

Minutes of the Fourth Public Meeting of the Accommodation Review Committee of the Nipissing- Parry Sound Catholic District School Board held in the Gymnasium of Sacred Heart School, 1516 McKeown Avenue, North Bay on Monday, December 8, 2008.

ARC Committee Present

Central Office	Joanne Bénard (Chair) Grace Barnhardt Danny Russo	Superintendent of Education Superintendent of Business & Treasurer Manager of Plant and Health & 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
Karen Fabbro-Cobb, Senior Education Official
Paula Mann, Senior Education Official

Call to Order

Chair of the Accommodation Review Committee, Joanne Bénard, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Prayer

The opening prayer was led by Dan Seguin, Principal of Sacred Heart School.

Welcome and Introductory Comments

All members of the public in attendance were welcomed to the fourth public meeting of the Accommodation Review Committee. The agenda and the purpose of the meeting were reviewed. Members of the Accommodation Review Committee representing St. Joseph, Sacred Heart and Central Office were introduced. Chair, Joanne Benard thanked all Accommodation Review Committee members from St. Joseph and Sacred Heart Schools for their tremendous work and commitment during the ARC process.

Purpose of Public Meeting #4

The purpose of the fourth public meeting was to present the draft School Valuation Report and recommendations and receive community input. It was indicated that the final school valuation report and recommendations would be submitted to the Director of Education by December 12, 2008.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference were reviewed.

ARC Purpose, Mandate and Guiding Principles

The purpose of the ARC was reviewed, including: responsibility for the School Valuation Framework, Public Information and Access, Community Consultation and Public Meetings and for providing a final School Valuation report and recommendations to be submitted to the Director of Education. As part of its mandate, the ARC will study, report and make recommendations on the accommodation options respecting both St. Joseph and Sacred Heart Schools in compliance and accordance with Board's Pupil Accommodation Review Policy 28.2. The ARC process has reflected the Board's Principles and Values as articulated in our mission and vision statements.

ARC Communications

The public was reminded that all ARC working meetings have been open to the public as observers. In addition to sharing questions or comments at the four public meetings, additional modes of communication have been available throughout the ARC process including voice mail: 472-1201, ext 206, and email: arc@npsc.edu.on.ca. All ARC information, research, minutes and power point presentations are available on the Board's website www.npsc.edu.on.ca under the *Accommodations* link.

ARC Process Overview

It was noted that at the last public meeting of the ARC held on November 26, 2008, accommodation options considered by the ARC were reviewed with the public. The final report to the Director of Education being reviewed this evening presents the findings and recommendations of the ARC for both St. Joseph and Sacred Heart Schools.

Highlights Of The Final Report

a) Background

The background of the ARC process was reviewed, beginning with the passing of the motion for the Board to approve the formation of an Accommodation Review Committee for St. Joseph and Sacred Heart Schools on February 20, 2008. In addition, the ARC has held a total of 7 working and 4 public meetings to date to complete its mandate and seek community input.

Also included in the final report is a summary of the activities that took place during Public Meetings #1, #2, and #3.

b) Accommodation Options Considered

The five accommodation options and considerations presented by the ARC in the School Valuation Report were reviewed (available at www.npsc.edu.on.ca).

Option 1: Consolidate St. Joseph and Sacred Heart schools and build a new school on a new site.

Option 2: Consolidate St. Joseph and Sacred Heart schools and build a new school on one of the two existing school sites.

Option 3: Relocate St. Joseph and Sacred Heart Schools to an existing school within the same catchment area.

Option 4: Add an addition to an existing school and relocate the population of Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Schools to that site.

Option 5: Explore purchasing an existing building for sale within the same catchment area and retrofit.

c) Recommendations

The following two recommendations were presented on behalf of the ARC:

1. Consolidate St. Joseph and Sacred Heart schools and build a new school on a new site.
2. Consolidate St. Joseph and Sacred Heart schools and build a new school on one of the existing school sites.

d) Timelines

Tentative timelines of the ARC process were reviewed.

December 12, 2008: ARC Report is presented to the Director of Education.

December 2008/January 2009: Director of Education provides a report to the Board of Trustees*

January 2009: Board will hold a public meeting*

February/March 2009: Board decision and follow-up and communication to families and the community*

(*Please note specific dates will be communicated to the public through the Board website and the two schools).

Community Input/Questions and Answers

Name: Claire

School: Sacred Heart

Q: How long will the process take to accommodate students, build a new school and students to move into a new school?

A: The earliest possible date to complete the entire process to accommodate the students and build a new school would be September 2010.

Name: John

School: Sacred Heart

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

A: All of our schools have boundaries that determine the student's eligibility to attend, referred to as a school zone. The school zone is also dependent on the program choice (English and French Immersion Programs). The school zone for a student is based on their pick-up and drop-off addresses for transportation purposes. Please refer to Appendix B of the ARC meeting minutes of September 9, 2008 for overviews of both St. Joseph and Sacred Heart School boundaries.

Q: What other options will Trustees have aside from the recommendations presented by the ARC?

A: Trustees will be provided with all of the research and information to date, and therefore will be aware of all of the options presented to date. Part of the process to arrive at the recommended options that the ARC took into consideration was the funding announced by the Ministry under the Prohibitive to Repair (PTR) capital funding program, since both schools under review were deemed by the Ministry as PTR.

Q: Is there a term for this funding?

A: Business cases for PTR schools had to be presented to the Ministry within a timeframe for them to be considered for funding under this capital program. There is no stated deadline to use the funding, but the expectation is that the funding would be used by 2011-12.

Q: Is enrolment declining in English Program schools as well as French Immersion Program schools?

A: Our education system across the province is experiencing a decline in enrolment as a result in a decline in the birth rate. Over the last year school year, 2007-2008, the enrolment for the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic DSB for 2008-2009 has experienced a 3.1% decline in the elementary panel.

Q: What is the budget for a new school?

A: The budget for a new school is dependent on how many students will be accommodated, which determines the size. The Ministry funding benchmarks are as follows:

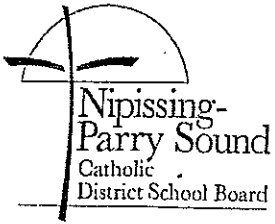
Area Benchmark per pupil = 9.7 m²

Benchmark Construction cost = \$1,859.48 / m²

For complete details of the material presented at the meeting, please refer to the attached PowerPoint presentation.

Adjournment:

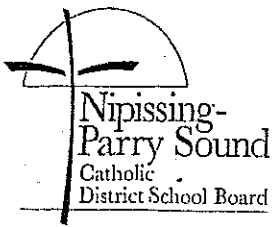
The public meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.



ARC PUBLIC MEETING
Monday, December 8, 2008
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Sacred Heart School
1516 McKeown Avenue, North Bay ON

SIGN-IN SHEET

Name	School Community (Sacred Heart/St. Joseph)	Telephone	Email (optional)
Sylvain Guenette	St Joseph	4	
Michelle Benoit	St. Joseph		
Melanie Starcevic	Sacred Heart		
Dayna Burgess	Sacred Heart		
Rick Belisle	Sacred Heart		
Michelle Justice	Sacred Heart		
John Justice	Sacred Heart		
Marcello Tignanelli	St. Joseph		
DANNY RUSSO	SACRED HEART		

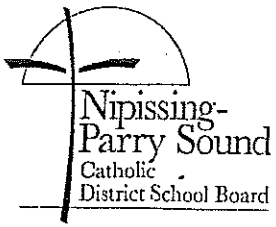


ARC PUBLIC MEETING
 Monday, December 8, 2008
 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
 Sacred Heart School
 1516 McKeown Avenue, North Bay ON

SIGN-IN SHEET

Name	School Community (Sacred Heart/St. Joseph)	Telephone	Email (optional)
Fernanda Fresco	St. Joseph		
Kathleen Macdonell	Sacred Heart		?
L. de Sousa	Sacred Heart		
Lois Angelo	Sacred Heart		
Maureen Valiquette	St. Joseph		
Micheline Dant	St. Joseph		
Jocelyn Shaver	St. Joseph		
Michael Nober	St. Joseph		?
Kathy Stone	Sacred Heart		






ARC PUBLIC MEETING
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Sacred Heart School
1516 McKeown Avenue, North Bay ON

SIGN-IN SHEET

Name	School Community (Sacred Heart/St. Joseph)	Telephone	Email (optional)
Claire Dimitric	Sacred Heart		





Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) 2008-09

**Fourth Public Meeting
December 8, 2008
6:30 to 8:30 PM
at Sacred Heart School**

Rooted In Faith · Alive In Spirit 1


Let us Pray





Rooted In Faith · Alive In Spirit 2

Agenda



1. Welcome and Prayer
2. Introductions
3. Purpose of Public Meeting #4
4. Terms of Reference
5. ARC Purpose and Mandate
6. Guiding Principles
7. ARC Communications
8. ARC Process Overview
9. Final Report Highlights
10. Recommendations
11. Community Input/Questions & Answers
12. Timelines
13. Adjournment

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Introductions Accommodation Review Committee Members



- **Representing St. Joseph School**
 - Marcello Tignanelli – Principal
 - Jocelyn Shaver – Teaching Staff Rep.
 - Maureen Valiquette – Non-Teaching Staff Rep.
 - Fernanda Fresco – CSAC Chair
 - Micheline Hart – Parent
 - Michael Nadeau – Parent

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Accommodation Review Committee Members



- **Representing Sacred Heart School**
 - Dan Seguin – Principal
 - Micheline Thayer – Teaching Staff Rep.
 - Kathy Storie – Non-Teaching Staff Rep.
 - Loretta de Sousa – CSAC Chair
 - Kathleen MacDonell – Parent
 - Lori Angelo – Parent

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Accommodation Review Committee Members



- **Representing Central Office**
 - Joanne Bénard – Superintendent of Education (Chair of ARC)
 - Grace Barnhardt – Superintendent of Business and Treasurer
 - Dan Russo – Manager of Plant Services and Health & Safety

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Purpose of Public Meeting #4



- To present the draft School Valuation Report and recommendations and receive community input.

Terms of Reference



- All ARC meetings are held in public
- All audience members must register at the entrance
- No banners, placards, posters, photos will be displayed in the school as a means of influencing the committee
- The meeting falls under the direction of the Chair and the Chair shall exercise such discipline as is necessary to maintain order.

Terms of Reference – con't



Receiving Questions

- Only adults (voting age) will be permitted to address the ARC or ask questions
- The designated microphone will be used for questions from the floor
- Audience members will be given two occasions to address the committee or ask questions in any one evening
- Speakers addressing the ARC will identify themselves and their relationship to the process. They will have registered their attendance prior to asking their question
- Questions or comments will not extend beyond two minutes

ARC Purpose and Mandate



Purpose

- The ARC is responsible for the School Valuation Framework, Public Information and Access, Community Consultation and Public Meetings and for providing a final School Valuation Report and Recommendations.

ARC Purpose and Mandate



Mandate

- The ARC will study, report and make recommendations on the accommodation options respecting both schools under review – Sacred Heart and St. Joseph in accordance with the Board's Pupil Accommodation Review Policy AS 28.2

Guiding Principles



The review process will be reflective of the Board's Principles and Values as articulated in our mission and vision statement:

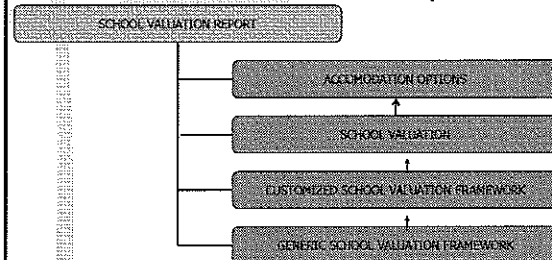
- That our learning environments will be Catholic centres of excellence that are welcoming, safe, accessible, motivating and alive
- That our programs and services will facilitate the multiple needs and abilities of our learners and the aspirations of our Catholic community
- Accountability for the quality of our programs, the effective use of the resources provided the Board and the outcomes achieved

ARC Communications



- Questions or comments may be shared with the ARC at this last of 4 scheduled Public Meetings OR via email at arc@npsc.edu.on.ca OR left by voice mail at 472-1201 ext.206
- All ARC information is available on the Board's website at: www.npsc.edu.on.ca

ARC Process Overview



Purpose of the Report



- The final report to the Director of Education, presents the findings and recommendations of the Accommodation Review Committee for both St. Joseph and Sacred Heart Schools

Background



At the special Board meeting held on February 20, 2008, the following motion was passed:

THAT the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board approve the formation of an Accommodation Review Committee for the following schools:

- St. Joseph School, and
- Sacred Heart School.

Process of Public Input



- The ARC held seven (7) working meetings and four (4) public meetings to complete its work and seek community input.

Highlights of Final Report



Public Meeting #1

- The ARC presented the Customized School Valuation Framework and described how it was changed to reflect our Board context.
- The ARC also explained its mandate, the pupil accommodation review process, reviewed the basic information and issues to be addressed and received community input.

Highlights of Final Report



Public Meeting #2

- The ARC presented its draft School-Specific Valuation Reports under the Customized Generic School Valuation Framework for Sacred Heart and St. Joseph schools and received community input.

School Specific Valuation



Sacred Heart

Category	Value
Value to the Student	37.5 out of 55 points
Value to the School Board	12.5 out of 25 points
Value to the Community	10 out of 15 points
Value to the Local Economy	3 out of 5 points
Total	63 out of 100 points

School Specific Valuation Sacred Heart



- The close proximity with the parish nurtures the relationship between the school and the church and allows for regular masses to be held at the church.
- A strong relationship with volunteers.
- A range of elective and extracurricular opportunities including a variety of sports, winter elective programs, Reading Rocks, Rainbows, Historica and Science fairs.

School Specific Valuation Sacred Heart



- An established school culture.
- Limitations with respect to safe traffic flow and parking.
- A large play yard with grass, paved and sandy areas.
- Excellent CSAC involvement and supportive, engaged parents.
- Close proximity to community arts, cultural, and recreational programs.

School Specific Valuation



St. Joseph

Category	Value
Value to the Student	38.15 out of 55 points
Value to the School Board	14 out of 25 points
Value to the Community	8.9 out of 15 points
Value to the Local Economy	2.25 out of 5 points
Total	63.3 out of 100 points

School Specific Valuation St. Joseph



- An established school culture: Early French Immersion, Roman Catholic and Special Education programming (section 23).
- Built-in Science lab
- A range of elective and extracurricular opportunities including a variety of sports, winter elective programs, Clubs, Tutors in the Classroom, Rainbows, Historica and Science fairs.

School Specific Valuation St. Joseph



- Before and after school childcare
- Close proximity to community arts, cultural, and recreational programs.
- Chapel on site for prayer and reflection.
- Extremely limited parking.
- New roof and skylights installed in 2006.

Highlights of Final Report



Public Meeting #3

- The ARC presented to the community the Accommodation Options that were considered along with two recommendations and received community input.

Highlights of Final Report: Accommodation Options Considered



In considering all of the accommodation options, the following was taken into account:

- Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Schools have low enrolment, currently at 111 and 98 students respectively. Low enrolment can lead to a number of undesirable side-effects, including limited ability to provide a rich array of extracurricular activities, limited opportunities for same age, same gender peer groups and difficulty in sustaining effective, collaborative and meaningful professional learning communities.

Sacred Heart OTG Capacity 259



Projected Enrolment	FTE	Utilization
October 31, 2008	97.5	37.7%
October 31, 2009	127	49.0%
October 31, 2010	128	49.4%
October 31, 2011	136	52.5%
October 31, 2012	147	56.7%

St. Joseph OTG Capacity 360



Projected Enrolment	FTE	Utilization
October 31, 2008	79	21.9%
October 31, 2009	112	31.1%
October 31, 2010	113	31.4%
October 31, 2011	120	33.3%
October 31, 2012	123	34.1%

Highlights of Final Report: Accommodation Options for Consideration



- Sacred Heart and St. Joseph schools operate at expenditure levels beyond the funding guidelines, Sacred Heart School is currently only at 37.7% of capacity and St. Joseph School, 21.9% capacity.
- Sacred Heart and St. Joseph schools have been deemed prohibitive to repair since they both exceed the 65% threshold, Sacred Heart 68.10% and St. Joseph 70.54%.

Highlights of Final Report: Accommodation Options for Consideration



- Sacred Heart and St. Joseph schools are less than four kilometres apart and serve students in the same geographical area.
- Sacred Heart and St. Joseph schools offer JK to Grade 8 Early French Immersion programs.

Highlights of Final Report: Accommodation Options Considered



1. Consolidate St. Joseph and Sacred Heart schools and build a new school on a new site.

Considerations



Consolidating Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Schools would:

- Enhance enrolment thereby operating at expenditure levels within the funding guidelines.
- Maintain the integrity of the program offering: JK to Grade 8 Early French Immersion and would respect the social, educational, cultural and recreational programs currently being offered at both schools.
- A new school would be built for the 21st century with improved facilities that would offer an enhanced learning environment.

Considerations



- A new school may result in increased enrolment.
- All students would only have to relocate once.
- A new site would allow both school populations to develop a common culture and identity.
- Building a new school would offer an opportunity for students to be part of the building process.
- Difficulty in finding an available site that is suitable for school purposes, within budget and in the vicinity of both schools.

Considerations




- A new site may not be financially feasible.
- Locating and building on a new site might delay the process of relocating due to the legal requirements of the acquisition process.
- The Board would have to address the future use of two vacant sites.
- A new site might provide a more desirable location.

Highlights of Final Report: Accommodation Options Considered



2. Consolidate St. Joseph and Sacred Heart schools and build a new school on one of the two existing school sites.

Considerations




Consolidating Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Schools would:

- Enhance enrolment thereby operating at expenditure levels within the funding guidelines.
- Maintain the integrity of the program offering: JK to Grade 8 Early French Immersion and would respect the social, educational, cultural and recreational programs currently being offered at both schools.
- A new school would be built for the 21st century with improved facilities that would offer an enhanced learning environment.

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Considerations



- A new school may result in increased enrolment.
- Both of the existing sites offer a green space and are centrally located: close to educational and community agencies (i.e., library, YMCA).
- Both schools are located in established neighbourhoods.
- Students would have to be relocated to one of the schools (holding school) while the new school is being built resulting in:
 - one group of students being relocated twice
 - an opportunity to build a common culture and for students to be involved in the building of a new school together.

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Considerations



- There would only be one additional site to address for future use.
- Relocation of a new school to an existing site might be expedited: no delay in finding and securing a new school site.
- There are additional costs associated with the demolition of an existing school.

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Highlights of Final Report: Accommodation Options Considered



3. Relocate St. Joseph and Sacred Heart schools to an existing school within the same catchment area.

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Considerations



- No school in the catchment area currently offers similar programs.
- All schools in the catchment area are at or near capacity and could not accommodate an additional 200 students.

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Programming and Utilization of Nearby Schools



School	Programming	Enrolment at October 31, 2008	On the Ground Capacity	Utilization Before Specialty Program Use	Utilization with Specialty Use of Space
Mother St. Bride	English JK - 8	235	282	83.3%	100%
St. Alexander	English JK - 6	147	282	52.1%	91.7%
St. Hubert	English JK - 8	303	335	90.5%	100%

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Highlights of Final Report: Accommodation Options Considered



4. Add an addition to an existing school and relocate the population of Sacred Heart and St. Joseph schools to that site.

Considerations



- Currently the sites at the existing schools located in the catchment area could not accommodate 200 additional students under the current program offerings.

Highlights of Final Report: Accommodation Options Considered



5. Explore purchasing an existing building for sale within the same catchment area and retrofit.

Considerations



- Cost of purchasing and retrofitting an existing building to accommodate elementary students might not be financially advantageous (i.e., cost might be more than building a new school).
- The structure might not be designed to maximize learning opportunities for students.

Highlights of Final Report: Recommended Options



1. Consolidate St. Joseph and Sacred Heart and build a new school on a new site
2. Consolidate St. Joseph and Sacred Heart and build a new school on one of the two existing school sites

Community Input/Questions and Answers



- Only adults (voting age) will be permitted to address the ARC or ask questions
- The designated microphone will be used for questions from the floor
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- Speakers addressing the ARC will identify themselves and their relationship to the process. They will have registered their attendance prior to asking their question
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