



January 26, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing today to update you on the next steps in the process, regarding the Chatham Catholic elementary schools Pupil Accommodation Review. Last night the second of two public meetings was held. It was an opportunity for parents/guardians to hear from the Pupil Accommodation Review Committee (PARC), whose members have led the review since their first meeting in October 2016.

At last night's public meeting, the PARC reported that it has come to the consensus that it supports Option A, as outlined in the *Initial Staff Report*, presented to Trustees last September. Option A would see the French Immersion program re-located to a fully refurbished Our Lady of Fatima; the six remaining Catholic elementary schools would be closed; and two brand new schools would be built, one in north Chatham and one in south Chatham.

The PARC also outlined a number of considerations, which it will ask Trustees to weigh, as they make their decision on the future of Catholic education in Chatham. Some of these considerations are related to the new facilities themselves; while others involve the transitioning of students to the new schools. They will be listed in detail in the notes from last night's meeting, which will be posted to the Board's website at [www.st-clair.net](http://www.st-clair.net) in the coming days.

Superintendent of Education Deb Crawford, who has been the Chair of the PARC, will now write a report to the Board of Trustees on behalf of the PARC, which will recommend Option A and spell out in detail the considerations the committee wishes to put forward to Trustees. This report will be presented to Trustees on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 and will be posted to the Board website at that time.

In case parents/guardians wish to make a presentation to the Board of Trustees on the PARC report and its recommendation, there is an opportunity to do so at the Tuesday, February 28, 2017 Regular Meeting. Under the Board's Procedural By-Laws, delegations must submit a written application to appear before the Board by 1:00 p.m. one week prior to the Board meeting, in order to be included on the agenda. Therefore, the deadline for applications to appear as a delegation would be 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 21, 2017. The complete section on *Delegations and Submissions* from the Procedural By-Laws is found on the Board website. It is also reprinted below.

The Board will vote on the recommendation at its Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 28, 2017. It is important to note that the *final* decision regarding funding for any future capital projects, of course, rests with the Ministry of Education.

At last night's public meeting, I thanked each of the members of the PARC and Superintendent of Education Deb Crawford; however, it bears repeating here. On behalf of our Board, I want to again say how grateful we all are for their work and their commitment to this important process. In my very first letter to you at the outset of this review, I said that this would be an opportunity to improve the learning environments and educational opportunities for your children and for Catholic students for generations to come. Over many meetings and in countless discussions, I have seen that the members of the PARC have taken that challenge to heart, as they worked diligently on behalf of the families in each of our Catholic elementary schools.

I now await with great interest their final report. I will continue to keep you updated as the process moves forward.

Sincerely,  
Dan Parr  
Director of Education

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#### **8.5 Delegations and Submissions**

- 8.5.1 A person or a delegation shall be required to submit to the Secretary a written application to appear before the Board stating the matter on which a submission is to be made, the organization or interested parties to be represented and the authority of a spokesperson. The entire written presentation shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Board before 1:00 p.m. one week prior to the Board meeting for inclusion in the agenda. The Chair of the Board will decide to either place the delegation or submission on the agenda or to refer the matter to the appropriate Board committee or staff for disposition, or deny the request.
- 8.5.2 A delegation shall designate not more than two persons as spokespersons and no other member of the delegation shall address the Board, except by request of a trustee, and with permission of the Chair of the Board.
- 8.5.3 Delegations shall be heard at Regular Meetings of the Board and shall adhere to a fifteen minute time limit. If a decision is not made at the same meeting at which a delegation appears before the Board, the delegation shall be notified by letter of the date of the meeting at which a decision is to be made or staff report is to be considered concerning the presentation.



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

*Lighting the Way – Rejoicing in Our Journey*

### ***Our Mission***

*Walking together in Christ's light with parish and family, we are called to build a safe and inclusive Catholic learning community and to serve as partners in the formation of life-long learners by:*

- *Living our faith,*
- *Promoting educational achievement and innovation;*
- *Fostering stewardship, leadership and social justice*