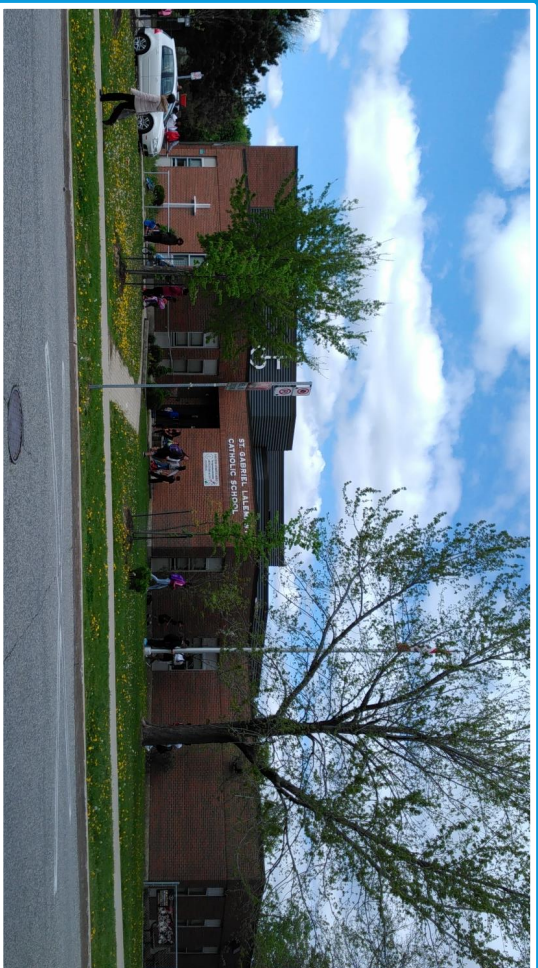


# Saint Gabriel Lalemant's



## STUDENT ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

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## OUR PURPOSE & POSITION



- As committee members, we have attended a number of meetings with TCDSB staff to discuss the recommendation put forth
- We've represented the voice of this community and stood firm with our position, SGL should not be closed and consolidated with Sacred Heart
- Tonight, we would like to share with you a few key points that support our position.

# ACCESSIBILITY



*The Government of Ontario passed the **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act** in 2005. Its goal is to make Ontario **accessible** for persons with **disabilities** by 2025, by creating and enforcing **accessibility** standards.*

- SGL is a one-story building with ramps located at the main entrance and at the west entry doors
- There has been a recent installation of hand-railings along the main entrance to the building
- Each doorway is large enough to allow for wheelchair or scooter accessibility



# ACCESSIBILITY

SGL serves as a good example of the TCDSB's commitment to provide..

*"...an environment in all of its facilities that fosters independence, dignity, respect and to [provide] services that are free of barriers and biases to our students, parents/guardians, the public and our staff."*

A quote taken from the TCDSB's Accessibility Standard's Policy Statement.



# VIABILITY

Based on the recommendations set forth in the *Initiation of Pupil Accommodation Reviews (Ward 7, 8, 9)* document, there are three factors that justify consolidation:

- Low enrollment/surplus capacity
- Low utilization rates and
- Declining enrollment in the foreseeable future

SGL does not satisfy any of these factors. Furthermore, there are schools that do, which are not up for closure based on the hope that enrollment will improve in the years to come, e.g. St. Bede and St. Rene Goupil.



# ENROLLMENT

SGL'S projected enrollment over the next ten years remains around 175 students.



## Projected Enrollment<sup>5</sup>

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2025-26	2030-31
Projected October Pupil Count	179	173	170	167	172	175	175
Utilization Rate	82%	79%	77%	76%	79%	80%	80%

5) 2016-17 to 2018-19 are Board Approved Projections.

**For more information, please visit the School Website:**  
<http://stgabriellalemant.tcdsb.org>

# UTILIZATION RATE

SGL's utilization rate is 83% which is high especially in comparison to the other schools in this cluster:

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati: 56%

Sacred Heart: 66%

Saint Bede: 34%

Current Enrolment and Utilization Rate			
October 31st Enrolment <sup>3</sup>	OTG Capacity <sup>4</sup>	Current Utilization	Portables
181	219	83%	4

3) Based on Pupil Count (all JK/SK at 1.0) Trillion Extract, October 31, 2015

4) OTG is based on 2015-2016 capacities



# FACILITY CONDITION INDEX (FCI)

SGL's facility condition index (FCI) is 19% which is low for a facility that was built 34 years ago. According to the Ministry of Education, a school with a low FCI rating needs less repair and renewal work than a school with a higher FCI rating.



"Facility Condition Index is a warehouse of data on each and every school's state of repair. Information on school conditions is gathered in five-year cycles, the last of which took place from 2011 to 2015 (a new cycle is currently underway)."





# PROGRAMS



According to the Ministry of Education's *Guide to Pupil Accommodation Review* document, the initial staff report should outline "specific enrollment, program and accommodation issues, with a recommendation" (page 7). It is our argument that SGL does not have enrollment, program or accommodation issues. For the 2016-2017 school year, SGL had:

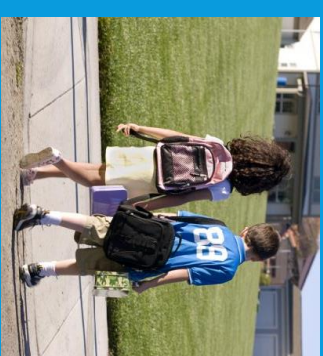
- Full day kindergarten
- Grades 1-8
- ISP program
- Special Education
- ESL program
- French program
- Nutrition program
- Librarian once a week
- Guidance counsellor available once a week
- A number of extracurricular activities including Eco-Team, Me to We, soccer, track and field, basketball etc.



With a steady enrollment and a variety of programs in an accessible facility that is in good condition, it is difficult to understand why SGL cannot remain open despite it being a small school.

# ACCESSIBLE

- 90% of SGL students live within walking distance which eliminates the need for bussing.
- SGL is located in an area that is rich in government regulated at home child care services and on site daycare that many parents depend on.
- At the corner of a major intersection, high school students are easily able to pick-up their sibling(s) after school by means of public transportation.



# FINAL THOUGHTS

- SGL is the heart of this community and a strong Catholic presence. The closest Catholic institution is St. Barnabas Catholic Church located at the corner of Sheppard Avenue East and Washburn Way which is outside of this neighborhood. Closing this school will remove a lot of families' connection to the Catholic Religion.
- The provincial funding formula should be amended to support small schools that are fully functioning.
  - "Recent changes to the provincial funding formula, including cuts to declining enrolment grants and "top-up" funding for school operations, have also had a significant impact on funding, particularly for those boards with a high number of small and/or under-enrolled schools." –People for Education
- We recommend improved consultation before the construction of a new school (ex. Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati) and research to identify the impact, if any, on neighboring schools.
  - SGL and St. Bede lost a significant number of students to the Pier Giorgio Frassati when it opened

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## FINAL THOUGHTS

- The negative affects of the displacement and consolidation of students into an existing school community should be studied and taken seriously in decision making processes.
- More revenue generating initiatives should be established such as paid parking on school sites.
- SGL issues the most community permits and therefore already shares its facility with community partners in accordance with the Ministry of Education's desire for schools to be used as community hubs. This also generates income for the Board.
- A greater Parish presence should be encouraged by the TCDSB at the school level. In our case, our local Parish has not supported us during this process.
- Last but not least....

# SAVE SGL

The TCDSB's 12 elected Board of Trustee members will decide to pass this recommendation or not. They will decide if SGL will close and consolidate with Sacred Heart in the near future. We ask that you please express your opinions and advocate for our school by calling or writing an email to one or all of the Board of Trustee members.

**THANK YOU & GOOD EVENING!**

