ Small school on St. Patrick’s site – scenario 4</li> <li>▪ Small school on another site – scenario 5</li> </ul> <p><b>Question</b> – Ms. Spanton - What do transition costs from scenarios 1, 2, and 3 include?</p> <p><b>Response</b> – Mr. Galloway – This is the cost of outfitting another location for the students to use for approximately 1 year while construction is being done.</p> <p><b>Question</b> – Ms. Chynces - How many of the 5 scenarios would we be able to obtain ministry funding for?</p> <p><b>Response</b> – Mr. McKenzie - Most likely scenario 2 - consolidation at St. Christopher. For many of the other scenarios we would need to spend reserve funds and we need ministry approval to do that and it is unlikely that they will approve use of our reserve funds for a project of which they do not approve.</p> <p><b>Question</b> – Ms. Hayter – After reading these documents, it looks quite one-sided. Why would the ministry not approve scenario 4 or 5 when they have just approved 2 new elementary schools to be built in Sarnia?</p> <p><b>Response</b> – Mr. McKenzie - That process was a consolidation from 4 schools into 2 schools on 2 sites. We currently have a proposal before the ministry; they have not approved it as yet. We have received approval for some funding for the St. Benedict site but no final approval has been granted for the 2 sites. Also, secondary schools with a population of 400 are not considered by the ministry to be viable. The ministry will consider a school with an FTE of 800 viable. Also, two schools of 650 FTE would mean that St. Christopher would be below the 80% capacity and so full funding would not be available. The ministry would not support the capital cost.</p>

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- Mr. Galloway asked if there are any of these scenarios which we can take off the table now that we have the funding costs available.
- Mr. Kardas - I think that Scenario 4 and 5 should come off the table due to the funding. But given this I think other things need to be considered with respect to the remaining scenarios.
- Mr. Evers – I think we should drop scenarios 4 and 5 purely on the financial basis.

**Question** – Ms. Beauregard - When a school is too small we renovate and add on can we not reduce the size of St. Patrick's and St. Christopher to accommodate both current and future needs and maintain 100% funding.

**Response** – Mr. Galloway – Do you mean removing a section of St. Patrick's to accommodate a smaller population?

**Response** – Ms. Beauregard – Yes or changing boundaries to make the population of both schools closer in number.

**Response** – Ms. Chynces – I'm not sure that keeping two schools open isn't just putting off this decision and it will have to be made 10 years from now.

- Mr. Galloway - *ARC Presentation* – slides: [#23-34](#)
- Ms. Beauregard – I am concerned that with consolidation at St. Patrick's we would be at high risk of losing students to public board. Consolidation at St. Christopher we would risk losing south Sarnia students to public board. We need to keep a strong Catholic presence in Sarnia.
- Mr. Kardas - Maintaining a significant Catholic presence is definitely something we need to be aware of and if we were to consolidate at either site hopefully people are sending their children to a Catholic school for a deeper reason other than just the physical space.

**Question** - Mr. Galloway – Do we have any information available from the board regarding the numbers of students who have gone to the public board when we have closed schools in the past?

**Response** – Ms. Sutton - Information was presented at a previous meeting from elementary school consolidation and closing but we do not have any secondary data either from our board or from any outside areas. We have been told by another board that no great losses were incurred but they did not have any hard data available.

- Ms. Beauregard – There seems to be a loss in student enrollment each time we close an elementary school perhaps this is due to the number of students who can no longer walk to school and also to the increased time of bus rides.
- Ms. Dolson – Each year we have students who move from the public system to our system and vice versa, in 2006-07 we had 122 students who moved from the public board to our board and 112 who moved from our system to the public system. In 2007-2008, 90 students transferred from public schools to Catholic schools; and 37 students transferred from Catholic to public schools. With open access at secondary, if we were to have a larger school with more facilities and more curriculum opportunities, we may have more public school students come to our school.

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**Question** – Ms. Etienne - Will the public board also be facing the same type of scenario?

**Response** – Mr. Wubben - We cannot speculate on what LKDSB may do, but we can look at northern areas of the province and they have consolidated schools and have schools which go from K-12.

**Mr. Galloway summarized the Key Points:**

- Potential loss of students under the consolidation scenario.
- We must not incur any loss of Catholic presence in Sarnia.
- Ms. Hayter - There is a concern within the community that with consolidation there would be quite a loss of the 8-10 computer programs that are run at St. Patrick's by Strangway Centre as well as a decrease in athletic programming. Alumni are considering pulling their taxes from the Catholic system if consolidation happens.
- Mr. McKenzie – Since 1998, all school boards receive provincial funding based on enrollment, not on where rate payers direct their taxes. School boards in Ontario no longer receive their taxes directly from local ratepayers.
- Mr. Galloway – There were 16 alumni in the Focus Group and they did have some comfort with the consolidation models.
- Ms. Hayter – With 2 schools many students can participate in sport and extra curricular activities with only 1 school there will be less opportunity for student participation.
- Mr. Galloway – If the population of a school falls too low there may be some teams which may not be able to be populated.

**Question** – Mr. Kardas – If this committee can agree on consolidation at either site how does the board proceed with the details of the consolidation i.e., physical space, name, heritage etc.?

**Response** – Mr. Wubben – The building must be able to accommodate the predicted number of students who will be in attendance when the consolidation happens. The legacy issues will be something to work on with the school communities and may take some time to work through.

**Response** – Mr. McKenzie – With all the steps required by the ministry, the consolidation will take from 4 to 5 years to complete.

- Ms. Sutton – ARC members will have an opportunity to present their concerns to the board.

**Question** – Ms. Beauregard – Is there any data from any other board that has reduced the size of a school?

**Response** – Ms. Sutton – The only one I am aware of is a small school with vastly declining enrollment. Closure was put off by using some of the building for board office space.

**Response** – Mr. Galloway – In Guelph, Bishop MacDonell and St. Andrew's moved to a consolidated model; however, no data was available from the school board.

- Mr. Wubben – If we set school boundaries and make no exceptions we will risk losing students to the public board

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Chynces – If we ensured that the consolidated school had the most up to date technology we might be able to attract more students.</li> </ul> <p><b>Question</b> - Ms. Brant – Can a school only have 1 team/sport/school?  <b>Response</b> – Mr. Deery – Each school can only have one A team per sport. The school may have a B team which would be an exhibition team.  <b>Response</b> – Ms. Gray – There tends to be an upsurge of other activities such as drama, bands, etc., in a larger school. Not everyone wants to play sports.  <b>Question</b> – Mr. Kardas – Would there be the possibility for intramural activities?  <b>Response</b> – Ms. Gray – Certainly as there would be more coaches who would want to coach these sports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Kardas – Reminded the committee of the presentation on the curriculum programming that a larger school would be able to offer in comparison to what a smaller school could offer.</li> </ul>
<p>9:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Forming the Proposal – Fred Galloway</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Galloway - Of these 5 remaining scenarios are there any that clearly do not sustain themselves? Can we shorten the list in order to deal with only a couple of scenarios?</li> <li>• Ms. Hayter - Scenario #5 will not go forward – removed by consensus.</li> <li>• Ms. Brant – Scenario #1 should be removed – removed by consensus.</li> <li>• Mr. Kardas – For Scenario #2 can we change the wording to be consolidation at St. Christopher site?</li> <li>• Ms. Beauregard – I am fearful that we will lose our strong Catholic base in Sarnia if we have only one Catholic secondary school.</li> <li>• Mr. Poore – From a student’s perspective – consolidation at either site is an acceptable outcome as there will be more superior athletic teams, and more curriculum options.</li> <li>• Mr. Evers – There may be more problem losing students if schools become too small. There will not be enough sports or curriculum options</li> <li>• Mr. Kardas – Short term concerns may be emotional. There will be time to think about this before it happens and to make consolidation happen in a thoughtful way.</li> <li>• Ms. Etienne – Ms. Beauregard’s point is that we want to maintain the Catholicity of the schools in Sarnia. What are the other issues we need to consider?</li> <li>• Ms. Beauregard – The important issues that I am hearing from the community are: convenience of travel time on busses and concern that there will be students who will no longer be able to walk to school.</li> </ul> <p><b>Question</b> - Ms. Gray – What would be the longest travel time?  <b>Response</b> – Mr. McKenzie – Maximum ride time is 75 min. for secondary students that would be for students from the</p>

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Forest and Grand Bend area of our board.

**Response** – Ms. Hayter – From the ARC meeting presentation of November 17, 2008 – the average ride time for St. Christopher is 19 minutes in the morning and 24 minutes in the afternoon – the average ride time for St. Patrick’s is 18 minutes in the morning and 15 minutes in the afternoon. The longest ride time for St. Christopher students is 88 minutes in the morning and 97 minutes in the afternoon.

**Responses** – Mr. McKenzie – The maximum ride times apply only to a couple of students who live in the most distant areas of our district.

- Mr. Kardas – How the consolidation process handles the naming of the school, traditions, etc. can help attract more students than it will lose. The process must be done in a thoughtful way, which takes into account the core of Catholic education. This is what the students here have told us.

**Question** - Ms. Chynces – If we consolidate the transportation time must be considered, could we have more buses and make the routes smaller resulting in shorter ride times?

**Response** – Mr. McKenzie – Those types of considerations can be made.

- Ms. Etienne – Most of the students we lose are going to smaller county schools. If we have a larger, newer school we might attract more students from the county schools.
- Ms. Hayter – From the information we have received we need to remove scenario #4 – removed by consensus.

**Question** - Ms. Brant – What do the current student populations think about these scenarios?

**Response** – Mr. Evers - The vast majority of students see consolidation as an option that makes sense.

**Response** – Mr. Poore – Consolidation seems to be shared thoughts of the student body and the points that I have raised before are what has been heard from the student population.

### Considering Scenario #3

- Ms. Beauregard – Money is important and if we cannot make the school physically smaller to get 100% funding then consolidation is all that is left.
- Ms. Gray – Funding is based on student population and it gets harder and harder to fund extracurricular activities with a smaller population.
- Scenario #3 removed by consensus.

### Considering Scenarios #2 & #4

- The consolidated school will have the best outcomes for programming; the loss of students could be a big issue and we don’t know what will happen.
- Need to consider what will be the best strategy for Catholic secondary education in Sarnia.
- Ms. Etienne – It is not logical to close St. Christopher and keep St. Patrick’s open.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Chynces – It seems very clear to keep St. Christopher.</li> <li>• Ms. Hayter – When St. Therese moved into the old St. Patrick’s building, the board promised a number of things to the community and a lot of those promises were not fulfilled. The community had to do fundraising for new playground equipment, etc. We need to ensure that the legacy issues at St. Patrick’s must be taken very seriously.</li> <li>• Mr. Kardas – Once the main decision is made then the micro issues will need to be considered.</li> <li>• Mr. Galloway – Is everyone comfortable with removing scenario #4? Removed by consensus.</li> </ul> <p><b>Question</b> - Ms. Chynces - Can we create a wish list to present to the board?  <b>Response</b> – Mr. Galloway - It is within the mandate of the ARC to create a wish list and this is something that is strongly suggested you should do.</p>
<p><b>8:45 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Formulating the Recommendation – Fred Galloway</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rough draft: the recommendation could read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ms. Sutton - The Accommodation Review Committee recommends that the two school communities of St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School and St. Patrick’s Catholic High School be <i>consolidated into one to be located at the current site of St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>8:50 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Identifying Key implementation issues – Fred Galloway</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustaining PEOPEL Program</li> <li>• Technology Program</li> <li>• Name of school on St. Christopher site will require careful consideration</li> <li>• Utilization of St. Patrick’s track and facilities</li> <li>• Upgrading of St. Christopher’s track</li> <li>• Owners of St. Patrick’s track need to be consulted</li> <li>• Respect St. Patrick’s tradition</li> <li>• Transportation issues – shorter bus routes</li> <li>• Start integration in stages</li> <li>• Creation of Transition Committee</li> <li>• Transition Committee chair needs to be familiar with both school cultures and must be an individual who is known and respected in this area, perhaps a retired principal.</li> <li>• School uniforms and school colours need to be considered.</li> <li>• Deal with McCarthy’s for new uniform</li> <li>• Grandfather both uniforms</li> <li>• Provide unique curriculum options which might draw students into the school</li> <li>• Positive attitude to be essential</li> <li>• Public relations to focus on the positive and show what Catholic Education is all about</li> <li>• Marketing the consolidated school, highlighting the potential benefits of this change to our elementary schools as</li> </ul>



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	<p>soon as motion is passed. Marketing must begin early</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We want to create a very strong and successful Catholic School</li> </ul> <p><b>Question</b> – Ms. Chynces - Is there a timeline when this can happen?  <b>Response</b> – Mr. McKenzie – From a construction perspective it would be a minimum of 3 years.  <b>Question</b> – Mr. Kardas – When would St. Patrick’s end the intake of grade 9 students?  <b>Response</b> – Mr. Sutton – This could be a recommendation of the ARC.  <b>Response</b> – Mr. Galloway – Availability of space would need to be there before any students could be moved.  <b>Response</b> – Mr. Wubben – Staffing would be a consideration.  <b>Question</b> – Ms. Spanton – Can we maintain the current boundaries so that St. Patrick’s population does not dwindle down too fast?  <b>Response</b> – Ms. Sutton - Our practice has been to grant all out of boundary request at the secondary level.  <b>Response</b> – Ms. Gray – If we did not have grade 9 next year at St. Patrick’s, St. Christopher would not be able to accommodate them, they would be over capacity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Hayter – The administration needs to make a decision not to grant the out of boundary requests from now on.</li> <li>• Mr. Galloway – An interim policy may need to be made to hold fast to boundaries.</li> <li>• Ms. Chynces – Leave this until you see what happens.</li> </ul> <p><b>Question</b> - Ms. Brant – Is St. Joseph’s in Corunna the only school which has a choice of which secondary school the students may attend?  <b>Response</b> – Ms. Sutton – Sacred Heart, Sarnia also has students with that option.  <b>Response</b> – Mr. McKenzie – The ministry says that parents and students have a right to attend any school they choose. Only if the school has reached its capacity can we deny the request.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Hayter - Out of boundary students who are riding school buses costs the board money and there seems to be a lot of leniency regarding bussing.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Comments by Ann Sutton, Accommodation Review Committee Chair</b>  Ms. Sutton offered a word of thanks to the ARC committee – We have been trying to come together to form consensus for the long term and in the best interest of the students in the Catholic education system. We have been able to put aside our personal thoughts and pursue that higher purpose. We have asked God to guide our decision making in hopes that we can create a secondary school that will flourish in every sense – spiritually, socially, academically, and athletically. I very much appreciate everyone’s tremendous work on this important task.</p>
<p><b>9:45 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Presentation of the proposed agenda – May 19, 2009 – St. Patrick’s Catholic High School</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notes will be posted within 5 working days instead of the usual 10</li> <li>• Proposed agenda for the May 19, 2009 ARC was presented by Ms. Sutton.</li> </ul>

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<b>9:50 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Questions from student representatives (non-voting members)</b></p> <p><b>Question – Mr. Jack Evers – St. Christopher Secondary School</b> Regarding uniforms, after consolidation would students who are at either of the current schools be permitted to wear their current uniforms until graduation and any new students would be able to purchase the new school uniform?</p> <p><b>Response – Ms. Sutton</b> The issue of grandfathering the uniforms would be considered.</p> <p><b>Comment – Mr. Cian Poore – St. Patrick’s Catholic High School</b> Thank you for inviting us to be part of this committee.</p> <p><b>Response – Ms. Sutton</b> This committee would not have been complete without the representation of the students. Thank you for taking time from your busy schedules to attend these meetings.</p> <p><b>Questions and Comments from the floor.</b></p> <p><b>Comment – Marian Dunn – parent</b> For the past 75 years students have come from far and wide to attend St. Patrick’s. It is a community unto itself and this needs to be kept in mind during the consolidation process. St. Christopher also has a 13 year legacy and I would like to ask the committee to please keep this in mind when making their decisions.</p>
<b>10:00 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Closing Prayer</b> Ms. Sutton led the closing prayer.</p>
	<p><b>Future ARC Meeting Dates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday, May 19, 2009 – St. Patrick’s Catholic High School</b></li> </ul>