



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Pupil Accommodation Review – Chatham Elementary Schools

WHAT IS A PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW?

A Pupil Accommodation Review is a community consultation process required by the Ministry of Education, where a school closure and/or consolidation is being considered to address changing demographics, enrolment, programming and facility condition challenges facing a school, or schools, in a particular area under review. Pupil Accommodation Reviews are governed by prescribed Ministry timelines and follow a Board approved policy and process.

WHAT IS A PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE?

A Pupil Accommodation Review Committee (PARC) is as an advisory committee established by the Board that represents the affected schools identified as being part of a pupil accommodation review. The PARC provides feedback to the school board on the proposed accommodation options for a school, or group of schools, identified in the Initial Staff Report.

HOW IS THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE PARC DETERMINED?

The membership of the Pupil Accommodation Review Committee is set out in *Sec. B Policy – Student Accommodation & Boundary Review*. It includes a parent representative and the principal from each of the affected school communities, in addition to community representatives. The committee is chaired by the Superintendent of Education for the family of schools.

WHY IS MY SCHOOL PART OF THE PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW?

A pupil accommodation review occurs after the Board of Trustees considers the current and projected enrolment at a school, or group of schools, as well as the current physical condition of the school(s) and repairs or upgrades that may be required. Public consultation is a big part of this process. The review could result in recommendations, which include:

- The closure or consolidation of a school or schools
- Changes to grades and programs offered at a school
- New facilities and/or upgrades
- School boundary changes
- Partnerships and/or joint use opportunities
- Status quo (no changes)

HOW DOES A PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW WORK?

Public consultation is at the heart of the pupil accommodation review process. A minimum of two public meetings are to be held by the Pupil Accommodation Review Committee, as well as a number of additional working group meetings. The goal is to engage a wide range of school and community groups to participate in the consultation in order to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

OUR SCHOOL HAS BEEN NAMED IN A PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW. DOES THIS MEAN OUR SCHOOL WILL CLOSE?

The inclusion of your school in a pupil accommodation review process does not necessarily mean that it will close. Pupil accommodation reviews are designed to look at a grouping of schools to determine the best solution for everyone involved in the process. It is the responsibility of the Board to support student achievement, while operating and maintaining schools as effectively and efficiently as possible. While the Initial Staff Report may contain a proposed option that impacts your school, a final decision by the Board of Trustees to move forward with a recommendation will not take place until after the consultation period.

WHY WAS A “PREFERRED OPTION” INCLUDED IN THE INITIAL STAFF REPORT? DOES THIS MEAN A DECISION HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE?

No. Under the Ministry of Education’s Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline, school boards are required to include, in the Initial Staff Report, options which achieve the Board’s goals for pupil accommodation. These objectives are outlined in the Board’s Long-Term Capital Plan. In instances where there is more than one option identified, school boards are required to indicate a “preferred option”. These options provide a foundation for the PARC’s discussions.

HOW IS THE INFORMATION FROM THE PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE SHARED WITH THE PUBLIC?

The Pupil Accommodation Review section of the Board website (www.st-clair.net) will be an important source of information and will have the latest updates on Pupil Accommodation Reviews, including public meetings, dates, meeting minutes, etc.

HOW CAN I ASK QUESTIONS, OR COMMENT ON THE PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW IF I AM UNABLE TO ATTEND PUBLIC MEETINGS?

The Board website also includes an email address (ChathamAccommodationReview@st-clair.net) to which you can forward questions or comments, which are constructive and helpful to the process. The questions/comments will be forwarded to the Pupil Accommodation Review Committee for discussion at its next meeting. Answers will be posted to this section of the website, in addition to the PARC meeting minutes.

IF I HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF A PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW ONCE IT IS COMPLETED, WHAT CAN I DO?

A community is able to request an Administrative Review from the Ministry of Education of the Pupil Accommodation Review process; however, **it is not a review of the Board decision; but whether the Board complied with its Pupil Accommodation Review policy.** Visit the Ministry of Education website for more detailed information on the Ministry’s Administrative Review process.

WHO MAKES THE FINAL DECISION IN THE PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW PROCESS?

The Board of Trustees makes the final decision on all recommendations related to the Pupil Accommodation Review.