



REPORT TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES March 29, 2011

Paul Wubben, Director of Education

SUBJECT: Accommodation Review Staff Report – St. Michael Catholic School, Turnerville

PREPARED BY: Paul Wubben, Director of Education

BACKGROUND:

On September 13, 2010 the Board of Trustees for St. Clair Catholic approved the establishment of an Accommodation Review Committee for St. Michael Catholic School in Turnerville.

St. Michael is significantly under capacity, according to the Ministry of Education's On The Ground (OTG) capacity rating, which is a measure of the occupancy of a school building. In September 2010, enrolment was at 54 students, or 34% of the OTG rating, which is significantly below the 85 percent funding threshold set by the ministry. By 2015, the enrolment at St. Michael is projected to be just seven students, resulting in an OTG rating of just 4%. In other words, the building would be 96% under capacity.

The problem of under capacity is a function of declining enrolment across the entire district, the province and is also due in part to the school's remote rural location. With enrolment projected to decline to single digits, the situation is unsustainable for the Board and undesirable for students, with respect to educational and co-curricular programs. The only viable recommendation can be to close the school.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: *Accommodation Review Staff Report – St. Michael Catholic School, Turnerville* for information.**
2. **That St. Michael Catholic School, Turnerville, be shuttered effective June 30, 2011.**
3. **That the current catchment area for St. Michael Catholic School, Turnerville be divided among Christ The King Catholic School, Wallaceburg; Sacred Heart Catholic School, Port Lambton; Good Shepherd Catholic School, Thamesville; St. Vincent Catholic School, Chatham; and Holy Family Catholic School, Wallaceburg; effective June 30, 2011 and that the new attendance boundaries be defined as:**
 - i. The boundary of **Christ the King Catholic School, Wallaceburg** will be extended from the existing corner of Mandaumin Rd and the western extension of Kent Line north - exclusive of Mandaumin - to the eastern extension of Kent Line. Continuing east along Kent Line - splitting the road - to Robinson Rd. Then south exclusive of Robinson Rd to the Sydenham River. Finally following the north bank of the Sydenham River west to the existing boundary at the terminus of Mandaumin Rd.

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- ii. The boundary for **Sacred Heart Catholic School, Port Lambton** will be extended from the corner of Bickford Line and Mandaumin Rd east exclusive of Aberfeldy Line to Robinson Rd. Continuing south exclusive of Robinson Rd from Aberfeldy Line to Kent Line. Finishing west – splitting Kent Line – from Robinson Rd to Mandaumin Rd.
- iii. The boundary for **Good Shepherd Catholic School, Thamesville** will be extended from the existing point at the corner of Mason Line & Kent Bridge Rd to the north west inclusive of Kent Bridge Rd to Base Line. Continuing west inclusive of Base Line to Uncle Tom’s Rd. Heading north inclusive of Uncle Tom’s Rd to the Sydenham River. North from the Sydenham River inclusive of Robinson Rd to Aberfeldy Line. Finishing east exclusive of Aberfeldy Line to meet the existing boundary at the corner of Aberfeldy Line and Hale School Rd.
- iv. The boundary for **St Vincent Catholic School, Chatham** will be extended from the existing point at the corner of St Clair Rd and Countryview Line heading north west splitting St Clair Rd to Union Line. Continuing north east inclusive of Union Line to Base Line. Turning east exclusive of Base Line to Kent Bridge Rd. Finishing south east exclusive of Kent Bridge Rd to meet the existing boundary at the corner of Kent Bridge Rd and Eberts Line.
- v. The boundary for **Holy Family Catholic School, Wallaceburg** will be extended from an existing point on the south bank of the Sydenham River north of Tupperville along the south bank of the Sydenham River to Uncle Tom’s Rd. Continuing south exclusive of Uncle Tom’s Rd to Base Line. Finishing south west exclusive of Union Line to the existing point at the corner of Dover Centre Line & St Clair Rd.

All boundary additions are listed in a clockwise manner to complete an extension to existing points on the school boundary.

- 4. **That effective June 30, 2011, all families who reside in the current St. Michael Catholic School, Turnerville, boundary be given the option to attend Good Shepherd Catholic School, Thamesville, with transportation provided and that attendance at Good Shepherd be grandfathered for current and future children of the family.**

Note: Grandfathered attendance privileges apply only once. If a family chooses to transfer students out of the school at a later date, the grandfather clause is deemed null and void.

- 5. **That current St. Michael Catholic School, Turnerville students, who are in Grade 8 as of September 2011, will be permitted to attend Good Shepherd Catholic School in Thamesville, with transportation provided and will not be subject to the out of boundary or the courtesy seat process. Siblings who opt to attend a school which is located in the catchment area in which they currently reside, as outlined above, will also be provided transportation.**

Note: If a family chooses to transfer students out of the school at a later date, usual out of boundary and courtesy seat application process would apply.

- 6. That families with children currently attending St. Michael Catholic School, Turnerville, shall be given the privilege of attending an out of boundary school, with no transportation provided. There would be no requirement to engage in the usual out of boundary process and the privilege of attending the school shall be grandfathered for current and future children of the family.**

Note: Grandfathered attendance privileges apply only once. If a family chooses to transfer students out of the school, the grandfather clause is deemed null and void.

- 7. That upon the shuttering of the school on June 30, 2011, the building and real property of St. Michael Catholic School, Turnerville, be disposed of in accordance with the process and the timelines mandated by the Province of Ontario, under O. Reg. 444/98.**