



**SIMCOE MUSKOKA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW ORILLIA 2008/2009**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

SCHOOL	OPTION PROPOSAL PREFERENCE	COMMENTS
GAN	#1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I prefer option one because it keeps children in the areas where they live and in close approximation to the church.</li> <li>• I would suggest that Guardian Angels be maintained as a Primary JK aged school and Monsignor Lee becomes a “Middle School.</li> <li>• Its close proximity to the Catholic Secondary School could facilitate transition from one school to the other and they could share the field and track.</li> </ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Preference	#3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only if site can be found in a <i>central</i> area in Orillia in the North ward.</li> </ul>

*Comments received through the process up until April 23, 2009.*

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SCHOOL	OPTION PROPOSAL PREFERENCE	COMMENTS
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**APPENDIX A : Attachment Input Resulting From Public Meeting #3 (Comments pertaining to below)**

GAN & MLE	#1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have one child attending GAN, grade 4, and one attending MLE, grade 6.</li> </ul> <p>I would vastly prefer Option #1. The main reason for this, is to preserve the wonderful, unique experience of a 'primary only' school for the children involved. The comment from one of the Public Meetings was 'small children—small problems' and this is exactly the situation. This unique 'primary only' experience allows our children to develop into some responsibility (e.g. setting up for school Masses, morning announcements, assisting JK/SK students to buses and being group leaders for school special events like Jump Rope for Heart).</p>
General Comments		<p>I believe the best solution would be to have GAN designated as a primary school, JK-3, and MLE designated as a middle school, Gr.4-8. This would solve the most immediate problem at both schools, the under utilization of GAN and the over-crowding at MLE.</p> <p>St. Bernard's needs to be replaced and that should be a priority. Dealing with MLE and GAN situation should come after that.</p>

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SCHOOL	OPTION PROPOSAL PREFERENCE	COMMENTS
SBE	#2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I prefer option #2 (since there is no site known at this time for option #3). It makes sense to build the new schools to accommodate the growth areas that are projected.</li> </ul>
General Comments		<p>I understand the fact that Foley has a very low enrolment rate. We live in Ramara Township and attend St. Bernard's and I would be very disappointed to have to send my children all the way down to Brechin. I would like to suggest that you look @ boundaries more towards Seabright and the children that are being bussed 45 minutes away into another district when they are 20 minutes away from Brechin.</p>
GAN	#1	No Comments.

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SCHOOL	OPTION PROPOSAL PREFERENCE	COMMENTS
-	#1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Option #1 is the least objectionable from the point of view that local families are very well served by both GAN &amp; MLE.</li> </ul>
General Comments		It is obvious that small schools are not financially self-sufficient and for that reason, it seems likely that GAN will have to close, unfortunately.
GAN	#1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I prefer option #1 because I 100% support a Primary Grade 1-4 education concept.</li> </ul>
General Comments		If we had to have GAN closed and new schools I would still like the concept of a primary school to be considered.
MLE	#1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing schools remain – Priorities can be set for replacing schools. Replacing St. Bernards first provides time to review boundaries for MLE and GAN to alleviate crowding problems at MLE.</li> </ul>
General Comments		Guardian Angels School has available capacity. Why not move some of the lower grades from Monsignor Lee.

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SCHOOL	OPTION PROPOSAL PREFERENCE	COMMENTS
MLE /GAN	#1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I would choose option #1 because of the value of a primary school.</li> </ul>
General Comments:		<p>I believe small children thrive in small surroundings and are able to hold on to their innocence a little longer without the influence of older children.</p> <p>The grade 4 class has a unique opportunity for leadership. Change the boundary and send primary children from MLE to GAN.</p>

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Comments received from Pupil Accommodation Committee Public Meeting #4 :

SCHOOL	RECOMMENDATION PREFERENCE	COMMENTS
MLE Children attending Grades 2,5 & 8	4) Monsignor Lee & Guardian Angels  Option B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I prefer the option where Monsignor Lee and Guardian Angels Schools are consolidated on the existing Monsignor Lee School.</li> </ul>
General Comments:		<p>I prefer that Monsignor Lee School stays on its existing property and either expands or is moved since my children attend MLE and the school is close enough for them to walk to and from if necessary. Also my oldest child who will be attending Patrick Fogarty will be able to pick up her siblings from Monsignor Lee.</p> <p><i>Concern:</i> There is a concern that since the track and field yard was fenced around Patrick Fogarty that the field is not currently shared and the fencing limits expansion at MLE. It is important to have a Catholic School in our community and adjacent to Patrick Fogarty.</p> <p><i>Suggestion:</i> Instead of another expansion at Patrick Fogarty could some of the elementary schools from grades jk-5 be relocated to Patrick Fogarty as a “primary school”, build a new ‘super’ High School and set MLS up as a “middle school”.</p> <p>In the interest of keeping Guardian Angels a ‘primary school’, why has the board never considered a “middle school for grades 6, 7 &amp; 8, which would introduce the students to lockers, rotary etc. for high school preparation?</p>

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*Orillia Pupil Accommodation Review  
Input from Public Meeting #3*

I have one child attending GAN, in grade 4, and one attending MLE, in grade 6.

I would vastly prefer Option #1.

The main reason for this is to preserve the wonderful, unique experience of a ‘primary only’ school for the children involved. Bear in mind that our youngest daughter, who attends GAN, will graduate and move onto MLE at the end of this school year. Thus my family has no vested interest in this outcome. The comment from one of the Public Meetings was ‘small children—small problems’ and this is exactly the situation. This unique ‘primary only’ experience allows our children to develop into some responsibility (e.g. setting up for school Masses, morning announcements, assisting JK/SK students to buses and being group leaders for school special events like Jump Rope for Heart).

General Comments:

I have four children and have experience dealing with schools, school boards and my children’s’ education since 1989. Our older children are 23 years of age and attended Catholic Schools in the Oshawa and Orangeville areas and, since 1996, in Orillia. Having 20 years of experience gives me some insight that some other parents may not have.

My younger children have benefited greatly from the ‘primary experience’ of GAN. This place is a **gem**. I understand that the Board talks about and strives to achieve standards and having facilities at Board standards. There is no reason not to reach above Board standards. I would hope that the standard is not a ceiling but a minimum!

I believe that the best solution/option would be to have GAN designated as a primary school, JK- Gr. 3, and MLE designated as a middle school, gr. 4-8. The communities consolidated. This would also solve the most immediate problem at schools, the under-utilization of GAN and the over-crowding at MLE.

I personally attended, many years ago, William Beatty School in Parry Sound, Ont. Where kindergarten to grade 6 six were in one school (in fact all elementary schools in town were set up this way) and grade seven and eight were in a separate facility, which were fed from all the other schools in town. This was/is a very good method and one that I think deserves (with modifications) consideration.

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***Input from Public Meeting #3  
Orillia Pupil Accommodation Review***

I fear that Option #2 is the option that is being most seriously considered by the Board staff. It feels as if this whole process is being steered in the direction of Option #2. Is this true? Are the plans in place to implement Option #2 and all of this time and effort simply wasted on feeding a process?

My main fear with this option is the lack of space at the MLE property. You would have all of the student body from MLE plus the students from GAN, when there is not enough space now, or any green space, or track facilities.

Which brings up the particular issue with the property at MLE this year that has not existed in the past and this needs to be addressed if Option #2 is to be even considered. The ‘track’ was to be shared by MLE and PFO. The track, however, was fenced off over the summer of 2008 and is no longer available to MLE. I understand that the green space of the track was/is designated as an evacuation area for the MLE staff and students BUT there is only minimal access, one small gate in the fence, which I understand is locked at all times. That doesn’t seem/sound safe to me.

In conclusion, I think that it is a ‘given’ that St. Bernard’s needs to be replaced and that should be a priority. Dealing with the MLE and GAN situation should come after that.

It is my understanding that the Board will not receive the report from the PAC until November 2009 and then would be requesting funding from the Provincial Government. Once funding is approved, then plans would be ordered and building begins. It sounds like we are talking about a new school/schools in the beginning of 2012, and that is only if the government funds the plans immediately. What about the immediate situations of over-crowding/under-utilization? Will we sit on our hands for the next two or three years?

I repeat, GAN is a GEM and it would be a sin to loose it. Having a church next door is a huge advantage, access to the Church, all the Church’s facilities and easy access to our parish priests. Isn’t this part of what Catholic Education is all about!!??