

MINUTES
PUPIL ACCOMMODATION PUBLIC MEETING
DATE: May 23, 2017
St. Gabriel Lalemant
TIME: 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS AND DISCUSSION	NOTES	FOLLOW UP REQUIRED	RESPONSIBILITY OF
<u>In attendance at Sacred Heart:</u> Kevin Malcolm, Superintendent of Education Colin Johnston, Officer Trustees' Services Garry Tanuan, Trustee Ward 8 John Gioia, Principal – St. Gabriel Lalemant Annemarie Muir, Principal – St. Bede Paola Cherrier, Principal – Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati Barbara Leporati, TCDSB, Supervisor, Planning <u>PARC Members:</u> St. Gabriel Lalemant: Megan Howell, Tessa Williams, Sameia Hussain Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati: Claudia Dioleta			
Opening Prayer	Kevin Malcolm		
Opening Remarks and the Process so Far	Kevin Malcolm		
Presentation by St. Gabriel Lalemant CSPC:	Summary: The St. Gabriel Lalemant community opposes consolidation		
Remarks Trustee Tanuan	On the difficulty in the process and the challenges facing the Board		

Remarks: Senator Enverga	On the importance of Catholic Education		
Q&A	<p>What is the difference between interim and final staff reports?</p> <p>Barbara – Interim staff report incorporates initiative of the review, pros and cons, costs and savings, and, committee discussion and recommendations. Final staff report includes the above as well as a summary of delegations during previous meetings. The final report is where the decision is made to consolidate schools or not.</p>		
	<p>What safety precautions would be put in place if consolidation into Sacred Heart is chosen?</p> <p>Kevin – Safety issues have been a recurring theme in discussions. At Committee it was discussed that St. Bede could be a viable option because it guarantees bussing. Hazards issues would be highlighted and the recommendation would be to request crossing guard.</p>		
	<p>If space is available in a different school can parents send their children there?</p> <p>Barbara – Yes. According to the Admissions Policy, students can apply to and, be admitted to, out of area schools if space is available.</p>		
	<p>What happens to the building if the school closes?</p> <p>Mario – An entirely different process starts. Looking for tenants, other schools, community groups or others to recover cost of maintaining the building. If that fails, the Board would start a third process</p>		

	<p>looking to sell the site. Even if the site is sold, it would have to be rezoned to permit anything other than a school which includes more public-consultation. However, this is many years down the road.</p>		
	<p>Is this a done deal? Parents clearly want to keep it open.</p> <p>Barbara – The report would clearly capture these comments. Trustees can vote to keep the school open and it will stay open. Staff opinion will recommend closure but the committee opinion can disagree. However, final decision rests with the Trustees with Board staff being obliged to make their decisions reality.</p>		
	<p>Fraser report lists Gabriel Lalemant as one of the best in the area. Will this be included in the report?</p> <p>Barbara – All community concerns and comments including the successes of Lalemant’s students and teachers will be included.</p> <p>Mario – Whatever we’re doing right at Lalemant we will work to replicate in our other schools.</p>		
	<p>Would students still have access to ISP programs?</p> <p>Kevin – They ISP program may not necessarily go to St. Bede or Sacred Heart but they would still have access to the program. Siblings would also be accommodated at that school.</p>		

	<p>Has the Board given consideration to losing children to the TDSB</p> <p>Kevin – The Board has agonized over it at length. Historically the system has not lost many students following consolidations but it is always a concern.</p>		
	<p>Would bussing be guaranteed to St. Bede?</p> <p>Barbara – If students qualify for bussing based on distance to St. Bede, and all of Lalemant qualifies, they would be guaranteed bussing. Sacred Heart is within 1.5 km from most of Lalemant community</p>		
Comment from Audience	<p>St. Bede and bussing is a more attractive option of the two schools.</p>		
Note	<p>Kevin and Anne Marie – On site day care provided at St. Bede. Neighbouring community centre offers \$45 before and after school care.</p>		
Q&A	<p>Would after school program be able to accommodate a huge increase in kids</p> <p>Barbara and Kevin – They would be addressed in the interim and final reports</p>		
	<p>What can community do to keep school open?</p> <p>Mario – Speak to Trustees. They make the final decision. Staff are obligated to make the case to consolidate as it is the best option in their professional opinion.</p>		

	<p>Why was Lalemant selected for closure?</p> <p>Barbara – Primarily the size of the facility. Low utilization in the cluster overall and the small size of Lalemant building made it the better option.</p>		
	<p>How much excess capacity in the area?</p> <p>Barbara – about 600 extra spaces. Currently about 900 students enrolled with 1500 spaces. Closing Lalemant would shed approximately 200 spaces. Growing FI program at Frassati will continue to grow enrollment at Frassati</p>		
Comment from John	<p>Room for expansion at Lalemant doesn't exist. St. Bede's is a larger building with room to grow. Wouldn't be able to consolidate into Lalemant</p>		
Q&A	<p>What are the benefits of larger schools?</p> <p>Kevin – Better access to extra curricular activities. Full sports teams. Easier access to programming. Fewer split classes. Better funding for shared resources.</p>		
	<p>Can St. Bede accommodate all of Lalemant enrollment?</p> <p>Barbara-Yes. No need for portables. Enrollment projections don't predict St. Bede will be over subscribed in the future. Bussing commitment would be guaranteed to St. Bede.</p>		
	<p>Why was Sacred Heart the initial recommendation</p>		

	Kevin – It was closest geographically. It was counterintuitive to bus students past Sacred Heart to St. Bede. However, committee discussion highlighted benefits of St. Bede and concerns of getting to Sacred Heart.		
	Why not St. Barnabus? Kevin – Outside of cluster. Less room. Greater distance.		
	Timelines for closure if it happens? Kevin – Lalemant would close for September 2018. Decision would happen in November 2017 after which a transition period would happen to get students and families ready for the move.		
	How would Transition happen? Barbara – Transition committee would be formed immediately after decision to close. Meet and greets would be held, students would meet new classmates and teachers before hand. Principals and Board support staff would be available to assist.		
Evening Recap and Wrap Up	Kevin Malcolm		
Closing Remarks	Trustee Tanuan		