

April 1, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians

At its regular meeting of March 31, 2009, the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board approved the following resolution regarding the Pupil Accommodation Review for St. Joseph and Sacred Heart Schools:

THAT St. Joseph and Sacred Heart school communities be consolidated; that a new school facility be built within the consolidated school zone; and that the two schools as they currently exist be closed.

This decision supports the recommendation of the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) which began its work in June 2008 and submitted its final report to the Director of Education in December 2008, following four Public Meetings and a series of working meetings.

In making the recommendation to the Board, the Accommodation Review Committee and Senior Administration have identified a number of benefits and positive long-term results from the consolidation of the two schools:

- Consolidation into a new facility utilizes the opportunity of prohibitive to repair funding, announced in November 2008, to good advantage and provides an enhanced educational context for these two school communities in the long term;
- Consolidating St. Joseph and Sacred Heart would maintain the integrity of the program offering (JK to Grade 8 Early French Immersion);
- An increased enrolment resulting from combining both schools will allow for a larger and more diverse staff, an equitable range of learning opportunities and a rich array of social, cultural and extra-curricular activities for students;
- A new school would be built for the 21st century with improved facilities that would provide an enhanced learning environment;
- With a higher student population, there would be a breadth of parents/volunteers to support and enhance the overall school community.

The new school will either be built on one of the two existing sites or on a new site within the consolidated school zone. The selection of an appropriate site and the determination of an effective date for consolidation will be the immediate next steps in the process. Should the new facility be built on one of the two existing sites, the combined student population would be accommodated in the other existing facility until construction of the new school is completed.

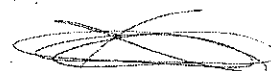
A consolidation date will be confirmed in the very near future and we will ensure that parents will be immediately informed. We will be actively engaging our two school communities in planning together for a smooth and positive transition and in the formation of a newly combined school community.

We extend our appreciation to the Accommodation Review Committee for their dedicated work in this endeavour and we thank you for your patience, involvement and input throughout the entire process.

Prayerful best wishes.



Anna Marie Bitonti
Director of Education



Jacques Bégin
Chair

- c. Dan Seguin, Principal, Sacred Heart School
Marcello Tignanelli, Principal, St. Joseph School