

MINUTES

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC INPUT
PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW
ORILLIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Monday, October 5, 2009

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Board Meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. in the gymnasium at Guardian Angels School, 125 West Street North, Orillia.

2. **OPENING PRAYER/REFLECTION**

The Opening Prayer "*Prayer for Catholic Education*" was led by Trustee Jim Canning, keeping in mind:

Remembrances for the Sick:

Matt Spaans, father of Cathy McBride, Payroll & Benefits Officer at the Catholic Education Centre.

Remembrances for the Deceased:

The Late Ed Baiden, father-in-law of Corrine Baiden, Teacher.

The Late Orneva Effie Free, mother of Brian Free, Chief Custodian.

The Late Cyril Murray, uncle of Rick Maloney, Trustee, and grandfather of 3 students in the Board.

3. **ROLL CALL**

Michael O'Keefe, Director of Education, conducted the Roll Call for the Board of Trustees to establish quorum for the Meeting.

Present: **John Grisé – Board Chair**, Jim Canning, Clayton Ferguson, Justin Heran, Rick Maloney, and Theresa Pinder

Regrets: Jacob Brodka, Connie Positano, and Diana Riffert

Resource: **Michael O'Keefe – Director of Education**, Glenn Clarke, Peter Derochie, Kristin Dibble-Pechkovsky, Darren Schmidt, and Jennifer Sharpe

Recording: Mary Fairhead

4. **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Consensus of the Board of Trustees was obtained for approval of the Agenda.

5. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Nil

6. **OPENING REMARKS**

1) **Welcome**

Board Chair John Grisé welcomed guests to the Special Board Meeting of the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board being held to receive input from the Public on the Pupil Accommodation Review process for Orillia Area Elementary Schools. Appreciation was expressed to Brian McKenzie, Principal and the staff of Guardian Angels School for the opportunity to hold the meeting at the school.

2) **Introductions**

Trustees were introduced through the Roll Call and Board Chair John Grisé introduced staff members present at the Meeting.

3) **Opening Remarks**

Board Chair John Grisé provided an overview of the Pupil Accommodation Review process for the five Orillia area elementary schools – Guardian Angels, Monsignor Lee, Notre Dame, St. Bernard's and Foley.

The review was established with the establishment of a Pupil Accommodation Committee (PAC) in November 2008 to make recommendations to the Board to respond to enrolment projections and the fact that three of the schools had been identified as prohibitive to repair. The Ministry of Education recognized that the cost to repair these three schools was greater than the cost to rebuild.

During the period from November 2008 to May 2009, four Public Meetings and seven Committee Meetings were held with principal, teaching staff, non-teaching staff and parent representation from the five schools. Invitations for participation in the process were extended to members from the local parishes, business community and municipal government.

The Pupil Accommodation Committee created a School Information Profile, in compliance with Ministry of Education guidelines, for each of the affected schools with considerations in the areas of: Value to the Student, Value to the School Board, Value to the Community, and Value to the Local Economy.

The Committee presented their report with recommendations arising from the review, discussion, input and comments from the meetings to the Director of Education on May 21, 2009. A Staff Report was submitted to the Board of Trustees at their Wednesday, June 24, 2009 Board Meeting.

7. **DELEGATIONS**

Board Chair John Grisé referred to the Board Procedural Bylaw Section 11:00 which outlines the procedure for delegations at Board Meetings.

The spokespersons for the three delegations, Mardi McLaughlin – Monsignor Lee School Council Chair, Fior Tucci and Jeff Waite, parents of children attending Monsignor Lee School, were invited to come forward, in turn, to make their presentation to the Board of Trustees regarding the Pupil Accommodation Review for the Orillia Area Elementary Schools. All three delegations spoke to their preference for Option One contained in the Pupil Accommodation Review Report which would consolidate Monsignor Lee and Guardian Angels Schools with a replacement school on an alternative site within 1.6 kilometers of the existing two schools. References were made to the existing sports field and green space, bus pickup and drop-off areas, student safety, extensive renovations that would be required, limited parking at the existing Monsignor Lee School site, fencing between Monsignor Lee School and the abutting Patrick Fogarty Secondary School property, and the opportunity for an enhanced learning environment for both students and staff members.

Trustee Clarification

Was the reference to either Guardian Angels or Monsignor Lee or both for the students' ability to walk to the site if alternate site was being looked at?

Delegation Response

A site within 1.6 kilometers of both would be ideal but would be difficult to find.

Sacrifices may be required to accommodate their three major concerns of

- student safety
- athletics & recreation, and
- school logistics.

Indication was given that anything the Board can do to accommodate both schools and keep the children's best interests in mind is appreciated.

8. CLOSING REMARKS

Board Chair John Grisé expressed appreciation for the public input provided at this Meeting. A follow-up Report from staff will be presented at the Wednesday, October 14, 2009 Board Meeting.

A copy of the Staff Report will be available on Tuesday, October 13, 2009.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Consensus of the Board of Trustees was obtained to adjourn the Board Meeting at 8:07 p.m.

10. CLOSING PRAYER

The Closing Prayer "Our Father" was led by Board Vice-Chair Theresa Pinder.

**JOHN GRISE
Board Chair**