



Minutes of the First Public Meeting of the Accommodation Review Committee of the Nipissing- Parry Sound Catholic District School Board held in the Gymnasium of St. Joseph School at 570 First Avenue East, North Bay on Tuesday September 9, 2008.

**ARC Committee Present**

NPSCDSB	Joanne Bénard (Chair) Grace Barnhardt Danny Russo	Superintendent of Education Superintendent of Business & Treasurer Manager of Plant and Heath & Safety
Sacred Heart School	Dan Seguin Micheline Thayer Kathy Storie Loretta de Sousa Kathleen MacDonell Lori Angelo	Principal Teaching Staff Representative Non-teaching Staff Representative Catholic School Advisory Council Chair Parent Parent
St. Joseph School	Marcello Tignanelli Jocelyn Shaver Maureen Valiquette Fernanda Fresco Micheline Hart Michael Nadeau	Principal Teaching Staff Representative Non-teaching Staff Representative Catholic School Advisory Council Chair Parent Parent

**Public Stakeholders**

See Appendix A for listing

**Staff Present**

Anna Marie Bitonti, Director of Education  
Paula Mann, Senior Education Official

**Call to Order**

Chair of the Accommodation Review Committee, Joanne Bénard called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

**Welcome**

Chair, Joanne Bénard welcomed all members of the public in attendance to the first public meeting of the Accommodation Review Committee. Joanne Bénard reviewed the agenda and the purpose of the meeting. Joanne Bénard advised that the public is encouraged to ask questions and provide comments regarding the Accommodation Review process involving St. Joseph and Sacred Heart Schools.

**Prayer**

The opening prayer was led by Fernanda Fresco, Chair of St. Joseph School's Catholic School Advisory Council and ARC committee member.

### **Introductory Comments**

Anna-Marie Bitonti, Director of Education, welcomed all members of the public and highlighted that the main goal is to ensure that there is no uncertainty about the Accommodation Review process. Anna-Marie Bitonti advised that community input is extremely important. In addition, input received from the community and the information and analysis received from the ARC will all be reviewed carefully by the Board.

Chair, Joanne Bénard reviewed the terms of reference for the four public Accommodation Review Committee meetings as well as the process for receiving questions and providing comments during the Community Input and Questions and Answers period at the end of the evening's meeting. All members of the ARC working committee and Board staff were introduced.

### **Purpose of the Accommodation Review/ARC Mandate**

Joanne Bénard reviewed the purpose and mandate of the ARC - to study, report and make recommendations on the accommodation options of the two schools under review. The responsibilities of the ARC were reviewed. A final school valuation report and recommendations will be completed and submitted to the Director of Education by December 12, 2008.

### **ARC Communications**

The public was advised that all ARC working meetings are open to the public as observers. In addition to sharing questions or comments at one of four public meetings, additional modes of communication were reviewed including voice mail: 472-1201, ext 206, and email: [arc@npsc.edu.on.ca](mailto:arc@npsc.edu.on.ca). All ARC information is available on the Board's website.

### **Intent of Review Based on the Board's Pupil Accommodation Review**

An overview of the components of the policy, and the Director's report and recommendation to the Board was presented by Grace Barnhardt, Superintendent of Business and Treasurer.

### **Background Information**

Grace Barnhardt, Superintendent of Business and Treasurer provided an overview of the pupil accommodation review process. The presentation highlighted general information with respect to enrolment, number of schools and geographical data.

An overview of the Board budget, Ministry funding model and financial challenges such as declining enrolment was provided. Demographic trends and the impact on future budgets were reviewed. An overview of facility details for both Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Schools indicates under utilization of both schools and repair costs exceeding replacement costs for both schools.

Considering both schools being deemed prohibitive to repair, the under utilization of space and the declining enrolment trends, the Board was in a position to recommend the formation of ARC in accordance with its policy and procedures.

### **School Valuation Framework**

Joanne Bénard, reviewed the generic school valuation framework as a tool to assess the value of a school to the student, to the board, to the community and to the local economy. Ministry guidelines stipulate the ARC may add factors, but not delete. The additional items for the customized framework were highlighted. ARC members from each school will utilize the same customized framework as agreed upon to assess their respective schools.

### **Support Materials**

Joanne Bénard demonstrated how to retrieve ARC information and support materials from the Board website. The public were invited and encouraged to review the policy, background information and minutes of prior committee meetings.

### **Community Input/Questions and Answers**

Chair, Joanne Bénard advised the attendees that public meetings are an opportunity to ask questions and provide input regarding the accommodation review process. If the public did not feel comfortable posing a question in such a forum, questions or comments can be left on the ARC voice mail or ARC email address. Board staff offered to make themselves available afterwards for clarification as necessary.

### **Community Questions**

*Name: Michelle*

School: St. Joseph

Q: My son has used the Section 23 class and I am worried he will not have access in the future. Will this program continue if a new school is built?

A: The program will continue to be supported pending Ministry funding. As a system program, it is held in any school where there is available space. Previously housed at St. Alexander School, the program is now located at St. Joseph as there is sufficient space. There is every intention of offering the program in the Board in the future.

*Name: Rick*

School: Sacred Heart

Q: I am under the assumption that a new school has to be built?

A: These two schools are prohibitive to repair and following the ARC review process there will be funding for one new school.

Q: What are the catchment areas presently for St. Joseph and Sacred Heart?

A: Please refer to overviews of both St. Joseph and Sacred Heart School boundaries attached as Appendix B.

Q: When St. Theresa was built, what was the population data?

A: Previous to St. Theresa being rebuilt and relocated from Corbeil to Callander, the population was 60 students. The new school offered a dual track program to extend offering in a growth area. The enrolment increased to 180 students the first year and 200 the second year.

*Name: Ron*

School: St. Joseph

Q: Is there a valuation framework for each school?

A: Each school will utilize the same customized valuation framework as a tool to value their schools based on their individual contexts.

Q: Is there a deadline when schools need to close?

A: There are timelines for public meetings and the report to be submitted to the Board. Based on the required timelines as outlined in the policy, the process will culminate in early April of 2009. If there is any change to the current schools, accommodation could begin in September 2009 at the earliest.

Q: Where will students be accommodated in the meantime?

A: If the decision is to rebuild, one of the two school sites would likely be used to accommodate students while the new school is being built.

Q: Does this mean students in Grade 6 this year, would not be able to finish their grade 8 year at their present school?

A: This a possibility however, students from both schools would join the same grade during accommodation and then all students would move to the new school facility together. Students would be with their same peers, but in a different location in the interim.

*Name: Angie*

School: St. Joseph

Q: Will one school close and another school will house students while another school is being built?

A: This would be an option to be explored. Parents would be informed of any decision well in advance of any changes taking place.

Q: Will our students have to attend other schools in the system if another is being built?

A: Students will not be dispersed to other schools. One possibility is students from the two schools will be accommodated together at one site while a new school is being built.

Q: Is there a guarantee that there will be a French Immersion Program if a new school is built?

A: Yes. This Accommodation Review is only considering two French Immersion Program schools and therefore the program offering will not change.

*Other Questions from the break*

Q: Will a transition plan for special needs students be facilitated?

A: Yes. Transition plans are a requirement for all students with special needs and will continue with support from the school's staff and our Board's Special Education Team.

Q: If a new site is chosen for a new school, will parents be able to provide input to where the new site would be?

A: It is our intent to work with our parent community and students to provide the best decision for our students.

*Name: Donna*

School: Sacred Heart

Q: If a new school is the result, is a dual track school a possibility?

A: A new school may not be able to accommodate the student population for a dual track program due to funding provided.

**Dates of Next Public Meetings**

ARC Public Meeting #2: November 12, 2008, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Sacred Heart School

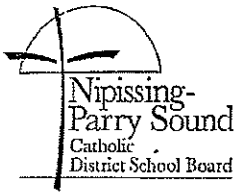
ARC Public Meeting #3: November 26, 2008, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., St. Joseph School

ARC Public Meeting #4: December 8, 2008, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Sacred Heart School

**Adjournment:**

The public meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm

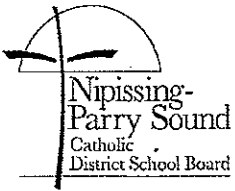
## APPENDIX A



ARC PUBLIC MEETING  
Tuesday, September 9, 2008  
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
St. Joseph School  
570 First Avenue East, North Bay ON

SIGN-IN SHEET

Name	School Community (St. Joseph/Sacred Heart)	Telephone	Email (optional)
Jane Leamont	St. Joseph		
Valerie Mathieu	St. Joseph		
Mandy Tremblay	Sacred Heart		
Dayna Burgess	Sacred Heart		
Scott Kemgan	Sacred Heart		
Rick Belisle	Sacred Heart		
DONNA BACKER	Sacred Heart		
RON GAUTHIER	ST. JOSEPH		
Dave Sheridan	Rogers Radio		



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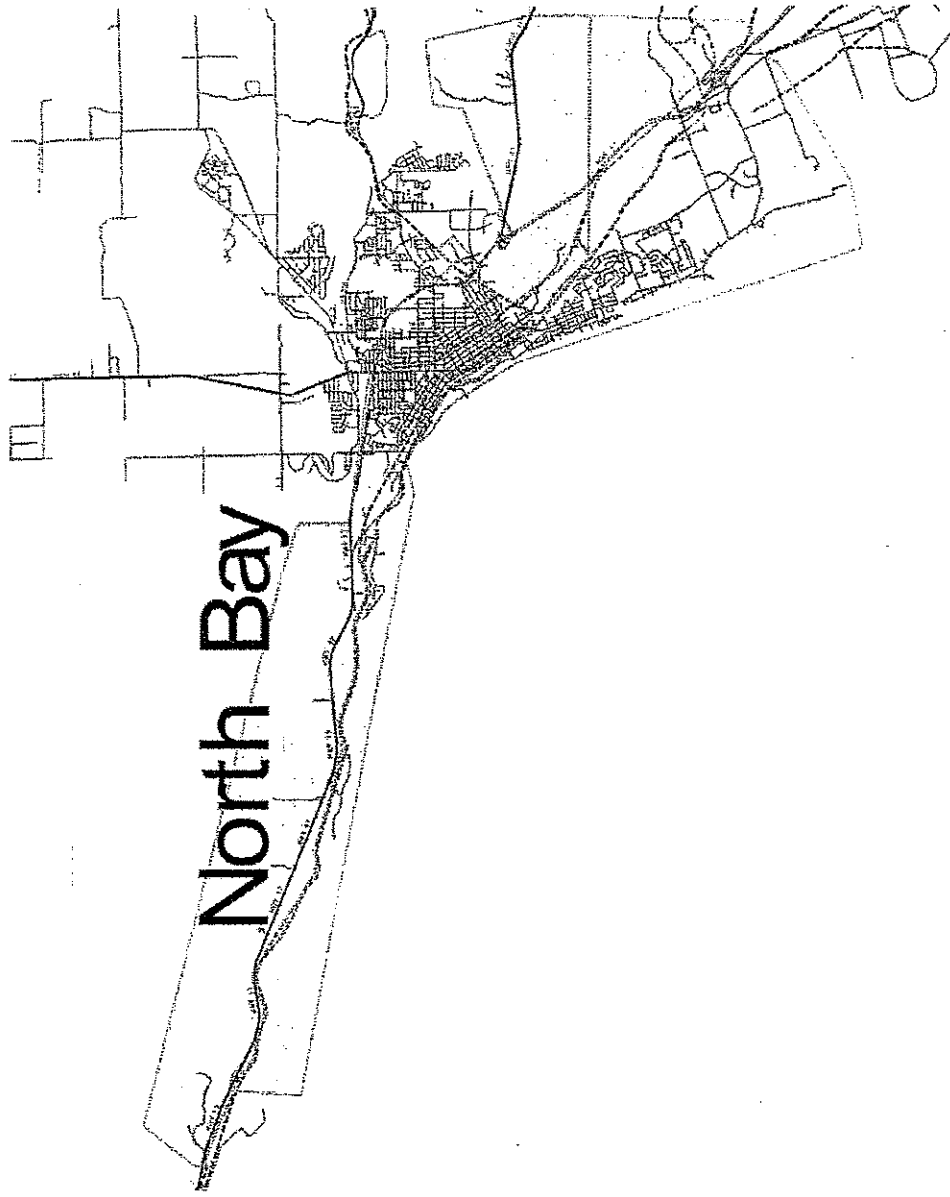
**SIGN-IN SHEET**

Name	School Community (St. Joseph/Sacred Heart)	Telephone	Email (optional)
Carla Tanney & Louis Desbiens	St. Joseph		
Micheline Thayer	Sacred Heart		
Angie Jeanneault	St. Joseph		
Melanie Starevic	Sacred Heart		
Michelle Benoit	St - Joseph		
Sylvain Guenette	St - Joseph		
Kare Houston	STV.		



## APPENDIX B

Overview of St. Joseph Boundaries



Overview of Sacred Heart Attendance boundary

